

# UFO

# NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

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EAST OREGONIAN, Pendleton, OR - Sept. 10, 2001

## Pendleton man compiles book on local ET phenomenon

By HAL McCUNE  
of the East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Roy Timm has never been shy about telling people he saw three flying saucers near his home south of Pendleton in 1947. Now he's put it in print, along with more than 50 others he's convinced to share similar stories.

Timm paid to have "Northwest History of Saucers, ETs, Abductions and More" published by Spirit Press in Portland. It's available at Pendleton Book Company, 409 S. Main. He'll be at the store Tuesday and Wednesday to sign copies and talk with people about its contents.

The book costs \$21.95, and for \$4 more a copy can be mailed, by calling 886 SAUCERS (728-2377).

Timm contends most people who believe they've had a brush with extra terrestrials are leery about speaking up. "People don't say anything because they're afraid of being made fun of," he said.

He doesn't care about that, only about getting people to see what he calls "the truth" about saucers and ETs, and other phenomenon he thinks are closely related, such as cattle mutilations and Big Foot. All are addressed in his book.

"I've had to break the ice for everybody," Timm said, noting that once he explained he was telling his story publicly, oth-

### Author urges action by readers

I put this book, "Northwest History of Saucers, ETs, Abductions and More," together over a period of 54 years, starting with the events of June 24, 1947, when Kenneth Arnold, Mrs. Morton Elder, Bill Schuening, myself, my mother Hila Timm and my brother Melvin Timm all saw flying saucers. Also, through recent research, I found that Vivian Lightfoot, who lived at the head of West Birch Creek at the time, also observed a saucer hovering over their home and observed it slowly moving northward down the creek.

The book tells of members of six families, including my cousins and their husbands, who have been abducted by ETs. The first abduction was the last week of August in

1947. The last local abduction was the Karry family in the late 1970s.

This book includes the stories of more than 50 people. Many of them are local residents.

We need to contact our congressmen and the president to lift the veil of secrecy over the issues discussed in this book and others, such as "Disclosure Project," by Steven Greer (see [www.disclosureproject.org](http://www.disclosureproject.org)). The technology available through ETs could take the place of gas, oil and coal, and our current electrical systems and nuclear power, all of which are creating global warming and contamination of our water and soil.

Roy Timm  
Author and co-publisher

ers gradually followed. The more people who agree to talk about their experiences, the more easily he can convince others to speak up as well, he added.

Now past retirement age, Timm isn't slowing down. He's already considering a second book.

"I'm going to have to start another book. More stories are coming out of the woodwork," said Timm, who noted that once people know others are

stepping forward they are relieved to tell their stories.

"It's come to my door. I didn't have to go out for it."

Timm thinks one reason he came across so many stories for his book, and is eager to start a second, is that the Northwest seems to be particularly prone to saucer sightings since his childhood.

His sighting as a 12-year-old coincided with the story told by pilot Kenneth Arnold,

who appeared on the front page of the East Oregonian June 25, 1947. After landing in Pendleton, Arnold told of seeing nine "saucer-like aircraft" flying at about 10,000 feet near Mt. Rainier at an estimated speed of 1,200 mph.

Arnold is credited with first coining the term "flying saucers." The wire services picked up his story and it was printed around the country. Later the same year, an

alleged flying saucer crash near Roswell, N.M., further spurred interest in unidentified flying objects, and in what believers consider a widespread conspiracy among the military and government to hide information on ETs from the public.

Timm thinks it's important to pressure the government to release all it knows about flying saucers and the technology that goes into them.

COMMUNITY CONNEXION, Portland, OR - Sept. 2001

## THE DISCLOSURE PROJECT

### Campaign for Disclosure

The historic Campaign for Disclosure is coming to Portland September 12 and to Salem on September 13. The Disclosure Project is a nonprofit research project working to fully disclose the facts about UFOs, extraterrestrial intelligence, and classified advanced energy and propulsion systems. The disclosure of the truth will have far-reaching implications for our society—new technologies to end pollution and global warming, long-term solution to the energy crisis, and the beginning of an era of peaceful relations with other civilizations in space.

During the past year, Dr. Greer and the Disclosure Project have been able to identify, contact, and videotape interviews with nearly 100 military, intelligence, and government witnesses to UFO events and projects. Many of these interviews and accompanying evidence are definitive and will establish the reality of the ET/UFO subject as well as the nature and purpose of the secrecy surrounding it.

Dr. Greer has just spent several weeks briefing senators and house representatives on Capitol Hill, following the landmark National Press Club Conference May 9 in Washington, DC that was live webcast. Over 250,000 people were waiting on-line for the press conference to begin. The next biggest webcast event at the National Press Club attracted less than 25,000.

The Portland event will be on Wednesday, September 12, 2001 - 6 to 10 pm at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1126 SW Park Ave., Portland OR 97205. There will be a \$5 Facility Fee.

It will include an exclusive showing of the 2-hour Disclosure video of dozens of government and military witnesses to UFO and extraterrestrial events and projects, and a presentation by Disclosure Project Director Steven M. Greer, MD. See <http://www.disclosureproject.org> for more information.

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - Oct. 17, 2001 CR: G. Fawcett

## UFO Museum co-founder dies

JAN GIRARD  
RECORD STAFF WRITER

Max Littell, prominent Roswell citizen, real estate broker and businessman, died Tuesday.

Littell, 85, was one of the co-founders of the International UFO Museum and Research Center.

He was instrumental in the growth of the museum and the driving force in the location of the center in the remodeled Plains Theater in downtown Roswell, stated a news media release.

Sandy James, who worked the past four years with Littell at the International UFO Museum, said Glenn Dennis and Walter Haut contacted Littell while searching for an appropriate downtown location when they were first establishing the museum.



Max Littell  
UFO Museum co-founder

That was when Littell became a part of the 10-year history of the UFOMRC. He was actively involved with the business end of it.

When the museum outgrew its first location on Main Street, Littell was instrumental in the museum's move to

the Plains Theater, a few blocks south of its original location on Main Street.

Haut and Dennis, co-founders of the museum with Littell, expressed sorrow at news of his death.

"All three of us go back more than 50 years together," said Dennis.

The board of directors, volunteers, staff and advisors joined them in saying he will be missed.

"The museum and the UFO community have lost a major advocate," said Dennis.

James, who worked with him, said Littell was "a wonderful friend."

Littell was born in Superior, Neb., and he moved to Roswell with his family when he was 12 years old.

Littell's wife, Jean Newell Littell, died October 1988.

They had two children, Dr. Larry Littell of Watertown, N.Y., and Lana Boswell and her husband, Danny, of Roswell. Also living in Roswell is a nephew, Bruce Rhodes.

A Masonic graveside service will be held at 3 p.m. at South Park Cemetery Monday, followed by a memorial service at 4 p.m. at the first Presbyterian Church.

# 'Flying saucer' story milked by the media

To those who knew him, Kenneth Arnold was the garden-variety pillar of his community.

As a youth he had been an Eagle Scout and high school football star, and later went on to become the proprietor of a successful fire control equipment company. Arnold, a pilot, was also a member of the "air posse" of his local sheriff's department and an auxiliary U.S. marshal.

No one would have expected that this well-respected resident of Ada County, Idaho, would be the first to report a phenomenon that would spread like wildfire and continue to generate controversy to this day.

On June 24, 1947, Arnold left Seattle in his private plane to return home from a business

Bill Alley



Looking Back

the news wire. Given Arnold's credibility as a witness, the story was picked up by newspapers across the country, including the Medford Mail Tribune.

The story of what would soon be dubbed

trip. He had decided to use the opportunity of his flight to Idaho to assist in the search for a military transport plane reported missing in the vicinity of Yakima, Wash.

While flying near Mount Rainier, he was startled to see what appeared to be nine objects flying like "a saucer would if you skipped it across water." When he timed them between the summits of Mount Rainier and Mount Adams, Arnold estimated their speed at more than 1,200 mph.

During a stop at Pendleton, Arnold shared his sighting with an editor for the local newspaper, who immediately put the story on the news wire. Given Arnold's credibility as a witness, the story was picked up by newspapers across the country, including the Medford Mail Tribune.

"flying saucers" had a tremendous impact. By the following week, "flying saucers" had been reported hovering over 37 states and parts of Canada. On July 7, four Ashland men reported seeing one as they crossed the Siskiyou Summit on Highway 99. A Medford man residing on Central Avenue reported a sighting that same day.

For a nation uneasy over the growing tensions in the early years of the Cold War, the furor over Arnold's and subsequent sightings intensified, with many using the term *hysteria* to describe it. Even in Southern Oregon, hardly a day passed without some mention of "flying saucers" in the local newspapers. One front-page story was a report that one of the mysterious craft

**By the following week, "flying saucers" had been reported hovering over 37 states and parts of Canada. On July 7, four Ashland men reported seeing one as they crossed the Siskiyou Summit on Highway 99.**

had been recovered near the town of Roswell, N.M.

Given this climate, it should come as no surprise when, on July 10, the telephone lines to Medford's police station and the Medford Mail Tribune were jammed when residents saw numerous saucer-shaped silver objects descend from the sky. Calm was

soon restored, however, when, upon further examination, the true nature of these objects was learned.

Five hundred paper plates had been painted silver and carried the words, "Join the National Guard at the Medford Armory. The next ones could be real."

Bill Alley is a senior historian with the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

FLYER ["General Aviation News"], Tacoma, WA - Sept. 28, 2001

## Op-Ed concerning UFOs and the FAA was mean-spirited

Steve Bill Hanshew has told us a great deal more about himself in his Op-Ed piece, "The FAA believes in UFO's — it's a conspiracy theorist's dream come true," (*GAN*, Aug. 17), than about the FAA — and it's pretty dismal. With his article, Hanshew joins the camp of mean-spirited, "us versus them" name-callers as he belittles the FAA and its many dedicated professionals in this otherwise potentially interesting piece.

Frankly I am disgusted with people of his ilk, as well as with the editorial policy of *GAN*, which printed this glaring example of poor taste, disrespect, incivility and narrow-mindedness as a large Op-Ed piece rather than as a small letter to the editor from an anti-FAA zealot.

I have nothing but praise and admiration for the dedication and professionalism of every FAA professional with whom I have worked as a pilot here in Montana over the years, from FSDO, FSS and ATC. We are neighbors, friends and partners in this wonderful enterprise and sport of aviation. It is a small mind that paints an entire organization with a single, mean-spirited brush. Articles

such as Hanshew's serve only to demean, belittle, and divide, not clarify or resolve issues, or bring people and ideas together.

I sincerely hope to see *GAN* institute higher standards of quality, civility and professionalism in future contributions.

Dick Schaus  
Kalispell, Montana

### Reporting UFOs will improve safety

On July 15, between 12:25 and 12:55 a.m., witnesses in New Jersey reported seeing the structure of a large flying triangle near Sayerville heading for Carteret. Witnesses further south along the New Jersey Turnpike saw aircraft on the normal approach to Newark Airport apparently being diverted because of the presence of this unknown flying object. Unconfirmed reports indicate radars in the New York area picked up a series of anomalous targets that night at about the same time ground witnesses say they saw lights over the New Jersey Turnpike. Dozens of cars came to a stop on the Turnpike to watch the lights as they passed overhead. Numerous police and fire-

man were witnesses and took video of the event that was shown on many television broadcasts.

Two years ago, for two hours, there were unidentified objects filmed flying over Phoenix and other Arizona cities that generated major network television coverage, a great deal of local concern and a congressional hearing.

In light of the above (and a great number of other such events with direct implications for aviation safety) it was disappointing for me to see an article such as that by Steve Bill Hanshew ("The FAA believes in UFOs — it's a conspiracy theorist's dream come true," *GAN*, Aug. 17). It would seem to me that you would take seriously enough the issue of safety — and your own credibility — to have engaged an author who was at least minimally interested in truth and reality (and not just what he "believed") to have done a very small amount of research before spreading this kind of misinformation to your readership.

I just decided to enter "UFOs aviation safety" into my search engine, and the Web, in 13 seconds, led me to

the National Aviation Reporting Center for Anomalous Phenomena (Narcap.org), headed by a former scientist from NASA (and a pilot). The site catalogs aviation safety-oriented events associated with unknown flying objects. Had Hanshew taken the time to find this site he would have discovered scientific studies about numerous incidents where airliners and military aircraft took abrupt evasive action risking the safety of the aircraft, crew and passengers to avoid collision with extraordinary "craft" that they could not identify. There are also other incidents where electrical and navigation systems have malfunctioned in the middle of these encounters.

It seems likely that the FAA was tracking what was happening near Newark in July and it is clear that they are aware of the lengthy list of international historical events of this kind which have been reported to them and other national aviation authorities for many years.

It wouldn't have taken much effort to make a call to find out . . . rather than spin out an unjustified, unsupported conspiracy theory of his own

## Disclosure Project wants wraps removed from UFOs

ASHLAND — Two members of Disclosure Project, including a Southern Oregon University student, and a man with past top-secret U.S. Navy security clearance, will present a video and lecture about governmental UFO cover-ups.

The free event is set for 7 to 9 p.m. Friday Oct. 19, in Stevenson Union Room 330, at Southern Oregon University, 1250 Siskiyou Blvd., in Ashland.

It is in conjunction with "Campaign For Disclosure," a national tour begun in May by Disclosure Project director Steven M. Greer, M.D., at a meeting of the National Press Club.

During that event, 21 people, many former military, bore witness before national and international media about cover-ups by the U.S. government involving UFOs, and alternative energies that would make fossil fuel use obsolete, says Jordan Pease, an SOU student who worked 10 days this May as a staff member of Disclosure Project at the D.C. press conference.

The video will show summaries of many of the testimonies, Pease said, followed by a lecture and question and answer session by Pease, and Dan Willis. He said Greer will not attend.

Willis, who gave testimony May 9 at the National Press Club, and joined other military witnesses to testify under oath before Congress, formerly held top-secret security clearance with the U.S. Navy.

Willis said the one-hour video "is a condensation of over 120 hours of witness testimonies that will convince anyone that this subject is real and a valid concern that needs congressional attention."

"You have a need to know — that this information could never get out unless these 450 military, intelligence and other witnesses came together all at once, some under death threats, to reveal to the public the secret that the government has denied for over 50 years," Willis said.

Willis said subjects could include a "non-polluting energy source to end America's dependence on Middle East oil."

For more about the event, see Web site of the Rogue Valley Metaphysical Library, at [www.rvml.org](http://www.rvml.org). For more overall about the Disclosure Project see [www.DisclosureProject.org](http://www.DisclosureProject.org).

about their motives.

As it was, it seems the FAA has attempted to provide a legitimate place where pilots can voluntarily report unusual events — if they choose to. No obligation, no pressure. Perhaps with some systematic study, something can be discovered about what is happening and what might be done about it.

Hanshew (had he chosen to give about two minutes to researching this issue) could have discovered, as I have, that the organization that is receiving these reports, the National Institute for Discovery Science, has a science advisory board made up of senior scientists from national laboratories and major universities, and is in the business of trying to use scientific methods to try to make sense out of these admittedly strange events. (That is what science is supposed to be about.)

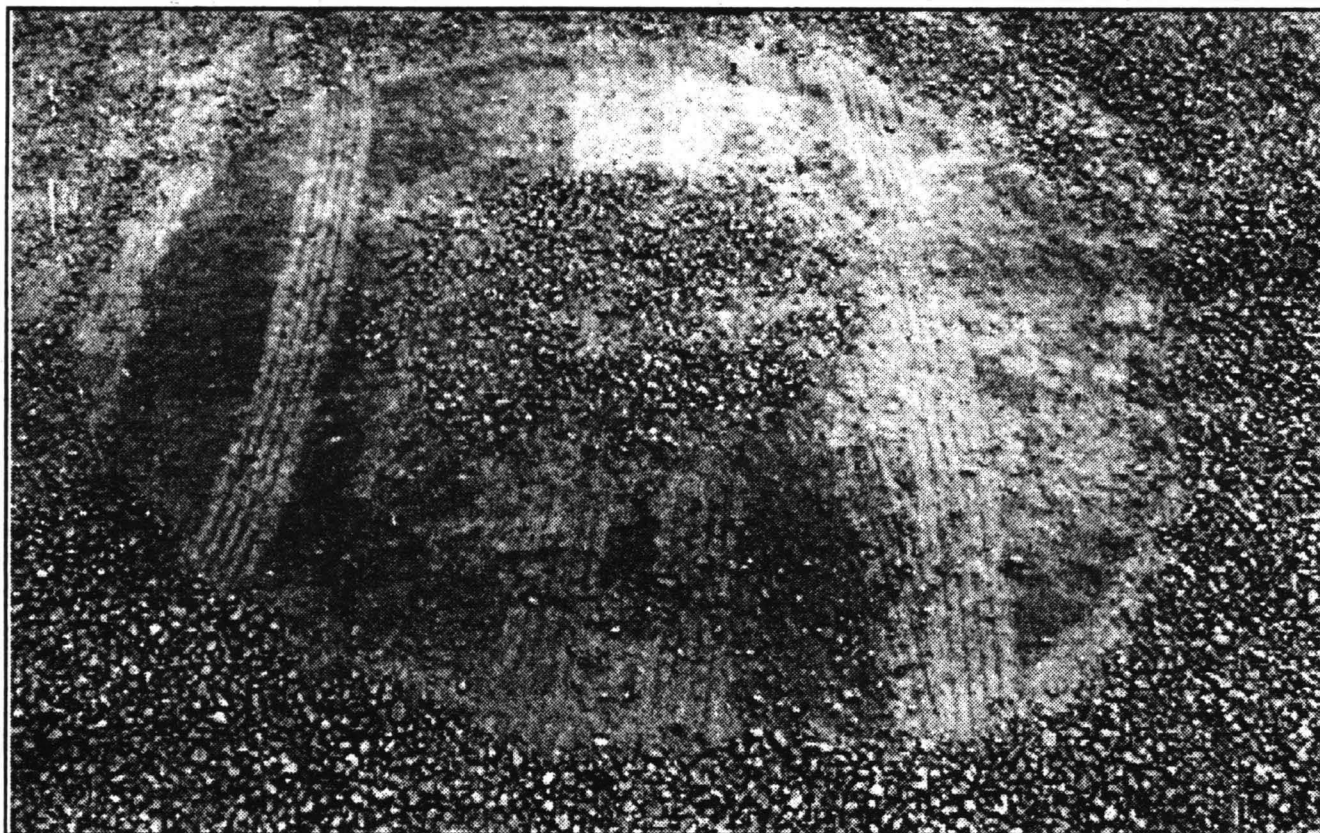
What's particularly sad about this kind of very shallow and shoddy reporting (if you can call it that) is that in making light of this quite reasonable initiative by the FAA, your article encourages pilots, who in the future might encounter a serious unexplainable event that threatens their own and their aircraft's safety, not to report it at all, fearing the ridicule that your article has perpetuated. I would think aviation safety is a more serious subject to you than that.

You don't seem to use writers for your other articles who profess to know nothing about the subject they are writing about and who base a lengthy piece on their "belief" rather than facts or experiences. I hope in the future should another opportunity to cover this subject arise that you will select an intelligent writer to write an intelligent piece about it rather than what you have done this time.

J. L. Petersen  
Berkeley Springs, West Virginia



# Opinion Page



A truck ran over the unusual circle in the gravel before this picture was taken  
... indentation in the ground was about 3/4" deep with no visible sign of its cause

## Denver to ET: If you're out there why not drop by and say hello to all of us?

This may sound a little bit strange, but perfectly sane, very responsible people are wondering what caused that unusual circle in front of a business in the Denver Industrial Park last week.

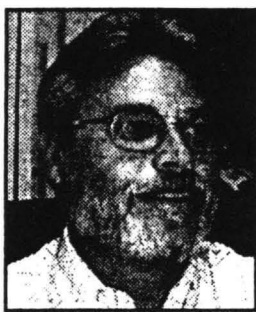
Whether you believe in UFOs or not, someone or *something* did something in front of FabTech Industries last Wednesday night that has people scratching their heads in wonderment.

Sometime in the early evening, an almost-perfect 8-foot circle was made in the gravel drive in front of Fab Tech.

In the middle of the circle, the gravel was undisturbed, and also in a circle.

It looked as though something hovered over the gravel, and with some kind of downburst, cleared out an area about 3/4- inch deep.

The area of cleared gravel had no sign of being touched by a person or any kind of tool, vehicle or instrument.



**Ken H. Fortenberry**

It was as if something simply came out of the sky, cleared out a circle in the ground for whatever reason, and then left.

OK, so you're wondering what's going on here. Somebody's playing a hoax, right?

Maybe, but I can't for the life of me figure out how they did it or why they did it.

Then again, maybe it wasn't a hoax.

Three weeks ago, a 40-year-old former military combat engineer, his 41-year-old nurse-girlfriend,

### Letters to the Editor On Page 10

and a 20-year old Navy enlisted man saw a UFO in Mooresville.

The object was just above the treeline, moving from side to side and up and down, changing colors from whitish-blue to red, then to green. They watched it for about a minute before it disappeared.

None of them believed in UFOs - until then.

What do I think made the circle at Fab Tech? What was spotted in the sky over Mooresville?

I don't have a clue, but I do know this: something happened, and some honest, responsible people had the guts to say so.

What **do you think?**

### Bible Verse

*"From the center of the cloud came four living beings that looked human. . . ."*

- Ezekiel 1:5

# Navy Retiree Says He Also Saw Spaceship 28 Years Ago

By Natalie Chambers

PASCAGOULA—When Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker told the world in 1973 they were abducted by aliens while fishing on the Pascagoula River, few people believed them.

Now after 28 years, it appears they weren't alone in their experience on that Oct. 11 night.

A retired Navy chief petty officer recently contacted *The Mississippi Press* about the sighting that he can't forget.

Mike Cataldo of Rotonda West, Fla., said he was on the pre-commissioning crew of the USS Tunney under construction at Ingalls Shipyard. Dusk was settling in as he and crew mates Ted Peralta and Mack Hanna were on U.S. 90 heading to Ocean Springs. Peralta was driving, Hanna was in the front passenger seat and Cataldo was in the back seat.

"We saw a very strange object in the horizon going from northwest across Highway 90. It was going pretty fast. It went down into a wood area and into the marsh. It hovered over the tree line, I guess, maybe a minute. We actually pulled off the road and watched it. We said, 'My God, what is that?'" Cataldo said.

"We saw it, no question about it. We talked about it. Was it a shooting star, a meteorite? This was very different," he said.

Cataldo said the object looked like a large tambourine with little lights flashing on it.

"As quickly as we saw it, it just vanished," he said.

Cataldo said he had a second sighting minutes later, this time in St. Andrews as he neared his home.

"It wasn't as high up as we saw the first time. It was real," he said. Cataldo said he rushed and told his wife what happened.

"I was almost hyperventilating. I wasn't shook up, but I was excited I saw this thing," he said.

The next morning, Cataldo contacted his executive officer on the submarine and made a report.

The following Monday, he contacted Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi and left his telephone number, he said.

"My executive officer and crew members thought we were just lunatics, just whacked out," he said.

"It never came up again. Keesler never called or did anything," he said.

"It was the strangest thing. It was kind of scary," Cataldo said.

Cataldo retired from the Navy 19 years ago. He was last in Jackson County in 1974.

Cataldo said he has never met or talked to Hickson.

Hickson said neither he nor Parker wanted their story given to the media. Their only objective was to notify the proper authorities, the sheriff's department.

"I've had a few people who said they didn't believe it, but I've never had any ridicule and my family never had. That's one reason when this thing first happened to Calvin and I didn't want to talk about it because I didn't want to be called crazy. But it seemed to me we had to tell the proper authorities," said Hickson, 70, who lives in Gautier.

The rest is history.

Hickson says he knows other people saw the space craft but wouldn't come forward.

"They would have sure helped us if they would have said something," he said.

Hickson penned a book about the encounter, was interviewed several times by the scientific community and made the circuit at seminars on extraterrestrial. In 28 years, he never deviated from his claim of the occurrence behind the old Shaupeter Shipyard building on the Pascagoula River—even under hypnosis.

Parker, who was 19 then, had trouble dealing with what happened. He is now living in Louisiana.

"He's not the same man as before. It just ruined him," Hickson said.

Hickson described the three creatures that floated out to them as pale, ghostlike and about 5 feet high. They had crab-like claws or pinchers and rounded feet. He said they appeared to glide, rather than walk.

Hickson said he was taken aboard the oval-shaped, well-lit space craft and examined with some type of "eye."

"Some kind of way they examined me. I've had a feeling ever since it happened that they know where I am at all times and what I'm doing," he said.

"These things are robots. I didn't see any eyes. They had no indication of breathing. They didn't have a mouth. It was a straight slit. It seems they had something to do and they just actually done it. Took us back out there, put us down and they left," he said.

Hickson said he does not know how long they were with the aliens, but he would like another encounter with them.

"When it first happened, I wouldn't go in the night by myself. I would have nightmares. My wife really helped me get through this thing," he said. "Now the fear is gone. I want to meet them again and see if they will take me to their world. I believe if they do, they'd bring me back. Our whole world here is getting into a terrible shape."

Glenn Ryder, sheriff's department shift captain that night the call came in from Hickson, said it was a busy night, around 11 p.m. when Hickson called from a pay phone and was insistent on talking to then-Sheriff Fred Diamond, who happened to be in bed.

Ryder said Hickson then asked for the second person in charge. That happened to be Ryder. Hickson told Ryder he had something to tell, but feared Ryder would laugh.

Ryder told him to go ahead and when Hickson finished, he did laugh.

"I told him to wait there and I would come and talk to him. He said he was going back to his house and gave me the address so I could come there," Ryder said.

"Calvin Parker was just hysterical. He was having fits. I took them in the patrol car to the sheriff's office," Ryder said.

Hickson and Parker were questioned extensively apart and then put in a secluded room together where a tape recorder had been planted to catch them in a lie.

"That boy (Parker) was really shook up. Charles was composed. The boy had just come down here from Jones County, had always lived out in the country. He kept telling Charles on the tape not to talk to us. He said if (Charles) told them anything about what happened they would come back and get them," Ryder said.

"One thing led to another. We went to the site at Shaupeter, where Colley Towing is now. He showed me where it landed and picked him up."

Ryder said no physical evidence of a landing - burn marks or footprints - were found.

He said after the story broke, calls came in from across the United States, England and Canada.

"They were pretty well convincing something did happen to them," he said.

Ryder said there were other calls fielded about sighting of a streak of light that night, but only Parker and Hickson reported being taken aboard the space craft.



Oval-Shaped, About 22 Feet Long

TIMES, Scranton, PA - Nov. 4, 1957

## Mysterious Object 'Space Craft' from One of Neighboring Planets: Expert

LEVELLAND, TEX. (U.P.)—A man who has spent 20 years studying aerial phenomena said today he believes a mysterious object seen in West Texas and New Mexico "was a space craft from one of the neighboring planets."

The expert is James A. Lee of Abilene, Tex., a member of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena and a director of Inter-Planetary Space Patrol, a West Texas organization which investigates "flying saucers" and similar objects.

Lee came here yesterday upon hearing of the latest object, seen by at least nine persons in two states.

The egg-shaped object, described as about 200 feet long and a brilliant red, was glimpsed by at least five persons in the Levelland area, including the sheriff, three persons at Midland and another at Clovis, N.M.

James D. Long of Waco said he was driving on a farm-to-market road west of Levelland at 1:15 A.M. yesterday when he encountered the object sitting in the road.

He said it was oval-shaped, about 200 feet long and glowed like a neon sign. He got out of his car about 200 feet away to investigate but when he did the object suddenly took off with a roar straight up into the air.

Long said his engine coughed and died and his headlights suddenly went out. When he got his car started, he hurried back to town.

Two other persons said they saw the object in the Levelland area about an hour earlier. Both Pedro Sacido and Nowell E. Wright said the object passed over their cars with a roar like thunder. The engines of their cars died and the headlights went out, too.

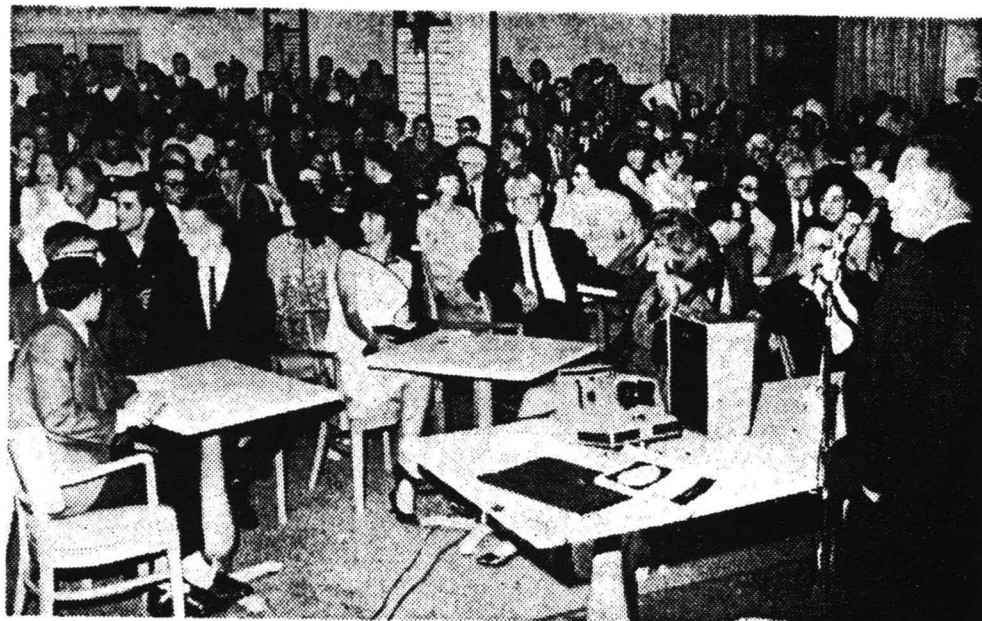
Sheriff Weir Clem and his deputy, Pat McCullough, spotted the object streaking across the sky in front of their car.

The ground observer corps at Midland reported that an unidentified mother and her two children saw "a large object of bluish color flying west and very low" early Saturday night.

Odis Echols, owner of radio station KCLV in Clovis, N.M., said he "saw a streak of light like a fire ball" moving in a southeasterly direction about 8 P.M. Saturday.

"I think it's a space craft from one of the neighboring planets" he declared.

He said he will make a report of his investigation to Washington.



**UFO MEETING AT AIRPORT**—An overflow crowd of 350 packed the Dutch Pantry Restaurant at the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Airport at Avoca Sunday night to hear Don Berliner, right, a staff member of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, Washington, D.C., discuss the growing mystery of flying saucers.

## Mystery of 'Flying Objects' Discussed

TRIBUNE, Scranton, PA - April 18, 1966

An enthusiastic crowd of 350 listened for more than two hours Sunday night as a staff member of a private organization investigating flying objects discussed the recently renewed mystery of flying saucers.

Don Berliner, Washington, D.C., a member of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, told the overflow crowd at the Dutch Pantry Restaurant at the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Airport that "we are quite convinced there is something genuinely unique flying around in our atmosphere."

Berliner was flown in specially for the meeting by the Wyoming Valley Flying Club. His 40-minute talk was followed by a 50-minute question and answer period and a 20-minute slide program. More questions followed.

The speaker said three out of four UFO sightings are honest mistakes, but his organization has on file about 1,500 first hand signed reports which are genuinely unexplainable.

He stated that sightings have been recorded regularly for at least 22 years. "They have been seen by every type of person in every country on the face of the earth," he declared.

They can be traced back to 1944 without any trouble, Berliner said. It is estimated that

one out of five people have seen strange things in the sky.

Most UFO sightings, Berliner said, fall into three general shapes. "The disc, the most common of all; the sphere, and the tubular or cigar shape." When sighted in daytime, the UFOs are almost always described as "shiny metallic," the Washington man said. At night they are usually described as having different colors, mostly glowing.

"They seem to be able to do things that are totally beyond our technology, even beyond our theories." They hover slightly, make sharp maneuvers at extremely high speeds and travel at some 7,000 miles per hour at altitudes below 25,000 feet, he pointed out.

"All this would seem rather fishy," Berliner noted, "if they hadn't been tracked on radar, hadn't been photographed, or hadn't affected electrical operations on earth."

"At least half of the photos of UFOs are honest mistakes," the speaker reported. "A lot of others are intentional fakes. However, others are apparently honest photographs," he claimed.

"In what appears to be an honest photo, we deeply investigated the background of the witness," Berliner said, then added,

"there are not many good pictures, none that show real detail."

"What are these UFOs?, the speaker asked. "The answer depends on whose answering it. The Air Force says that as yet they have turned up no evidence of danger or 'any threat to our security'."

"We say that UFOs are real things, rather than imaginary; artificial rather than natural, and apparently under some kind of control or guidance."

Berliner said that many people think UFOs are craft from other planets manned by intelligent beings. "We have nothing to back this up although it would answer many of our questions."

Referring to the recent sightings in Michigan, he said about the Air Force's swamp gas explanation, "there is absolutely no resemblance to what the people saw."

"Swamp gas is a small flickering light—how you could see this from a distance of 500 yards is completely beyond us."

The slides presented by Berliner included photos of UFO sightings, involving one in Beaver County last August. Artists' conceptions of some "classic sightings" were also shown.

Immediately after his talk a representative of the flying club flew Berliner back to Washington.

PRESS, Cleveland, OH - Aug. 1, 1952

## 3 Men Report Flying Saucers High Over City

Two flying saucers were reported at 11 a. m. today by East Side and West Side residents, who said they were moving in a southwesterly direction at between 15,000 and 20,000 feet altitude.

First to report the objects was Albert Marlatt, 45, of 1903 E. 82d St. Marlatt was on E. 125th St. near St. Clair Ave. when he

said he noticed them.

"They were up about 20,000 feet and heading west at about 300 miles an hour," Marlatt said. He described them as circular in shape and of a dull white color.

At the same time two men said they spotted the objects high over Parma Heights. They were Terry Nau, 11900 Startford Ave., and Dick Calvey, 4553 W. 146th St. Both were on York

Rd. near Crille Veterans' Hospital.

# Saucers Sighted

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Authorities in portions of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas were deluged last night and early today by reports of unidentified flying objects (CPAS, UFO).

The Sedgwick County sheriff's office at Wichita, Kan., said the Weather Bureau tracked "several of them at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 feet."

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol said Tinker Air Force Base here was tracking as many as four of the unidentified flying objects on its radar screen at one time, estimating their altitude at about 22,000 feet.

A Tinker spokesman refused to confirm or deny the radar observations.

"The reported sightings this evening will be investigated by Air Force personnel," said information officer Lt. John Walmsley.

Reports of the UFOs poured in from Pecos, Monahans, Odessa, Midland, Fort Worth, Canyon City and Dalhart, Tex., Chickasha, Shawnee, Cushing, Buymon and Chandler, Okla., and from Oxford, Belle Plaine, Winfield, Caldwell, Mulvane and Wichita, Kan.

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol said police officers in three different patrol cars reported watching the objects fly in a diamond-shaped formation for about 30 minutes in the Shawnee area. The patrol said the officers described the objects as changing in color from red to white to blue-green.

A dispatcher for the Sedgwick County Kansas sheriff's office said "I was a disbeliever, but I saw something up there tonight and so did other observers at the weather bureau and the Air Force base (McConnell.)"

At 3:40 A.M. the Wichita Weather Bureau said it had tracked one of the objects south and west of Wellington. The bureau said it first showed up on their radar at an altitude of about 22,000 feet and had descended to 4,000 feet.

Descriptions phoned to police and other authorities included: "They were red and exploded in a shower of sparks and at other times fluttered like a leaf" in the clear sky.

Deputy Sheriff Dan Carter of Canyon, Tex., said he "thought at first a plane had exploded in the air." The object "appeared to go south," he said, "then disintegrated in all colors."

Spokesmen at Tinker and McConnell Air Force bases are referring all queries to the Air Force in Washington.

In the past, the Air Force has said the sightings have turned out to be such things as balloons, birds, search lights, jet exhaust, kites, meteors, missiles.

As of July 20, the Air Force had checked 9,127 sightings since 1947 with 667 still unidentified and said that its investigations had turned up no evidence to indicate the objects come from space.

# Air Force Reveals Flying Disk 'Made Pass' At Jet Fighter-Bomber Over Northern Japan

U.S. AIR BASE, NORTHERN JAPAN (AP)—The U.S. Air Force tonight reported a small, metallic, disk-shaped object made a controlled, sweeping pass at an American jet fighter-bomber and was observed at very close range by another pilot.

The report, from Air Force intelligence files, said the sighting was made over Northern Japan at 11:20 A.M. March 29, 1952, by Lt. David C. Brigham of Rockford, Ill.

It was a bright, cloudless day. Brigham said he got a very good look at the object from about 30 to 50 feet for about 10 seconds.

The pilot described it as "about eight inches in diameter, very thin, round, and as shiny as polished chromium; had no apparent projections and left no exhaust trails or vapor trails."

He said it caught up with an F-84 Thunder jet, hovered a few moments and then shot out of sight. The F-84 pilot, whose name was not revealed, did not see it.

It was the second disclosure in a week by Air Force intelligence of mysterious flying objects over Northern Japan near the Russian-Siberia area.

Brigham was flying a prop-driven reconnaissance craft at 6,000 feet when an F-84 Thunder jet drew alongside.

Then, he said, he saw the disk to the right of and just behind the Thunder jet. He said it appeared to be traveling 30 to 40 miles an hour faster than the F-84, which was going 150-160 miles an hour.

"It closed rapidly and just before it would have flown into his fuselage it decelerated to his air-speed almost instantaneously," Brigham said in his report to intelligence officers. "In doing so, it flipped up on its edge at approximately a 90-degree bank. Then it fluttered within 20 feet of his fuselage for perhaps two or three seconds, pulled away and around his starboard (right) wing, appearing to flip once as it hit the slipstream behind his wing tip fuel tank."

"Then it passed him, crossed in front of him and pulled up abruptly, appearing to accelerate, and shot out of sight in a steep, almost vertical climb."

"An unusual flight characteristic was a slow fluttering motion. It rocked back and forth at approximately 40-degree banks at approximately one second intervals throughout its course."

When it pulled away, "it did so more sharply than a plane could have done."

# Humanoid Aliens Being 'Kept on Ice'?

By FRANCIS T. DeANDREA  
Times Staff Writer

A former government researcher for aerial phenomena said Thursday night "that for some time" the government has kept hidden in its closet, not skeletons, but "12 blue men," humanoid aliens, who crash landed on this planet in the early 1950s.

What makes the macabre story even more bizarre is the fact that the government has not yet called Dr. Robert Carr crazy.

Dr. Carr, who has been a student of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) for 25 years and at one time was a member of the National Investigations Committee for

Aerial Phenomena, made his shocking statement during a news conference covered by WAEP radio, Tampa, Fla.

A WAEP affiliate, WDIZ-FM, Orlando, Fla., sister station of WEJL-AM, WEZZ-FM, informed The Scranton Times radio stations of the news early today.

Dr. Carr, who reportedly is in his 60s and is a retired professor from the University of Southern Florida, said that for some time the government has been in possession of two space vehicles that are stored in a security area of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. Also, in deep freeze storage

at the Air Force base, he said, are 12 blue men, who supposedly died of decompression when the space ships landed in the Mojave Desert in the early 1950s.

Dr. Carr told the reporters that the Central Intelligence Agency withheld information from the public at the time of the crash for fear of the psychological effect on the people of this country.

The CIA's decision was reportedly made after the government paid an unidentified company \$50,000 for a psychological-sociological study in 1952.

The study, according to Dr. Carr, determined that the public could not handle the shock of such a report and as

a result, it has been considered "Top Secret" until now.

During the news conference, Dr. Carr said he will reveal more about the "12 blue men" at an UFO symposium in Tampa on Nov. 1, 2, 3.

A check by The Times today indicated that Dr. Carr's credibility is "impeccable" and that NBC news is planning to do a White Paper report on part of the symposium. The show is tentatively planned for airing sometime in November.

In making his announcement, Dr. Carr said the reason he is making the story public now, after keeping it in his files for so many years, is that in his estimation, the public is better educated and

can emotionally handle the news better than in the 1950s.

Jack Spiritis, an official for the upcoming symposium, said that the story is "strictly legitimate" and is not being used as a ploy to draw people to the UFO conference.

"Recently, the government has been coming forth with information on UFOs that for years it has kept hidden."

"It has been trying for years to peddle or white off UFO reports as swamp gas, temperature inversions, headlights from cars, or lights from planes. Hopefully, this symposium will help push the truth out into the open," Mr. Spiritis stated.





# FOREIGN NEWS

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

FREE PRESS, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada - Sept. 13, 2001 CR: G. Conway

## Crop circles return to Vanderhoof

For the second time, pilot Brent Miskuski has seen something strange as he flew over Vanderhoof.

On his way home to Prince George at about 7:30 last Thursday evening, Miskuski took off from the Vanderhoof airport over Sturgeon Point Road. Pressed into the grain crop were six circles - known as "crop circles".

"I didn't have my camera, so I went back out (Friday) morning and took some pictures," he said. "I don't know if anyone knows they're there. I didn't see any tracks of footprints going in there."

As a pilot for Vanderhoof Flying Service, Miskuski has seen this before. The last time this area witnessed this phenomenon was in late August in 1998, when 11 circles appeared in a field leased by Halltray Farms.

"Last time, Eric (Spier) and I were the first to see those, too," said Miskuski. "There are fewer now and they're smaller."

Spier, the pilot who spotted them first in 1998 agreed. "I don't think these ones are as nice as the first ones," he said. "They look rougher."

Rough or not, the circles are already grabbing attention. Crop circle specialists from Vancouver, UFO enthusiasts and documentary makers are already on their way to the small town.

Brian Vike, an Unidentified Flying Object researcher from Houston was out Saturday morning, collecting soil and grain samples from the new circles.

"This is my first time looking at circles like this," he said. "It's really exciting."

Vike, who describes himself as an "open-minded skeptic", usually gathers reports of UFO sightings in the area. He spent Saturday collecting as much data about the six circles as he could.

One formation of circles - now being referred to as "Mickey Mouse's head" - consists of three separate circles. The largest one is 30 feet across and is flattened in a clockwise spiral. The smaller two are 16 and 17 feet across the smaller one flattened in a counter-clockwise spiral and the other clockwise. About 30 feet away lies another 17-foot circle in a counter-clockwise pattern. Forty feet from that is a formation of two circles - one is 27.9 feet across in a clockwise spiral and the other 19.10 feet in a counterclockwise spiral.



A bird's-eye view of the Vanderhoof crop circles reveals artistry. PHOTO SUBMITTED

"Nobody had touched it before I got out there," said Vike. "There is one set of tracks out to one of the circles, but absolutely none leading from circle to circle and no other disturbances to the grain at all."

The stalks of grain in the circles are all intact, simply bent over, said Vike.

"Nothing's broken, just flattened," he said. "The spirals go in tighter and tighter as you approach the centre of the circle - and they start to overlap a bit in the middle."

Vike also interviewed several people in the area who reported a "smoky" smell on the night the circles were

first seen.

"One lady said the smell was so disgusting they had to get up and close the window," he said.

Vike's UFO research has kept him hopping lately. He said sightings are up almost 55 per cent this year alone. He's never encountered crop circles before, however.

"I hate to say it, but I suppose it would be fairly easy to fake them. That's why we take all these samples for analysis," he said. The samples will be tested for "just about everything", including magnetic traces, chemicals, and molecular structure.

"Man made or not," said Vike, "they're still cool."

## Crop circle hits harvest

RED DEER, Alta. (CP) — Ken Bickford and his family don't stop for anything when it's harvest time on the Prairies.

But Ken Bickford, 73, made an exception when he was out in his central Alberta wheat field and saw a giant crop circle.

"When you're combining, you don't stop for anything, but he stopped," said Bickford's daughter-in-law Bonnie.

Bickford has been farming for 60 years and said he has never seen anything at all like the crop circle he encountered.

The circles have been linked by UFO enthusiasts to extraterrestrials, while others have argued they are a natural phenomenon caused by the earth's magnetism or whirlwinds.

Others say they are created by pranksters.

Whatever the case, somehow Bickford's healthy, ripe spring wheat was flattened counterclockwise to form a symmetrical pattern.

There were six smaller circles with straight paths joining them and one larger circle in the centre with no paths to it.

The adjacent stands of wheat stood tall and untouched with no tracks from vehicles or walkers.

No one seems to have seen anything unusual and the area is not a spot for late-night parties.

Granddaughter, Caitlin, suggests that maybe something big was hovering overhead, explaining the large circle, and the six smaller circles could have been landing feet.

"Let everyone believe what they want," said Bickford's son Aubrey.

"I don't want to go there."

The Bickfords are taking the matter in stride, however. The crop was to come off this week.

CITIZEN, Prince George, B.C., Canada - Sept. 19, 2001 CR: G. Conway



NORTHERN VOICE/TONY MacGREGOR

## New Vanderhoof crop circles deepen mystery

The six crop circles discovered by a pilot September 6 about five kilometres from Vanderhoof airport have added to the growing mystery of these unexplained formations.

I drove out to see the circles last week. I came away with the conclusion that they were probably not made by pranksters, although they're not as impressive as the ones that appeared the night of August 27, 1998.

The original 11 circles, located in a field about three kilometres from where the latest ones have been found, had clearly been formed by an energy force of some kind. Near the centre of one of the circles, the oats held a peculiar twisted form as if they had been heat-molded into that shape.

That wasn't so obvious with the grain in the latest circles nor were the new circles as well defined as the original formations. In both cases there were neither indications of tracks into the circles nor any footprints that would have been caused by pranksters using boards to flatten the grain.

In any case, the theory that the crop formations are caused by pranksters has been pretty well debunked. Some crop circles have been man-made, but the latest formations, most of which have been discovered in Britain, are so huge and elaborate and appeared so rapidly that it would be impossible for pranksters to create them.

But if pranksters aren't creating them, what are they? Who made them? What were they made for?

The answers to those questions are legion. A laboratory report from the BLT Research Centre in Massachusetts revealed an increase in the amount of magnetic materials in the soil as well as an increase in free-radical concentrations in the twisted oat plants.

Crop formations have been growing increasingly elaborate over the years culminating last month in two peculiar crop formations near the Chilbolton radio telescope in Hampshire, United Kingdom. Both consisted of a large

number of small 'pixels', which form recognizable shapes when viewed from the air.

One was a human-like face and the other resembled a radio transmission sent from the Arecibo radio telescope, Puerto Rico, in 1974. The Arecibo radio message, aimed at a cluster of stars named M13, was an attempt to contact extra terrestrial life. However, because M13 is 25,000 light years away, the message won't arrive for another 250 centuries, and the odds that the message would hit another solar system are thousands to one. Scientists from SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence Institute), the organization that sent the message, debunk the idea that the formation is a reply to their message.

Nonetheless, the uncanny resemblance of the two messages is provoking all kinds of ideas. Some interpret the human-like face formation found near the SETI-like message as an indication that extra-terrestrial life resembles man. SETI scientists also debunk that idea.

One reader from Kitimat asked whether military research with satellites in outer space might be responsible for the formations.

Ralph Thomsen of Dawson Creek told me that he discovered a crop circle about 9.4 metres in diameter just outside his farm house in the fall of 1990 and a similar circle was found in Williams Lake about the same time. He believes it could have been the landing of an unidentified object.

Dr. William Levengood, a plant biophysicist who heads the BLT Research Centre believes the crop formations are caused by swirling masses of highly energized particles settling to earth.

I believe that the formations are a natural phenomena caused by forces we don't understand yet. What do you think?

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Researcher who says circles are the work of aliens faces challenge by hoaxers

# Circle fans galaxies apart

By Lewis Cowen

THE British like nothing better than a mystery, so it was no surprise that Devizes town hall was packed for a lecture last week by veteran crop circle enthusiast Professor Michael Glickman.

Prof Glickman had advertised his talk as a populist lecture on crop circles, Silbury Hill and other mysteries. For an hour and a half the audience of over 200 people sat rapt listening as Prof Glickman equated those who believe that all crop circles are man-made with those who believed the world was flat or that heavy-than-air machines couldn't fly.

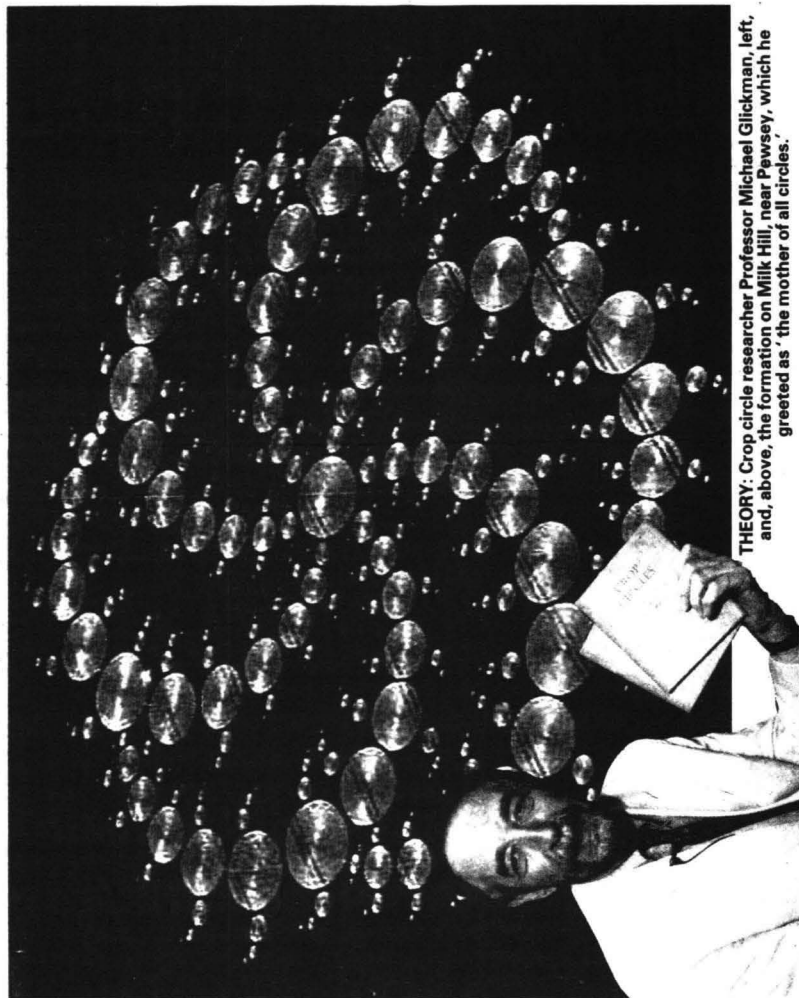
His theory is that we are poised on the brink of an age when belief in intelligence from other planets having already made gentle contact with us through these formations in crops, sand, ice and snow will be the accepted wisdom of the day. He went so far as to condemn the current consensus that all crop circles are man-made as a 'foul lie'.

His talk was introduced by Polly Carson, the former wife of Tim Carson who farms at Alton Barnes.

It was in their field in July 1980 that the first pictographic crop circle appeared, starting the world-wide craze in crop circle investigation. She told the meeting: "Since then the East Field has been host to some of the most complex formations ever seen."

"It is really good to have crop circles on your land because everyone comes to you. They range from the definitely insane, to the terribly earnest to practical serious researchers."

She was quick to include Prof Glickman, who was professor of architecture at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, in the third category.



THEORY: Crop circle researcher Professor Michael Glickman, left, and, above, the formation on Milk Hill, near Pewsey, which he greeted as 'the mother of all circles.'

MARLBOROUGH-PEWSEY GAZETTE & HERALD, Swindon, Wiltshire, England - Aug. 23, 2001

## Hoaxer plans a grand expose of crop designs

MATTHEW Williams, a self-confessed crop circle maker and the first man ever to be prosecuted for doing so, was barred from Prof Glickman's talk last week.

The 29-year-old video editor turned up at Devizes Town Hall but was warned by one of the organisers that the police would be called if he ventured upstairs and tried to get into the meeting.

He said: "I didn't think there was any point in causing a scene so I left."

But other crop circle makers were in the audience and relayed the gist of Prof Glickman's speech to Mr Williams. He was dismissive of Prof Glickman's assertions that his research revealed that no more than four per cent, or six circles a year, were man-made "hoaxes" but he was absolutely staggered by Prof Glickman openly announcing that extra-terrestrial powers were behind the creation of the crop circles.

Mr Williams said: "Don't get me wrong. I believe in UFOs and aliens too, I just don't believe they make the crop circles. But this is a first. Glickman has never mentioned extra-terrestrials before."

There is no love lost between crop circle makers, like Mr Williams, and crop circle investigators, like Prof Glickman, and the arguments between the two factions become vitriolic.

When both men were interviewed by BBC Wiltshire Sound recently, Prof Glick-

man refused to sit in the same studio as Mr Williams, claiming the man had gate-crashed his interview. Mr Williams, on the other hand, insists he was invited by Wiltshire Sound and had every right to be there.

But Mr Williams has a "cunning plan" to disprove the crop circle investigators' assertion that they can tell a hoax circle at first sight.

He and his circle-making colleagues have posted designs on their Internet site Total Human Solution - but in encrypted form, so that they will be able to show, after the crop circle season is over in the autumn, which formations, claimed as genuine by the investigators, were all their own work.

They will have to go a long way, however, to convince Prof Glickman. In his lecture he condemned them for muddying the waters of honest research.

He said: "If hoaxers were shown two doors, one of which said this way to finding the truth and the other which said, let's fool somebody, they would choose door two every time."



HOAXER: Matthew Williams

## Cost of grand design

ONE of the biggest and most elaborate crop patterns ever to appear in Wiltshire has been ruined about £1,400 worth of corn for Stanton St Bernard farmer Brian Read.

The massive complex, pictured above, of swirls with more than 400 circles, which has appeared at the top of Milk Hill near Alton Barnes cannot be seen from any public roads. It was discovered last week by a pilot of a micro-light aircraft.

The geometrical pattern is being regarded as the piece de resistance of the 2001 crop circle season and is possibly the combined work of two or three small teams who are understood to be responsible

for the vast majority of the cornfield canvases.

The pictogram is more than 800 feet across and covers about five hectares.

Dozens of "croppies" trekked along footpaths to view the phenomenon with almost as many taking to the sky in micro-lights, light aircraft and helicopters.

Some researchers, like Reg Presley, formerly of The Troggs pop group, were keeping open minds about how the complex was created.

He said: "If anybody made this then my hat goes off to them, when you think of the time in setting it out, let alone making it in almost total darkness."

DAVENTRY EXPRESS, Northants, England - July 26, 2001

## Elsie tells TV audience about UFO experience

A CHURCH Stowe woman who hit the headlines when she was abducted by UFOs in 1978 has appeared on television to recount her experiences.

Elsie Oakensen, aged 74, was interviewed on Sky television's Where's It At about her experience, and other people's reaction to it.

Mrs Oakensen said: "It was fantastic working on the programme with so many young people."

"It's also good when I find somebody to talk to me, it's the people like me who know what it's about."

In 1978 Elsie saw an object above the Weedon crossroads. She lost 15 minutes of time on the journey home from teaching in Braunston as white lights enveloped her car. The next thing she remembered was driving on the Stowe road off the A5.

The dance duo Orbital later recorded a song called Elsie which sampled Mrs Oakensen telling her story.

When she was questioned about her experiences many who knew about UFO experiences predicted her marriage would break up.

Happily for Elsie and her husband John they will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary on August 18 this year.

● Elsie has also written a second book Into The Unknown - Or Is It? to follow her first, called One Step Beyond.

In the second book Elsie investigates healing, writes poetry, looks at science research, spiritualism, ufology, reprints her drawings, and lists shared experiences.

It brings together the aftermath of Elsie's experiences corroborating certain events and interpreting others.

The book gives fresh arguments against the sceptics and new affirmations for those who, like Elsie, believe in the unknown.



Retired teacher: Elsie Oakensen.

Into The Unknown - Or Is It? is published by Regency Press and costs £7.50

NEWS & JOURNAL, Stroud, England

July 4, 2001

## UFO sightings are not pie in the sky

MADAM - I have read with much interest Melanie Bleaken and John Gaston's version of what they saw in the sky on Monday June 25 at 10.15pm. I also read the reply from Alex Barnett of the National Space Centre.

Indeed the view by Melanie and John at Lightpill was weird. We live directly above Lightpill off Chandos Road, I believe John Gaston lives at Lightpill.

At the stated time my wife came running in and called me to the garden calling to 'come and see this'. In the sky almost overhead and definitely no further over than the Rodborough church was an object. My description is a small air balloon-looking device with a fire burning below. The object was definitely no more than 500m above ground and as it took some two minutes to disappear over towards the Severn I can assume the speed was 40mph. The object was dark in colour with an orange glow below which was flickering as only a flame could.

The reply by Alex is utter nonsense. This was no star, no planet or anything which could be related to such. This WAS an object flying in the sky at a low altitude. Of course, we could have used our video camera to record it, but before any clever person comments, yes we left it too late. The whole sighting of a weird object does not install ideas like this even to the most logical thinking of us.

I would like to hear from anyone with an explanation other than passing off the sighting as another blah, blah. Surely other people saw this event. At first sight I thought this may be a weather balloon, but as it came closer I knew that this would be highly unlikely. As for Mars and Venus being culprits as Alex stated - three other humans saw the sight which was too close to be a planet. One should also bear in mind that UFOs are not necessarily of alien origin.

Should it be possible for the SNJ, I would like to contact Melanie and John. I have looked in the phone book to no avail. Our phone numbers are available if required.

Malcolm Barnes

Heather Close, Rodborough



# Are UFOs threatening the safety of our skies?

In 1986, Ursula Scratchly was entertaining a friend at dinner. It had been a relaxing soiree at her house in Forest Row, in Gatwick Airport's periphery.

Mrs Scratchly's guest, Penny Crowder, thanked her host and walked out into the warm September air towards her car parked in front of the house in Post Horn Lane.

Before opening the driver door, she and Mrs Scratchly looked skyward, where they witnessed a celestial spectacle in the clear night sky that would change their view of the world and the universe forever.

The two women saw a glowing orange ball with a pale orange aura surrounding it moving slowly across the sky from east to west.

Mrs Scratchly, now 54, remembers the events vividly. She said: "It had a construction around it, like a frame. It was very strange and very shocking. I couldn't speak."

"The thing was moving very slowly away and suddenly it disappeared into a tiny dot in the sky, then vanished completely."

Mrs Crowder did not leave but stayed up all night with Mrs Scratchly mulling over the heart-stopping event.

They phoned flight control at Gatwick Airport but officers said nothing had shown up on their radars.

The pair tried to rationalise the incident and wondered if the object could have been a hot air balloon or a satellite, but none of these fitted the description of the

Five years ago the Mirror opened its X-files during a summer which saw at least seven suspected UFO sightings in the area surrounding Gatwick Airport.

With interest in near-misses between planes and UFOs growing, respected ufologists are calling for sightings near airports to be taken more seriously.

But the major government agencies concerned don't want to know. Reporter **MICHAEL TAGGART** investigates

airborne craft.

Mrs Scratchly, an artist, drew what she had seen the next day. She said: "There was no way it was a plane."

Reports are still trickling in about sightings in the area, the last one lodged just six weeks ago.

Simon Sutcliffe was driving on the edge of Ashdown Forest near the site of the 1986 sighting on May 30 this year. He saw two bright yellow lights low in the sky, one higher than the other. They were motionless and disappeared for 20 minutes before reappearing.

He told Kent-based research website Ufotrek: "I stopped the car feeling quite scared and observed the lights for up to another minute, until they vanished again."

"They did not appear again. I am very clued-up with air traffic in the area, so I know what I saw was not planes for Gatwick."

"I observed the planes afterwards and none of their lights were anywhere near as bright, and only appeared stationary for a few seconds as they flew towards me."

Ufotrek co-ordinator Chris Rolfe has been documenting sightings by witnesses on the ground and, in particular, in planes for several years.

He believes many sightings are, in fact, British military hardware but insists that, whatever they are, they pose a grave threat to commercial aircraft.

"It is time pilots at Gatwick were trained to deal with near-misses with UFOs," he said.

"When this sort of thing is happening people's lives are being put at risk."

The National UFO Research Centre documents several sightings by pilots.

In July 1991, a Britannia Airways Boeing 747 on a holiday flight from Crete to Gatwick had an encounter at 5.45pm.

Descending at 15,000ft the co-pilot caught sight of a "small black lozenge shaped object" some 500m ahead and above.

In April the same year, crew and passengers of a Gatwick-bound Alitalia airliner, piloted by Captain Achille Zaghetti, were amazed to see an unidentified flying object pass their aircraft as it flew at a height of more than

22,000ft. As the UFO was no more than 1,000ft above the airliner, and the incident therefore classed as a "near-miss", an official inquiry was launched by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

UFO author Nick Redfern, who has just published his third book, Cosmic Crashes, claims to have in his possession CAA reports of recent near misses with UFOs at UK airports.

He said: "There are none at Gatwick but that doesn't mean none exist. There are 30 cases in the documents I have."

"There are real cases of this and the officials know about them."

The most frequent period of sightings in Gatwick Airport's history came in 1996.

That summer the Mirror opened its X-files together with its sister papers the Crawley News and the Dorking Advertiser, dedicating a UFO hotline for reports.

The titles document these incidents:

● August 10: 3-4am. A woman on a plane from Portugal to Gatwick filmed a strange white light that came from nowhere and

then vanished

● August 15: A woman walking her dog at 2.30am in woods near Horley saw a huge green flashing light moving above her at low altitude

● August 21: A commuter going to work on a bus near Horley spotted a silver cigar-shaped space ship. He described it as "an aircraft engine without the wing"

● August 27: Smallfield student Colin Thatcher spotted a space-ship while hanging out washing

● October 7: A sky-blue coloured spaceship shaped like a ringed doughnut was seen close to the area at 6.30pm

● November 4: Two motorists on the A23 at 2.45pm saw a sinister egg-shaped object hovering over trees.

The spooky sightings prompted skywatcher Larry Dean, of Brighton's Skysearch agency, to believe aliens were watching Gatwick Airport to study Earthly air travel.

He said at the time: "Over the next four or five years we're going to see even more close encounters so that we will get accustomed to their presence."

But Government chiefs have continued to dismiss the strange events. Chris Mason, from the CAA, said: "We do not believe in these events and we have not given any documents to Mr Redfern."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said central government did not recognise the existence of UFOs.

She added: "I used to work in an airport control tower and nine times out of 10 the sightings could be explained."

A spokesman for the British Airports Authority, which manages Gatwick, said the authority was not concerned by reports of UFOs. "We only deal with on-the-ground issues," she added, "try NATS."

The air traffic control authority would not comment on near misses or UFO sightings.

As there has never been an official Government-approved sighting around Gatwick, these events will continue to be dismissed.

But the various authorities can expect to receive further reports of sightings from party-goers, fishermen, motorists and many others whose eyes wander to the night skies.

# UFO duo tell of the night of nine-lights

Report by  
**Angela Henshall**

A UFO-SPOTTING duo claim they saw nine unidentified flying objects in the Dorset sky in one night.

Antony Benton, aged 35, of Leigh, and Alan Colis, 34, of Marnhull have been looking for UFOs every week for the past 15 years.

This week they said they seen nine UFOs in the sky above Wingreen Hill near Donhead St Mary, glowing like luminous orange balls.

"This was my first encounter of this kind and it was fantastic. I'm really looking forward to seeing something again," said Mr Benton.

He said the objects appeared at about 10.05pm, one by one, lighting up the sky.

They were bright orange lights that merged and collided with each other. He denied suggestions that they could be military craft.

"There is no way those objects were man-made. They didn't twinkle like normal lights," he said.

The two space-craft hunters said they also heard a jet and a helicopter go over shortly after the UFOs disappeared.

They said the planes were com-

*This was my first encounter of this kind and it was fantastic*

ing over from a Portland direction.

Mr Colis said: "The best bit was when a smaller light moved towards and into a larger one. I couldn't believe what I was seeing."

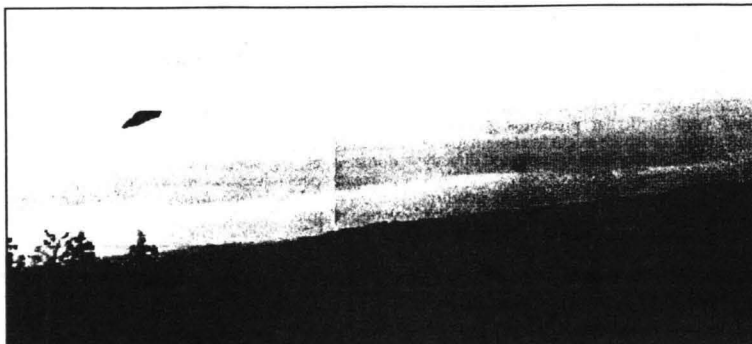
"They were definitely not planes or helicopters, I could tell just from looking through my binoculars."

UFO hunting has become an addictive hobby for the duo who hope to see more in the future.

They said they are now looking for crop-circles in the area in the belief that it is what the alleged alien spacecraft staff were doing.

Graham Birdsall Editor of UFO Magazine said: "This is an extremely intriguing sighting. We have had scores of residents in the Lancashire and London areas reporting similar clusters of bright orange lights in the sky, even fishermen out at sea have spotted them."

"We will certainly be looking into this further."



**SPACE ODDITY:** Are flying saucers, like this one seen in America, buzzing the Dorset countryside like Antony Benton and Alan Colis claim?

EXPRESS & STAR, Birmingham, England - July 25, 2001

## Aliens 'contact Earth'

Alien civilisations may be flashing at us to attract our attention, scientists said today.

A team of extraterrestrial hunters in the United States is looking for signals from laser beacons among the stars. The scientists are using a sophisticated new light detection system fitted to the 40in Nickel Telescope at Mount Hamilton, California.

Unlike other SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) projects this one is trying to find flashing light signals rather than radio messages.

Co-investigator Frank Drake, chairman of the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California, who conducted the first radio search for extraterrestrial

als in 1960, said: "This is different. We are looking for very brief but powerful pulses of laser light from other planetary systems, rather than the steady whine of a radio transmitter."

To find such a signal, the aliens would have to be deliberately firing laser pulses at the Earth in order to be noticed. But experts believe the technology is one that is likely to be exploited by advanced civilisations wanting to communicate.

So far the search by University of California scientists has covered about 300 individual star systems. The team intends to continue looking on at least a weekly basis over the coming year.

July 11, 2001



# Close encounters with UFOs grow

FIVE years ago the News opened its X-files during a summer which saw at least seven suspected UFO sightings in the area surrounding Gatwick Airport.

Our reports have now been documented on several popular websites, including the world famous [www.ufoinfo.com](http://www.ufoinfo.com).

With interest in near-misses between planes and UFOs growing, respected ufologists are calling for sightings near airports to be taken more seriously. But the major government agencies concerned don't want to know. Reporter **MICHAEL TAGGART** investigates.

## We are even less alone

### UFO sightings on the rise

SUSAN HAGAN  
EDMONTON JOURNAL  
EDMONTON

While investigating mysterious cattle mutilations on a southern Saskatchewan farm in the mid-1990s, Paul Pelletier's wristwatch inexplicably stopped.

Standing in the field with a dozen cow carcasses, he heard a strange whining noise in the distance, but never found a source.

"There is something out there," Pelletier said. "There is no doubt about it."

The St. Paul resident, who helped market the UFO landing pad in the small northern Alberta town, isn't alone in his awe of the sky's mysteries.

Pelletier, an economic development manager, has also seen bright lights in the sky. So have almost three million other Canadians.

Reported UFO sightings in Canada appear to be on the rise again, by about 25 per cent over last year. There have been almost 150 reported UFO sightings so far this year, compared with 263 in 2000, said Chris Rutkowski, research co-ordinator for UFOlogy Research of Manitoba. And the busiest sighting season usually occurs in fall, setting the country up for a stellar year.

"There might be more UFO sightings because something is actually up there or perhaps it's a media effect," the astronomer said, suggesting that people are more interested in life on other worlds. "People are looking up."

From glowing red orbs to alien encounters, Rutkowski annually compiles UFO data from across the country. Among the most interesting, but unproven, reports was from campers in Fergus, Ont., who said they witnessed tall alien creatures in white robes collecting soil samples.

Some explain the increase in reported sightings as a reflection of the growing number of organizations dedicated to UFO research. Others may be drawn to UFO encounters because of aliens depicted in television, books and movies. Increased sightings could also be explained because of space junk, satellites, meteors, stars or military craft.

"Three, four or five per cent of all cases end up being unexplained," Rutkowski said, adding he has never seen a UFO himself. "Those are the most puzzling. It wouldn't be a complete shock... it wouldn't be a surprise to me if there were aliens up there."

A UFO study group in Edmonton operates a Web site that includes witness accounts. This spring, someone saw a "huge ball" with five lights on the exterior, "at least two times the size of any airliner." In southeast Edmonton in April, a witness reported seeing a "silver disc" flying below a jet.

The unexplained keeps Gord Kijek on a mission to unravel one of life's biggest mysteries. He formed the UFO study group with a few friends a decade ago because of his 30-year fascination with sky watching.

"As a young person, I would look up into the skies and wonder if we are really alone," he said, adding he has seen strange lights that startled him.

"I'm one of those people who is going to have to touch it. I need proof."

Pilots, police officers and other credible witnesses sometimes come forward with fascinating stories that "spook" him.

Along with other investigators, Kijek interviews witnesses, retraces steps and tries to find commonalities.

"It's as much a study of human experience as it is of UFOs," Kijek said. "It intrigues me."

While the most common sighting in Alberta is a triangular object with lights in the corners, people also report oblong, rectangular, pyramid and conventional disc-shaped crafts.

"Many sightings at face value would lead you to believe there is some kind of intelligence controlling them," Kijek said. "I don't have a strong conviction at this point that these things are extraterrestrial. But the most exciting thing would be to discover there is an intelligence outside of Earth."

A serious stream of UFO reports after St. Paul's 1993 launch of the landing pad initially caught the group off-guard. Pelletier said all they were trying to do was generate publicity for the town, 200 kilometres northeast of Edmonton.

"I like to take some credit that people aren't shy" about coming forward, he said. "When you hear of so many cases, there just has to be something to it."

#### FACTS

##### Are we alone?

■ Canadians reported about 200 UFO sightings in 1998, 259 in 1999 and 263 in 2000, according to the Canadian UFO Survey.

■ About five per cent of all reported sightings are considered high-quality cases that cannot be explained.

■ Most reported sightings occur after 10 p.m. The busiest time of year is September and October.

■ In Alberta, there were 17 sightings this year, 14 last year, eight in 1999 and 12 between 1995 and 1998.

■ The Alberta UFO Study Group tracks reported sightings at [www.aufosg.org](http://www.aufosg.org)

In 1986 Ursula Scratchly was entertaining a friend at dinner. It had been a relaxing soiree at the Forest Row house in Gatwick Airport's periphery.

Mrs Scratchly's guest Penny Crowder thanked her host and walked out into the warm September air towards her car parked in front of the house, in Post Horn Lane.

Before opening the driver door, she and Mrs Scratchly looked skyward, where they witnessed a celestial spectacle in the clear night sky that would change their view of the world and the universe forever.

The two women saw a glowing, orange ball with a pale, orange aura surrounding it, moving slowly across the sky from east to west.

Mrs Scratchly, now 54, remembers the shocking events vividly. She told the News this week: "It had a construction around it, like a frame. It was very strange and very shocking. I couldn't speak."

"The thing was moving very slowly away and suddenly it disappeared into a tiny dot in the sky then vanished completely."

They phoned flight control at Gatwick Airport but officers said nothing had shown up on their radars.

Reports are still trickling in about sightings in the area, the last one logged just six weeks ago.

Simon Sutcliffe was driving on the edge of Ashdown Forest near the site of the 1986 sighting on May 30 this year.

He saw two bright yellow lights low in the sky, one higher than the other. They were motionless and disappeared for 20 minutes before reappearing.

He told Kent-based research website UfoTrek: "I am very clued up with air traffic in the area, so I know what I saw were not planes for Gatwick."

UfoTrek co-ordinator Chris Rolfe has been documenting sightings by witnesses on the ground and, in particular, in planes for several years.

He believes many of the alien craft are in fact British military hardware but insists that, whatever causes the sightings they pose a grave threat to commercial aircraft.

"It is time pilots at Gatwick were trained to deal with near misses with UFOs," he said.

"When this sort of thing is happening people's lives are being put at risk."

The National UFO Research Centre documents several sightings by pilots.

In July 1991, a Britannia Airways Boeing 747 pilot on a holiday flight from Crete to Gatwick reported seeing a "small black lozenge shaped object".

In April the same year Captain Achille Zaghetto on Gatwick-bound Alitalia airliner saw a UFO pass within 1,000ft.

UFO author Nick Redfern, who has just published his third book, *Cosmic Crashes*, claims to have in his possession CAA reports of recent near misses with UFOs at UK airports.

He said: "There are none at Gatwick but that doesn't mean none exist. There are 30 cases in the documents I have."

"There are real cases of this and the officials know about them."

The most frequent period of alien craft sightings in Gatwick Airport's history came in the wave of 1996.

That summer the News opened its X-files together with its sister papers the Horley Mirror and the Dorking Advertiser, dedicating a UFO hotline to reports in just four months and collected photographic evidence.

The spooky sightings prompted skywatcher Larry Dean of Brighton's Skysearch agency to believe aliens were watching Gatwick Airport to study Earthly air travel.

He told the News: "Over the next four or five years we're going to see a lot more close encounters so that we will get accustomed to their presence."

But Government chiefs have continued to dismiss the strange events.

Chris Mason from the CAA said: "We do not believe in these events and we have not given any documents to Mr Redfern."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said central government does not recognise the existence of UFOs.

She added: "I used to work in an airport control tower and nine times out of 10 the sightings could be explained."

A spokesman for the British Airports Authority, which manages Gatwick, said the authority is not concerned by reports of UFOs.

"We only deal with on the ground issues," she added. "Try National Air Traffic Control (NATS)." The air traffic control authority would not comment on near misses or UFO sightings.

As there has never been an official Government-approved sighting around Gatwick, these events will continue to be dismissed.

But for the foreseeable future the various authorities can expect to receive reports of sightings from fishermen, motorists and others whose eyes wander to the skies.

Airport officials may not believe reports of uninvited intruders hanging round the airport but one thing they know will not go away is the sightings.

## The strange case of Cumbria's 'Roswell Incident'

By Gazette reporter

CUMBRIAN ufologist Sharon Larkin is investigating a claim that West Cumbria had its own Roswell Incident back in 1954.

A sheep farmer, on his deathbed, rang Sharon to share his secret with her. The anonymous caller told Sharon that he farmed at Knott, and that on March 8, 1954, he was out on his farm with his young son. He claimed they saw a UFO crash into Knott Hill.

He revealed that he and his son were immediately taken to Kirkbride Airfield

by the military. They were kept there for two weeks while wreckage was removed from the land.

On their release, they were given strict instructions by military officials not to talk to anyone about what they had seen.

Sharon, who is the administrative director of North West Cumbria UFO Research and Investigation, said: "The farmer was only on the phone for two minutes, so I

couldn't get an exact location, but I've looked on a map and believe it to be Knott, near Branthwaite, near Workington."

According to Sharon, Kirkbride Airfield was an active military base in the Fifties and it would be logical for the farmer to be held there.

She said: "It will be really difficult to investigate this because it was so long ago and because I only have sketchy details."

"What I need to do is write to the Ministry of Defence and ask if anything was

recovered from that area at that time."

"It's more than likely though that they are going to say no, but we still have to ask."

Once foot and mouth is over, Sharon plans to visit the area herself and interview the local farmers.

She said: "Although it was a long time ago, farms are passed down from generation to generation, so the story might be known by someone."

Sharon believes the case is similar to the world-famous

Roswell Incident in Mexico in 1947, when it was alleged two UFOs crashed into each other. The wreckage was collected by the military, together with four alien bodies.

Many people believe the incident to be true, but that it was covered up by the US government.

North-west Cumbria was already famous for extra terrestrial activity during this period following the Solway Spaceman photograph, taken by Jim Templeton at Burgh Marsh.



● Sharon Larkin: "It'll be difficult to investigate"



# Mysterious light in yard confounds woman

By Bruce MacInnis  
Record Staff Writer

"You're going to think I'm crazy," Brenda said, describing the bright, lemon-yellow light that flitted around her yard Friday night.

Brenda is so worried that people will think she is crazy that she doesn't want readers to know her last name, but she didn't sound a bit crazy to the reporter who talked to her on the phone Monday morning.

The night sky was clear and the air was absolutely still just before 9:55 p.m., Friday as she walked in her yard near Kitty Coleman beach.

Brenda is a star-watcher, and she was looking north toward the Big Dipper when the round, glowing, yellow light about the size of a small

car flew into her yard from the west, slowed down, sped up, flitted to and fro like a hummingbird.

"It hovered beside a tree in the back yard, and I thought, 'what is that?'"

"It moved toward me, suddenly seemed to snap into overdrive and take off. I ran down the driveway and I could see it in the trees. I ran down my drive toward it, and then my yard safety light clicked on and ruined my night vision," Brenda said.

She managed to catch a

"It moved toward me, suddenly seemed to snap into overdrive and take off ..."

Brenda

glimpse of the light zipping down the shoreline toward Bates Beach and Cape Lazo.

The object was not a meteor or one of the yellow flares commonly used by the Air

Force, she said.

"Someone at Kitty Coleman or one of the campgrounds may have seen it and may think they are a nut case, and will be glad to know I saw it too."

Staff at Jasper's Resort and Bates Beach Boat House said none of their guests had reported a strange light, but the University of Victoria Astronomy Department said a woman on Saltspring Island had sighted a "flashing light" at about 10 p.m., Friday.

During clear weather, the university receives several UFO reports daily, but some are probably prompted by the meteor shower which occurs every August.

Most UFO sightings can be traced to ordinary aircraft or natural phenomena, but about five per cent can't be so

easily explained, Chris Rutkowski, an astronomer with UFOlogy Research of Manitoba recently told *MacLean's* magazine.

"I know how unlikely it is for aliens to reach Earth, but there is a certain percentage of cases that just can't be explained," Rutkowski said.

EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES, Ipswich, England - Sept. 5, 2001

## Probe urged over MoD memos on UFO mystery

PRESSURE is growing on the Ministry of Defence to hold a fresh inquiry into UFO sightings more than 20 years ago.

It follows the opening of secret files on mysterious objects seen near the east gate of Woodbridge airfield in 1980 by American servicemen. The documents tell how the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Royal Air Force dealt with the puzzle.

Until now the official response was that the incident had no defence significance. Now author Georgina Bruni, who wrote a book *You Can't Tell the People on UFOs* said latest documents reveal defence intelligence staff held an investigation. She added the most impor-

by RICHARD SMITH

tant documents related to internal MoD correspondence.

Nick Pope, who headed the MoD's UFO department in the early 90s, told Ms Bruni: "The papers concerning the radioactivity at the landing site are hugely significant and show how the MoD's own experts acknowledged that this UFO incident was corroborated by hard scientific evidence."

"You've now got the proof that this incident raised serious defence and national security issues. These revelations are sensational and I'm sure there will be pressure for an inquiry into both the incident itself and the subsequent actions of both the MoD and the United States

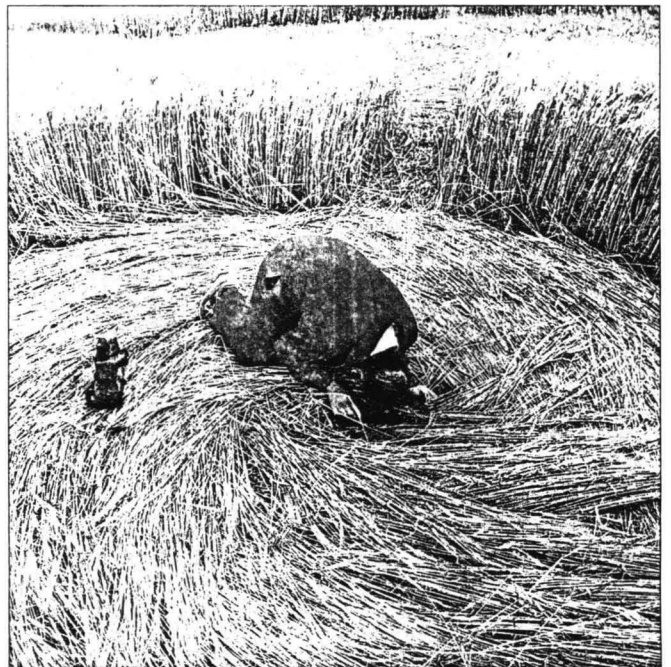
Air Force. There are certainly some important, and as yet unanswered, questions."

A memo from Lt Col Charles Halt, deputy base commander at Woodbridge and Bentwaters, two weeks after the sightings, referred to radiation readings after a triangular object landed in Rendlesham Forest. It was hovering or on legs and vanished through trees when patrolmen approached, but later reappeared.

The MoD information showed radiation readings were significantly higher than average background figures, and an internal report said staff "cannot offer any explanation for the phenomena."

richardsmith@ecng.co.uk

HERALD, Calgary, Alberta, Canada - Aug. 24, 2001



Calgary Herald Archive

Crop circles have baffled scientists for decades.

## 'Intelligence' creating crop circles: researcher

DEBORAH TETLEY  
CALGARY HERALD

They appear seemingly out of nowhere, mostly in farmer's fields, but also on ice-covered lakes and even in the snow.

They've baffled scientists and just plain curious folks around the world for decades with their spontaneity and obscure designs.

Now, a Vancouver man has embarked on an adventure to solve the mystery of so-called crop circles.

Paul Anderson, 34, said it's prime season for the designs, so his non-profit group, Canadian Crop Circle Research Network, will conduct field studies across the Prairies over the next two weeks.

Most of the research will focus on the latest example in Estevan, Sask. It's in that province that 90 per cent of the formations are reported, with Alberta a close second.

"Our prime focus is to figure out what is going on," said Anderson, who, along with his research team, will stop in Fort Macleod this weekend before continuing on to Saskatchewan.

"A lot of farmers are finding that these things are affecting their crops and we'd like to get some answers for them."

Anderson's expedition will include aerial surveillance of known "hot spots," field investigations, sampling of plants and subsequent testing of samples by a firm in the U.S.

Despite 11 years of research, Anderson remains baffled by the circles, which vary from 10 metres in diameter to 100. And they're not always circles; some are elaborate pictograms.

Anderson said some of the formations are obviously hoaxes, commissioned for advertising or otherwise, but others are something else.

"I'm not saying aliens are doing this," he said. "But I am leaning in the direction of some sort of intelligence that is with us or around us that we can't see. There is no nice, neat answer."

Anderson realizes it's a hard concept for the average person to swallow — the thought there is some sort of atmospheric vortex, or electromagnetic microwave energy that is imprinting massive designs in the earth and deforming stalks from the inside out.

"It sounds so far-fetched. But when it happens in backwater Saskatchewan in a remote field where no one would even be able to see it, you have to wonder."

If you have seen a crop circle, e-mail Anderson at cccrn@hotmail.com.

CR: W. Benedict

MALVERN GAZETTE, Worcestershire, England  
July 6, 2001

## UFO sighting blamed on a 'trick of nature'

A MASS of yellow and orange flame, emitting a shower of sparks and a trail of strange vapour seen over the Malvern Hills last weekend, has been dismissed as a trick of nature.

But the unusual sight had at least one couple believing they may well have witnessed a UFO.

Jon Percer, of Welland, spotted the strange object at around 8.45pm on Sunday (July 1) and alerted his wife Mary.

He said: "It wasn't going very fast and the vapour trail didn't get any longer, it wasn't a plane or anything."

Mr and Mrs Percer watched the object for several minutes

before it disappeared over the hill.

West Mercia Police said that they had received no reports in connection with the incident.

A spokesman for The Royal Air Force said that there were no operational airbases nearby and the Civil Aviation Authority refused to comment.

Worcester weatherman Paul Damari said that the object could have been a number of things, including the planet Mars or the passing International Space Station.

He said that the most likely explanation was that in the high atmosphere, sunlight had reflected from the underside of a plane, causing the flame-like appearance.

GAZETTE, Littlehampton, England  
Aug. 16, 2001

## Was it a bird, was it a plane?

ARE UFOs sizing up Littlehampton?

A strange, flying object was spotted moving through the sky on Friday night at about 11.30pm.

Sheila Humphrey, of St Flora's Road, remains puzzled as to what it was.

She said: "It was a triangular shape and was larger than an aeroplane. It also had bluey, green tinges and fluffy edges like a cloud."

Sheila watched as the object moved through the sky, without making a sound. "It was like something from a film. I'd love to know what it was," she said.

# Ex-miners film strange shapes in Notts skies

## We are not alone!



By CAROLINE FOULKES

**YOU** wouldn't normally expect to see much if you were standing on top of a slag heap in Notts.

A bit of surrounding countryside. The remnants of the county's coal industry. But certainly not a UFO.

Yet, for three ex-miners from Shirebrook, there seemed to be no other explanation for the bright triangular shape which appeared in the skies above them.

To prove they were not seeing things, they filmed the strange craft for twenty minutes. And they aren't alone.

According to a new documentary filmed by a Nottingham based production company, Notts is a hive of extra-terrestrial activity.

During a six-month investigation, Nottingham-based Four Sheet Films looked into dozens of sightings across the East Midlands.

Among things reported to be lurking in the skies of Notts and Derbyshire were:

- Bright white lights
- Triangular shaped objects
- Pulsating lights
- Cigar shaped craft
- Dome shaped craft
- A large glowing millstone.

Omar Fowler, President of the Unusual Phenomena Association, said research by an American scientist suggests there may be up to 15 different types of aliens who have visited the earth.

They are said to range from lizard-like beings to ones that appear more like humans.

Filmmakers Owen Gaffrey, John Arnold and Trevor Howes, said that some of the footage they had collected was "beyond belief".

Director Owen, 31, of Forest Fields, who has never seen a UFO himself, said that the film from

the Shirebrook slagheap was particularly amazing.

"These three men were standing on a slagheap and saw this triangular shape in the sky, so they started filming it," he said.

"They give this running commentary on it and couldn't believe what they were seeing.

"Then two helicopters come along to try and intercept it and it just disappears.

"When we checked with the Civil Aviation Authority and the MoD they said there were no helicopters in the area at the time."

The production team, who made the ten minute documentary as part of Carlton Television's First Cuts Scheme, investigated incidents in Leicester, Mansfield, Chesterfield, Nottingham and Derby.

They say activity is particularly centred on the Derbyshire Dales, with the epicentre believed to be within a ten mile radius of Matlock.

"People in Matlock have been reporting sightings for about 16 years," said Owen.

"Since last September activity has increased and there have been dozens and dozens of sightings. Some people are just seeing planets like Venus under odd conditions. But some of them are genuinely bizarre.

"Triangular shaped craft which just materialise in the air and have a surface like liquid mercury are quite common sightings."

The film features an interview with Nick Pope, an ex-UFO officer at the Ministry of Defence.

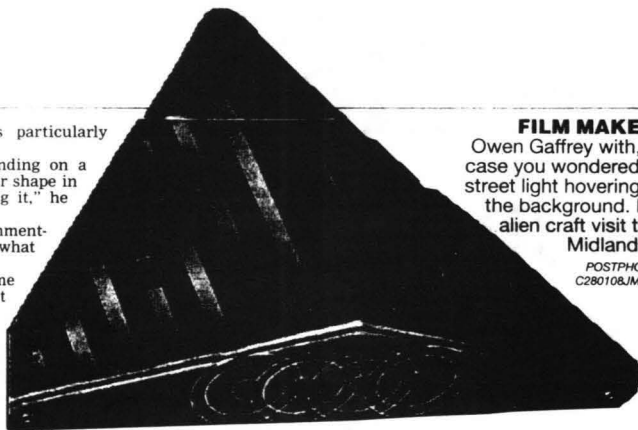
"The MoD takes UFOs quite seriously — they get around 200-300 reported sightings every year," said Owen.

"About 90% of them can be explained by normal

### FILM MAKER:

Owen Gaffrey with, in case you wondered, a street light hovering in the background. Do alien craft visit the Midlands?

POSTPHOTO C280108/JM4-1



means. Of the other 10%, some cannot be explained due to lack of information. The only explanation is extra-terrestrial activity."

The film will be premiered at the Broadway cinema in Hockley this autumn before being shown later in the year on TV.

Tony James, founder member of the East Midlands UFO Association, said it wasn't uncommon to see UFOs in Nottingham itself.

"I've seen two UFOs in Nottingham myself. The first one I saw was in 1993 in Lenton," he said.

"It was just off Triumph Road. The other one was close to the Goose Fair Pub in Highbury Vale. That was in 1996.

"We had a report of a sighting just the other Friday in Hucknall.

"This ex-miner had got up at around 3am and saw something through the window. He described it as being like a chandelier.

"He's about 79 and said he'd never had anytime for people who said they'd seen those kind of things, but now he knows how they feel."

## Now experts believe that town's 2020 vision is attracting all those UFOs

By Aidan Radnedge

News Reporter

It should come as no surprise that possible alien invaders have shown an interest in Croydon, according to a veteran UFO expert.

And Mark Harwood's extra-terrestrial reports could be taken as a thumbs-up for Croydon Council's ambitious development plans for the borough.

Ray Lake, who has studied UFOs since 1953, is convinced Mark Harwood witnessed a bona fide spacecraft over his home in Flora Gardens, New Addington.

He believes Croydon's reputation for its Sixties tower blocks has spread further than even the most imaginative town planner could have predicted.

And Mr Lake, who has studied UFOs since 1953, told the Advertiser unearthly beings may have known that even more developments are in the pipeline.

Developers Freshwater want to transform the Suffolk House and Blockbuster Video complex in George Street the biggest office building in south London.

The council's Vision 2020 project also promises a wealth of new buildings to regenerate the town centre.

All of which apparently should put council chief Cllr Hugh Malyan on guard, waiting for the day alien visitors ask an unsuspecting resident: "Take us to your leader."

Mr Lake, chairman and founder of London UFO Studies, told the Advertiser: "We've had reports from Croydon before.

"These beings seem to be interested in high-rise blocks, and knowing when new developments are coming up. That would fit in with Croydon.

"When Canary Wharf was being built, there were a hell of a lot of sightings around there."

Mr Harwood's experience fits closely with a sighting by Maggie Ainsworth

of Reading at 4pm on January 15 this year. She told the website [ufosighting-suk.co.uk](http://ufosighting-suk.co.uk): "I saw a round bright light surrounded in black. This object was hovering, and at other times moved in haphazard and unnatural patterns and movements.

"At times it appeared to change its form and it is during these episodes you can clearly identify the classic image of a flying saucer."

An anonymous contributor reported a very similar sighting above Romford in Essex at 7.30pm on March 13.

And Mr Lake said there had been sightings recently in Lewisham and Woolwich.

And if the alien invaders do not come in peace, perhaps H G Wells' classic book "The War Of The Worlds" was only slightly wrong.

He told the story of a Martian siege after landing at Horsell Common, near Woking — just a little along the M25 from Croydon.

Still, what's a mere 20 miles or so between intergalactic enemies?

BURY TIMES, Lancashire, England

June 29, 2001

## Seen any UFOs lately?

THE sky's the limit for Bury UFO researcher Rob Edwards.

For the retired business consultant wants to hear from local people who may have observed anything which might be classed as a UFO.

Rob is attached to Oxford-based Contact International UFO Research. He said: "Basically, I am asking anyone in Bury or elsewhere in the North West to get in

touch with me if they feel they've witnessed a UFO.

"I will send them a form to fill in, explaining what they have seen. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence."

Rob will relay the data to Contact International. He has been attached to the group for around a decade and is particularly interested in the whole UFO debate.

He explained: "When I was at RAF Kinloss in 1953, many Canadian and American crews used to tell me things they'd seen which weren't normal."

He believes that given the level of such sightings all over the world, then some must be genuine.

Anyone who feels they have witnessed UFO sightings can write to Rob at 5 Garstang Drive, Bury.



# Introducing Graham Allen, UFO hunter

Many of you who regularly read this column will be aware of the work and research undertaken by the Rugeley-based Staffordshire UFO group. Formed in 1995 the group was founded by Irene Bott, however, Irene has now moved on to pastures new and the group has a new organiser and co-ordinator - Graham Allen, also of Rugeley. We talk to Graham to find out how he got interested in the UFO subject and what his plans and goals are for the group.

"When I was a kid," says Graham, "we heard about UFO stories and for me it started with an old lady who lived down the road from us



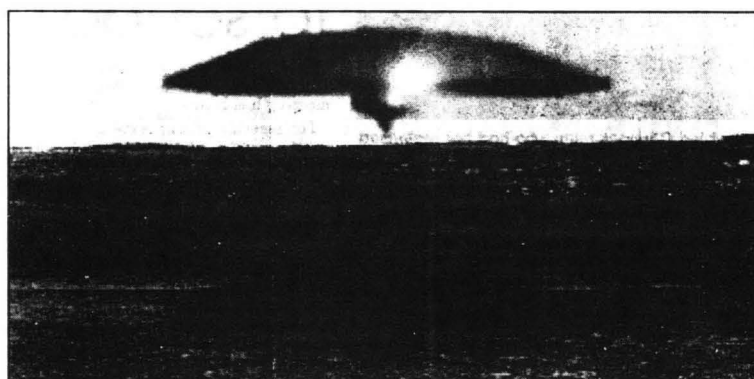
in the early 1960s - a Mrs Shemwell from Hednesford. She came banging on the door saying that she'd seen this flying saucer hovering over the houses and it frightened her to death!

"Then in about 1973 I had a telescope for my birthday and myself and a friend had gone out at night with it and we saw this light - again over Hednesford - doing a figure-of-eight in the sky. We told our parents and the next thing, it was on News at Ten! So people in other parts of the country had seen it too.

by Nick Redfern

"I then got interested in the subject and not long after we moved to Australia; and on one occasion in a place called Yongalla we all saw what we thought was a shooting star. But, it levelled off, stopped and changed colour and four lights came out of it and shot off in different directions.

"By this time I was about 14 and had had a few encounters, if you like, of what might have been UFOs. So I had an interest a long time before the Staffordshire UFO Group had even started. But things then hit off again on May 16 1988. There were 16 of us having a barbecue in my mom's back garden and first of all we saw two bright lights travelling across Cannock Chase towards Stafford from Rugeley. They were then travelling at maybe 100 feet. We watched



the lights as they headed towards Stafford, did a U-turn and then came back towards us. We raced to find a camera but couldn't find one with a film in it!

"Then as they got closer we could see that they were triangular-shaped, with no noise and covered in lights. And of course this really re-awakened my interest.

"Then when Irene set the group up and I saw the first meeting advertised in a local paper, I couldn't help but get involved and the meeting was packed - there were so

many people there! This was September 1995 and from then on we held monthly meetings, conferences, sky-watches and I put together a database of all sighting reports that would come in from Cannock, Hednesford, Rugeley etc, and I would investigate the reports for the group."

And now that Graham is, himself, running the Staffordshire UFO Group, what are his plans for the future? "Really, the group is still going on as it was and we will continue to have a

monthly speaker and we're now getting between 50 and 70 people at the meetings. We also have a monthly newsletter that people who attend the meetings can get a copy of. People can also contact me to report sightings that they have had. Also, next year I am hoping to put on a one-day UFO conference in the area."

You can contact Graham Allen on 01889 585149. ■ Nick Redfern is the author of three books on UFOs: A Covert Agenda, The FBI Files and Cosmic Crashes.

EVENING POST, Lancashire, England - May 3, 2001

# The truth is out there, somewhere!



## So, just what proof is there?

JANET Walkey, of the Lancashire Aerial Phenomena Investigation Society, said Lancashire is a hotbed of mysterious sightings - many of which go unreported.

She said: "We have been simply deluged with hundreds of people reporting sightings in Fleetwood and Blackpool. People have seen them repeatedly again and again and different people have caught them on camera."

"They appear to be generally a number of lights in formation. The formation changes but the common threads are there in all the sightings."

"It's very exciting and the video proves that ordinary people really are seeing these things."

"It also proved that UFO sightings do occur frequently - it's just people often don't know who to report them to. More investigation work needs to be done."

She said the weekend conference will feature many experts including Graham Bird-sall, editor of the national UFO magazine.

For tickets contact Janet on 01253 890601.

WHO GOES THERE? A conference to be held in Preston this weekend features evidence said to prove out-of-this-world phenomena happen all the time

## Witnesses unite to discuss UFO

UFO spotters in Rodborough will be comparing notes after the *News & Journal* put them in touch with each other.

John Gaston of Lightpill and Rodborough's Malcolm Barnes had never met, but both witnessed a mysterious object in the sky on the evening of Monday, June 25, and their descriptions are almost identical.

Neither is convinced by the explanations of the sighting they have heard so far but both agree they saw the same thing.

Both saw a large black shape with a fire hanging below it pass over Rodborough at considerable speed at 10.15pm.

"From my point of view this was quite a bit bigger than a car," said Mr Gaston.

"It actually flew over the top of our house, it was nothing to do with Mars," he said

of the experts' explanation.

Mr Barnes added: "If Mars came that close to Rodborough we'd have all been dead weeks ago."

Mr Gaston knows the truth is out there but is resigned to the fact he is unlikely to find it.

"My first idea was that it was something from the air-base at Fairford," he said.

"We really want to get to the bottom of this but I don't think we'll get very far."

Mr Barnes said people had been joking about his close encounter but he did not think he had witnessed an extraterrestrial invasion.

"What's a UFO?" he asked.

"An unidentified flying object and that's exactly what it was."

"It doesn't mean we saw a spaceship."

UFO sightings across the UK may have plummeted, and the Flying Saucer Bureau may have been disbanded.

But here in Lancashire, a UFO society has been inundated by reported sightings of flying saucers and strange lights that cannot be explained away by the experts.

Experts claim video footage of the phenomena is conclusive proof that UFOs do exist.

The night-time footage of mysterious light formations -

By Nicola Adam

spotted over Fleetwood on at least five occasions - will be exclusively revealed at a conference at the Harrington Lecture Theatre, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, on Saturday and Sunday.

The event, being staged by the Lancashire Aerial Phenomena Investigation Society will also feature extraordinary evidence that out-of-this-world phenomena happen all the time across the UK... quashing claims the subject is out of sight, out of mind!

KEIGHLEY NEWS, Yorkshire, England - Aug. 10, 2001

## Double UFO vision

A FURTHER sighting has been reported of the UFO spotted last week in the skies above Keighley.

We revealed last week how retired fireman Leslie Howard had seen the cigar-shaped craft shoot over the town late one evening.

He spotted the strange object as he walked his dog shortly after 11pm last Wednesday.

Now Riddlesden man Tony Reeds has reported seeing the same phenomenon.

"My wife and I were sitting out on our patio at that time," he said.

"What I saw had the appearance of a bright star - white with a hint of blue - in contrast to the more orange colour of the moon, which

was also visible.

"My wife said it was cigar shaped. The object was travelling from somewhere due south of us, going roughly in the direction of Leeds-Bradford Airport. It was travelling at a steady pace, and was out of sight in about 20 seconds.

"We have no idea what it was, but it was not an aeroplane or helicopter. My daughter saw something similar a few weeks ago from her home in Bingley, but we did not give it much thought."

Keighley is a renowned hotspot for UFO sightings, with countless reports being received over the years of unexplained happenings in the district's skies.

## 'UFO' seen by night anglers

ANGLERS FISHING an all-night session at Lindores Loch, North Fife, believe they saw an unidentified flying object about 3 am yesterday.

"Two anglers mentioned it when they came in," said proprietor Andy Mitchell.

Other anglers also saw something unusual. One group said the object hovered to the north for some time before coming over the loch then shooting south.

"They saw it for about half an hour," Mr Mitchell said. "When it came over the loch, they said, they had been drifting among fish, but as the UFO approached they stopped moving and couldn't get their casts out. Then it went south at speed."

Air traffic control at RAF Leuchars, only a few miles from the loch, said they were unable to comment.

# Second sighting of UFO prompts fears of extra-terrestrial interest

By Aidan Radnedge

News Reporter

Fears that aliens are preparing to invade Croydon have surged after an Advertiser reader backed up reports of a UFO hovering above the borough.

Claire Spencer, 21, was shocked to witness a shimmering ball of light whizzing over her home in Longheath Gardens, South Norwood.

Her description matched that of startled star-gazer Mark Harwood, whose experience was revealed in the Advertiser two weeks ago.

And airport worker Claire believes there may be some truth in a UFO expert's warning that

extra-terrestrials are targeting Croydon in particular.

Claire was in her kitchen and about to leave for work in the early hours of the morning when she noticed the strange apparition outside.

She told the Advertiser: "It was like a white dot in the sky shooting in a triangular direction for about ten minutes.

"At first I thought it might be a plane, but it was moving too fast. I work at Gatwick, so I know what aeroplanes look like and how they move.

"And it couldn't have been someone shining a torch or laser, because it went behind clouds."

Claire's sighting was at 4.30am on Saturday, July 14 - two weeks after Mark Harwood video-taped a similar UFO over his home in

Flora Gardens, New Addington.

His home video footage showed a black-ringed ball of light zipping back and forth in jagged lines, and sometimes changing form into a hazy triangular shape.

His UFO claims were promptly rubbished by the Ministry of Defence, and staff at nearby Biggin Hill Airport.

But Roy Lake, chairman and founder of London UFO Studies, told the Advertiser Croydon's high-rise buildings were very likely to attract extra-terrestrial interest.

And his views were backed by Claire, a ground crew worker at Gatwick, who has always believed in the paranormal.

And after her sighting, and reading about the similar sightings from New Addington, her

faith has only been strengthened.

She said: "I do believe there's something else out there. So many things have gone on before. People who've said they've been abducted by aliens always describe figures that look the same."

But Claire admitted being too disturbed by her other-worldly experience to investigate further.

She admitted: "I was a little scared in a silly way, because it was so eerie and I was in the house on my own.

"I wasn't about to go outside to get a closer look in case something came down and took me away.

"I told my mum who's in no doubt there's something in it, especially after we saw the report in the Advertiser."

## Cigar-shaped UFO spotted

ANOTHER strange object has been spotted in the skies above Keighley.

A man out walking his dog late on Wednesday evening saw a bright cigar-shaped craft fly northwards over the town.

Retired fireman Leslie Howard, 61, said the object was definitely not an aircraft.

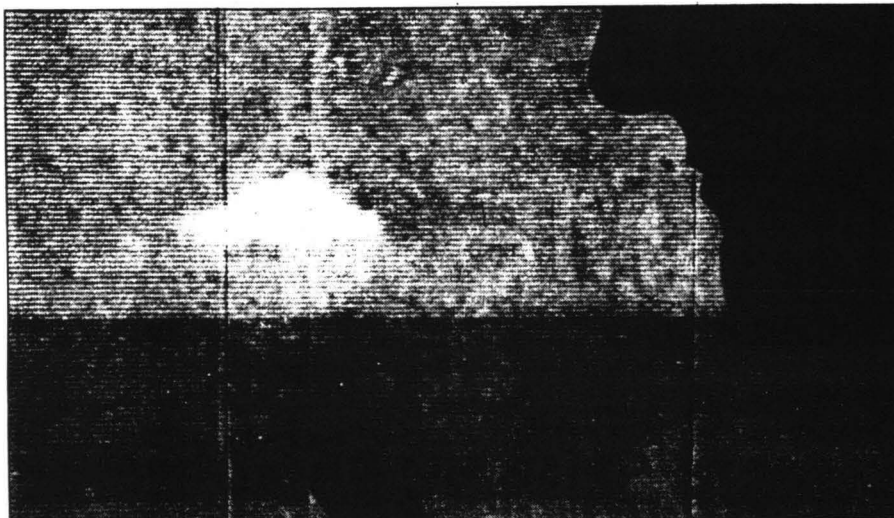
He was in fields close to his home at Coppy Road, Steeton, at about 11.15pm when he noticed the puzzling projectile.

Keighley is a renowned hotspot for UFO sightings, with countless reports being received over the years of unexplained happenings in the district's skies.

Mr Howard told us: "The object was a very bright silvery colour and was moving through the sky quite quickly. It was fairly long and went behind cloud at one point, but it was not a plane. There were no flashing lights.

"I reported it to the police and also contacted Leeds-Bradford Airport, which said there were no aircraft in that vicinity at the time.

"It's a mystery."



Close encounters: the strange lights captured on Mark Harwood's camcorder.

MATLOCK MERCURY, Derbyshire, England - July 5, 2001

# 'UFO made me miss Big Brother!'

## 27th close encounter in Derbyshire Dales

THE PHRASE 'Big Brother is watching you' was given a whole new meaning when a giant UFO interrupted Alison Brewster's favourite TV show...

Alison (29) of Lant Lane in Tansley had settled down to watch the latest episode of the real-life soap series on Monday night.

But her attention was diverted from the likes of Bubble and Helen when a flying saucer appeared outside her lounge window.

"I was watching Big Brother and nothing usually drags me away from that!" she joked.

**EXCLUSIVE by**  
**Andy Darlington**

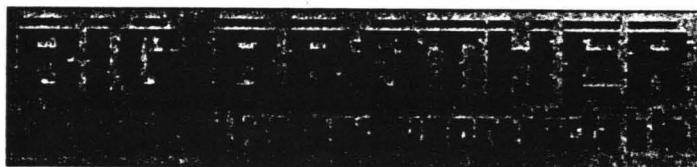
Software sales executive Alison, watched the UFO for around 30 seconds at 10.35pm.

She described it as disk-shaped and having four green flashing lights, arranged in a square.

"I'm not a freak!" she insisted. "I'm not mad and I've never ever seen anything like this before.

"It was huge and must have been 1,000 feet high: It was nothing like an aeroplane or star. Someone else must have seen it."

The craft made no movement. Alison stepped outside to call her boyfriend from their garage so he could share in the strange



close encounter.

"I was intrigued," she added. "I didn't feel frightened. I ran out of the lounge but as soon as I got outside, it disappeared and was nowhere in sight. It was weird."

● Alison's sighting is now the 27th in the Derbyshire Dales since last September.

The region is becoming widely known as a UFO hotspot among enthusiasts and features extensively on websites all over the world.

Fox TV in America is filming a

documentary about the famous Bonsall sighting in October and Nottingham's Four Sheets Films is shooting another about the wider picture.

NASA is even said to be interested in viewing the Bonsall videotape because that UFO is similar to one photographed from the Space Shuttle.

Have you seen any unexplained sights in the Dales or Peak skies? If so, contact news editor Andy Darlington on (01629) 582432.



**TALKING POINT:** Unidentified flying objects

# Sir Patrick was wrong to label us all as crackpots

With reference to *It's open season for crackpots*, *The News*, June 18:

'Utter rubbish,' says Sir Patrick Moore. Why?

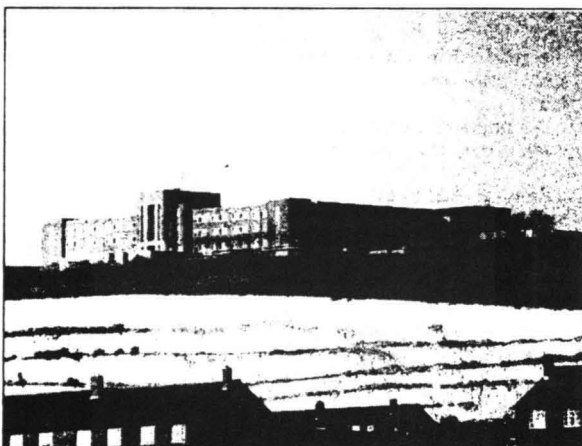
I have also seen a UFO hovering over the research centre at Portsmouth Hill two years ago. It was a July morning, clear blue sky.

I was hanging up some washing on the line. Looking up, I saw the UFO hovering. I could see what I thought was someone taking photos.

It moved to the left, flashing again, then came back towards Bedhampton, flashing as it was moving very slowly.

Then it just stopped, stood still for a few seconds then with one almighty thrust it just disappeared upwards.

The front of it reminded me of the top deck of the Canberra, with all those windows. The windows went right across the front of the thing. I phoned the police - they told me to phone *The News* at Havant. I did. They did not want to know.



**News artist Simon Evans' creation of how a UFO might have looked moving over Portsmouth Hill**

So I left it at that.

May I also say, Sir Patrick, I had an encounter with a ghost 30 years ago at the Old Hayling Billy Railway Station. Would you like to see *The News'* front page headline?

I am told by the experts that ghosts do not contact the stupid or, as you say, crackpots.

It is my opinion, Sir Patrick, that you should put

an apology in *The News* for calling UFO spotters crackpots.

Surely, Sir Patrick, a man with your knowledge must believe there is someone up there, out there or what have you.

Keep playing your xylophone. You know how to play it.

**Pete Walden**  
Park Way  
Havant

## Letter of the Week

### UFO sightings - the truth is down there

MADAM - I was most intrigued by the piece about a UFO sighting on the front page of this week's *SNJ*. The sighting of a red glowing object by Ms Bleaken and her partner at Lightpill on Monday evening may tie in with something I saw in the early hours of Saturday morning.

I used to investigate UFO phenomena for the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) so I'm *au fait* with all the usual mis-identifications of mundane objects such as aircraft, weather and astral phenomena. However, the object I saw at 1.35am on Saturday morning has me beaten! Alex Bartlett of the National Space Centre quite correctly remarks that the planets Mars and Venus are very often mistaken for UFOs and, indeed, during my past investigations I have come across this several times.

I had to get out of bed to go to the loo (as you do) at 1.30am on Saturday morning and looked out of the bathroom window towards Frocester Hill where I saw a fairly large, intense red glowing light. It moved closer and slightly towards Frocester, as it did so it became more of a pink colour. I watched for about 30 seconds before it just 'went out'. I could clearly see Mars glowing over the escarpment and can honestly say in all my years of interest in UFOs I have never, until now, seen something I couldn't readily explain.

Oddly enough, I seem to remember that, around about this time last year, (July/August), several accounts of strange lights in the sky were reported by the *SNJ*, particularly in the Selsley and Woodchester areas.

If you were to pin me down I would speculate that some sort of unusual but natural phenomenon could be behind these occurrences. The topography and geology around Stroud may be inclined to produce what are known as 'Earth Lights'. When the plates (tectonic plates) in the earth move about a type of electro-magnetic light-form can manifest - these light-forms have often been known to be a precursor of earth tremors. Although earth tremors are not a big problem in Britain, I do recall that about a week after all the sightings around the area last year, an earth tremor near Warwick was recorded.

What's the connection with lights in the sky over Stroud? - well, the Edge Hills just outside Warwick are at the top of the 'spine' that are the Cotswold Hills, which as you will know, run all the way down through Stroud and on to Bath. Look out for an earthquake in the coming weeks!

Mrs Jo Sullivan

Marsh Lane, Leonard Stanley

COURIER &amp; ADVERTISER, Dundee, Scotland - Aug. 6, 2001

# Stargazer claims to have proof of UFO's existence

"THE BEST photographs of a UFO ever taken" have been snapped by a Leven man from outside his home, he claims.

Andrew Wilson (58) believes he saw the unidentified flying object when he was looking out of his living-room window at Letham Avenue on Friday night.

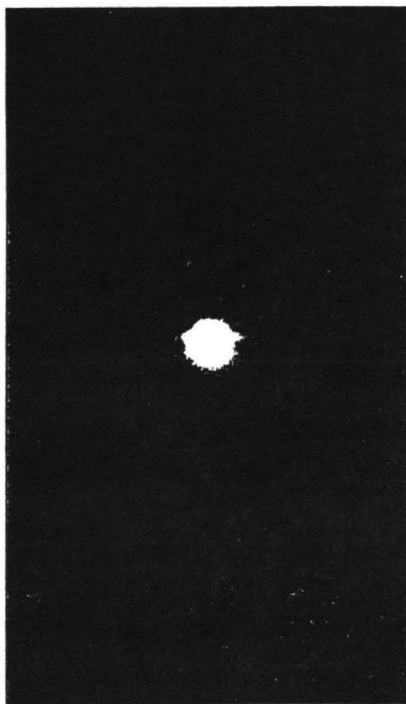
Mr Wilson, who is unemployed and on disability allowance, claims it was moving across the sky above the houses in his street. "It was a small thing and it was travelling fast but there was no sound from it."

Mr Wilson maintained it was not the moon he observed as he saw it in another part of the sky.

A member of the RSPB and a keen birdwatcher, Mr Wilson owns a book on astronomy and often watches the night sky. "I like the stars, they're beautiful," he added.

It was, perhaps, this hobby that allowed him to witness another UFO in 1971. "It was right above me. It had a red dome on it, and a flashing light."

Unfortunately, as he had nobody to corroborate his tale the experience was not investigated.



**Mr Wilson's UFO photograph.**

However, on this occasion Mr Wilson has two witnesses (both of whom were unwilling to speak about their experience) who also saw the object.

At first, according to Mr Wilson, they believed it to be an aircraft of some kind but after seeing his pictures they have changed their opinion.

Firm in his belief that what he saw was an UFO, Mr Wilson has handed the matter over to the authorities. "I have phoned RAF Leuchars and they said they would get in touch with the Ministry of Defence about the photographs," he added.

WESTERN DAILY PRESS, Bristol, England - Aug. 23, 2001

# UFOs' chance for fill-up in the West

THE ancient monument of Silbury Hill is a cosmic service station for aliens, a new film claims.

Dutch couple Janet Ossebaard and Bert Janssen believe the 120ft prehistoric Wiltshire landmark is really a power source for passing UFOs.

And they allege the authorities are conspiring to keep it all from public knowledge.

In a theory straight out of 'Close Encounters', they said they have discovered a tunnel radiating from the shaft which is being kept secret.

The mound collapsed about 14 months ago and English Heritage cordoned it

off for safety reasons. They are furious the Dutch pair have managed to get down into the shaft to make a film which is being broadcast over the Internet.

And they have dismissed the 'evidence' of mysterious lights, crop circles and other strange happenings at the site as crackpot theorising.

The couple admit on their website that cameramen abseiled down into the shaft, something that has been done before by those fascinated with the mound.

Lord Avebury, owner of Silbury Hill, described the video as "highly irresponsible".

Flashing lights in the night sky could have been UFOs

# Strange red dots over Trowbridge

By Blaise Connolly

TWO brothers were terrified when they saw a UFO outside their Trowbridge house.

Jason Pike, 19, and 16-year-old Justin, of Bradley Road, Southwick, say they can think of no logical explanation for what they saw outside their bedroom window.

Justin, who has just left Clarendon School, said he and his brother were terrified by the experience.

He said: "It was about 11.30pm on Wednesday night and my brother and I were in our room talking. We saw a flash of light but thought nothing of it. About a minute passed and then there was another flash, we looked up at the bedroom wall and saw that a small rectangle of light had appeared there, it started to get brighter and as it did it got bigger.

"This continued for about 30 seconds and then there was another flash and the room was lit up brighter than if you had turned on the lights, we were very freaked out by that point."

The brothers say the light was so bright it lit up the gardens of three other houses along their street.

Justin Pike said: "While all of this was happening there was no noise whatsoever. After the bright flash of light Jason and I looked out of the window and saw something floating in the distance, I've never experienced anything like this before."

The Pike brothers are certain someone else must have seen what they saw last Wednesday, and they are urging people to come forward.

Justin said: "Someone must have seen something, it was going on for about five minutes.

"After it had happened I was thinking 'Why didn't I try and get a better look', but I was too frightened to move."

The brothers were not the only people to spot mystery lights in the sky last Wednesday. Brian Austin, of Willow Grove, Trowbridge, went out into his garden about 11pm and saw three lights in the night sky.

He said: "I am not in the habit of spotting strange things, but these lights were very bright, it was very odd."

Other spotters were Steve and Maria Lovering, who also saw three red lights in the skies above Trowbridge, which they described as strange red dots.

The couple live in Newtown and saw the slow moving lights after midnight. "They were moving slowly enough for us to get quite a good view. It was very quiet," said Mrs Lovering.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said he was unable to comment on the sightings.



**UFO SPOTTED:** Justin, left, and Jason Pike in the bedroom where they spotted the strange light and an artist's impression, (right) of what the lights looked like. (TP10218)

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Oct. 15, 2001 CR: G. Conway

## Police called following asteroid crash

By PATRICIA BAILEY

A woman who told police she witnessed an airplane crash into a hillside near Mission probably saw an asteroid, says one of the province's top astrophysicists.

"I think it was probably a fireball," said Jeremy Tatum, a University of Victoria astronomer and B.C.'s official representative on the Canadian Space Agency's meteorites and impacts advisory committee (MIAC).

Mission RCMP say an unidentified woman called their detachment Sunday afternoon and said she saw an object that "glinted silver in the sun," hit the side of a hill north of Deroche.

The woman saw no smoke or fire in the spot where she thought the plane landed, said police.

"It's almost universal for a witness to think it's very close. But typically it's more than sixty kilometres up in the air," said Tatum.

Shortly after the woman contacted the detachment, police from Mission, Calgary, Cranbrook, Golden, Banff and Jasper received calls that a meteor was observed falling to the earth.

"A plane wouldn't have been seen over that wide an area," said the astrophysicist, who added that if the asteroid didn't break up in the sky first, it probably

crashed to the earth in Alberta.

Asteroids, the source of many meteorites, are rocks, or small planets that orbit the Sun and range from a few kilometres to hundreds of kilometres across. They are scattered through the solar system, but most are between Jupiter and Mars.

Tatum has asked a colleague in Alberta, Allan Hildebrand, who is the chair of MIAC, to help him investigate the sightings.

"If there are any reports from the West Coast, I would very much like to know," said Tatum, who has asked that people contact the following e-mail address with any information: universe@uvvm.uvic.ca

## Mars attacks

FEARS that aliens are preparing to invade Croydon have surged amid reports of a UFO hovering above the borough. Claire Spencer, 21, was shocked to witness a shimmering ball of light whizzing over her home in Longheath Gardens, South Norwood. Claire's sighting was at 4.30am on Saturday July 14 - two weeks after Mark Harwood video-taped a similar UFO over his home in Flora Gardens, New Addington.

CROYDON POST, London, England - Aug. 1, 2001





HERALD, Calgary, Alberta, Canada - Aug. 23, 2001 CR: W. Benedict

DEBORAH TETLEY  
CALGARY HERALD  
PENTICTON, B.C.

# OGOPOGO

## Monster hunt turns up empty

James Gordon and Mike Pollard haven't told many people this, but they saw Okanagan Lake's treasured and mythical inhabitant, Ogoopo, once. It was about six months ago, and if memory serves them, there were actually three, or four, or maybe even five or six of them all at once.

Would that constitute a school? A pack? A family? Mom, dad and siblings, maybe?

"We don't know what it was, or what they were," says Pollard, a 19-year-old resident of this south Okanagan Valley city, as he watches his friends plunge into the depths of the south-central B.C. lake.

"All I know is that neither of us has been back in the lake since, and I don't like deep water now because of what I saw."

The month was February. Gordon, Pollard and a few buddies had settled on a bluff 300 metres above the lake just north of Penticton. As night fell, Gordon was the first to notice something surface in the water. Within minutes, all in his company sat stonefaced in dead silence.

"All of a sudden, there was a light in the middle of the lake, like a spotlight, but there was a mist, like a fog — this really intense misty fog," says the 18-year-old. "They just sat there for about 15 minutes in a V-formation with the light on them and the water kept moving in waves all around, real slow. One of them was about 20 feet long."

Pollard's head bounces up and down. "Uh huh, and then they just split — some of them went one way and the rest went the other," he says. "I couldn't believe it. I kept saying, 'Guys, guys, are you seeing this?'"

Talk about the one that got away.

If only the boys had had a camera, or radar, or some underwater side-scan sonar equipment in their back pockets, they could have cashed in on the \$2-million prize offered as a reward by the Penticton Chamber of Commerce and underwritten by Lloyd's of London for capturing the beast on film. Not to mention being credited with solving a mystery that has haunted the glacier-fed lake since the 1800s.

The group of friends talked about their experience with one another for weeks, and some told their parents, but no one reported it to the media or scientists. "It wouldn't matter," Pollard says. "We had been drinking, so there is no way anyone would believe us."

And that, the executive director of the local chamber of commerce says, is the question folks ask of witnesses to the phenomenon.

"The first question, every time, is: 'How many drinks did you have?'" John Singleton says. "A lot of people, whether they've been drinking or not, don't want to be thought a fool, so they just keep their mouths closed. I'm sure there are more sightings than we've heard about."

On Friday, it will be one year since the Penticton Rotary Club and the chamber of commerce offered \$2 million to the first party to provide definitive, scientific proof the serpent-like aquatic creature lives in the lake.

Despite two million visitors to the region each year and 300 documented sightings to date — including video and still footage — the chamber has received only two quasi-credible submissions, as the contest winds down.

With deepest apologies to Nippon Television in Tokyo, the shaky, obscure blip captured on the bottom of the radar screen isn't a winner. There's something there, but it's not Ogoopo, not by a long shot — according to those offering the cash.

So it begs the question: If a team of 30 fishermen, scientists, divers and resident lake experts who spent more than \$500,000 on underwater roving cameras, three types of sonar and four days scouring the lake couldn't win, or even qualify, did anyone really have a chance at the loot? Or was the contest, with its



Wafil Bierowsky for the Calgary Herald

A 1985 photo purports to show the elusive Ogoopo on the surface of B.C.'s Okanagan Lake.

near-impossible demands, a tourist gimmick — and a damn good one at that?

"We would like to give the money away," contest co-ordinator George Tilling says. "Sure, it's a publicity stunt to draw people here. But if someone really did prove Ogoopo exists, can you imagine what it would do for the tourist industry then? The world would know we have a special and unique creature in our lake. Two million dollars is a small investment for that kind of attention."

The contest rules are as follows: The search, in which no harm can be brought to "Ogie," must be conducted on or in the lake between Aug. 1, 2000, and Sept. 1, 2001. Photographic evidence must include an original negative and photograph(s) that clearly show its size, features that distinguish it from any known, non-extinct species and geographical features that place Ogoopo on Okanagan Lake, and include a written description of the sighting. Ogoopo must be proven to be a minimum seven metres in length and be previously unidentified or thought to have been extinct for a million years. The searcher must be a registered holder of a search permit.

Let's gauge how simple this task would be.

The searcher, permit in hand, has to scour a 100-kilometre-long, 300-metre-deep lake — complete with rumoured underwater caves and tunnels that lead to cousin Loch Ness Nessie in Scotland — and get close enough to a minimum seven-metre lake dweller — of unknown dining preference — to snap a

### OGOPOGO'S COUSINS

■ **Cadborosaurus (Caddy):** Its head is shaggy in appearance, with a long underslung jaw like a camel. It surfaced in Cadboro Bay, B.C. in 1933 and has been seen in Sooke.

■ **Shunuklas (Shuny):** This sea serpent of Harrison Lake, B.C., can change to look like anything it wants to — sometimes a horse, sometimes a snake.

■ **The serpent of Saddle Lake:** In 1984, an Alberta government helicopter flew to Saddle Lake to hunt for a mysterious monster.

■ **Saskipogo:** This creature, a goldfish-wombat cross, has never been spotted in Lake Saskatchewan, but they didn't want to be left out.

■ **Manipogo:** First seen in 1908, it's 14 metres long with two humps. It is said to be yellowy-brown, slimy and cries like a train whistle. It's been seen in Lake Winnipegosis and Dauphin Lake.

■ **Igoopo:** Reported in 1963 and seen in Lake Simcoe, this dog-faced animal with a neck the diameter of a stove pipe, has been part of Indian legend throughout the 19th century.

■ **Loch Ness monster (Nessie):** The most celebrated water monster and a distant cousin of the Ogoopo.

photo that clearly identifies the beast's features, such as its fabled grapefruit-sized eyes, head, ears, tail and teeth and goatee. But, the rules stipulate, the searcher also must be far enough away to capture on film the topography around the lake to set it apart from any other body of water in the world.

(Hmm, if the beast is seen underwater, how does one differentiate Okanagan Lake weed and mung from that of, oh, say, Loch Ness?)

And then, without harming the creature, as it is protected under Section 26 of the B.C. Wildlife Act, prove — without scientists poking, prodding and sampling — it has been extinct for a million years.

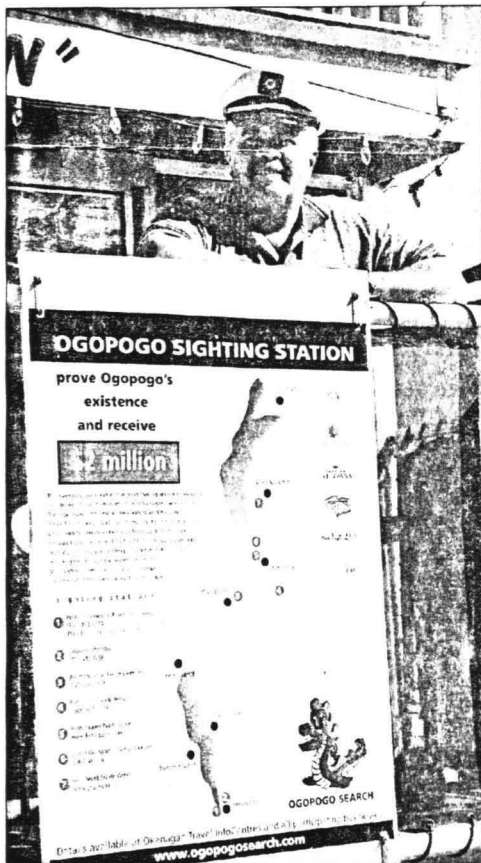
All this derived and rewarded from an image on film?

"Two million bucks is a fair whack of cash," says Singleton. "The rules are strict, but not for an unreasonable purpose. We want to make sure we're not awarding a prize for the biggest sturgeon."

It must be a challenge to live in any of the valley's dozen or so lakeside communities and not believe in the lake monster's existence in some form — or at least acknowledge the folklore, as it's likeness is everywhere.

The animated, green, toothy, alligator-dragon hybrid stares back at visitors on almost every block of the bustling town. Ogoopo (or a reasonable facsimile) is plastered on store windows, bumper stickers, T-shirts, tattoo and playground equipment.

(continued on page 18)



George Tinling is project coordinator of the \$2-million search for Ogopogo contest.

Dean Stobo, a Calgary police officer on vacation with his family, doesn't believe the myth, or maybe he doesn't want to startle his young son who's about to set sail in a cardboard boat race on the famed lake.

"No, I don't think it exists. If someone had some proof, maybe, but no, it's too unrealistic," he says.

"But I do think the contest is a ploy and a gimmick by the tourist bureau — and a real good one."

At least 1,000 people picked up Ogopogo search permits over the year, but only two groups entered. (A third submission, a grainy, faraway photo of a dark, log-like item floating in the water, was dismissed because it was taken in 1994.)

The contest raised awareness of the area on an international scale with media exposure from Buenos Aires, Germany, France, Japan and dozens of reports across the U.S. and Canada, including features by Extra, Hard Copy, the Rosie O'Donnell Show and Fox's Million Dollar Mysteries.

The reason, Tinling says, the Japanese film crew's submission filmed during the first month of the contest was rejected was for lack of conclusive evidence.

Sure, on the post-search video there's much jubilation and discussion on the boat deck after a 15-metre image is picked up "swimming" on the sonar. And a cantankerous, bearded gentleman does reject his mate's thoughts it might be a sturgeon (fish which live up to 100 years and grow in excess of four metres).

But, despite that and a letter that states the images are "evidence of the elusive Ogopogo," the insurer rejected the proposal as well as a second submitted Aug. 17 in which a 20-year-old valley resident used a digital camera to film an unidentified 13-metre creature a few centimetres below the surface.

As George Smith said as he and wife Leona flogged homemade Ogopogo crafts at the farmer's market in Pentic-

ton's hub: "I don't know if it exists or not, but I don't think a person could live around here and admit you don't believe. You'd be a bit outnumbered."

Since the first sighting in 1860, there have been hundreds of reports, many by credible citizens of the valley, which stretches from Vernon in the north to Penticton in the south. The sightings are concentrated between Kelowna and Penticton at Rattlesnake Island and date back to 1860, when it was documented that a team of horses were pulled under while swimming the lake and never seen again.

But the folklore goes back farther. An Indian tribe in the area before the settlers revered and feared a creature they called N'ha-a-itk, meaning sea devil. They believed it swam near Rattlesnake Island and they would sacrifice animals as offerings when venturing near the beast's home. In 1924, European settlers renamed it Ogopogo.

Since its debut, it has been described as a reptilian or dinosaur-like aquatic animal, grey or green in colour, measuring seven to 30 metres in length and with a tail and a dragon-like head.

Experts in B.C. have been studying the creature for years and don't doubt the authenticity of the hundreds of sightings.

"We know there is a group of unclassified animals living in the lake," says John Kirk, president and chief field investigator of the B.C. Scientific Cryptozoology Club in Vancouver. "Several field researchers — including myself — have seen the animal. There is no question it exists."

Singleton says the only puzzle piece missing to put the controversy to rest is definitive proof and he hoped the lure of cash would solve the mystery. But he said most of the locals don't need science to ease their minds.

"People are as impassioned in their beliefs about the Ogopogo as they are in their beliefs as to whether there is a God or not," he says. "Can you believe in something you can't see?"

TIMES HERALD, Vallejo, CA - July 7, 2001



george r. plagenz

## Otherworldly voices

Can the dead speak to us from beyond the grave? Many psychics believe they can — and, furthermore, that they have done so. But scientists have always been skeptical.

If a reputable man of science could produce evidence of communication between this world and the other, we might become believers.

Thomas Edison possessed the requisite credentials. So, perhaps, did William James, the Harvard philosopher and medical doctor.

Shortly before he died in 1910, James asked his brother Henry, the novelist, to come and be with him in his final days. He also asked him to stay on for six weeks after his death, because he was going to try to send a message from the great beyond.

The story is told by Louis Menand in his new book, "The Metaphysical Club" (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2001). Henry obediently remained; but if William sent a message to him, Henry never received it.

Edison told some of his close friends before he died in 1931 at the age of 84 that he was working on a machine that picked up the voices of the dead.

Edison was not a churchgoer. His excuse was that, because of his deafness, "it is hard and not pleasant to go any place and not hear what is being said."

But according to an article in the current issue of Timeline magazine, Edison clearly believed in a creator, "though not one concerned with human affairs."

Edison's diary for 1885 contains this entry: "What a small idea mankind has of the almighty! My impression is that he has made unchangeable laws to govern this and billions of other worlds and that he has forgotten even the existence of this little mote of ours ages ago."

Why then was Edison interested in the afterlife? His friend Allan Benson always believed it was the inventor's admiration for the famed physicist Sir William Crookes that sparked his interest in communicating with the departed.

Crookes' familiarity with physics had not destroyed his faith in spiritualism and in the ability of the dead to communicate with the living.

Edison had no doubt read the astounding story Crookes told about the visit of the spirit of a dead woman to his house. Summoned by a medium, who lay on a couch in the room adjoining the library where Sir William and his friends were gathered, she appeared in what appeared to be flesh and bones, "clad as any woman might be for an afternoon call."

But she did not walk in. She came in instantaneously — no one knew how. Someone even felt her pulse. It was beating 70 times per minute.

These meetings occurred all winter that year in the early 1900s. Sir William took 43 pictures of the spirit woman.

When Edison read accounts of these goings-on, what must he have thought? The inventor of the electric light bulb and the phonograph could not doubt either Crookes' veracity or his intelligence. It was unlikely that anyone could have duped the renowned British man of science.

Perhaps this was when Edison began to wonder whether it might be possible to make a machine that would enable departed spirits to communicate with the living without the aid of mediums.

To a scientist like Edison, wary of the spooky world of seances, this would end all doubting — or, on the other hand, confirm what he had believed all along about the impossibility of an afterlife.

We'll never know the answer. But it would have made a great story.

HERALD, Calgary, Alberta, Canada - July 21, 2001 CR: W. Benedict

## TUNGUSKA EVENT

# New theory for explosion

### Fallout could prove rich

GILES WHITTALL  
TIMES OF LONDON  
MOSCOW

The cause of a massive explosion over central Siberia, one of the great mysteries of modern science, was a "volcanic blowout" of ten million tonnes of natural gas, a noted German physicist has claimed.

The eruption over the Tunguska plateau one summer morning 93 years ago has long been explained as the im-

pact of the biggest meteorite to hit Earth since prehistoric times. It scorched nearly 2,600 square kilometres of forest and incinerated entire colonies of reindeer. For the past half-century the "Tunguska event" has been explained as an incoming meteorite or comet exploding in the upper atmosphere with the force of 1,000 Hiroshima bombs.

However, it left no cosmic debris or crater, forcing even experts to admit that its cause was one of the great mysteries of modern science.

That may be about to change: 17 factors, including the patterns of tectonic faults and fallen trees in the area, suggest that the explosion had nothing to

do with outer space, but was caused by gas forced upwards from the planet's molten core, Wolfgang Kundt, professor of astrophysics at the University of Bonn, writes in August's issue of the journal Current Science.

The "outgassing" may also have created, in a few earth-shaking minutes, a geological structure close to the surface of the Earth known as a kimberlite after the legendary diamond reserves found in the 19th century near the South African town of Kimberley, Kundt writes.

"If they find that, as is indicated, it would turn Siberia into a rich industrial country," he said, dismissing meteorite theory as pseudo-science.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO - Oct. 1, 2001 CR: P. Noonan

## New evidence keeps ark stories afloat

By John Noble Wilford  
The New York Times

Archaeologists have found evidence that appears to support the theory that a catastrophic flood struck the Black Sea region more than 7,000 years ago, turning the sea saline, submerging surrounding plains and possibly inspiring the flood legends of Mesopotamia and the Bible.

In their first scientific report, the expedition leaders said that a sonar survey in the sea off Sinop, a city on the northern coast of Turkey, conducted in the summer of 2000, revealed the first distinct traces of the pre-flood shoreline, now about 500 feet underwater.

At one site, the sonar detected more than 30 stone blocks on a gently sloping bottom. Further investigation with remote controlled cameras revealed pieces of wood and other objects, possibly ceramics. The site "appeared uniquely rectangular" in the sonar image, and the stone blocks did not appear to be part of a natural geological formation, expedition scientists reported in today's issue of *The American Journal of Archaeology*. Analysis of core samples yielded chemical evidence that archaeologists said was consistent with the interpretation that the site was once occupied by people.

"The expedition clearly has found a subaquatic landscape with

materials that belong to the period before the inundation," said Dr. Bruce Hitchner, an archaeologist at the University of Dayton, Ohio, and editor of the journal.

The expedition was led by Dr. Robert D. Ballard, an oceanographer and president of the Institute for Exploration in Mystic, Conn., and Dr. Fredrik T. Hiebert, an archaeologist at the University of Pennsylvania. The research was supported in part by the National Geographic Society.

Among the expedition's most striking discoveries were four Roman and Byzantine shipwrecks, several of them surprisingly well preserved because of the sea's oxygen-deficient waters.



# OUTDOORS THURSDAY



DAVID GOUGE/FOR THE HERALD

**EXPLORING THE PAST:** Scuba divers take a close look at the Bimini Roads dive site, a rock formation some believe to be the Lost City of Atlantis.

## IS IT ATLANTIS?

More than 30 years after it was discovered, believers and skeptics continue to seek out the rock formation at the Bimini Roads dive site. Some say it is the Lost City. Others scoff at that notion.

**BIMINI, Bahamas** — Mystics chant over it. Divers swim around it. Porcupinefish hide in it. But nobody can agree on the origins of the unusual, j-shaped rock formation known as Bimini Roads, located in 18 feet of water off the north end of this Bahamian island.

I had to see it for myself.

For years, I had heard the double row of rectangular beachrock was believed to be the remains of the lost continent of Atlantis, an ancient civilization first mentioned in the writings of Plato. This theory was advanced by psychic Edgar Cayce, who predicted in the 1930s that Atlantis would rise near the island of Bimini between 1967-68.

Cayce's prediction grabbed everyone's attention in 1968 when a private pilot flying over Bimini spotted the odd rock formation in the clear, shallow water. The pilot hired a bonefish guide to take him to the site and shot some underwater photographs that were published around the world.

Ocean pioneer Jacques Cousteau filmed a television documentary on the Bimini Roads, and other researchers quickly descended upon it.

Some concluded it was man-made — not necessarily Atlantis, but possibly the remnants of an ancient civilization that collapsed when worldwide water levels rose after the last Ice Age.

Others declared it was beachrock, like the ledges lining the island that you can see from the water.

Whatever. Fascination with the site is a boon to Bill & Nowdla Keefe's Bimini Undersea, which offers guided snorkel and dive tours.

"I've been here 17 years, and while I won't tell you I believe it's Atlantis, I have seen some unexplained things there," Bill Keefe said.

A few years ago, Keefe was diving the site and came upon a rectangular block of granite, which is not indigenous to the Bahamas. Some Bimini residents said the rock could have come from a shipment used to build the Rockwell estate, an erstwhile lodge and restaurant on the island's north end. But no one knows for sure. The Keefes display the granite in their dive shop.

"Whichever side of the argument you give the burden of proof, that side will not be able to prove it," Keefe concluded.

I couldn't wait to see the Bimini Roads. I joined a group of six that set out aboard the Keefes' boat with captain Alan Forestal and divemaster Theo Duncombe.

When I finally got on my scuba gear and dived in, I was somewhat disappointed. The would-be Atlantis — about half the size of a football field — appeared to be little more than scattered, squarish boulders covered with marine growth. Sea whips and sea fans grow on top of the rocks. Grunts, goat-

### IF YOU GO

You can snorkel or dive Bimini Roads, a.k.a. the Atlantis site, aboard Bill & Nowdla Keefe's Bimini Undersea dive boat. For reservations, call 1-800-348-4644 or visit [www.biminiundersea.com](http://www.biminiundersea.com).

fish, angelfish and other assorted tropicals swim between them.

But when I kicked over from the curved part of the J to the straight-line segment, I was struck by the precision of the boulders. It reminded me of what Keefe said just before we left:

"My teacher told me there are no straight lines and right angles in nature," he said. "But you are going to see straight lines and right angles."

He was right. It was a bit disconcerting, but not enough to stop me from pursuing a porcupinefish that was trying to hide behind a ledge.

After burning up only about half my tank of air, I returned to the surface with my two dive buddies, a father and son from Orlando.

"So, what did you think?" I asked the father, David Gouge.

"I'd be hard-pressed to say people put those rocks there," he replied. "They look like a pile of rocks to me."

What about it, I asked Forestal, a lifelong Bimini resident.

"An ancient civilization, yeah," he replied. "But Atlantis? Who knows?"

It seems the legend of Atlantis in Bimini ebbs and flows with the tide, but there's likely to be a huge surge in interest now with the release of the animated feature film *Atlantis: The Lost Empire*. The intermittent trickle of crystal-toting, chanting mystics who have visited the site over the years aboard the Keefes' boat could grow into a tidal wave.

Duncombe, the divemaster, is ready.

"Feel the power," he intoned, mimicking their incantations. He rolled his eyes and burst out laughing.



**SUSAN COCKING**  
OUTDOORS

# Just the facts: mutilations get Belzil around North America

By Steven Heywood  
Editor

With its UFO landing pad and conferences on the paranormal, St. Paul has become a focal point for reports of the unusual, the mysterious and the downright terrifying.

In the middle of all this is one local man who never thought an idle interest in one aspect of the paranormal would one day give him national exposure and take him all over Western Canada and the US.

Fern Belzil, a local rancher who lives miles from any neighbour, was a cattle specialist from an early age - taking part in shows; winning trophies for his quality polled Hereford breeds and raising cattle on his property. He no longer raises cattle, but his years of learning about them and working with them has made Fern a specialist in cattle mutilations. He knows the breeds, their habits, shape and man-

nerisms. It's this experience with cattle which gives him a unique insight into the mysterious mutilations that are still occurring across the country.

Often associated with alien abductions, government conspiracies or cult activity, cattle mutilations are the subject of a morbid curiosity that presents itself in television documentaries and fictional shows based on whatever could be 'out there'. While he does not go in for some 'out there' explanations for the mutilations and tries to



St. Paul's Fern Belzil ranches north of town and spends a lot of his time tracking down cattle mutilation evidence across western Canada.

Photo by Steven Heywood

stick with what he can see, touch, feel and smell, Fern says it's obvious something weird is happening to cattle. He says in his six years investigating mutilations, he has seen a lot - from the unexplainable to incidents of predators killing livestock.

"I thought at first this wasn't going to be a big deal or anything," Fern says, recalling how six years ago he was asked to check out a mutilation report.

"I never thought in a million years that it would go this far."

Fern may be



Cattle mutilations, depicted in these photos by Belzil, are sometimes uniform no matter where they occur. In almost all cases, there's an absence of blood and any other evidence of who - or what - did it.

Canada's only cattle mutilation expert. He has been to many incident sites and keeps a map marking each occurrence in his basement. His office displays the awards he won while raising cattle and a desk is covered in faxes and emails from other people involved in paranormal investigations. Fern has traveled to Area 51 in Nevada and has attended conferences and lectures, where he is asked to speak on his area of expertise. In May he was in Vancouver for a broadcast and lecture for UFO BC, which has offered him his own Web site. To this day, Fern continues to work with North American investigation organization, reporting incidents and sending samples

away for testing.

These days, in addition to the odd report of a mutilation, Fern is dealing with national exposure. The Space Channel contacted him and Fern brought them to meet the mayor at St. Paul's landing pad. At the same time, he hosted a writer from Maclean's magazine and has been contacted for an interview by the Regina Leader-Post.

Fern admits he started looking into cattle mutilations as a lark, but things changed fast.

"It's very mind boggling," he says. "I've been asked so many times what I think (is happening to the cattle). If I knew, I would beat Stockwell Day (in the Alliance leadership race) real easy."

What he sees are

mutilated cattle. Ears are removed, circular patches of skin taken off the stomach and face, unexplainable bare spots on an animal's body, rectal areas are defiled and there's never any blood around. In some cases, the land around a mutilation site is radioactive and scorched by some unknown source. More recently, samples from a dead cow he sent off for testing in Massachusetts came back containing hemoglobin. Fern says this part of all blood can only be found after it's put into a centrifuge in a lab and separated. It's a mystery he has yet to explain.

Many incidents are identical, Fern points out, adding some are not 'mutilations' at all, but are predator kills or natural deaths.

"If it's not a mutilation, people who have reported it to me are happy as hell."

Fern says there is a stigma attached to the idea of cattle mutilations - thanks mostly to their association with aliens. As a result, he says he never reveals people's names in his reports.

"You'd be surprised about how many people are really scared," he says. "But the important thing is to have an open mind."

With an open mind, Fern has approached each reported mutilation. He says he's heard all kinds of theories from aliens and religions to cults and conspiracies, but he keeps his own counsel, sticking to what facts he can dig up.

## NEW BRUNSWICK

### Ghostly photo of bridge

JOHNVILLE • A ghostly apparition said to have visited travellers for decades inside a covered bridge has revealed itself in the flames that claimed the historic landmark, say residents of this community in western New Brunswick. The tormented face of a woman appears clearly in a recently developed photograph taken by a government employee as the bridge smouldered last spring. Local folklore speaks of a woman in 19th-century dress who became a phantom passenger of vehicles crossing the bridge.

## Sasquatch: Just an abominable snow job?

Cue the spooky music. Good morning, Bigfoot. You're probably a longtime subscriber — a big fan of *Hints from Heloise*, *Peanuts* and *SportsDay*. Are you contemplating a comeback as a receiver for the Dallas Cowboys? Foot, if you've got hands this could be your year.

Now, readers, a show of hairy paws, please: How many of you believe in Bigfoot? Don't be shy.

For those unfamiliar with cryptozoology, Bigfoot is — some say — a giant man-ape. In the Pacific Northwest, he's Sasquatch. In Florida, he's the Skunk Ape. Our most famous nearby big, hairy biped is The Fouke Monster. He's named for the little southwestern Arkansas town (pronounced "fowk") that he (or she) startled 30 years ago by appearing in pastoral settings, though not necessarily near any stills. The Fouke Monster inspired director Charles B. Pierce's 1975 movie *The Legend of Boggy Creek* — it was *The Blair Witch Project* of its time.

Some people also think there is a Bigfoot living in the Sulphur River bottoms between Commerce and Sulphur Springs, about an hour northeast of Dallas.

### LARRY POWELL



lppowell@dallasnews.com

The Texas Bigfoot Research Center, which has its headquarters in Dallas, has set up sophisticated listening and photographic equipment in hopes of finding that bottomland Bigfoot, center assistant director Craig Woolheater says. (See [www.texasbigfoot.com](http://www.texasbigfoot.com)).

The center, formed in 1999, has scheduled a daylong free Bigfoot seminar Sept. 15 in Jefferson, the little northeast Texas town on the edge of Caddo Lake. That's prime manlike-monster country. It's also prime Methodist country — the seminar will be at Jefferson's First United Methodist Church. The day's events begin at 8 a.m. with a \$5 all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast (Ask for the Stacksquatch Special — I'm kid-

ding.) Lectures begin at 2 p.m.

If Bigfoot's not there, who will be? Two leprechauns, a space alien and a Kitchen Yeti who wrote *Savory But Elusive: The Free-Range Ivory-Billed Woodpecker Cookbook*. I'm kidding. But anyone who's camped in bayous and thickets knows humans may not have a good handle on "Who goes there?"

Seriously, this seminar is a somewhat scholarly approach to Bigfoot. Scheduled speakers include John Bindernagel, biologist and author of *North America's Great Ape: the Sasquatch*; author Linda Moulton Howe of [www.earthfiles.com](http://www.earthfiles.com);

Loren Coleman, author of several books, including *The Field Guide to Bigfoot, Yeti and Other Mysterious Primates Worldwide*; and Rob Riggs, author of *In the Big Thicket: On the Trail of the Wild Man*.

Also attending, Craig says, will be Fouke's Smokey Crabtree, a key character in the *Boggy Creek* film. (His Web site is [www.legendofboggycreek.com](http://www.legendofboggycreek.com)). His book, *Smokey and the Fouke Monster*, is available in French, German, Spanish, Italian and English.

Craig, 41, a software developer

until "I got laid off on July 31," has studied Bigfoot and related critters since he was 9. Has he seen Bigfoot? Maybe, the East Dallas resident says.

On Memorial Day weekend 1994, he and his wife, Marcy, were driving on a back road between New Orleans and Alexandria in their convertible Isuzu Amigo. It was about midnight on a moonless night when, suddenly, to the right, halfway between the road and the woods, Craig says: "We saw something about 7 feet tall, hairy, grayish in the headlights, with its back to us. It was going in the same direction we were going, kind of stooped over. ... I immediately wanted to turn around and go back to see it."

Marcy suggested that might be a bad idea. After all, they were in an open convertible. Who knows how Bigfoot might react — or how badly he needed a bath.

Maybe it was Bigfoot — or maybe just a big guy still lost after a big time at Mardi Gras. Someday, we may find out. Meanwhile, keep your eyes and minds open.

Reach Mr. Powell at 214-977-8487; P.O. Box 655237, Dallas, TX 75265 or fax 214-977-8319.