

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

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

March 2002
Number 392

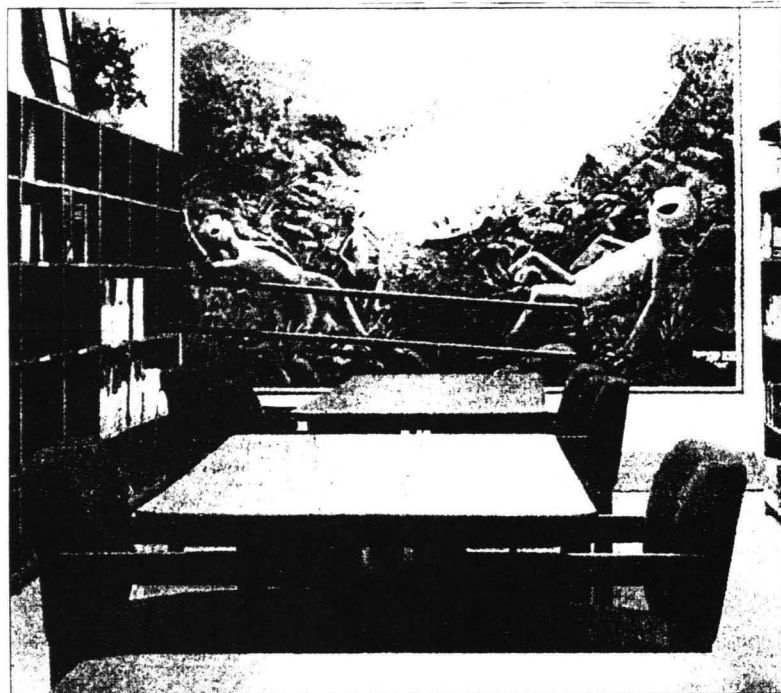
DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - Jan. 6, 2002



Daily Record • Bill Moffitt

The International UFO Museum and Research Center, 114 N. Main St., has become a landmark tourist destination in downtown Roswell. The museum was built in the old Plains Theatre building. In spite of how the sign reads, however, around the corner only cars, and not UFO's, have actually parked there — as far as we know.

Out of this World



Daily Record • Bill Moffitt

One of the features of the museum is its extensive library of UFO-related data. Three rooms have recently been added including one for archival preservation of magazines and related documents. In the background of this room, a life-size representation of the now-famous "Roswell Incident" suggests that we are not alone in the universe.

Museum keeps alien wonders alive

CARIN PETERSSON
RECORD STAFF WRITER

The International UFO Museum and Research Center offers something for everyone.

"If you believe, we have the information to expand on it," explained Julie A. Shuster, museum manager. "If you don't believe, you don't have to (but) you don't have to believe in a 6-foot mouse to enjoy Disneyland. If you believe or not, crop circles are still some of the prettiest pictures around."

The museum moved into its current location on Main Street in the remodeled Plains Theatre in 1997. Since that time the museum has expanded and their reputation has grown far beyond the borders of New Mexico and even the United States. According to the museum's December 2001 newsletter,

it had a total of 202,609 visitors in 2000.

"We averaged 399 people a day for October," Shuster explained. "We averaged daily 31 states and eight foreign countries. During the July festival, we have 9,689 people register at the front desk, 32 foreign countries and 50 states. It's not bad for a five day festival."

In the lobby, the museum has two large maps, one of the United States and one of the world. Every month the maps are filled with pins as the visitors mark the place they call home.

"People come to see us," Shuster explained simply. "It's a wild phenomena. The founders never expected it to be this big. The founders are in awe."

The community support has

grown over the years as well.

"We are seeing a lot more people from Roswell come in, 410 people in October," Shuster said. "It's always nice for us. It tickles us to death. It's nice for us to know that our community comes to see us from time to time."

According to Shuster, when driving through downtown Roswell on a Sunday afternoon, the UFO Museum's parking lot is the only one that is filled. At one point, the board of directors was considering moving the museum to another location a couple of miles out of town, but after much consideration they decided against it.

"We are not moving," Shuster stated. "We are staying right in downtown Roswell. We couldn't be in a better location. It is a premier location for us, as well

as what we feel we can do for the downtown. Downtown would really suffer if we moved."

In order to deal with the increasing demands for space, the museum has slowly grown over the years by taking over more property as it becomes available.

"We have gone in and expanded," Shuster explained. "We have taken over three offices in the north. We have gone in and painted. We have changed and enlarged some displays. We just keep expanding as we get the chance."

The three offices to the north have been implemented in the library. One room has been turned into a storage room, where donated material is kept until it can be properly stored, one room has been turned into storage, and the final room has

been utilized as a meeting and reading room.

"We have 44,000 books and 4,000 documents," said Bridget Ceccacci, library associate. "We have become a depository for a lot of retiring researchers. We have a lot of autographed and signed letters."

According to Ceccacci, the museum gets a lot of people wanting to tell their sighting stories and the museum has developed a database.

"In three years, I have typed about 4,000 (sighting reports)," Ceccacci explained. "They go from Alaska to Sri Lanka. 1906 is the earliest I have ever typed. We get an awful lot of students who asks for materials on 1947. It's pretty fascinating."

According to Shuster, there is a specific reason why people turn to them for assistance.

(continued on page 2)

Mystery from history

Strange sightings no stranger to Sequoia

BY JOHN ELLIOTT

The space junk, meteorite, or whatever that several Three Rivers residents reported seeing on the morning of November 26 ("Unexplained phenomenon streaks Kaweah skyline," Nov. 30, 2001) was certainly not the first mysterious sighting in the Middle Fork of the Kaweah canyon. According to documents located in the archives at Ash Mountain, there was a series of events in July 1953 that remain one of the unsolved mysteries of Sequoia National Park.

Because these sightings occurred on four nights, July 21, 22, 24, and 25, dozens of witnesses reported seeing the streaking flashes of light. Sev-

eral Visalia residents who saw the flashes of light near Moro Rock reported the July 21 and 22 sightings.

The most oft-quoted descriptions of what occurred on July 24 and 25 were contained in reports by E.T. Scoyen, superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

"On Friday night [July 24], Mrs. Scoyen and I were sitting on the terrace in front of our residence at Ash Mountain, and at 9:25 p.m. there was a sudden and brilliant flash of light in front of Moro Rock, coming from the north and moving in a southerly direction. The path of the flash was on a gradual arc downward, and it disappeared in the bottom of the canyon. About

ten seconds later, a large ball of fire arose from the location of the end of the first flash.

"On Saturday night, at about the same time, similar flashes were observed by at least three people. Mrs. Scoyen and I saw another slowly rising ball of fire, which just topped the ridge, which comes down the canyon from Milk Ranch Peak. There was another brilliant flash between us and Milk Ranch Peak traveling down the canyon. I believe this is the same one that was observed by Temporary Ranger [Sam] and Mrs. Pusateri, who state they were sitting on their terrace in Three Rivers looking down the canyon when

the flash passed over their heads, and the ball of fire went down the canyon in the direction of Three Rivers."

Another Lodgepole seasonal ranger also reported seeing the flashes from a higher elevation. Scoyen wrote in 1956 that no evidence of any damage done had ever been located in the park, "although we have not made any search to find out if something landed in the canyon."

For several years, Scoyen fielded inquiries from groups and individuals who were conducting flying saucer research.

Scoyen later wrote: "I am completely at a loss to explain how a great ball of fire, which I judge to have been about 1,000 feet in diameter, could erupt on our dry brush covered slopes, probably in the vicinity of Crescent Creek, and not set the entire valley on fire."

Scoyen said that he was sure no one would have been able to identify the ball of fire as a spaceship with flying saucers. But Frederick Hehr of Santa Monica, in a letter to Scoyen, was convinced that was indeed what Scoyen had observed.

"What you saw was a large spaceship. I saw it a year ago when it maneuvered with a large group of flying saucers. It has also been seen by me and many others at night. Its size is judged from 300 to 1,000 feet in diame-

ter. My guess about 800 to 900 feet. Another smaller one has been seen often, last a short time ago in Sweden. Its shell form is about 30x100 feet."

On Friday night, July 24, about the time the light appeared, Fern Gray, the telephone operator at Ash Mountain, reported all the drops of her switchboard were suddenly knocked down. Bell telephone technicians attributed this to a sudden boost of voltage in the lead-in lines as what would originate from a powerful discharge of electrical energy.

Eventually, the flying saucer frenzy of the 1950s, that enraptured a nation on the threshold of space travel, died down. But Kaweah Country mysteries like what occurred in 1953, and as recently as November 2001, remain unsolved and unexplained.

The Observer Forum

Observers of UFOs have serious credentials

The writer is founder, MU-FON-NC.

In response to "Meet some folks who've seen UFOs" (Feb. 24):

Thanks very much for spotlighting one of our members, Peggy Price, and for plugging our meeting at Salisbury, where we focused on videotaped testimony from last year's "Project Disclosure" press conference at the National Press Club in Washington. Among those who had seen UFOs up close and personal were pilots, military officers, radar technicians, astronauts and scientists - no "little old lady in tennis shoes" type observations.

GEORGE D. FAWCETT
Lincolnton

Maybe there's another explanation....

I was just wondering: What did Peggy Price and her friends have to eat at Anderson's Restaurant that night they saw a UFO?

STEVE GALE
Chimney Rock

Meet some folks who've seen UFOs

BY MARK PRICE
Staff Writer

Are aliens sneaking in from Outer Space and are they influencing events on earth? You can decide for yourself today, when the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina gathers in Salisbury. Following is a Q&A with group member Peggy Price, 38, who believes we are not alone.

Q. Have you ever seen a UFO?

I've probably seen 30 plus. All had a luminous color, white or golden. The shapes range from oval to round. All were seen at night, except three.

Q. When did you see the first?

I was 18 and was with a group at Anderson's Restaurant. It was closing and seven or eight of us were leaving. We saw a brilliant golden orb a quarter-mile up in sky. It moved straight up and down and made right-angle turns, appeared and disappeared. All of us knew it wasn't normal.



Price

Q. How does one identify a UFO?

Look for unusual aerial maneuvers and extreme speed. If something darts across the sky at 50,000 mph, you know. Also, swamp gas doesn't make right-angle turns. Anything electrical can be affected, too, if it's close enough.

Q. Have you ever seen an alien?

Yes, I have seen them ... five or six different occasions. As for how they look, the head was in proportion with its body. It had smooth cream-colored skin, no hair, large dark slanted eyes, no nose and a tiny slit for a mouth. It was very thin and graceful, and telepathic. I felt no threat.

Q. Do you know anyone who was abducted?

We've had several abductees in the group. We call them abduction experiencers. They have been forcibly taken. They come to us (the group) for answers. They think they are going crazy. The extraterrestrials did experiments or explorations on them, medical examinations.

Q. Have you ever seen a science fiction film that came close to your experiences?

Yes, "Close Encounters." The scene (near the end) where Richard Dreyfuss meets the aliens and they show him the way into the spaceship. It's the most meaningful and profound, because I have experienced that.

Q. Ever been ridiculed for believing in UFOs?

I have experienced the giggle factor. You talk about a UFO and people go "hee-hee." Most have a tendency of denial toward things they refuse to understand or cannot understand because it interferes with their belief system.

JOURNAL, Mt. Pleasant, PA - Feb. 7, 2002

UFO sightings, and mysterious encounters reported, some nearby

Low level sightings of UFOs, brilliant fireballs, alleged encounters with strange creatures such as Bigfoot and giant birds, and unexplained booming sounds, are among the unusual incidents reported by residents of Pennsylvania, which came to the attention of researcher Stan Gordon of Greensburg during the past year.

Gordon has been researching such anomalies since 1959, and he is still actively investigating these ongoing incidents which are reported from across the Keystone state. During 2001, incidents of an unusual nature originated from 35 counties in the commonwealth.

The researcher, who has been taking calls from the public since 1969, maintains contact with many investigators, research organizations, and agencies, which keeps him aware of the latest events. Gordon also utilizes a high-tech electronics communication center, which keeps him informed of these worldwide events on a daily basis. During the past 42 years, the Greensburg man has been involved with the investigation of thousands of mysterious incidents, reported from many areas of the state.

Gordon continues to find that most UFO sightings and mysterious events of all kinds, when properly investigated, are found to be explainable, and are generally attributed to a natural or manmade source. Each year many UFO

sightings are attributed to misidentifications of natural or manmade objects such as bright meteors, re-entry of space debris, illuminated blimps, automated searchlights, and bright planets and stars.

The researcher also states that responsible observers from all walks of life, including trained professionals such as pilots, police officers, and even air traffic controllers, have reported UFO observations. Many UFO sightings, Bigfoot encounters, and other mysterious events reported in Pennsylvania over the years remain unexplained.

Gordon, while interested in all types of strange events, focuses on UFO-related incidents and cryptozoology (the study of hid-

den or unknown animals.) Some of the strange animal sightings he has investigated in the state in past years include alleged sightings of Bigfoot, giant birds, the Eastern cougar, and black panthers. Gordon is also interested in hearing about unexplained booming sounds, odd animal deaths, strange field formations, and anything strange and unusual.

The researcher continues to gather information on the Dec. 9, 1965, UFO crash incident near Kecksburg. Gordon would like to talk with individuals who were involved with the event or have knowledge about it, and he is seeking any photographs that were taken that night at the scene, or of the military presence. People with information can contact him confidentially.

There were numerous UFO incidents reported from Pennsylvania during 2001, many of which were reported to the PA UFO Hotline and to the National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC) in Seattle, Washington. Some of these events

included:

— March 19, 2001, Homer City, Indiana County — A odd light source in the sky makes a clockwise loop, changes color, and makes 10 to 12 zig-zagging maneuvers as it moves across the sky.

— April 4, 2001, Acme, Westmoreland County — A large diamond-shaped object making a humming sound, passed about 150 feet over a house in this rural area. The object which moved fast and steadily, continued over a wooded area and was not seen again.

— Aug. 2, 2001, Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland County — Two witnesses report seeing a huge triangular shaped object with numerous lights moving low between Mount Pleasant and Scottdale.

Stan Gordon can be contacted by writing to P.O. Box 936, Greensburg, PA 15601. His PA UFO Hotline (answers 24 hours a day) is 724-838-7768. Gordon's e-mail address is: paufo@westol.com and his website can be accessed at www.westol.com/~paufo.

MUTUAL UFO NETWORK OF NORTH
CAROLINA: 1-5 p.m. today. Ellis Park Rec-
reation Center, 3541 Old Mocksville
Road, Salisbury. Free. (704) 608-2732.



Area UFO sightings not yet identified by officials

By Jeff Kaplan
rockinghamnews@seacoastonline.com

FREMONT - Unidentified flying objects are not unusual in Rockingham County. At an increasing pace over the last decade, UFOs have been sighted performing a gymnast's repertoire of aerial maneuvers. The Web site www.ufopage.com lists 33 documented sightings since 1995.

Last Thursday New Hampshire may have been visited again.

At 10:04 p.m. Fremont Police Officer H.D. Wood was dispatched to Main Street to investigate a report of two objects hovering silently in the air. The objects were described as "bright and full of lights," according to the police report.

Wood had been on these calls before, though his department lacks any protocol to follow and the police academy does not train cadets for these situations.

"Quite frankly, I don't believe we have a policy as to how to handle this kind of thing," Wood said. "I guess it's common sense, really."

Wood said the witness was describing the actions of the UFOs as he was en route. The witness described the objects as hovering silently in the air. The larger of the two objects flew south toward Sandown. The smaller object flew north toward Brentwood. They were gone when Wood, assisted by a Brentwood police officer, pulled up.

"We arrived on the scene and (the witness) said, 'I'm not crazy. I'm not on drugs,'" Wood recalled.

He said the witness and the witness's wife and daughter all saw the objects. The witness claimed a passing motorist also saw the event but didn't stop.

Wood investigated the area, saw no evidence the snow had been disturbed and wrote his report. Without other witnesses or any physical indication of a visitation, Wood said he considers the case closed.

"In my mind, if it's substantiated, you call the FAA to see if there are any reports of aircraft in the area," Wood said. "Then you call other dispatch centers to see if they've gotten calls, because what happens is, if something is sighted, everyone is going to call."

Wood said his first reaction when he received the call was to seek background on the caller.

"To be honest, when I did get the call I did pull up my laptop to see if we'd had any previous contact at this address," Wood said.

He describes himself as a skeptic, but said he absolutely believes the witness did see something.

"I was skeptical at first," he said. "Then I listened to the person discuss the issue and they were very adamant that they saw something."

Fremont Police Chief Neal Janvrin was an

officer with the Exeter Police Department on Sept. 3, 1965, the day of New Hampshire's most notorious UFO sighting, an incident that became the subject of a book, "Incident at Exeter." That day would be a significant date in history for believers in alien visitations. It is rare that a police officer can substantiate a sighting, but on this day two of Janvrin's fellow officers, Dave Hunt and Gene Bertrand, as well as many civilians, would report seeing a large, elliptical object with red lights around it. The object reportedly moved between houses and trees while the lights blinked in sequence.

Janvrin said he's been on UFO calls before, but he's never seen a UFO himself. Janvrin said the only thing an officer can do is take a report.

"Obviously, if we get there and we see something we would try and photograph it," he said. "If there was some sign of disturbance we would record it."

Janvrin said he doesn't consider himself a non-believer, but does not have enough evidence to say he is a believer.

"You look up in the sky and you see all the suns and every sun has many planets. I guess the possibility does exist. We're on this planet," he said.

He added that Hunt and Bertrand's experience gives him pause to reconsider.

"They were two guys who I worked with and I trusted," Janvrin said.

OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC
March 10, 2002

The Observer Forum

I spoke out to support others who've seen UFOs

The writer is assistant state director, MUFON-NC.

In response to "Maybe there's another explanation" (March 3 Forum):

Steve Gayle makes light of a real and pervasive phenomenon that affects people from all walks of life. I'm pursuing a career in psychology - why did I put this in jeopardy by coming out and disclosing some very personal experiences (Feb. 24, "Meet some folks who've seen UFOs")? I hoped to help others who have had similar experiences to know they're not alone.

As for what my friends and I had to eat at Anderson's Restaurant "that night they saw a UFO": Let the truth be known, Anderson's famous pecan pie is out of this world!

PEGGY PRICE
Charlotte

CR: G. Fawcett

Out of this world: UFO conventioners land in Laughlin



NICK Redfern of Lubbock, Texas, a UFO investigative reporter and author, talks at the 11th annual International UFO Congress at the River Palms Resort in Laughlin.

ETHAN MILLER / LAS VEGAS SUN

classified government documents (www.majesticdocuments.com). "They kept the Stealth fighter secret for many years."

The week-long conference, which ends Saturday, attracted a smaller crowd of about 450 this year but is still billed as the world's largest. It's a forum for people who say the truth has been scrubbed out by a government afraid of losing its power and sharing the wealth of alien technology.

"The great crime of the cover-up is that the government has deprived the world of an opportunity to have a higher standard of living, advanced electronic technology and a chance to solve many of the medical problems of the world," Wood said.

Wood, like many others at the conference, said that Area 51, a top secret military research installation said to be located at Groom Lake on the Nevada Test Site, is the likely home of about 1,000 of the brightest military research scientists in the world. They are studying crashed alien craft, like that reportedly recovered from the famous incident in 1947 in Roswell, N.M., he said.

Fiber optics, a relatively new computer technology, may have been developed in part through "reverse engineering"—studying crash remains of alien craft, Wood said.

Much of the conference is based on proving the existence of alien craft and sightings.

Nicholas Redfern, who has published three books through Simon & Schuster, said his research of British and American government documents available in national archives has shown that "the vast majority of sightings" can be explained by satellites, aircraft or asteroids.

"But there is a small corpus of sightings from qualified professionals, like pilots and radar technicians, that is harder to dismiss," Redfern said.

Reports logged by British Royal Airmen describe aircraft traveling at speeds of 3,000 mph then screeching to a dead halt, "something that would tear a pilot's body apart," Redfern said.

He also points to British Air Ministry regulations from 1958 that instruct airmen not to speak to the press about UFO sightings, calling it a violation of the Official Secrets Act.

Other conventioners were less engaged in recovering physical signs of alien life and instead searching more for the spiritual side.

Rob Baldwin, a 57-year-old retired real estate developer and exotic plant hobbyist, was one of them.

He has made it his job to talk about "being a galactic citizen" to just about everyone he meets, he said, whether it's a neighbor in his home of San Diego or an unsuspecting counter mate at a diner.

Much of being a galactic citizen means simple things, he said, like taking better care of the planet. After all, we lead a relatively primitive lifestyle, he said. It also means finding forums like the UFO conference, or Pahrump resident Art Bell's national radio show, to glean information not available in mainstream media.

Like many at the conference, Baldwin had an experience early on. He was 16. He was out on a Saturday night to drink some beer with three buddies, driving a 1955 Ford coupe through Michigan farm country. They hadn't been parked 15 minutes when an iridescent, egg-shaped craft appeared right in front of them,

"It was one of the most beautiful things I've ever seen," he said.

For Baldwin, that early experience, which he said he and his friends didn't talk about for 25 years, was important in grounding his faith.

"It's like sitting down and having lunch with God," he said. "If you could do that, then you wouldn't have any doubts either."

By Jeffrey Libby
LAS VEGAS SUN

LAUGHLIN — Are we alone, or just arrogant?

At the 11th annual International UFO Congress convention and film festival—where many participants say they have met aliens, studied purported military log books detailing the high-tech prowess of their bright craft, or been abducted for tests—loneliness and arrogance are kindred spirits,

The truth, as they say, is out there, and the 450 conventioners at the River Palms Resort are on a lonely quest for hard facts. They're stopped, they say, only by an arrogant government that wants to cover up facts of aliens, the paranormal and things that would make "The X Files" look pale in comparison,

"People need to be reminded that the government can and does keep secrets, and very well," said Ryan S. Wood, president of a privately funded research organization based in Menlo Park, Calif., that specializes in leaked,



FOREIGN NEWS

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

Crop circles are back in southeast Saskatchewan

By NORM PARK
of The Mercury

They're back, and Randy Johner can assure everyone he's not responsible.

Sometime during the night of Monday, August 27 crop circles returned to the Johner farm located a few miles north of the town of Midale.

The perfectly designed circles created by downed durum wheat have created a bit of a stir in the research and media circles.

Johner's field was the scene of some crop circles two years ago and he said he could only speculate as to whom or what created them. The circles discovered two years ago were just a few yards from the 2001 versions.

"One advantage to having them on my farm, I can assure everyone I didn't make them," Johner said with a smile as he observed some curiosity seekers and media representatives studying the circular configurations.

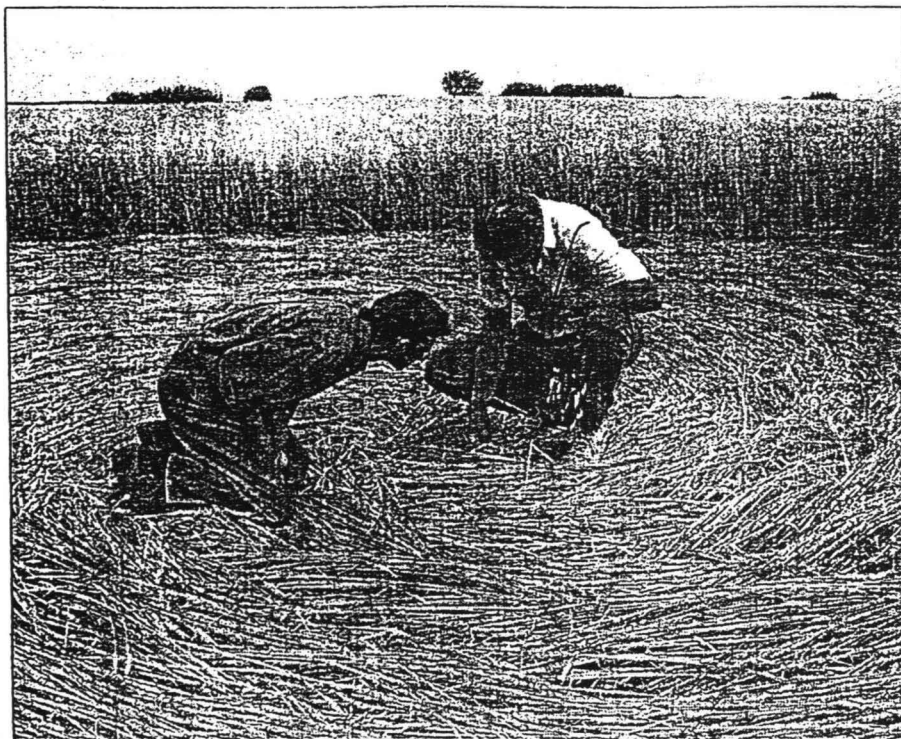
Among those at the site were Paul Anderson and Deborah Warren of the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network of Vancouver. Anderson was on the scene two years ago, so he was interested in doing some comparison studies.

Anderson said he too, was reluctant to speculate as to what causes crop circles.

"Some of them can be attributed to human pranks just by studying them. Some can be explained by soil or weather conditions and others are just unexplainable," said Anderson.

"We all know that at certain times some things in our lives just can't be explained," he said.

Anderson said that a complete scientific study of circles such as those found in the Johner field is difficult because of a lack of funding support. He said a proper study would require a full day of just collecting soil samples alone, under strict conditions and neither he or the



Randy Johner and Paul Anderson of the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network scrutinize the most recent crop circle find in Johner's field.

foundation could afford that although the research network does receive some grant money from the Rockefeller Foundation to help them with their efforts.

Anderson, who is a graphic artist/writer, said he was drawn toward crop circles years ago because of their artistic values. He said some of the designs discovered in Europe are quite impressive.

Johner said he found it quite mysterious that the germination rate of the grain picked up in 1999's crop circles measured at just five per cent while the germination rate in the grain harvested right beside the downed durum was 95 per cent.

"We're talking about a mature crop, so that seemed a little weird to me," he said.

Johner said that humans would have had a difficult time designing the crop circle on his land since he did not use crop spraying equipment on it this year which would have allowed people to enter the field without leaving much of a trace. Two years ago he had used sprayers.

"Unless they're sky divers or came in on helicopter, I just don't know if it was humans," he said with a laugh. He said he knew that there were no circles in the field before Monday afternoon.

This year the circles were discovered by pilot John Erickson who was flying over the region. Two years ago, Johner said he came across the crop circles while combing around midnight. He said at that time it was pretty

exciting.

The circles have attracted the attention of a number of media representatives locally, regionally and nationally.

Johner wasn't too concerned about the mini-circus that developed on the roadside that divided his land. He said he was more concerned with getting the rest of the crop off and in the bins.

Crop circles were located in two different areas of one field and a third, which was actually a configuration that more resembled a backward number seven was located closer to the Johner home.

Anderson said he liked to study the Saskatchewan crop circles because the opportunity was greater to find them in an undisturbed state and since they were

usually found well into fields there was much less chance that they would be created by human pranksters.

"After all, what would be the big deal for these people? No one except maybe the farmer would see them unless they were flying over them," he said.

Anderson said many of the European based crop circles have been dismissed as human pranks, done as late night jokes. Johner said he could understand that since the fields in England for instance are well marked with tram lines which would give humans good access to the land without them having to leave much evidence of having been there. Such is not the case in Saskatchewan.

Warren, who just completed her master's degree in education, said she has been attracted to crop circles for several years now and since the timing was right for her to make the trip to Saskatchewan, she said she couldn't pass up the opportunity.

Johner and Anderson agreed that the crop circles of two years ago were quite intriguing since the durum nodules were almost interwoven as they were knocked to the ground, falling one way or another while this year's version appeared to be knocked down in one solid pattern.

"I find it interesting to try to determine whether a crop circle is genuine or fake and there's both going on," Anderson said.

The diameter of this year's crop circles were approximately 48 feet, with two foot wide perimeter circles. Two years ago, one crop circle measured around 70 feet.

Another set of crop circles was also reported in the Midale area on a farm located south of the community.



Randy Johner, standing in the most recent crop circle, points to an area of his field where crop circles were discovered two years ago.

11
EVENING NEWS & STAR, Cumberland, England - Jan. 7, 2002

UFO seekers reach for the sky with Sharon

By Nick Griffiths

A WEST Cumbrian UFO hunter has organised a star-gazing session to look for "life out there".

Sharon Larkin, a Workington woman with a passion for the paranormal, has arranged a "Skywatch" session to look for unusual activity in the skies above Caldbeck later this month.

The event, which is expected to attract UFO spotters from all over the country, could be the first of a monthly series to run until summer.

Mrs Larkin, of Harrington, is the investigations and administrations director of Cumbria UFO Research and Investigations.

"It will be a night of looking for UFOs and anything unusual," she said. "I already know of people coming up from Leeds and Southampton just for the night."

UFO hunters are advised to wrap up warm and bring binoculars and a hot flask to the Skywatch site, next to the car park on Caldbeck Common near the radio mast. Stargazing will start at 7pm on Saturday, January 19.

"We're already looking at Mockerkin and Pica as future locations," said Mrs Larkin.

She is also putting together a book and video about UFO sightings in Cumbria. "The county is a hotspot for UFOs," she said. "I was out last night and I spotted two unusual lights myself."

For Skywatch details contact Mrs Larkin on 07788543850.



She's seen the light: Sharon Larkin, of Harrington, says Cumbria is a hotspot for UFOs

A simple question Do you believe in UFOs?...

DO YOU believe in Unidentified Flying Objects? No, I'm not asking if you are bonkers, I'm asking a simple question - Do you believe in UFOs?

Unfortunately, every time the subject is brought up, the majority of us snicker, point to our heads and make circles - insinuating that the interested party is missing a few screws, has escaped from the local mental institution or has had too many "Happy Hours" at Magalluf bars!

All joking aside, there have been reams of ink splotted about the subject especially since 1947. Although all of you will admit with me that the bulk of UFO topics are tainted by dipwads who want fame, fortune or attention, or all three!

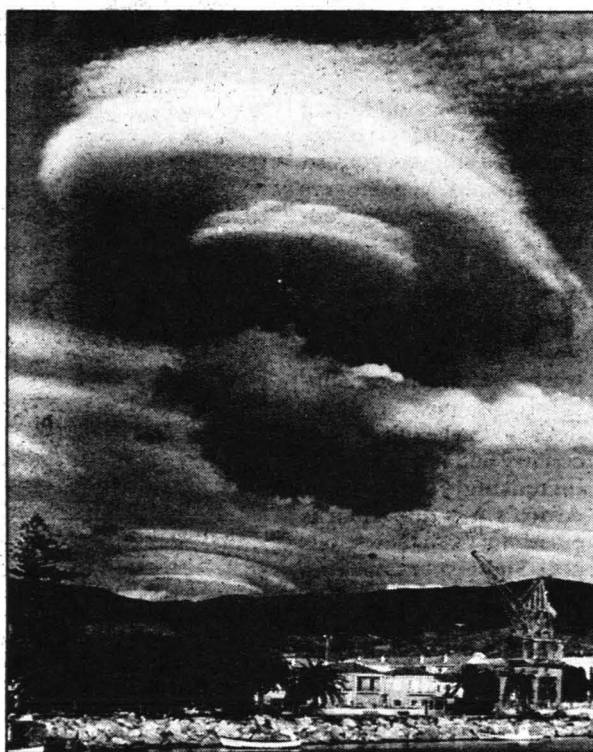
Once you eliminate the garbage reports, you are truly left with some cases, which can only be filed away as "unexplainable" or simply a "mystery", mainly due to lack of further concrete evidence.

Most sightings are quite brief in time, usually far away, and no physical trail or evidence is left behind, leaving us with some very fantastic stories but no concrete researchable proof.

Approximately 8% of the literally millions of sightings are really genuine mysteries. Nuclear physicist and ex-president Jimmy Carter declared he saw a UFO during 10 minutes while at a Lions Club meeting in 1969! Air force pilots, police, military personnel as well as honest normal citizens have seen "unexplainable events" in the skies that have never been clarified.

To discuss the subject seriously, we have to apply some bottom line logic:

1) The immense universe is so vast with literally trillions upon trillions of planets and places for life to form, that I believe it is utterly impossible that we are the ONLY ones with intellect and consciousness. Therefore, I DO believe



■ LITERALLY..out of this world.

weekly the stars at night

by Roberto Gourlay

that somewhere, extraterrestrial life does exist. The BIG question is.... have they visited us here?

2) The universe is about 15 billion years old. "We", that is, planet Earth and family, are 4.6 billion years old. SOMEWHERE and at SOMETIME life has had to begin FIRST. It could very well be, that for now, we ARE the only "intelligent" life in the universe simply because we "evolved" first.

3) It stands to reason that IF life exists in the cosmos, without a doubt, it did not form exactly at the same time in various places...there must have been one place where life formed first...others followed, and we are one of the "bunch" that came later.

4) It could also be that we ARE the FIRST intelligent life form in the universe today, and therefore all this talk about extraterrestrials, at least for NOW, is a load of HOGWASH!

Having said that, without a doubt the seeds of life are evolving probably

in many places around the universe, and given a few more billion years, other beings will join the ranks of wide-eyed readers like you!

IF UFOs EXIST:

If they WERE for real, they would definitely have to come from planets outside of our solar system. ALL of our planets have been well scrutinized and so far, no people have been spotted cruising down freeways in their Ferraris on Jupiter, Venus or Mars!

That leaves the nearest star systems as prime candidates for UFO sources. The nearest ones START at 5.4 light years away...now

believe me, that IS a LONG distance! The tremendous energy supply, food supply, air and water supply needed to support ANY type of life would be immense for such a long journey.

Their space ship would have to have such an advanced technology as to travel at tremendous velocities while being able to avoid fatal collisions with massive black

objects, rocks, asteroids etc. zipping through the vast space at breakneck speeds. At the same time, they would have to have incredibly thick SHIELDS against the REAL space killer -high-energy cosmic rays that permeate interstellar space.

Lastly, the question of WHY they would want to come here would also have to be asked - although I know it is an error to try to understand how an extraterrestrial might "think" and try to read their "motives" - I doubt if we would really understand them any more than they would understand us.

Several thousand or maybe million years into the future, WE will be the ones who will have to build interstellar space ships so we could migrate to other worlds for the simple reason that either our good ol' home has given up the ghost, and/or we feel we are ready to send an expedition to populate and begin life on new worlds.

Under THOSE circumstances, I can understand why an extraterrestrial might want to come here, but up to now, I have not seen any attempt by them to settle here and open a few new bars on Palma Nova Beach!

The most famous UFO case is the ROSWELL 1947 fiasco. Today, witnesses declare that there are two "crash" sites where UFOs fell.

The most extraordinary declaration comes from a farmer named Jim Ragsdale. I have in my possession a 'video affidavit' where FIVE DAYS before he died, he called in some witnesses and a video reporter to declare the following:

On 28th of July in 1947, at around 12 midnight, Jim Ragsdale was (quote) "buck-naked" (unquote) with his girlfriend in the back of his pick-up truck parked in a wood 52 miles NE of Roswell.

Suddenly a bright light flashed in the sky, streaming towards them.

To be continued...

DO YOU BELIEVE IN UFO'S? WELL, READ THIS

BEFORE we begin, how many of you read the little article next to this one last Sunday? It was titled **United States Navy probe mystery find. It was about a nuclear submarine off the Florida coast discovering pieces of what could have been parts from a crashed UFO!** The problem is, I said the artefacts have been labelled **AF-1 APRIL FOOLS!** Sorry, no hope for UFO buffs aching to find finally concrete proof of their existence!

Joking aside, there have been so many cases and reports on the subject that it cannot be ignored. There have even been cases where the **AIR FORCE of BELGIUM** sent two F-1 jet fighters chasing some very real UFOs seen on radar and even viewed by the chase pilots!

Unfortunately, the bottom line on the subject is this:

1) We have hundreds of thousands if not millions of witnesses who have been reported to seeing a flying thing that we don't know what the heck it is.

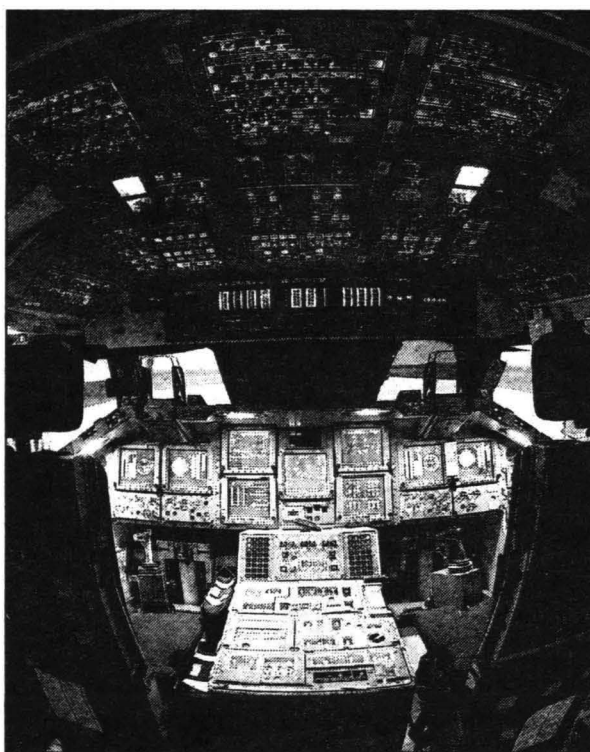
2) Fuzzy photographs and some are deliberately faked, some are accidents of light on film, and the rest are either phenomena we don't fully understand or at worst, they are a mystery.

Beyond those two points, we do not have a used UFO oil filter or a bald tyre from the landing gear of a UFO to really demonstrate that those things are around.

The following testimony is totally out of the ordinary. We are talking about a man who, during 50 years, kept the incident a complete secret from his family and friends. When the doctors gave him **TWO WEEKS TO LIVE**, he summoned the local press in Roswell and a video photographer.

There was no money involved, no fame promised, no benefits whatsoever.

Here is the story of Jim



■ THE secrets of UFOs.

weekly the stars at night

by Roberto Gourlay

Ragsdale:

The most famous UFO case is the **ROSWELL 1947** fiasco. Today, witnesses declare that there are two crash sites where UFOs fell.

The most extraordinary declaration comes from a farmer named Jim Ragsdale. I have in my possession a video affidavit where **FIVE DAYS** before he died, he called in some witnesses and a video reporter to declare the following:

On 28th of July in 1947, at around midnight, Jim Ragsdale (quote) buck-naked (unquote) with his girlfriend in the back of his pick-up truck parked in a wood 52 miles NE of Roswell.

Suddenly a bright light flashed in the sky, streaming towards them.

Keeerasssh! It smashed into some rocks only 100 meters away!

Startled and shocked, they hastily got dressed and rushed to the scene. Jim poked his head inside the UFO and saw a myriad of brilliant lights that looked like diamonds,

sapphires and rubies.

Three small seats surrounded a jewel studded captain's chair. It was very clear that it was nothing Earthly; it bore absolutely no resemblance to anything he had ever seen before or since. Jim was no fool; he was very familiar with aircraft since he did military service at the Roswell air-base.

Both Jim and his girl grabbed pieces of the thing before the military came to cart everything away. Several months later, his girlfriend died in a car crash under mysterious circumstances. Her bag of UFO souvenirs was never found. Shortly after, Jim's home was robbed and a gun was stolen along with **HIS** bag of UFO artefacts.

Fearing for his life, Jim never told **ANYONE** of this incident until **FIFTY YEARS** later, when doctors gave him only weeks to live.

I have a copy of this video a really extraordinary work. He died five days after the filming. His daughter, who was pres-

ent, declares that she does **NOT** believe in UFOs, but at the same time, her father never lied to her or his friends.

Once again we have an extraordinary claim, but **NO** extraordinary proof!

I am sure **ALL** of you either have seen a UFO or know of someone who has. If you haven't seen one lately, come on down to Magalluf at around midnight and join the crowds doing pub crawls. By the time 3am rolls around, I **GUARANTEE** you will have seen more than **ONE** "unidentified object...occasionally flying"!

How do **YOU** think we should end this article?

Some of the most incredible claims come from **FARMERS** in the southwest in the USA. Apparently, cattle have been mysteriously dissected and almost every drop of blood removed from the animal.

The surgery needed to remove organs and this blood is of a type unknown to local doctors and veterinaries.

The reason why an extraterrestrial would need to dissect a cow, remove organs and every ounce of blood is a total mystery.

Logic would dictate that if a **PERSON** wanted to do such a thing, it would be far cheaper and easier to **BUY** the cow and do with it what you want. Why take enormously elaborate steps to carry out some pretty sophisticated surgery on these animals under the cover of complete darkness?

Not only did they do the operation at night, but also they took painstaking steps to cover their tracks if they used cars, tractors or recreation vehicles. The evidence is there and relatively abundant.

NEXT WEEK: Unidentified Flying Objects...WHY? and WHY NOT!

robertog@oce.es

MoD's Men in Black say UFOs just don't exist

AS six RAF officers stood on an airfield in the summer of 1950, they were astounded to see something zig-zagging about the skies above them.

The men were united in their description of a flat pearl-grey disc which rapidly dipped and ascended across the horizon.

It was obvious this was no ordinary aircraft. But amazingly, for one of the group it was not the first time he had seen such a seemingly inexplicable sight.

Experienced pilot Flight Lieutenant Hubbard had noticed a similar craft humming in the skies overhead of him a month previously - and he was far from alone.

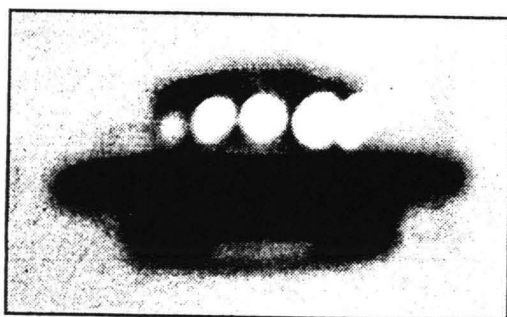
For across Britain the skies appeared to come alive with reported sightings of Unidentifiable Flying Objects in the early 1950s.

And such was the publicity that in 1951, like the Americans and Swedes before them, Britain set up its own shadowy 'X-Files' unit.

Newly-released Defence Ministry documents have revealed that the aptly-named Flying Saucer Working Party (FSWP) was charged with uncovering the truth about the sightings.

But, far from adding any weight to the reports, the Men in Black concluded that UFOs did not exist.

For them the sightings could be explained by astronomical or meteorological means, or as simple errors by people who had mistaken planes, balloons and birds for alien spacecraft. Then there



Mythical: 1950s saucers were fakes or illusions



By Megan Lloyd Davies

were the people who were suffering psychological delusions, or the deliberate hoaxers.

Ultimately the investigators concluded: "There is a very old scientific principle which states that the most probable hypothesis is the simplest necessary to explain the observations."

"We believe that this principle should be applied to the present case."

"We consider no progress will be made by attempting further investigation of uncoordinated and subjective evidence."

Today the Ministry of Defence stands by the conclusions of the FSWP.

An MoD spokeswoman said: "As far as we are concerned the report proved there was no threat to our

air space that could be deemed extra terrestrial and today the same stands.

"We have a hotline which people can ring up but we have no proof at all of anything extra terrestrial ever existing."

There have been sightings of unexplained objects in the skies since time began.

But while ancient cultures described what they saw as angels or other creatures, the phenomena took a decidedly modern turn when the term 'flying saucer' was coined.

It was invented with the first report of a UFO on June 24, 1947, as U.S. pilot Kenneth Arnold, 32, flew through the Cascade Mountains in Washington State and saw a "saucer-like disc" in front of him. While

Arnold himself suspected that all he had seen was a flock of geese, the UFO craze was born and soon people across the world were seeing strange objects in the skies.

And so the FSWP was charged with finding out whether the truth really was out there.

But while numerous pilots came forward with evidence for the inquiry, the experienced flying personnel's reports were dismissed as mistakes or simple optical illusions.

The investigators believed their descriptions of speed and shape were overestimated or just plain wrong.

For Denis Plunkett, who has run the British Flying Saucer Bureau from his Bristol home since 1953, there is no surprise in the FSWP's conclusions.

"The authorities have been saying the same kind of things for the past five decades and it has not stopped flying saucers appearing," he said.

"They do not want people to be aware of this and public opinion is controlled by the use of genuine information from sightings and disinformation from the authorities."

"And what was a small secret in the 1950s is a much bigger one now because Britain is one of the most secretive countries in the world about UFOs."

But Mr Plunkett said belief in flying saucers had soared in the past five decades and his organisation, the oldest in the world, is still going strong.

For him there is no doubt that superior beings exist and their methods of transport are regularly spotted: "If you know about the subject, you are amazed that 100 per cent of people do not believe in UFOs. But you need to have a flexible mind and look into things - and people are just too busy with their own lives to do it."

Do you have a story for Megan Lloyd Davies? Call 0117 9343221 or e-mail m.l.davies@bepp.co.uk

**METRO NEWS, Birmingham,
England - June 21, 2001**

UFO pair puzzle

CAN you help us please? We are currently researching the UFO phenomenon and examining many cases which have taken place around Birmingham from 1943-82.

We came across a sighting in the early 1980s in Chester Road, Streetly, when a Mr Robert Wyles saw a three-pointed star-like object which followed his vehicle along the road.

We also seek the whereabouts of a Mr John Hurley, who was then living in the Kingstanding area, and involved with the Birmingham based UFO group, UFOSIS.

Has anyone any knowledge of the whereabouts of these men or have had any UFO experiences they may like to discuss with us? Call us on 07670 359210.

**J Hanson, D Holloway,
Birmingham B4**

ALIENS USING CROP CIRCLES?

By CAMERON KENNEDY
Advocate staff

Aliens are using crop circles to teach Central Albertans about the principles of the universe, says a Canmore researcher.

Deneb, who goes by one name, said the geometric patterns that appeared in a farmer's field last week contain the keys to unlocking the secrets of hyperdimensional physics and universal principles.

When the images are fed into a computer, the information that comes back is on the cutting edge of physics and provides insights into the relationship between matter and light, he said.

Ken Bickford, 73, discovered a crop circle in a field of spring wheat near Red Deer while harvesting Sept. 16.

The Star of David formation was 129 metres in diameter. The largest circle in the centre was 32 metres in diameter, while the smaller circles were about 13 metres in diameter.

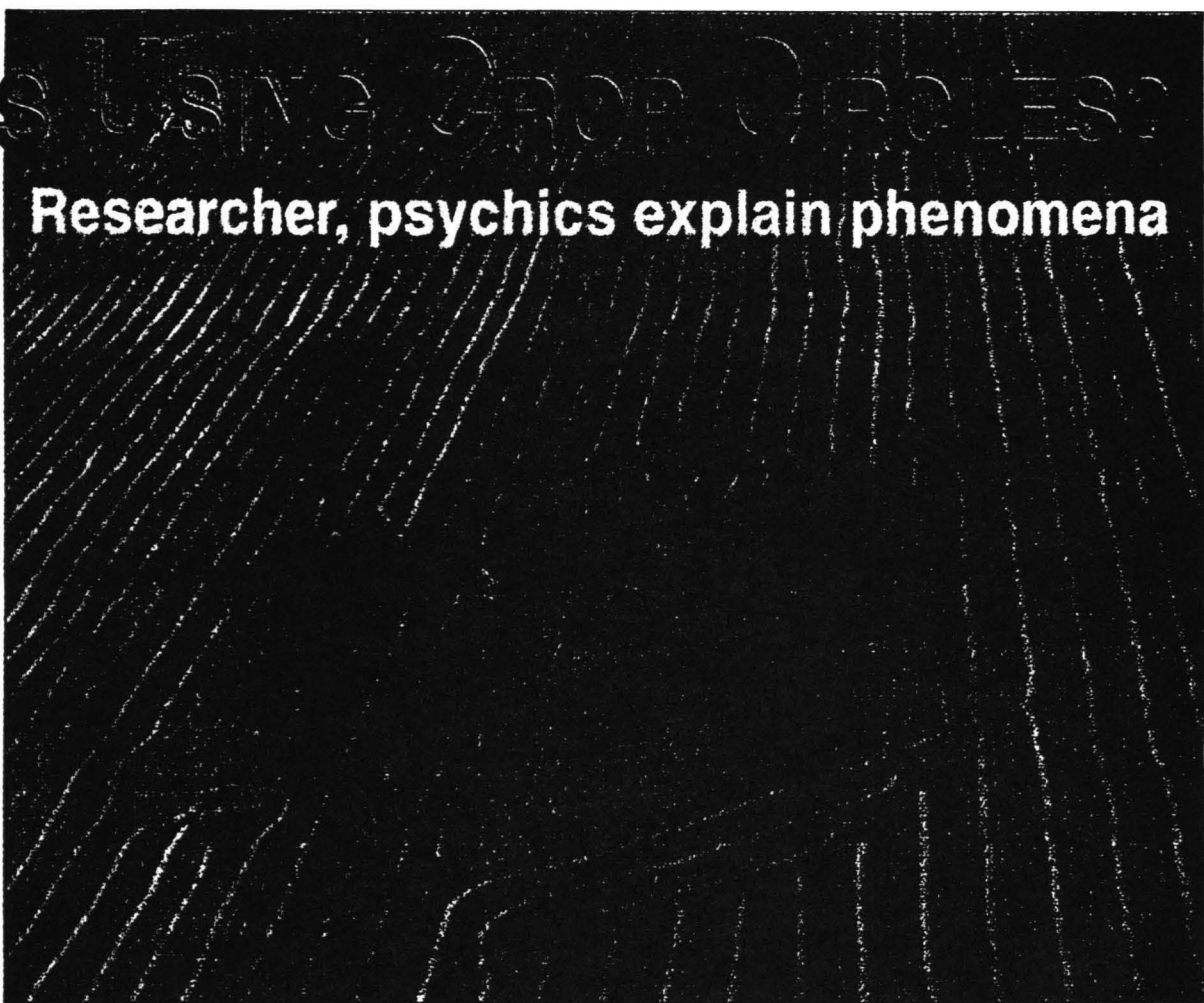
Crop circles have been linked by UFO enthusiasts to extraterrestrials. Others have argued the circles are natural phenomenon cause by the earth's magnetism, whirlwinds or pranksters.

Earlier this month, employees at a nursing home in Lacombe reported seeing odd triangular configurations of light. A few nights later, a nurse said she saw another set of lights, arranged in seven orange triangles Sept. 15.

About 37 crop circles were reported in Canada in 2000.

Deneb said the crop circle is also a sign that humanity is about to undergo a miraculous transformation.

Researcher, psychics explain phenomena



Contributed photo by JEFF CHALLONER

These crop circles were discovered in a field of spring wheat, near Red Deer, on Sept. 16

Crop circles are connected to a powerful shift in the Earth's natural frequencies for electromagnetic radiation, known as Schumann resonances. The human brain also has natural frequencies that are in tune with those of the Earth, he said.

Deneb suggested one of the resonances, which has been measured at approximately 7.83 Hz, has recently increased significantly.

As the resonance increases the world will be wracked by earthquakes and storms. The brain's natural frequencies will adjust in turn, causing spontaneous mutations and behavioural changes, he said.

"We shall dispel the illusion of separation and become one with each other and mother earth," said Deneb. "We are not just carbon-based units having momentary glimpses of a spiritual reality. We are

light-based beings living a physical experience."

Marlene Christiaan, a visionary from Edmonton, said she has a sense that the circles are a means of communication between beings on this planet and others in the universe.

The appearance of a circle so close to Red Deer is a very good sign. It acknowledges that there is less pollution of the mind, body and soul in this area than the rest of the

world, she said.

"There are beings out there that are very much trying to help us evolve and keep us from blowing ourselves up," said Christiaan, who appeared at the Psychic Fair on the weekend. "It's almost like there are two factions — one that wants us to do that, and another group of extraterrestrial beings that just want us to be gotten rid of. It's like heaven and hell."

On the trail of Vale UFO incident . . .

A UFO researcher is on a mission to find out more about an incident that was reported in the Vale almost a quarter of a century ago.

John Hanson, who is cataloguing information about sightings in the UK dating back to the 1940s, wants information about the mysterious phenomenon reported by a Hampton schoolboy in 1977.

Retired police officer Mr Hanson, aged 55, has travelled thousands of miles and interviewed thousands of people, gathering information for a book he intends to write on the subject of UFOs.

A television programme on such sightings prompted Andrew Hyde, then aged 14, of St Andrew's Road, Hampton, to write to the programme makers, describing an incident he and a friend claimed to have witnessed.

On the morning of January 21, 1977, the boys were walking along a road in the village when they spotted a long, white, glowing object, moving rapidly across the sky.

According to their letter, the object slowed and they thought it was going to stop.

They ran towards it but, by the

BY PETER McMILLAN

time they got to the spot where it had been, it had gone and was last sighted miles in the distance.

The boys found out later that day that other people, including pupils from another school, had seen the same thing.

According to their account, one end of the object was rounded with a faint yellow streak or dash, while the rear was pointed. It seemed to make no noise that they could hear.

Mr Hanson, of Redditch, said he was keen to hear from anyone who had witnessed the incident or had any information relating to it.

"The most interesting thing about this is that, from February, 1977 to June 1978, at least 30 to 40 schools in the UK reported UFO activity," he explained.

"All these people, who don't know each other, have reported these activities over the schools."

Anyone who can provide information relating to the 1977 Hampton incident to help Mr Hanson in his research, can contact him on 07870 359210.



▲ The X-files: John Hanson, UFO researcher with some files of his strange sightings. DC424/A

Crop circles spark call for UFO vigilance



ALIEN ALERT: South Cheshire residents are being asked to keep an eye open for flying saucers.

Sky-watching society boss tells of strange childhood experience

WITH about 30 members, the BUFOSC is one of Britain's largest and longest-running UFO organisations and is respected worldwide.

Eric Morris and other members are spending this week in Wiltshire, comparing the crop circles found there with those encountered in South Cheshire.

Their equipment includes video

cameras, photographic gear and night vision technology for investigations and 'sky watches'.

A qualified nurse, Eric said that as well as planes and satellites, a lot of UFO sightings turn out to be masses of ionised particles in the air.

He added: 'I first became interested when I saw a cigar shaped object flying over when I was eight or nine years old in our garden in Winsford.'



UFO HUNTER: Eric Morris

by **Mark Hilditch**

UFO experts are calling on the people of South Cheshire to keep their eyes on the skies to look out for flying saucers.

The British UFO Studies Centre is looking to link UFO sightings in Crewe with crop circles found in Audlem and Congleton.

The 'ufologists' are keen to stress they are a research body, less concerned with little green men than with trying to disprove so-called UFO sightings scientifically.

Originally formed in Crewe in 1985 and now based in Northwich, the centre is keen to investigate any possible unexplained sightings.

The centre's founder, Eric Morris, 47, said: 'There have been a number of crop circles found in the last couple of years in and around South Cheshire. We have discovered them in Audlem, Rugeley, outside Congleton and in Mow Cop.'

'Although it is not always possible, we try and take pictures of them from the air and always speak to the owner of the field to try and determine the cause.'

'I think that a lot of the complex formations are obviously man-made hoaxes but some of the simpler circles are extremely interesting.'

'I think that many are caused by whirlwinds, but there is no doubt that some are caused by other means and some do appear to be linked with what people have seen in the skies around the same time.'

'There have been lots of UFO sightings in South Cheshire over the past year in Haslington and near to Church Minshall.'

'We have also had lots of reported sightings from West Street and Hungerford Road.'

'If people do see something we would advise them if possible to get hold of a video camera.'

'Any footage sent to us will be treated confidentially and we will examine and try to find an explanation for it.'

■ Anyone with information can contact Eric on 01606 330567.

The truth is still out there!

THE DALES UFO tally continues to rise following the 26th sighting in the last nine months.

The latest close encounter was had on Friday, June 1 by a 62-year-old Cromford man, who asked not to be named.

And he claims to have seen the same craft on two previous occasions in the last month.

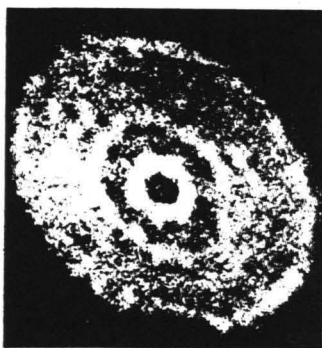
'I've seen them before,' he remarked. 'You can see this one three or four times a week.'

The UFO was seen at the top of Slack Hill in Kelstedge at around 1.30am.

The man described it as being around 3,000 feet high and a shade of orange similar to a streetlamp.

'It changes shape all the time,' he added, 'like it's made of dough and light cascades from it.'

'It seemed to be watching me



● **NOTORIOUS:** The Bonsall UFO caught on video last October.

and kept coming closer and closer until it was just 1,000 feet away.

'I was not scared - just very curious - but I did want to keep away from it.'

Who saw this UFO?

I would like to hear from anyone who has also witnessed the unusual object first sighted on November 20 above the Wrekin.

I have now received many reports from witnesses that claim to have seen this unusual craft, from other counties as well as the Telford area. This would greatly assist my investigations. Anyone with information please forward details to the address below.

Mr P S Hoyle
UFOIRU
PO Box 11
Shrewsbury SY1 1WD

ROBIN SUMMERFIELD
CALGARY HERALD

Sure we've got oil, mountains, cattle and cowboys. But now Alberta has a new, distinctly otherworldly, Star of David-esque claim to fame.

A 140-metre-diameter crop circle discovered in a Lacombe-area wheat field last September is the largest phenomenon of its kind found in Canada to date, says the new annual report from some self-appointed experts "in the field," so to speak.

"It's the largest one we've heard of so far. It was quite remarkable," said Paul Anderson, the director of the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network.

How to describe it? "It was like a big Star of David with seven circles attached together," he said.

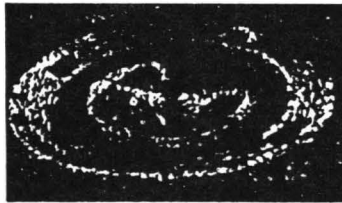
But even though it's about as long as a football field, the Lacombe-area circle can't hold a measuring stick to others found around the world, Anderson said.

"For Canada, it's by far the largest and most complex, but the ones in England are hundreds of feet wide, very large. The one (in England) last summer was 780 feet (234 metres) across and had 409 circles in it," he said.

Anderson's network, a group of 30 crop-circle enthusiasts from across the country, fan out every August and September scouring for geometric patterns in farmers' fields, taking measurements, photos, videos and plant samples for lab analysis.

While the group last year investigated 20 Canadian crop circles, Anderson said many more go unreported.

In Alberta, the jumbo-sized Lacombe crop circle was discovered by a local farmer in September as he harvested his



Courtesy, CCCRN
Midale, Sask., has been a hot spot for crop circles, above.

fields using special equipment, others have defied explanation, say UFO enthusiasts, who point to possible extraterrestrial explanations.

Others suspect atmospheric conditions for creating the geometric patterns, such as the Earth's magnetism, whirlwinds or spontaneous energy bursts.

Those explanations don't fly with everyone.

"I suspect that it's hoaxing," said Alan Hildebrand, a University of Calgary geology professor.

"In general, people love to think that the bizarre, the unusual are true," he said. "It would be great if the Loch Ness Monster was real, it would be great if we were being visited by beneficent people from outer space, it would be great if we could move objects with our minds but, in my personal experience, I haven't found any evidence to suggest those things are happening."

In addition to its size, the Lacombe circle has another claim to fame. Several night shift workers remembered seeing mysterious lights in the sky a few days before the circles were discovered. Seven peach- and orange-coloured lights formed a tight triangular formation, then an arrow and then a crescent in a two-minute show in the southwestern sky before travelling eastward and disappearing, reports said at the time.

That sighting led some to speculate the two events were related.

CCCRN member Judy Arndt, of Edmonton, who investigated the Lacombe circle, is skeptical about its authenticity and suspects it was manmade, but said that doesn't matter.

"I see it as sort of a dialogue, in a way, between a spiritual realm and the physical realm," she said. "And even the ones that are manmade — a lot of them are — they are a response to the same set of symbols. It's art. It's crop art."

While many were later dismissed as pranks pulled by people flattening the

Crop art or unsolved mystery?

Lacombe crop circle a Canadian record

fields. The ripe spring wheat had been flattened counterclockwise to form a symmetrical pattern.

It had six smaller circles with straight paths joining them and one larger circle in the centre.

And like all crop circles, wheat stalks next to the patterns stood erect.

"The one thing that everyone liked about the one (north of) Red Deer was how big it was and that it really looked pretty good from the air," said Anderson.

The crop circles and the winter-equivalent, snow circles, gained fame and sparked imaginations in the 1970s when they first started appearing without explanation in Great Britain.

The circles have since have been found in many different crops, including canola, oats, barley, flax and wild grass, to name a few.

While many were later dismissed as pranks pulled by people flattening the



Courtesy, Jeff Challoner, Canadian Crop Circle Research Network

This Star of David-shaped crop circle, measuring about 140 metres in diameter, was discovered last September in a field near Lacombe, north of Red Deer. It was the largest crop pattern ever to turn up in Canada, according to researchers.

UFO cover-up revealed

The British Government had its own version of the *X-Files*, and for decades denied the fact. Only through the dogged perseverance of a Yorkshire researcher did they eventually come to light, as **Stephen Biscoe** reports.

AT the height of the Cold War, UFO fever was so rampant in the UK that the Ministry of Defence set up a secret working party to try to establish if Earth really was under observation by visiting aliens.

It involved experts from the Directorate of Scientific Intelligence and the Joint Technical Intelligence Committee, and eventually they produced a report. Then the MoD spent the next 49 years denying it ever existed.

Yesterday, the Public Record Office (PRO) made the papers public, but only after their existence had been admitted to a local government Press officer working in South Yorkshire.

Had it not been for Dr David Clarke, who lives in Sheffield and works for Rotherham Council, it is unlikely that they would have come to light.

Clarke combines his local government job with an academic career which has made him one of the country's leading folklore experts.

A researcher at the National Centre for English Cultural Tradition at Sheffield University, he is the author of several books on a range of folkloric traditions from stone heads and ghosts to UFO sightings and Close Encounters.

His latest book *Out of the Shadows*,

to be published in May by Piatkus, draws on the two years of research he has been carrying out for a post-doctoral study.

In the course of it, he came across references in official government documents to the report of the secret working party set up on Churchill's orders in 1950 to investigate reports of UFO sightings.

In 1980, the 30-year rule ended its term of confidentiality – but the rule was ignored and it remained secret. Clarke says, in fact, that he was repeatedly told by the MoD that no such report existed; it even denied the existence of the working party. Yet the Sheffield researcher was still coming across references to both.

He was being lied to – and so was Parliament. In 1955 and again in 1962, the Yorkshire Conservative MP Major Sir Patrick Wall asked questions in the House about the report, and each time was told that there had been no formal study.

Those who knew otherwise might have thought it contained such startling data that the Government dared not risk causing panic by making it public.

Clarke was certainly so intrigued that he kept up his pesterings until eventually, in May last year, the MoD actually admitted that the report did exist – and furthermore, allowed him to see it.

What he read astounded him



Eyeing the facts: Dr Dave Clarke and friend in his office at Rotherham Council. As a researcher into UFO sightings, he has been lied to many times by officials. Picture: Chris Lawton.

because nothing in it even hinted that the researchers believed in an extra-terrestrial invasion. Indeed, the authors dismissed the claims of UFO sightings as "optical illusions and psychological delusions" – or just plain hoaxes.

They wrote: "We consider that no progress will be made by attempting further investigation of unco-ordinated and subjective evidence, and that positive results could only be obtained by organising throughout the country, or the world, continuous observation of the skies by a co-ordinated network of visual observers, equipped with photographic apparatus, and supplemented by a network of radar stations and sound locators."

They concluded: "We should regard this, on the evidence so far available, as a singularly profitless enterprise. We accordingly recommend very strongly that no further investigation of reported mysterious aerial phenomena be undertaken, unless and until some material evidence becomes available."

One of the cases they examined involved Flight Lieutenant Stan Hubbard from York who, in 1950, described having seen, on two different occasions, "a flat disc, light pearl grey in colour, about 50 feet in diameter" flying low over the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough at speeds of 800mph to 1,000mph.

The authors of the report said: "We find it impossible to believe that a most unconventional aircraft, of exceptional speed, could have travelled at no great altitude, in the middle of a fine summer morning, over a populous and air-minded district like Farnborough, without attracting the attention of more than one observer."

Hubbard did not know about this conclusion until Dave Clarke

tracked him down to his home in Virginia and sent him a copy of the report. He reacted angrily to its dismissive tone. Hubbard said that at the second sighting, a few weeks later, he was with five other test pilots on the roof of the control tower waiting for one of their colleagues to make a landing – and all of them saw it.

One of the five was Wing Commander Frank Jollis, and Clarke has spoken to him, too. Jollis said he was interviewed by MoD agents who appeared to be taking his account seriously – and until he saw the report, he had gone on assuming that that had been the case.

After the MoD allowed Clarke to see the report last May, it was sent to the Public Record Office which released it on Wednesday along with the 1901 Census and other once-confidential documents.

Clarke says: "The fact that it has taken half a century for these papers to come to light shows how keen the MoD have been to conceal their interest in the subject of UFOs."

"Rather than coming clean at the time, they decided to keep the contents of this report secret, which has given rise to all the claims of Government cover-ups and conspiracies that lie behind the *X-Files* mythology."

"What they were covering up was not knowledge of alien visitors, but simply the fact that they did not have any real answers."

"At that time, at the height of the Cold War, flying saucers could have been Russian aircraft or missiles and so a policy of silence was thought to be the safest policy."

"These papers show there was a cover-up, but it was a cover-up of ignorance not of any secret knowledge."

Bumper year for those eerie crop circles

Despite drought, 2001 produced many unexplained formations

By JIM BRONSKILL

OTTAWA — Numerous unexplained patterns — including the largest Canadian example on record — turned up in grain fields across the country last year despite dry weather that ravaged crops.

A hexagonal shape about 140 metres in diameter, discovered last September near Red Deer, Alta., represents the biggest formation documented to date by the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network.

The group's latest annual report says the intricate pattern, resembling a Star of David with seven circles and connecting pathways, helped make 2001 "one of the busiest and most productive" periods for crop circle sleuths.

"The year provided a bumper crop of new reports, despite the possibility of fewer if any this year due to a widespread drought across the Prairies, reportedly the worst since the 1930s."

While some formations were of the simple variety typically seen in Canada, others were "modestly more complex than usual," says the summary report, compiled by Paul Anderson, the group's Vancouver-based director.

Twenty formations were reported across Canada, including three in British Columbia, four in Alberta, 10 in Saskatchewan, and one each in Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia. Sightings of pasture, grass or ice circles are included in the group's annual compilations.

The report is based on information gathered by crop circle research network members, farmers, the media and other contributors.

Some people believe the circles are the work of pranksters, but others aren't so sure. A number of patterns have no tracks leading to them, while some are accompanied by strange sounds, physical anomalies in the grain, or phenomena that appear to make cameras and other electronic equipment malfunction.

The Red Deer formation was first noticed by a search-and-res-

cue worker flying over the area last September. A farmer who came across the pattern two weeks later said the field had been empty as late as Aug. 31 when he sprayed the area.

The report says the appearance of the star-shaped symbol shortly before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the U.S. "led to some speculation of a possible connection" — perhaps an eerie forewarning of a world-changing event.

In addition, nurses at a nearby nursing home reported seeing unusual clusters of triangular orange lights on a few different nights soon after formation of the shape.

The pattern was discovered in a wheat field with tractor tramlines, which might provide easier access for possible hoaxers, notes the report.

However, many of the patterns that cropped up last year had no obvious explanation.

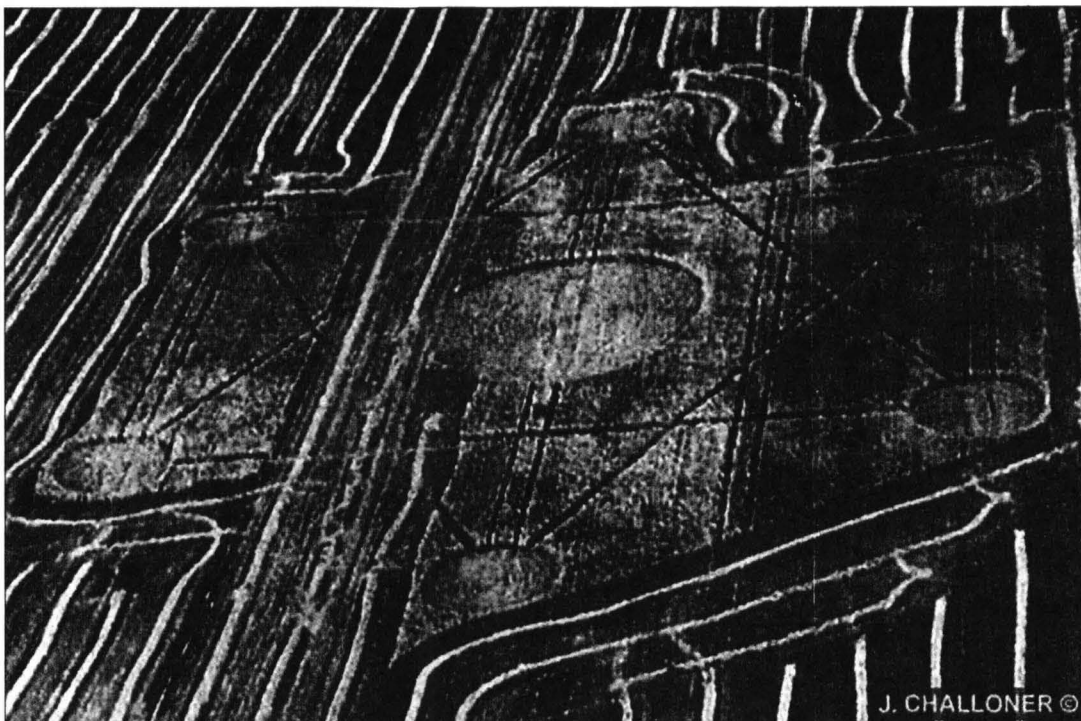
Four circles in a straight line, ranging from about three to nine metres in diameter, were found in a canola field near Dauphin, Man., last July.

There were "no tracks seen leading to the formation when first found" and little or no damage to the crop. "A neighbour reported odd lights over the field the same night."

Seven formations appeared within a six-day period from late August to early September near Midale, Sask., a "hot spot" for crop circle reports in the last few years. The patterns were combinations of circles, rings and other unusual shapes, including a Celtic cross and elaborate clover leaf.

Others were less intriguing. In July, a formation was spotted near Surrey, B.C. What began as two small circles in grass and wild wheat became a series of at least eight shapes. But along with the circles was a rather crudely done Canadian flag.

"Short paths were evident in the plants," leading to each circle and the flag, says the report. "While disappointing, such castroses serve as a useful comparison between hoaxes and the genuine unexplained formations."



Seven circles in a field of mature red wheat were found by an Alberta farmer last September while he was harvesting his crop. The formation was not in the field earlier that month when the field was sprayed with a desiccant.

Phenomenon goes Hollywood with Mel Gibson thriller

By JOHN MACKIE

The crop circle phenomenon is going Hollywood. Filming has just wrapped up on *Signs*, a thriller starring Mel Gibson and Joaquin Phoenix that is slated for release in August.

Touchstone pictures (a division of Disney) is keeping a tight lid on information about the movie, which was written and directed by M. Night Shyamalan, whose last two movies, *The Sixth Sense* and *Unbreakable*, have grossed about \$1 billion US worldwide.

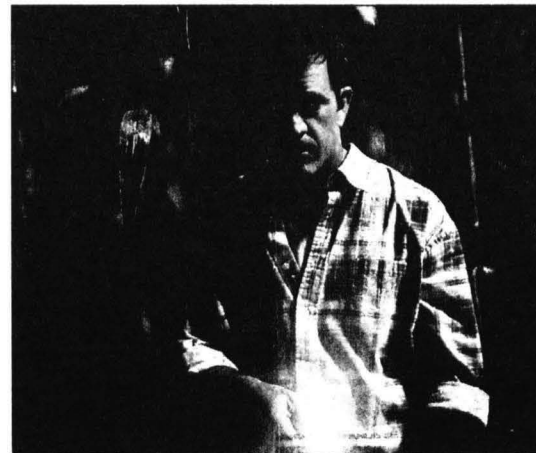
Gibson plays a priest whose wife is killed in a grisly car crash. Administering last rites to her, he undergoes a crisis of faith that leads to him leaving the priesthood and becoming a farmer in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Crop circles appear in his corn-

fields and Gibson sets on a quest to find out what's behind them.

Shyamalan told *Entertainment Weekly* magazine that a plot about crop circles was a natural progression from his previous movies, which also dealt with paranormal themes.

"I have always liked things that insinuate something supernatural, and the whole idea of this [worldwide] hoax is fascinating," Shyamalan said. "The premise is, what if one of [the circles] was authentic?"

Although the movie won't be out for seven months, the hype has already begun, with a 30-second television ad during the Super Bowl last Sunday and an official Web site up and running (<http://signs.movies.com/>). But the most detailed Web site is an unofficial one — (<http://www.signsmovie.co.uk/>).



Mel Gibson stars in *Signs*, directed by M. Night Shyamalan.

Witnesses see 'bright, strange and dancing lights' More UFO sightings

by Andrew Richardson and Janet Lee

Following last week's Post report about a UFO sighting over a Cannock pub more readers have contacted the Post with creepy tales.

A Heath Hayes man woke up at 2am on Wednesday, August 15 when his bedroom was filled with light.

The man, who does not wish to be named, then heard a sound which he could only describe as 'not an everyday noise'.

He was sleeping in his Hobart Road home when the curtains slightly opened, when a faint light lit his room for several seconds.

There is no road to the rear of the house, only his garden.

When he got up to investigate, everything had returned to normal.

He recalls saying to himself: "What's going on?"

The UFO sighting over Cannock's Laughing Leopards pub occurred on Thursday, August 16. "I am a bit sceptical," the man admitted. "But I've never seen anything like it before. It was not an aeroplane or a car."

On Monday and Tuesday of the same week the man, who regularly takes an early morning stroll,

recalls seeing two 'great big lights' in the sky. "You get to know the area and I thought they were big stars," he said.

"It crossed my mind at the time that I'd never seen them that close before.

A pensioner says she has been left spellbound by strange lights dancing over a Cannock school's playing fields.

Ada Smith, aged 68, from Cannock Road, says she has been seeing dancing lights over the fields of Chase High School for the past three months. And she says at times

the lights have been so bright they have been lighting up her bedroom.

She told The Post: "I have been totally baffled by what I have have been seeing but never really thought about UFO's until now. It really is very strange and I would like to find out what's going on."

In last week's Post we revealed how a Cannock woman had seen dancing red and white lights over the Laughing Leopards pub in Cannock. She was terrified by the lights which she saw dancing over the pub famed for its wackiness.

His friends at the nearby Sycamore Club also spotted the craft.

If the truth is out there Nick is the one to find it

Thanks to the likes of agents Mulder and Scully of the X-Files the world of UFOs is no longer the domain of the sad or mad - it's sexy. **GEORGE MAKIN** meets a man whose search to prove we are not alone has become a successful career.

Cannock Chase can be a lonely, frightening place. It has a history of unusual and unexplained events including murders and rumours of Satanic rituals.

But according to Nick Redfern, it also has another history which is even more strange and definitely not of this world.

In his book *Cosmic Crashes*, Redfern tells how in early 1964 the military took away what some people believe to have been a crashed UFO near Penkridge.

A witness to this was detained by police and his photographs of the craft were taken away.

Heavy snow

Almost 30 years later, when Nick went to interview him, the witness received a call from the Army telling him to contact them before speaking to Nick.

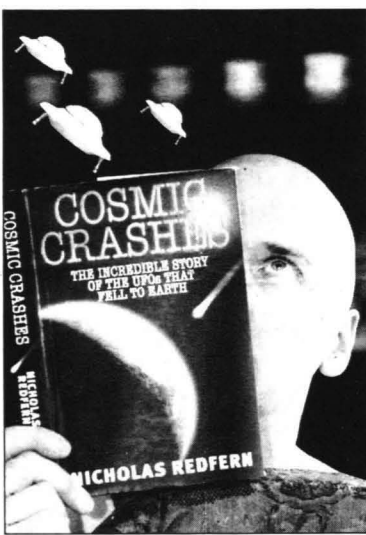
Even more strangely, Nick relates how ten years later a news crew for ATV arrived at the Chase near Hednesford in the early morning as heavy snow was falling, only to find the area crawling with troops.

After a short while they were able to speak to two men, one of whom - although the night was freezing - was sweating profusely.

The TV crew managed to speak to one of the men who said he had seen a UFO land in a nearby field.

The man who had sweat pouring off him had actually walked up and touched the craft.

Later, a cameraman managed to get



■ Left: Out of this world. Nick Redfern, investigative researcher, author and UFO expert. SJ-780-7041-WA

Nick Redfern is no Fox Mulder.

A mid-thirties freelance researcher and writer, you are much more likely to find him wading through dusty de-classified files in the Public Records Office near Kew Gardens than hanging around secret military bases on the off-chance of seeing something he shouldn't.

His work has been published in a variety of respected national newspapers and magazines. He has written a number of books on UFOs.

He is, not surprisingly, articulate and knowledgeable, having specialised in gleaming stories from the closed worlds of the military and shadowy world known as the 'intelligence communities' - or spies to you and me.

Born in Pelsall, his interest in UFOs started when his father told him of his time in the RAF working with radar and how he and others were told to keep quiet about UFOs.

He knows people dismiss believers in UFOs as anorak-wearing crackpots, and he admits he too is wary of those who believe for the sake of believing.

Which is why his investigations con-

centrate on verifiable documentation and witnesses such as ex-military personnel or trained observers such as police officers.

And he admits 95 per cent of sightings can be explained as normal, if uncommon, occurrences.

"My approach is to say here we have a statement from a RAF pilot saying that he chased a 300ft disc across the North Sea in 1953.

"I then look to see if we were testing prototype aircraft or maybe it was this or that, and try to work out what possibilities are left."

This more critical way of working leads him to feel that, unlike many UFO believers, there are only a few sightings that can be assumed to be of extra-terrestrial origin.

Secret projects

Critics of those who put forward a belief in UFOs point out that many sightings could be put down to secret military aircraft - projects like the Stealth bomber which, when it was finally revealed, bore a uncanny resemblance to descriptions of UFOs.

Nick admits that there are cases when secret military aircraft have mistakenly been reported as flying saucers, but adds that this doesn't explain the numerous sightings by pilots both military and civilian of amazingly advanced aircraft which were in some cases first seen 50 years ago.

For Nick there is ample evidence that governments and military bodies are not only covering up the facts of UFOs but also hiding actual recovered craft and even alien bodies.

Former soldiers and airmen tell him that they have been threatened with the Official Secrets Act, having their pensions stopped or even being evicted from their homes if they talk to him - a fact that has led him to support those who hack into secret computer systems to try and find out what is really going on.

"The Ministry of Defence official stance is that UFOs have never been covered by the Official Secrets Act and no UFO sighting has ever constituted a threat to national security. They are their two stock answers.

"Now if they maintain that, and if government agencies are bending the truth or outright lying and things are being done to hide these stories, and actually they are technically breaking the law, then I think that what's good for them is good for us."

Such a view might be seen as a justification for someone desperate to believe, someone who has stopped using their judgement and is now ruled by their desire to be right.

But Nick denies this is his motivation, although he accepts that some UFO believers are led by their feelings rather than by reason, he argues that his convictions come from the evidence he has collected.

As he says, "I don't need to believe in UFOs."

"If it is disproved tomorrow I will move on and get on with my life."

And if, as Mulder says, 'the truth is out there' maybe...just maybe...a little of it is on Cannock Chase.

● *Cosmic Crashes* is published by Simon and Schuster.

Tourists flooding in hoping for new sightings



● IT'S OUT THERE: Pub landlord Alan Webster (right) takes a group of keen UFO followers on a tour of the countryside around Bonsall. [01-8401-E]

UFO followers in village pilgrimage

ADERBYSHIRE village is taking off as a popular tourist destination with its own alien tour after becoming a hotbed for UFO sightings.

Bonsall hit the headlines earlier this year after 19 sightings in four months - including one filmed by housewife Sharon Rowlands with her camcorder.

Now people are visiting Bonsall from all over the country and signing up to pub landlord Alan Webster's tours - hoping for a glimpse of the mysterious lights in the sky.

Mr Webster (50), landlord of the Barley Mow, said: "We get half a dozen people a week here looking for UFOs."

"They come into the pub and I tell them where good



● STRANGE LIGHT: The UFO seen by Sharon Rowlands.

by Andy Shipley

ashipley@derbytelegraph.co.uk

spots are to see them - I even draw them a map."

Mr Webster has included the locations of UFO sightings in a two-and-a-half-hour walk around the village.

He said: "So many people have seen UFOs in Bonsall but many don't want to talk

about it.

"We've had people from Wigan, Barnsley, Birmingham and Merseyside coming here.

"I told one group of people where a good spot to see them is and they came back having seen a light in the sky."

Mr Webster said that the latest sighting was a month ago when a couple from Matlock reported seeing bright lights in the sky over Slaley Lane in Bonsall.

The Derby Evening Telegraph reported in May that Mrs Rowlands (44) was paid £20,000 by an American television company for exclusive rights to show her six-and-a-half-minute tape showing a "UFO" hovering over fields near her home.

Two weeks ago, Bonsall hosted a talk on UFOs by spiritualists The Aetherius Society. About 70 villagers attended the village hall meeting in hope of finding an explanation for the strange lights

in the sky.

Mrs Rowlands, who is currently prevented from discussing her video until after its screening next year, is being lined up to give a talk in Bonsall on UFOs.

Mr Webster said: "People are amazed by the number of sightings we get up here."

"The first was 25 years ago by a council worker who saw a strange light in the sky. Since then, we've got reports all the time."

Bonsall resident Anne Falconer saw a bright silver light hovering over Bonsall Moor in March - and has been on several of Mr Webster's tours.

She said: "They're really interesting. We get up to Bonsall Moor and Alan mentions the UFO sightings up there."

"Then people start talking about their own sightings - you don't realise how many people have seen something like that until they start talking in a group."

Crop circles puzzle farmer near Red Deer

The Canadian Press
RED DEER

Ken Bickford and his family don't stop for anything when it's harvest time on the Prairies.

But 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.

Such 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.

Granddaughter Caitlin suggests maybe something big was hovering overhead.

"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.

UFO sightings reported on Acadian Peninsula

■ Witness describes a diamond-shaped craft flying approximately 50 feet above the ground

By ROD ALLEN
TIMES & TRANSCRIPT STAFF

Thinly mantled in crumbling asphalt, the *Chemin de Pallot* is a winding, bumpy strip of connective tissue between Inkerman and Highway 11 and — some say — between worlds, too.

Indeed, if an extraterrestrial explorer wanted to check out the planet Earth without attracting a lot of attention this is a pretty good place to do it, for it seems rather overlooked in the grander scheme of things.

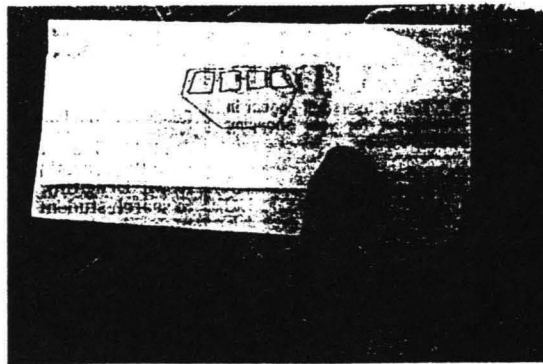
'Greater Inkerman' consists of the three

tiny hamlets of Inkerman Ferry, Four Roads and Inkerman Centre, all situated about 25 kilometres (15 miles) due north of the Acadian Peninsula's retail hub of Tracadie-Sheila.

Founded in 1855, it bears the name of the principal land battle of the Crimean War for reasons which remain unfathomable, for Inkerman Parish bears little resemblance to southern Russia.

Bound by the Pokemouche River to the north and the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the east, it is a land of forest and bog, which supply seasonal work for the 150 families scattered sparsely along a webwork of roads connecting the villages. The big Fafard peat moss plant on the Pallot Road employs about 300 people about six months a year.

So it comes as no surprise that news of visitors from other worlds is met with both enthusiasm and amusement.



An eyewitness, who requested anonymity, sketched the unidentified flying object he saw in the skies over Inkerman in January.

"Nope, haven't seen a thing," grins Denis Savoie as he shovels out the driveway at his home along the Pallot.

Savoie works at the peat moss plant and has been living here for 22 years.

"People are talking about it," he says, "but mostly about what was in the newspaper. I've heard about a blue light hanging around and then going away, but that's about it."

Not everyone wants to talk about it.

"I look up in the sky and I see the moon and the stars," says a woman working in the kitchen at Le Manoir du Lac in Inkerman. "I haven't seen anything else and I don't want to, thank you."

She doesn't want to give her name, either.

Just the same, they're out there — the witnesses that is.

Most of the excitement originates with stories that appeared in the Caraquet-based newspaper *L'Acadie Nouvelle* last month.

"We got a call from (world-renowned UFO researcher) Stanton Friedman in Fredericton the last week of January," says reporter Sylvie Paulin. "He said he'd gotten a call from the RCMP that he had traced to a sighting in Inkerman and was just checking with us to see if we'd heard anything."

"As it happened my editor had also received a call and asked me to check it out. So I talked to the person who saw it and, after we published our first story, we had a lot more calls."

"There were 10 or 15 altogether and they came from all over, Inkerman, Six Roads, as far as Lameque; all saying more or less the same thing. No one wanted their name used, but they all talked about the same diamond shape, the blue lights, sometimes moving very fast but never making any noise."

Though these were her first UFO calls, Paulin says the newspaper probably would not have run the stories without the call from Friedman, the UNB nuclear physicist

and prominent UFO researcher.

Friedman, an American and a contemporary of the late Carl Sagan in his university years, worked on several high-profile American research projects aimed at putting nuclear reactors in space before he moved to New Brunswick 20 years ago.

Credited with debunking some UFO sightings and crediting others, Friedman is one of a handful of UFOlogists who have credibility with mainstream theorists.

Friedman has lectured on the subject of UFOs all over the world and at the end of his lectures, likes to ask his audience if anyone has seen a UFO.

"Some people raise their hands, and then I ask how many reported the sighting," he says. "Consistently, 90 per cent of the hands go down."

"People don't want to come forward because they're afraid of being ridiculed."

Friedman thinks it's important to spread the news about UFO sightings because more people come forward to talk about what they've seen, even if it's privately. He believes that even if people are worried about what others will think of them when they talk of seeing the unexplainable, most believe that UFOs exist. Learning more about them may one day lead to the "story of the millennium."

Friedman says the Inkerman sightings are not particularly spectacular as these things go, "but I think these are good, solid reports. Can anyone prove this was evidence of extraterrestrial critters? No; unfortunately they don't seem to carry licence plates. However, I do believe those people saw something totally unidentifiable."

There is no doubt this is the stuff dreams are made of.

Though it is broad daylight when I journey north for this story, I can't help but glance toward the heavens as I make my way.

The very isolation of the land seems to lend itself to landing-pad viability.

But can long, dark nights not

also lead to wild flights of the imagination?

Does sheer winter boredom wear away at that thin membrane between the mundane and the magical?

But whether synaptic or galactic no manifestation presents itself during this investigation.

However, it does land me in the parking lot outside the Polyvalente W.A. Losier in Tracadie, where I finally meet the 'main man' in the Inkerman sightings, the original Paulin interview that brought the other callers forward.

Our meeting in Tracadie is not clandestine, but a matter of convenience. He's meeting his girlfriend here.

We agree — no names or photographs.

We shake hands, but I maintain my grip, and look him square in the eye.

"Are you making this up?" I ask him.

He looks me straight back. "No I'm not," he says firmly. "I swear to God I saw something strange."

I see a man in his early 20s, a strong, square jaw, clear brown eyes. A bluff, honest face.

It was Jan. 12, about 9:40 p.m., he tells me.

"Me and my girlfriend we were driving home from Shippagan, but we were heading into Maximum Video in Tracadie to get a movie before going back to my house in Four Roads."

"Along *Chemin de Pallot Road* we saw two lights coming down from the sky. My girlfriend says 'if that's a plane it's going to crash.'"

"We slowed down. It was coming down fast. So we're looking and then it's right there by the road. I stopped the car and got out."

"It never really stopped moving, but it crossed the road very slowly, it took about five seconds, and then it came right over our car."

"It was maybe four car-lengths long, and to me it was shaped like a diamond with no tips. On the sides there were four large square white lights, they looked like win-

dows, and between them were small blue lights."

"When it went over us there were four more lights, round ones, I guess on the bottom. They weren't bright. It was only maybe 50 feet above the ground but you didn't see any light on the ground. The lights looked just like putting a piece of paper in front of a light bulb, you know? Like a light shining through paper."

"It went over us, and passed over a house, then it turned 90 degrees and took off over the woods really fast. That was it. We lost sight of it. We wanted to follow it, but it was gone completely. We didn't see it again."

Out there standing on the side of the road as he watched it, he got the feeling it was watching him.

"I wasn't scared, though. I didn't get the shakes 'til I got to my father's house. Then my girlfriend was crying. By then, we were terrified."

He's talked to Friedman and Paulin, and now the *Times & Transcript*, but he hasn't yet decided if there's any point telling anyone else. Though others have called the newspaper in Caraquet no one has identified themselves and he will not be the first to step forward.

"I'm afraid people will say I'm crazy. My girlfriend doesn't want people laughing at us."

Perhaps someone will come forward in time.

After all, word has it the visitor is still around.

"I haven't seen anything myself," says Denis Landry as he pumps gas at the Shell station in Inkerman.

"But somebody said they saw it again just this past Saturday, just past the (Pokemouche River) bridge."

Meanwhile, Denis Savoie is probably like many other residents in Inkerman these days.

"Sure," he says, I go out and take a look up every night, just in case. I'd like to see to it, that's for sure."

"Hey, if you see anything, let me know!"

TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL, Saint John, N.B., Canada - Feb. 18, 2002 CR: S. Friedman

UFO sightings reported in northeast

By SHAWN BERRY
Telegraph-Journal

Stargazers near the Acadian peninsula may want to take a second look in the sky next time they're outdoors.

Since mid-January, Fredericton UFO expert Stanton Friedman has received more than 15 eyewitness accounts of strange sightings over the village of Inkerman, a community about 20 kilometres southwest of Shippagan.

"These certainly seem to be real. Definitely an unidentifiable flying object," Mr. Friedman said.

"I got a bunch of calls from people who were consistent. Several of them had seen the same thing at the same time, but others were reporting sightings that they had had of a similar thing the week before, two weeks before."

Most of the sightings were of an event near the Pallot Road in Inkerman at about 9:30 p.m. on Jan. 12, he said. The sightings were all within about 20 kilometres of each other.

Only about 10 per cent of those who see an anomaly in the sky report it, he said.

Chris Rutkowski, a UFO researcher in Manitoba, passed on a CIRVIS (Communications Instructions for Reporting Vital Intelligence Sightings) report from the original witness of the Jan. 12 event to Mr. Friedman.

Mr. Rutkowski voluntarily compiles the Department of Transport

CIRVIS reports.

"It was, in a sense, not a spectacular sighting," Mr. Friedman said. "Something with white lights on it and a blue light, which things in the sky aren't supposed to have. . . ."

"The original couple was quite frightened. He got out of the car, and didn't hear anything, and this was two telephone poles away, and sort of windows at the side, silent, and moved across the road, made a right angle turn and then another right angle turn and you know things in the air don't behave like that and don't look like that."

The object the couple saw while driving on the Pallot Road was described as being less than 30 metres long and shaped like a diamond without a tip.

The original witness said the object descended above a utility pole alongside a country road and took about

five seconds to hover across to the other side. It continued over to a house, the witness said, and then, right over it, the object made a rapid 90-degree turn before speeding away out of sight.

In 2000, there were no reported sightings of UFOs in New Brunswick, but in the annual report Mr. Rutkowski is compiling for 2001, there were five sightings.

Reach our reporter
tjedmu@nb.aibn.com

FIFTY years ago, in that austere era when food was still rationed and new cars were for export only, the skies above Britain were alive with strange and exotic flying machines.

Since World War II ended, the Press had been full of reports of sightings of a new phenomenon — the Unidentified Flying Object (UFO). Suddenly, the firmament, which had all-too-recently been buzzing with Heinkels and V2 rockets, was home to fantastic craft capable of travelling at several thousand miles per hour.

Some were shaped like cigars, but most were disc-shaped. Usually, the UFOs were made of shiny, polished metal and could perform fantastic aerobatics — the ability to turn on a sixpence at 900mph was noted by one RAF pilot who saw a UFO whizzing past his Meteor jet.

At 4pm on November 16, 1950, residents of Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, saw several discs hovering over the seafront. And in Putney, London, citizens had witnessed a silvery craft zig-zagging across the sky far faster than any plane.

There was so much concern that in 1951 the British Government set up its own 'X-Files' unit within the Ministry of Defence, to investigate the UFO phenomenon.

Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister, hardly a man to be swayed by the latest fad, was worried. 'What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to?' he asked in a memo to the War Ministry. 'What can it mean?'

The truth, Churchill was told, was nothing to worry about. Documents, newly released from the Public Record Office under the 50-year rule, reveal that the boffins employed by the Ministry found no evidence that the UFOs had anything to do with aliens.

Instead, they were dismissed as 'optical illusions and psychological delusions', birds and weather balloons, or just plain hoaxes. After five years of investigation, the UFO phenomenon was dismissed as fantasy.

Case closed. Or so it seemed. The flying saucer craze had begun on June 24, 1947. U.S. pilot Kenneth Arnold, 32, was flying alone through the Cascade Mountains in Washington State. He claimed that nine mysterious objects, each as big as a large passenger aircraft, flashed into view about 25 miles in front of his plane, near Mt Rainier.

They travelled over the mountains with a peculiar weaving motion, 'like the tail of a Chinese kite', he told reporters, and were crescent-shaped. They flew 'like a saucer would if you skipped it across water'. Thus the term 'flying saucers' entered the popular vocabulary, though the objects Arnold said he saw were not saucer-shaped at all.

UNIDENTIFIED flying objects had been reported before — in World War II, American bomber crews had claimed to see odd lights in the sky they called 'foo fighters' — but in the jittery post-war age, Arnold's sighting quickly became legendary.

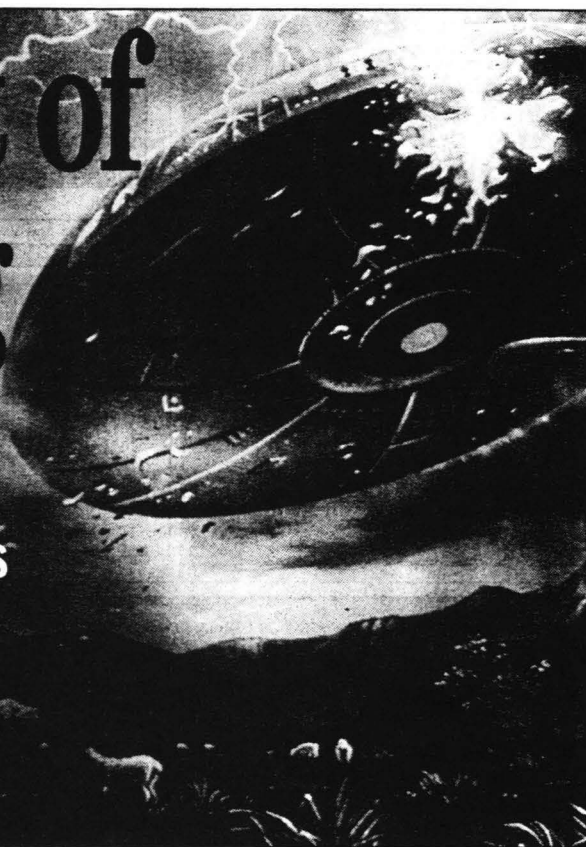
One theory was that his UFOs were secret military aircraft on test, another that they were a natural phenomenon. Arnold himself suspected at first that they could be a flock of geese. But the theory which took hold was that the UFOs were alien spacecraft.

Then the floodgates opened. Within a couple of years, people were seeing strange objects in the sky all over the world — notably in the U.S., Britain and Sweden. Most were, inevitably, saucer-shaped — the sightings taking their cue from Arnold's misquoted description.

But UFOs were not all the same; a common description was of 'cigar-shaped' objects. What they were and where they came from remained a mystery.

The night of the flying saucer

A silvery craft zig-zagging across the sky, discs hovering over the sea front. Newly released documents reveal what really happened on November 16, 1950



by
Michael Hanlon

By the 1950s, millions were convinced that Earth was being visited regularly by alien spacecraft. The American and British governments began their investigations.

One of the cases the British team looked at was a claim by a Flight Lieutenant Hubbard to have twice seen a flat disc, light pearl grey in colour, about 50ft in diameter flying over Farnborough in Hampshire.

The task force wryly concluded that in an 'air minded' district it was unlikely that a revolutionary flying machine could have gone unnoticed by so many people. Hubbard was the victim of an optical illusion, they reported.

Soon people were seeing more than just lights and flying discs: a large number were claiming to have been 'abducted' by aliens and returned.

There is often a strong sexual element to the abductions. Men report being forced to mate with female aliens, usually blonde and beautiful. Many American women claim erotic encounters with 'godlike' male aliens.

Ever since, interest in UFOs has waxed and waned. There are currently so few sightings over the UK that the British UFO society has been wound up.

But in 1989 and 1990, when the Soviet empire was collapsing, any visiting aliens would have found the skies over Eastern Europe very crowded indeed.

Extraterrestrials, it seems, visit during times of political upheaval — there was a rash of sightings during the Cuban missile crisis and the invasions of Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

So what is going on? Nearly 50 years after Churchill's plaintive request, are we any nearer to answering his questions?

First, UFOs, by definition, do exist. The night sky is full of strange lights and moving objects that cannot easily be explained. But the vast majority turn out to be natural phenomena.

Sometimes the planet Venus appears to be extremely large and bright against the western

horizon. Birds, too, are a source of many UFO sightings. Jacqueline Mitton of the Royal Astronomical Society thinks that large flocks of migrating birds can, in the right circumstances, reflect sunlight like burnished metal.

The only UFO I have seen was even more dramatic: a vivid green fireball, thundering across the sky emitting smoke and sparks, and a sonic boom. What I saw was almost certainly a large meteorite about to burn up.

Then there are man-made explanations. Weather balloons are the cause of an estimated 10 per cent of UFO sightings.

SECRET aircraft are tested in the western states of America. The American Mach 5 Aurora spyplane is also rumoured occasionally to fly over Britain — and may be the source of the mysterious sonic booms heard off the coasts of south-west England even when Concorde isn't flying.

Such explanations account for perhaps 95pc of reported UFO sightings.

But the remaining 5pc? No one knows. They could be alien spacecraft, but then again they could be some new and unexpected phenomenon. They could also, of course, be clever hoaxes.

Some people believe UFOs have always been with us. Dick Taylor, secretary of the British Interplanetary Society, believes the UFO phenomenon is no more than the modern continuation of an ancient myth — that of angels and other creatures from the skies.

'We have always wanted to believe that we are not alone,' he says. Previously, these lights were thought to be manifestations of the divine. Now, in a technological society, they must have a technical explanation.

The working party was officially wound up in 1956, but the MoD continued to investigate UFOs.

Nick Pope, an MoD mandarin who until the 1990s was Britain's answer to the X-Files' Fox Mulder, maintains that although most of the cases he investigated could easily be explained, many could not.

The truth, it seems, is still out there — and Churchill's questions are no closer to being answered today than in 1951.

TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL, Saint John, N.B., Canada

Feb. 22, 2002

CR: S. Friedman

UFO witnesses only seeking answers: expert

BY TRACY CARR
Telegraph-Journal

The sightings are out there.

It just takes one person coming forward to prompt others to tell their stories about seeing unidentified flying objects, says a New Brunswick UFO expert.

Stanton Friedman said most people who call in a sighting to police or UFO experts aren't looking for attention or publicity, but rather for an answer to what they saw hovering in or zipping through the sky.

Mr. Friedman has received more than 15 calls in recent months about UFO sightings in the province. The first witnesses, who saw an object in the night sky above Inkerman, near Shippagan, on Jan. 12 reported it in mid-January.

Mr. Friedman began investigating the claim and eventually a reporter heard about the sighting. She then wrote and published an article about the event, and Mr. Friedman began getting more calls about that and other sightings.

"She didn't laugh at them, and she didn't reveal their names," he said. "She wrote a very serious, sensitive article about this, and published my phone number, and it got people calling."

He said after that article appeared, he received 15 more calls from people who had seen the same large, slow-moving object with white and blue lights on Jan. 12, as well as other sightings that have taken place throughout the province at different times. When other newspapers picked up on the story, he received even more calls.

He said his and the media's treatment of the first witnesses' report is likely what led to more people coming forward.

"These witnesses want to know that people aren't going to laugh at them, and can be trusted not to reveal their names," he said. "That's what happened here, and we got more calls. They were all glad to see the articles too, because that meant they weren't crazy. Nobody wanted their

name used, but they were all happy to talk about what they'd seen."

He said most people who report a sighting simply tell what they experienced, rather than going into theories about what it was.

"We're careful to separate the observation from the interpretation," he said. "I'm convinced people are very good observers. They might not have the ability to interpret what it is they saw, but that's not up to them anyway. That's the investigators' job."

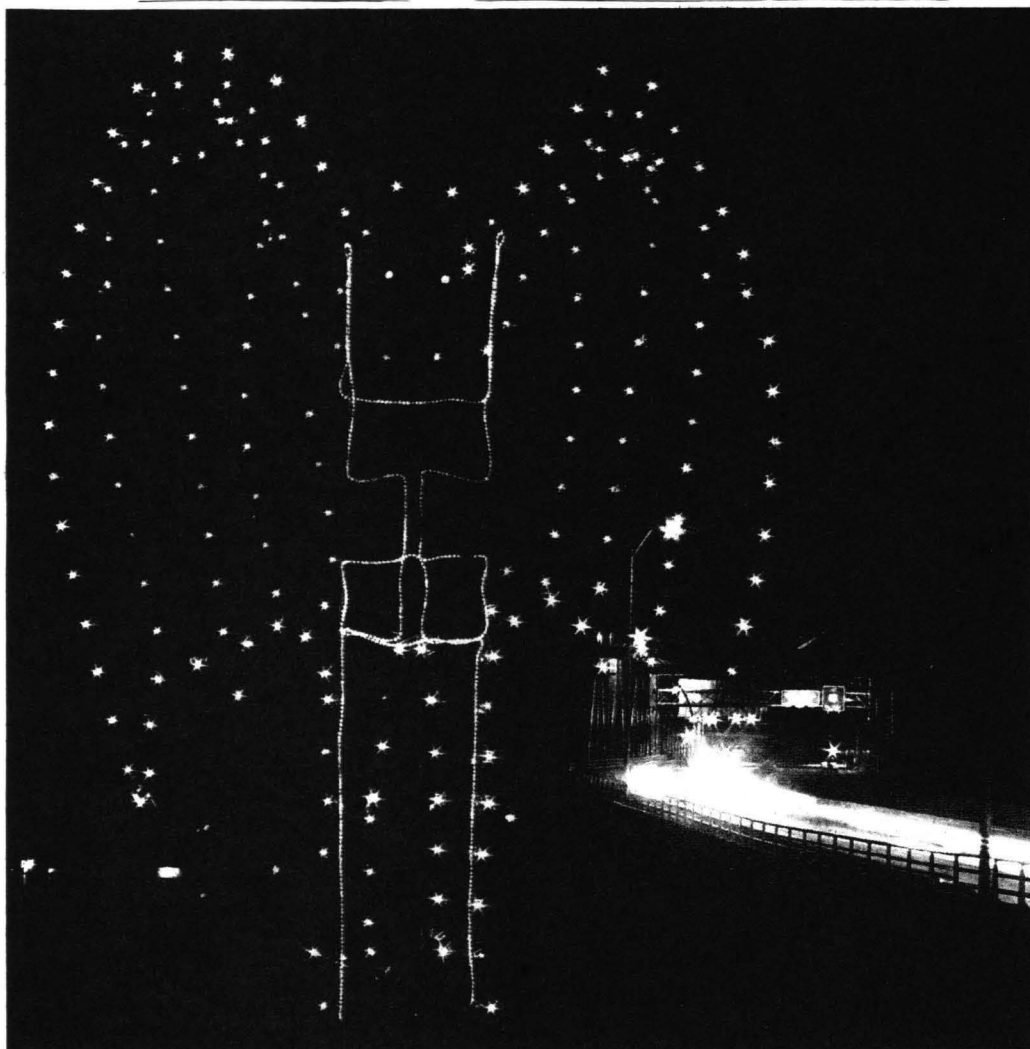
He said investigators then use the information they received in the report to compare it with the known sources of light and movement in the sky.

"There's a reason we can explain most sightings," he said. "Most times sightings turn out to be relatively conventional objects seen under non-conventional conditions."

He said so far, most of the calls he's received from people who witnessed the Jan. 12 event have reported the same details. That corroboration tells him that it's not a prank, and something was travelling over the Inkerman area that night, regardless of whether it can be explained by science.

"We're not talking about wild-eyed fanatics here," he said. "These are people who saw something that they didn't know what it was, and who want to explain it."

Reach our reporter
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Tim Revell / Dispatch photos

The Mothman's glaring red eyes greet visitors to Point Pleasant, W.Va. High-school students made the light sculpture, located off the Bartow-Jones Bridge from Ohio. A recent movie has revived interest in the creature that scared townspeople 35 years ago.

Return of the Mothman



Marcella Bennett says she encountered the Mothman at this spot on Nov. 16, 1966.

Movie brings attention to small town

By Paul Souhrada
Dispatch Staff Reporter

POINT PLEASANT, W.Va. — There are two kinds of people in Point Pleasant.

Those who believe in the Mothman.

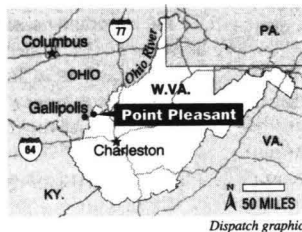
And those who "believe" in the Mothman.

Marcella Bennett is without a doubt a charter member of the first group.

Now a gray-haired wisp of a woman, Bennett was 26 with a 4-year-old daughter in tow when she came face to face with the winged, man-sized creature.

There hasn't been a Mothman sighting reported in Point Pleasant in more than 35 years, but a new generation of fans have been drawn to the Ohio River town after the release of a Hollywood feature purportedly based on "true events."

Bennett, who still is spooked by



Dispatch graphic

her encounter with the Mothman, has come to embrace the renewed interest in her story and the spotlight now focused on her hometown.

On Nov. 16, 1966, Bennett was visiting her sister near what's known locally as the TNT area — a sprawling wooded preserve of dirt roads, man-made ponds and earth-covered concrete domes that once contained government high-explosive stockpiles.

Point Pleasant location was the smallest of the three — until the Mothman revival.

Now, enthusiasts stop in from as far away as Colorado and North Carolina and choose from several versions of \$18.99 Mothman T-shirts.

Some stop in Point Pleasant when they notice the exit marked on Rts. 2, 7 and 35. But for others, the town is the destination. One young couple drove six hours from Asheville, N.C., after seeing the movie last weekend, Wamsley said.

The owners of the downtown Lowe Hotel, meanwhile, said they have bookings for this summer from as far away as California.

A Web site Wamsley and Sergeant created is receiving as many as 15,000 hits a day.

Their book, largely culled from newspaper clippings and interviews with local witnesses, makes no effort to explain the Mothman.

"Hey, I was 5 years old at the time," Wamsley said. "But I think they saw something."

Some folks say the Mothman really was a large owl, or a sandhill crane. Others say it was a product of mass hysteria.

Violet Painter, who cut hair in Point Pleasant for 54 years (and proudly points to a proclamation from the state of West Virginia commemorating the fact), has heard the stories dozens of times.

Once, a salon customer's husband told Painter about his contribution to Mothman lore.

He and some friends took two feather pillows, a flashlight and a shotgun — as well as a fair amount of alcohol, she recalled — to the TNT site. Some local kids parked there didn't stay long enough after the prank to investigate fully, she said.

Painter, chief cheerleader for the downtown business district, welcomes the renewed attention to the local legend.

Mothman teddy bears with holly berry eyes and plastic fern wings sit in the window of Vi's Creative Gifts, the craft and knickknack shop she opened after handing off Vi's Beauty Salon to her daughter, Fredda Kent.

"I didn't want to be left out," Painter said. "People were coming in asking what we had."

Just about every shop in town has some Mothman merchandise, though Christmas ornaments and beanie commissioned by the local chamber of commerce are on back order.

Painter worries, though, that the buzz will wear off once the film moves on to discount movie houses and video stores. And she fears that the town doesn't offer enough to keep tourists coming back.

She'd like to see antique shops and restaurants and other businesses fill the empty storefronts on Point Pleasant's Main Street. Tour buses — like the those that ferry UFO hunters to Roswell, N.M. — are the key to reviving the local economy, she said.

But for the time being, she'll take whatever business the Mothman brings her way.

"Do I believe?" Painter said, a smile forming as she repeated the question. "For business, yes."

"There's something here. A creature, a big bird ... a bunch of drunks, I don't know."

psouhrada@dispatch.com

"It was as close as you and I," she recalled, indicating a distance of about 3 feet. At first glance, it appeared to be a man in khaki work clothes standing by her car.

Then she noticed the feathers.

"I was just terrified," Bennett said, retelling the story first from her living room in Point Pleasant — a town of 4,637 about 90 miles southeast of Columbus — and then from the spot where the creature surprised her.

Dozens of Mothman sightings followed the first on Nov. 15, 1966, along with reports of strange lights in the sky and rumors of mysterious "men in black."

Then on Dec. 15, 1967 — 13 months to the day from the first sighting — the Silver Bridge linking Point Pleasant to

Gallipolis, Ohio, collapsed. Forty-six people were killed.

Then the sightings simply stopped.

A new phenomena, however, has recently appeared in town.

A horde of film crews, reporters, sightseers and buffs of the paranormal have discovered Point Pleasant following the release last month of *The Mothman Prophecies*, starring Richard Gere.

The movie, which is set in the 1990s and filmed near Pittsburgh, has grossed \$21.2 million in its first two weeks of release.

While some of the original witnesses shun their newfound celebrity, Bennett figures she might as well enjoy it.

She even agreed to serve as Moth Queen for the town's first Mothman

Festival, tentatively scheduled for late April.

Recently, she served as guide on a spur-of-the-moment Mothman tour.

"We've got to talk to this guy," she said, referring to Jeff Wamsley, owner of Criminal Records, a music store, and co-author of a locally produced Mothman biography, *Mothman: The Facts Behind the Legend*.

The two had never met, but Wamsley recognized her in an instant.

"I wish we could have got you in the book," he said, explaining that he and collaborator Donnie Sergeant Jr. were under pressure to get the book out before the release of the movie.

Wamsley, who also owns Criminal Records stores in Gallipolis and Jackson, in southeast Ohio, said the

Controversial drug is focus of new book by local psychiatrist

Review by Phaedra Greenwood

Can psychedelic drugs trigger a spiritual transformation and deep insight into the nature of the universe? Those are the primary questions asked by researcher and author Dr. Rick Strassman in his book "DMT: The Spirit Molecule: A Doctor's Revolutionary Research Into the Biology of Near-Death and Mystical Experiences," (2001, Park Street Press, Rochester, Vermont, \$16.95 paperback).

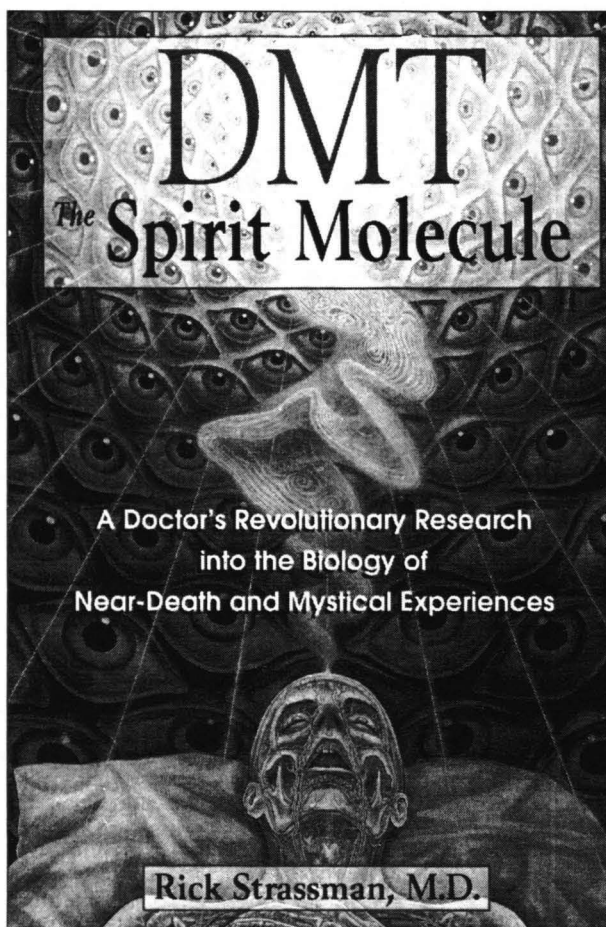
Strassman, who maintains a psychiatric practice in Taos, said his book is in the third printing and appears to be selling well. The book is cautiously and precisely written in layman's language and covers a period of government-funded research that reportedly took place between 1990 and 1995 at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine in Albuquerque.

In a controlled, clinical environment, Strassman said 60 volunteers were injected with doses of N-dimethyltryptamine, a short-acting psychedelic substance also known as DMT. High in 30 seconds, it was, for many of them, like being shot out of a psychedelic cannon, he said.

Strassman said he monitored body temperature and rapidly climbing blood pressure as volunteers experienced near-death and rebirth into a realm of vivid colors, vibrations and hallucinations that often included archetypes like "the clowns" and "the other," not infrequently described as "aliens." These creatures were busy with some kind of machines, he said, observing and probing their human visitors, curious about and sometimes feeding on their emotions, especially love.

The volunteers wore eye shades during their half hour "trip." If they opened their eyes, their visions would be superimposed on the surroundings. Usually, after about 20 minutes, they would sit up and relate their experience to Strassman, who sat beside them with pen poised.

Strassman categorized their experiences as personal, invisible, and "transpersonal." Near-death and mystical experiences were most sought-after, but not everyone had a good trip. Even in carefully-screened volunteers, some subjects had poten-



tially dangerous increases or decreases in blood pressure.

"For others, the hallucinations were frightening," Strassman said.

The so-called "spirit molecule" is manufactured in several organs, including brain, blood and lungs, according to Strassman, who also contends that there is evidence that the pineal gland produces DMT and that high levels are released under the stress of life-altering experiences, such as birth, death and extreme pain.

Though the insights were often profound, Strassman questioned, quite rightly, why the experience seemed to have so little power to transform the lives of his subjects. If DMT could not be used for substantial personal growth, what was its proper role?

"DMT, as a natural psychedelic molecule, seems to be necessary for normal brain function," he said. "The brain seems to require it as much as it requires glucose. Perhaps the role of DMT is as a channel changer or reality thermostat."

Strassman, who underwent lay ordination in a Western Buddhist order and still meditates twice a day, was pursuing a lifelong interest in the biology of mystical states. He graduated with honors with a degree in biology from Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif., and received his medical training at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, N.Y. He trained in general psychiatry at University of California, Davis, Sacramento, Calif., and clinical psychopharmacology at University of California, San Diego. His current title is clinical associate professor of psychiatry at UNM Medical School.

In his book, he writes, "The DMT project was founded on cutting-edge brain science, especially that which dealt with the psychopharmacology of serotonin. However, my own background, which included a decades-long relationship with a Zen Buddhist training monastery, powerfully affected how we prepared people for, and supervised their drug sessions."

The project generated a wealth of biological and psychological data. According to John Mack, author of "Abduction" and "Passport to the Cosmos," the book contributes to "a growing awareness that we inhabit a multidimensional universe that is far more complex and interesting than the one our scientific theories have shown us."

Strassman said he learned about DMT in 1985 when he met Terence McKenna, author of "The Food of the Gods," at Esalen, a conference and retreat center in Big Sur, California. Strassman was already doing research on the pineal gland and melatonin, and wondered if DMT could be spiritually transformative.

"If people want to talk to me about these experiences," he said, "I'm a local resource for information on these types of drugs. In this book I've created a historical record of research which provides a foundation for anyone to continue where I left off."

For information check out www.rickstrassman.com.

TRIBUNE, New Albany, IN - Feb. 5, 2002 CR: D. Dailey

Bloomington paper inundated with theories of strange creature

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — Spread the news about sightings of a mysterious creature, and the world will beat a path to your door.

That's been the experience at The Herald-Times since the newspaper ran a story last week about a local sighting of a shaggy 5-foot-tall animal that left unusual footprints.

The article prompted a barrage of phone calls and e-mails from across the country offering often-bizarre theories on the creature's origins, the newspaper said in a story published Tuesday.

Suggestions ranged from an evolutionarily mutated cat that can run on its hind legs to a shape-shifting being that can change form and vanish at will.

The speculation began after a reported sighting last Wednesday in the Hoosier National Forest's Hardin Ridge Recreation Area, south of Lake Monroe.

Dale Moore and Penny Howell had driven to the house of some friends, Rick Deckard and his sister, Sue Taylor, when they reportedly spotted the animal about 200 feet away.

They said it had long, nearly black fur or hair and was standing in a sort of crouch on its rear legs. They guessed its height at about 5 feet and its weight at 200 pounds.

When the creature saw them, it turned and moved into the woods, they said.

State wildlife biologists

suggested the creature may have been a nonnative animal that somehow ended up in the forest.

Indiana University anthropologist Dick Adams initially suspected a pet orangutan had escaped its owner. But after examining the four-toed, clawed footprints, Adams said the animal more likely was a bear — a mammal that conventional wisdom holds has long since disappeared from Indiana.

Some messages The Herald-Times received were from biologists seeking as detailed a description of the animal as possible to try to identify it.

Two callers said they had seen an animal in the same

area several years ago that fit the description of the one seen last week.

An Atlanta e-mailer said his theory is an "evolutionarily mutated cat" that now can run on its hind legs, a creature he said is common in American Indiana legends.

Another electronic correspondent offered this theory: "The mysterious and unidentified beast is a giant sloth, transported to Indiana by UFO beings."

Then there was the voice-mail message from someone who identified himself as being with the Sasquatch Research Project.

"This may sound really far out for you, but like it or not, it seems to be a shape-shifter,"

the caller said, explaining that such a being is impossible to shoot or capture because it can vanish.

At the other extreme was a woman living near where the sighting occurred.

"I know exactly what your Bigfoot is," she said. "I've seen it myself up close. It's an emu."

An emu is a large, flightless bird native to Australia that resembles an ostrich.

Two emus escaped from the property of a nearby resident, and one that remains at large is occasionally seen in the area, the caller said, adding that she saw it in December.

The B.C. Scientific Cryptozoology Club is offering a \$500 reward for the capture of a Sookeasaurus

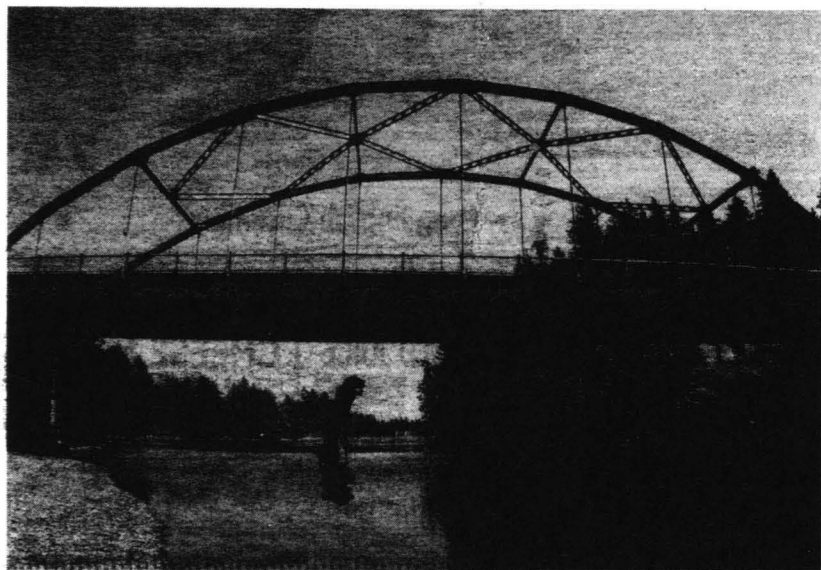


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Records of strange sighting in Sooke waters date back to the 1950s.

SEARCHING for SEA SERPENTS

By Bryan Drellich
Sooke News Mirror

Thomas and Marion Smith were stunned. In front of their eyes, in the waters off Sooke, was something they could not explain. It had a head like a boxer dog, horn or horse-like ears, and a jet black shiny body that was 18-feet long and serpentine. That was January, 1955.

The legendary name Cadborosaurus was coined by journalists covering sightings of an unusual animal in Cadboro Bay, but perhaps a more appropriate name in these parts is Sookeosaurus.

In late June of 1981, Rudy and Wally Ewert came across another foreign creature in Sooke waters.

They reported this serpent to be greyish brown, with no fins, and an extremely fast swimmer.

Today, The B.C. Scientific Cryptozoology Club is offering a \$500 reward to fishermen who happen to come across an unusual sea serpent in their nets or on their lines.

"No one should go out and purposely capture them. If someone should come across one and pull one out, it's better we have it than it being thrown back or used

as bait," BCSCC vice-president Jason Walton said.

A facility operated by the BCSCC could analyze a dead or alive sea serpent, Walton said.

According to Ed Bousfield, co-author of Cadborosaurus: Legend of the Deep, the BCSCC has set up CaddyScan 2001, which is a Digital Video Monitoring System that records moving targets, in hopes of gathering conclusive proof of the legendary creature.

"Caddy's appearances at the surface are rare (two to 10 reported sightings per year along the entire B.C. coast) and the likelihood of catching it on a fixed camera remains slight. Nevertheless, because it may yield reproducible and publishable images, automatic surveillance offers the current best hope of confirming the reality of an enormous serpentine animal that has eluded the eyes of further scientific classification... the search continues," he said.

Sooke resident Les Monnington was involved in a strange sighting in June of 1998.

He was with two others aboard a boat near Salt-spring when his two companions believed they spotted a Cadborosaurus.

he looked up, he noticed the creature, and steered closer to it.

Just as he was reaching down for his camera, the creature submerged, he said.

"It didn't move forward, it just submerged straight down," he said.

Schmuck described the creature as having two humps, one in front of the other, with shark-like fins on each hump. He said it was dark, and either black or grey in colour.

Walton said he believes hundreds of sightings go unreported because of the fear people have of looking crazy.

"Half of my files are doctors, lawyers, insurance people, those with big careers. Some shy away from it, but we promise confidentiality," he said.

Anyone who spots a Sookeosaurus can call Walton at 721-3836.

"I felt it was two fish with their dorsal fins up. The other two, I don't know what they were on, but they started chanting 'Cadborosaurus,'" he said.

Sooke resident Rooth Cross, who passed away last April, was one of the two boaters who went on record as seeing a Cadborosaurus.

Cheminus resident Tommy Schmuck was the other Caddy spotter in the boat. He said his confession of seeing a Cadborosaurus has isolated him from several doubters.

"Everybody is calling me crazy now, and I think that's what Les (Monnington) is afraid of," he said.

Schmuck said he was the first to recognize the creature. A stick had caught in his boat's propeller, and a ferry was approaching in the boat's direction, so he had to get out of the ferry's way. As

Where are they now?

Lizard Man

7 FEET TALL AND GREEN,
HE STOOD OUT IN BISHOPVILLE, S.C.

By JIM MORRILL
Staff Writer

On a dark summer's night in 1988, a teen-ager named Chris Davis was changing a flat on a country road near Bishopville, S.C. That's when he saw it.

A green creature, 7 feet tall, with red eyes and three fingers and the skin of a lizard. It grunted. Davis fled. But soon there were other sightings. One person claimed the creature chewed through a chrome bumper on his car. Even someone as credible as an Army colonel reported seeing the mysterious creature that had come to be known as ... Lizard Man.

Lizardmania swept Lee County that summer and put tiny Bishopville on the map.

Sheriff Liston Truesdale counted 200 calls a day from journalists around the world. TV crews came. So did tourists - 50,000 in three weeks. Vendors cranked out Lizard Man T-shirts and caps. Businesses made the most of their newfound notoriety. Beneath its July price-buster sign, one tire company hung another: "Welcome Lizard Man."

But soon the sightings fell off. Reporters packed up. Visitors stopped detouring from nearby I-95. The giant lizard apparently had retreated into the county's abundant swamps.

Now the curious come in smaller numbers. But they still come.

"People come from all over looking for him," says Truesdale, now 73 and retired. What still amazes him is that everyone who claimed to see the Lizard Man gave the same description.

"Just like I told people, I couldn't prove there was something out there but I couldn't prove that there wasn't," he says. "We don't ever hear nothing from it any more."

What does he really believe?

"There ain't no such thing as a Lizard Man," Truesdale says. "What it acts like more than anything else is a Bigfoot or a Skunk Ape."



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

In the summer of 1988, the Lizard Man of Lee County was all the rage in South Carolina and beyond. "Welcome Lizard Man" signs and displays sprang across the state, and T-shirts with his likeness were hot sellers.

Falling ice came from airplane, scientists believe

■ FAA says it shows no record of planes in area

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — A chunk of ice crashed through the roof of a car dealership and, while authorities aren't exactly sure where it came from, scientists say it could have fallen from a plane flying from the north.

"It's conceivable some aircraft flew over here from Cleveland or Chicago or some place north," said Steve Brueske, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Charleston. "That's our most reasonable guess."

The chunk of ice fell through the roof of the service area of the Acura of Charleston dealership about 9 a.m. Wednesday. The crash caused about \$5,000 damage to the roof and to a parked car.

"We called the Federal Aviation Administration and they gave a report of no airplanes in the area," said Chief David

Veronee of the St. Andrews Fire Department. "I've always heard that strange things happen but I've never seen anything stranger than this."

Christopher White of the FAA in Atlanta said the agency's district office in Columbia is investigating. He said investigators could look at radar tapes to determine whether there were any planes in the area.

Mike Huggins, the parts and service manager at the dealership, said he heard an explosion and then some of the roof was laying on the ground.

"There was a 2½-foot-by-3½ piece — a pretty big slab — on the floor, with lots of little chunks," said Huggins, who added the ice was clear and pure, like normal ice.

Brueske said conditions over South Carolina on Wednesday morning would have prevented icing on aircraft that took off locally. "We're confident you could not have built it up on an aircraft taking off from Charleston," he said.

Foremost Bigfoot expert, Grover Krantz, dies at 70

Anthropologist tried to prove sasquatch existed

BY MARK RAHNER
Seattle Times staff reporter

Grover Krantz never did get the smoking gun that he wanted: a sasquatch body.

The controversial Washington State University anthropologist died of pancreatic cancer in his Port Townsend home Feb. 14. By then, he had become the foremost modern expert on the creature also called Bigfoot, and he painstakingly had earned a toehold for scientific inquiry in an area previously written off as tabloid fodder.



Grover Krantz 1987

Dr. Krantz was best known for his sasquatch work, having written several books on the subject

and making media appearances that ranged from the "In Search Of..." series in the '70s to the "Sasquatch Odyssey" documentary in 1999.

Undeterred by controversy, he advocated killing a sasquatch and producing its body as the only way to prove the primate's existence. If pursuing such a creature didn't guarantee him critics, recommending killing one certainly did.

After more than three decades at WSU, he retired from full-time work there in 1998 and moved to Port Townsend with his wife, Diane Horton, in 1999. The two met through their mutual interest in Bigfoot about 20 years ago.

"He was super-intelligent," she recalled.

Dr. Krantz was a large man with a gentle demeanor and a fondness for Irish wolfhounds.

"He was a very nice fellow. He was attacked by all sorts of people, but he never attacked anyone himself," said John Green, the retired journalist and field researcher who met Krantz while investigating sasquatch reports

in 1970. (The two men were included in a group facetiously dubbed "The Four Horsemen of Sasquatchery.")

But Dr. Krantz remained frustrated that most academic peers wouldn't give his work enough serious consideration even to refute it.

He brought forensic techniques to bear on a subject often given blind credence by fanatics. He made footprint molds and pointed out their dermal ridges (i.e., fingerprints), reconstructed the kind of body required to leave such prints, and analyzed the infamous 1967 film footage that allegedly captured a sasquatch walking through a forest.

His theory was that the survival of the ape *Gigantopithecus*, thought to be extinct, was the source of modern sightings.

Dr. Krantz was born Nov. 5, 1931, in Salt Lake City, and he studied at universities in Utah, California and Minnesota, earning his doctorate in 1971. He joined the WSU faculty in 1968 as a physical anthropologist, and he published works on race, human evolution and the geographical development of languages, in addition to his "Sasquatchery."

"He was the quintessential scientist," said Jeff Kline, a former student of Dr. Krantz's. "The sasquatch thing always seemed to follow him around, but he wasn't doing it as this crunchy granola who had a prism hanging from his rearview mirror. For him, the world was a hypothesis. He wasn't politically correct. He wanted to know why things were the way they are."

In 1996, for example, he argued against the Indian repatriation of the 9,000-year-old Kennewick Man skeleton in favor of its scientific study and theorized that Kennewick Man might have a non-Native American origin.

Although Dr. Krantz became a tenured professor, the consensus among those who knew him was that his sasquatch pursuits seriously harmed his career. "It was a career-damaging thing to do, and he knew it," Green said.

"It was very adventurous for him to do, brave," said Loren Coleman, a cryptozoologist at the University of Southern Maine who has worked with Dr. Krantz and written about the sasquatch. "He really stuck his neck out."

But if Dr. Krantz suffered professionally in the decades before paranormal and cryptozoological subjects permeated popular culture, Coleman and Green maintain that he also opened the doors of academia for others like him. And they think he'll ultimately be validated by those successors.

"He was very disappointed toward the end that nobody had bagged one to bring it in. Up to the end, he was hoping something would happen," Coleman said.

In keeping with his career, Dr. Krantz's last act is likely to generate some curiosity. "It certainly indicates that he wanted to make the ultimate contribution to science," Green noted.

His skeleton will be sent to the Smithsonian Institution, along with most of his academic materials, for scholars to study.

"He was hoping to get his skeleton mounted for display at the Smithsonian," his wife said. "Being a physical anthropologist and being fascinated with bones all his life, it sort of makes sense."

There will be no memorial service, his wife said. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Clallam County, P.O. Box 2014, Port Angeles, WA 98362.

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Phenomena files

Author delves into state's unexplained encounters

By John Schultz
Staff Writer

Did you hear the one about the Eagle River resident who gave a jug of water to some space aliens in exchange for three pancakes? No, it's not a joke. There is no punch line. This case was actually reported and investigated by the U.S. Air Force in 1961. By the way, the pancakes reportedly tasted like cardboard.

In fact, there have been at least 300 UFO (unidentified flying object) cases reported in Wisconsin. There also have been reports of lake monsters, Bigfoot creatures, werewolves, and even a kangaroo (in Brookfield) in Wisconsin.

Madison resident Jay Rath has reported on all these stories and more in his book "The W-Files: True Reports of Wisconsin's Unexplained Phenomena."

Rath, son of Elm Grove resident and book author Sara Rath, will appear in person at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Community Room at Elm Grove Village Hall. The Friends of the Elm Grove Library are sponsoring the free program.

In an interview last week, Rath said his book on Wisconsin's unexplained phenomena was published in 1997. Since then, he has written similar books on Minnesota and Illinois.

Rath said UFOs are incredibly common in Wisconsin. With the exception of a section of New Mexico, the north-central region of the country has the largest number of unexplained sightings. And Wisconsin has the most in the north-central region.

"I enjoy talking about the books," Rath said.

He does as many promotional appearances as he can, but admitted he hasn't done that many lately. Last Halloween he did one on WGN radio in Chicago.

"This time of year it's popular with radio talk shows," he said.

Compiling information

Rath said he has gathered the tales for his book with "lots of good, old-fashioned reporting."

He has talked to people, looked at reports on the Internet and went back to old press clippings.

"There's a wealth of them that go back to the 1800s," he said.

In fact, there is a chapter in his book called "The Indians' Alien." The short chap-

AT A GLANCE

WHO: Madison author Jay Rath, son of Sara Rath, Elm Grove author and resident of Legion Drive

WHAT: Friends of the Elm Grove Library are bringing Jay Rath to Elm Grove for a program on his book, "The W-Files: True Reports of Wisconsin's Unexplained Phenomena," published in 1997.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Wednesday

WHERE: Community Room, beneath Elm Grove Village Hall, 13600 Juneau Blvd.

ter describes one of the Indian legends collected in 1930 by the Wisconsin Historical Society that details an encounter with the Chippewa tribe.

Some Indians were walking across a plain when they met a man sitting on the grass. The man stopped them and said:

"I don't belong here, I dropped from above."

He told the Indians he had been running in the sky. There was an open place and he fell through. Now, he was waiting for "something to come down so he could go up."

One day, the craft came. The man got in, it rose and he was gone.

"This type of thing has been occurring for centuries," Rath said. "Our ways of explaining them change."

Wisconsin is full of UFO stories. In fact, two communities, Bellville and Elmwood, each claim to be the UFO capital of the world, Rath said. Both communities have annual celebrations.

He is a believer

Though he never has had an encounter with an alien himself, Rath is a believer.

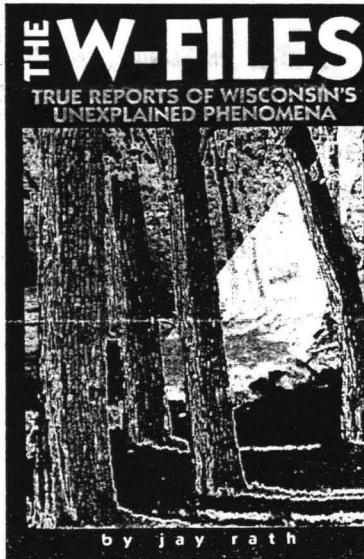
"I'm convinced there's life out there," he said. "The big question is are they visiting us? And based on reports, I think that's true."

"I've seen things in the sky," he continued. "What they were I don't know."

Rath's book describes werewolves in Walworth County and a lake monster in Rock Lake at Lake Mills. The most recent sighting was in the 1940s.

Lake monsters also were sighted in the waters around Madison, Lake Michigan and even the Milwaukee River.

Stories of a man-like creature, a Bigfoot, sur-



face continually in Wisconsin. Indians named this creature "Windigo." Part animal, part man, these creatures left footprints twice normal size. Sightings have continued into recent times.

The kangaroo sighting in Brookfield occurred April 23, 1978. Homeowners on Sierra Drive actually spotted two of the creatures that morning. The sighting was one of many in Waukesha County about that time.

On Aug. 13, 1978, the book reports an unusual light was seen by two Brookfield police officers that night. On Oct. 31 of that year, another such light was seen in Brookfield.

Rath's book was published by Wisconsin Trails magazine. The first year out it was Wisconsin Trails best selling book.

In promoting the book Rath has heard a number of other stories about UFOs and unusual critters.

"There's certainly enough material out there," he said. "There's probably enough for another book."

Rath encourages people to come to the library program Wednesday.

"People may be surprised about things that have happened so close to home," he said.