

# UFO

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## AREA EVENT

## Celebrating 50 years: Braxton County Monster

By Rusty Marks

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**F**RANK FESCHINO JR. Has spent the last 10 years of his life trying to figure out what happened in Flatwoods on Sept. 12, 1952.

"Something flew across the eastern seaboard and landed in West Virginia," the 43-year-old artist and UFO researcher said from his home in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Most of the people in Flatwoods saw the fireball that flew over town just before 7:30 p.m. on that night. The incident would spark the legend of the Braxton County Monster.

Flatwoods will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the monster's mysterious appearance today through Saturday.

Feschino will speak at the event, and UFO researcher Stanton Friedman will take part in a candlelight vigil at the hillside site where the monster was allegedly seen by Kathleen May

and several local children.

Most people who grew up in Flatwoods know something about the monster. May, her sons and several local children reportedly went up to investigate the fireball shortly after something touched down in the hills above

Flatwoods. There, they say they were confronted by a 12-foot-tall green and red object.

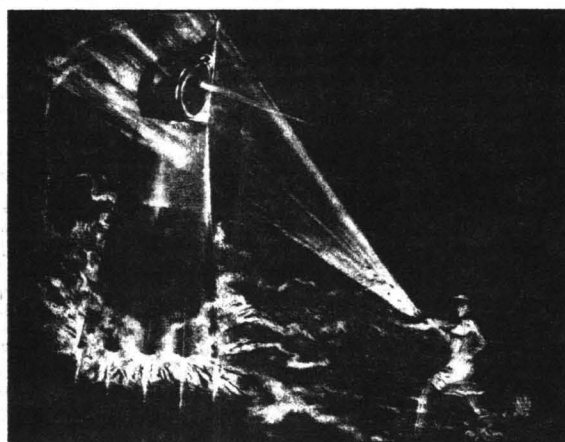
"I was close enough that it squirted oil out all over my uniform," May would tell Feschino in an interview. "It was just kind of hovering; it looked like a foot to a foot-and-a-half off the ground."

"It had great big eyes, portholes, or whatever you want to call them. Basically, it was a funny-looking orange in the portholes. It looked like there'd be lights in behind them."

Reports of the monster — or whatever it was — were taken seriously enough that the West Virginia National Guard sent more than 100

**"We know something happened. We just don't know what it was."**

Peggy Clise,  
Flatwoods Mayor



Frank Feschino's depiction of the first Braxton County Monster sighting — a UFO visit.

troops to Flatwoods to keep order. Feschino said he even found a national security warning buried in the files of Project Blue Book in Washington, D.C., ordering an alert on the night of Sept. 12.

Braxton County Sheriff's deputies were responding to so many sightings that night that they asked A. Lee Stewart Jr., a local newspaperman who frequently took photographs for the department, to take statements from the witnesses.

"It was sheer turmoil," Stewart — who has since died — told Feschino. "Three boys that were there were very sick, sick to their stomachs, and all of them were wheezing and coughing."

Stewart told Feschino that he interviewed four of the witnesses on the morning of Sept. 13 and three of them in the afternoon. "They were sincere, truthful, and, to be quite honest with you, I believe they believed everything they said," he told the researcher.

### Distorted legend

While initial newspaper reports of a large metallic object with a red top and antennae protruding from the sides were fairly accurate, the popular picture of the monster has been distorted over the years.

May went on the national television program "We the People" within days of the sighting and

just drew this thing up and handed it to her and put it on TV."

Government officials declared the source of the "monster" to be a meteor, and those who claimed otherwise quickly learned to keep their mouths shut about the sighting.

"I remember a big ball of fire, and that's it," said Flatwoods Mayor Peggy Clise, who was 4 or 5 years old at the time of the sighting. "My daddy told me it was a meteorite, and we weren't supposed to talk about it."

"Some people insisted it was a meteorite, but they never found a meteorite," she said. "Some people think it was just a figment of everyone's imagination, which is impossible, because too many people saw it. We know something happened. We just don't know what it was."

Feschino believes the object that crashed in Flatwoods on Sept. 12, 1952 was some type of alien spacecraft, and that the mysterious monster reported by Kathleen May and the children was one of its occupants.

"Braxton County is like a hotspot for UFO sightings," he said.

### Alien connection

Guest speaker Friedman is an

outspoken UFO supporter and author of several books about UFOs. Friedman is a nuclear physicist who says he worked on nuclear fusion and fission projects for General Electric, General Motors, Westinghouse, McDonnell Douglas and others.

He thinks the rash of UFO sightings following World War II were a result of mushrooming technology on Earth. Aliens keeping tabs on the planet at the time would have noticed the almost simultaneous development of nuclear weapons, rockets to deliver them and electronic advances like radar, Friedman said, speaking from his home in New Brunswick, Canada.

"We only killed 50 million of our own kind in World War II. Planet Earth changed drastically, and therefore, we would be of concern to anyone who was in the neighborhood."

"I think they're here to quarantine us," he added. "I don't think they want to let us out until we can take care of ourselves."

### Closed-mouth locals

Feschino first heard about the monster while visiting relatives in Flatwoods in the early 1990s. His curiosity piqued, he started talking to anyone who would discuss the sighting.

He found that decades of ridicule and misinformation had taken their toll. "A lot of the locals are still stand-offish about talking in public about this," he said.

It took years to convince Kathleen May and her son, Fred, to provide details of what they saw. He is currently shopping a 500-page manuscript, "The Flatwoods Monster Revealed," to publishers.

Clise said neither Kathleen nor Fred May will grant interviews, though both will come to the birthday celebration to speak and answer questions.

"She is in her 80s now, and this is her way of setting the record straight," Clise said. "I've known her as long as I can remember, and she would not be coming if she didn't believe what Frank was doing was correct."

Clise views the Braxton County Monster (he's also known as the Flatwoods Monster, the Green Monster and the Phantom of Flatwoods) as a fun part of local folklore. But she doesn't discount the possibility that a UFO crashed in the town 50 years ago.

"Frank has done an incredible amount of research," she said. "These are credible people. They're well-educated and they're articulate."

To contact staff writer Rusty Marks, use e-mail or call 348-1215.

NEWS TRIBUNE, Tacoma, WA - Aug. 5, 2002

### Plenty of solid evidence supports UFOs' existence

Re "UFO believer runs Seattle-based reporting center" (TNT, 7-30).

I protest your use of the pejorative term "believer" in the article about UFO investigator Peter Davenport. Although such bias is common in newspaper reporting about the UFO topic, it is both unjustified and unprofessional.

Surveys and polls have shown that a substantial majority of scientists and engineers accept the reality of UFOs, based on some 50 years of collected and documented evidence. This evidence consists not only of testimony from hundreds of commercial and military pilots, astronauts, scientists and government officials, but also still and motion-picture photography, radar records and physical traces such as burn marks, ground impressions and physiological changes.

The evidence for UFOs is as robust as that for many other transient phenomena such as subatomic particles, black holes and ball lightning.

It is true that the U.S. government officially denies the existence of UFOs. One should remember, however, that the history of science is full of examples of governments that denied the existence of scientific and technological phenomena for political reasons. It was not long ago that U.S. military authorities denied the existence of radiation sickness, even though it was well documented by scientists. The U.S. government has also denied the existence of various secret test facilities and weapons, even after they had been repeatedly observed and photographed.

Scientific decisions must be made based on evidence, not upon pronouncements by often-deceitful government authorities and those they employ. Please be more thoughtful in the future.

TERRY HANSEN  
Bainbridge Island

### IF YOU GO:

The Braxton County town of Flatwoods celebrates the 50th anniversary of the sighting of the Flatwoods Monster today through Saturday with music, crafts and guests. Highlights include a candlelight vigil at the crash site about 7:20 p.m. today, talks throughout the day Friday and a parade and community dinner beginning 11 a.m. Saturday.

described the object to an artist, who interpreted the monster as a creature with a red head, green flowing robes and arms.

"The drawing that has been seen for the past 50 years was drawn by a staff artist for 'We the People,'" Feschino said. "They

## These 'Signs' weren't aliens' work

EATON RAPIDS, Mich. — Pranksters — not aliens — are likely to blame for crop circles that appeared in an Eaton County cornfield recently, local officials said.

Eaton County Sheriff Rick Jones said the circles are similar to those in the hit movie "Signs," where aliens create massive geometric markings in a cornfield.

One circle is almost 100 feet wide.

There are no tire tracks — the corn was simply bent.

Jones said less than an acre of corn had been damaged.

"Farmers can lose large amounts of a crop due to such nonsense," he told the Lansing

State Journal.

"I realize it's been a No. 1 movie ... but destruction of property is a crime."

Anyone caught damaging a field could face up to 90 days in

jail and would have to pay for the lost crops, Jones said.

It's the second time this month that crop circles have appeared in Eaton County fields, he said.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC

Sept. 6, 2002 CR: G. Fawcett

# Circling for answers

Some Oregonians have seen more than just "Signs" of the mysterious crop circles

By KRISTI TURNQUIST  
THE OREGONIAN

**M**illions of people have seen the summer blockbuster movie "Signs," starring Mel Gibson as a farmer who discovers mysterious crop circles in his field. Lyle Spiesschaert hasn't seen the movie.

He's been living it. Sometime between the night of July 4 and the morning of July 5, a design appeared in Spiesschaert's 30-acre wheat field in Forest Grove.

As word got out, TV helicopters started flying over the design, a central circle with a pair of satellite circles on either side with a key shape on the south side of the center circle. "Inside Edition" ran a story. Crop-circle investigators came to gather evidence. And a steady stream of true believers and just-plain-curious folks showed up to feel the vibrations and eyeball the odd, intertwined pattern left in the flattened wheat.

"It swirled," says Spiesschaert of the intricately interwoven crushed wheat. "Like a toilet flushing," he adds, his tanned face creasing into a smile.

Even though Spiesschaert has since harvested the field in question, the

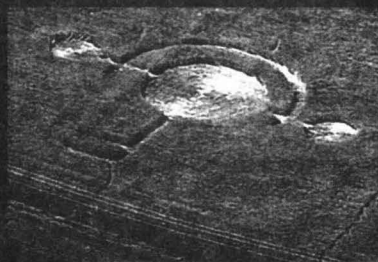
hubbub is still swirling.

"I get two to three calls a day," he says, from people who've heard about the circles. "I think the movie is doing some of it," he adds. "There's even been speculation that they had something to do with it."

But if it was a publicity stunt to promote "Signs," someone forgot to tell Spiesschaert.

"I ought to at least be in cahoots and get some of the kickback," he says, with a laugh.

"Signs," another walk on the weird side from "The Sixth Sense" writer-director M. Night Shyamalan, is the latest pop culture creation to stir up mainstream interest in the paranormal. Back in 1938, Orson Welles took the H.G. Wells sci-fi classic "The War of the Worlds," and scared the pants off radio listeners who thought they were hearing news reports of Martians attacking



TOP PHOTO: Measuring about 114 feet long, with a center circle about 40 feet in diameter, the Forest Grove circle is described in detail on the Oregon UFO Review Web site.

COURTESY OF KATU

ABOVE: Lyle Spiesschaert doesn't know how the crop circle appeared. "I'm not going to weigh in on either side," he says of the mysterious design, which he plowed over about two weeks ago.

FREDRICK D. JOE / THE OREGONIAN

BELOW: The thriller movie "Signs" has sparked renewed nationwide interest in crop circles, such as this one in a Tyhee, Idaho, wheat field that appeared the morning after the movie opened.

HEATHER AINSWORTH / ASSOCIATED PRESS



New Jersey. In 1977, Steven Spielberg made pop poetry out of UFO lore with "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." And the '90s brought paranoia-tinged portraits of unexplained phenomena, alien invasions and government cover-ups, thanks to "The X-Files" and the original "Men in Black."

Now, thanks to "Signs," millions of people who don't know a crop circle from an Arctic Circle are wondering what all the fuss is about.

Turns out there are plenty of Oregonians who could fill them in.

About 20 circles have been researched in the Pacific Northwest since 1993, according to Carol Pedersen, Oregon representative for the England-based Centre for Crop Circle Studies. Pedersen, who lives in Aloha, has researched Pacific Northwest crop formations for about 10 years, and teaches an occasional class through Portland Community College on the elaborate designs, also called pictograms.

While Pedersen admits that "Signs" has sparked renewed interest in crop circles — mysterious, geometrically precise designs that have been appearing in fields around the world since the 1970s, most frequently in England — she worries the movie dredges up cheesy old notions. Temporarily sidelined by sciatica, Pedersen has not yet seen the movie. But, she says via e-mail that from what she's heard and seen in previews, "Signs" seems to portray crop circles as "something to fear and related somehow to aliens. This is not my experience nor approach to researching the circles. The crop circles are a mystery no one has as yet been able to understand."

As is her practice, Pedersen gathered crop samples from Lyle Spiesschaert's Forest Grove field and sent them to Michigan biophysicist W.C. Levensgood, who has been analyzing crop circles for more than 10 years. While several hoaxers have come forward over the years claiming to have made crop circles, Levensgood's work, Pedersen says, shows that other formations have physical properties indicating they weren't created by humans. As Pedersen explains it, the crops — wheat, corn, oats, barley and others — show changes that suggest some sort of electromagnetic energy being applied to the field. The crops are heated up so the stems bend easily and are swirled into different patterns, all of which may happen in less than a minute.

Even as Pedersen was doing fieldwork, a Forest Grove teen came forward to say that other teen-agers had made Spiesschaert's formation — but, being sworn to secrecy, the teen couldn't name names.

Pedersen puts little credence in such claims and is awaiting the re-

**"I don't know what created the circles. No one has that answer. It does seem rather odd to me that after 20 years' research, the media and public are still not certain there are any genuine circles."**

**CAROL PEDERSEN,**  
OREGON REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE  
ENGLAND-BASED CENTRE FOR CROP  
CIRCLE STUDIES, WHO SAYS SHE DOESN'T  
THINK OREGON'S CIRCLES ARE HOAXES

sults of Levensgood's analysis. Other Oregon formations have been tested and found to be genuinely mysterious in origin, Pedersen says. Among them, the trio that

(continued on page 3)



appeared in 1994: a Celtic cross design near 185th Avenue and the Sunset Highway; a key pictogram in West Union; and a doughnut-shaped circle in Gaston.

Pedersen doesn't think Oregon's circles are hoaxes. Beyond that, she says, "I don't know what created the circles. No one has that answer." And she's impatient with those who say crop formations are mere publicity stunts. "It does seem rather odd to me that after 20 years' research, the media and public are still not certain there are any genuine circles."

But for every believer, there's a skeptic who says crop circle researchers are blinded with pseudoscience.

"The fact is, crop circles are very easily shown to be man-made, where all you need is a board and a rope and you can stomp wheat like that," says Josh Reese, a retired Marine aviator and membership chairman of Oregonians for Rationality. Founded in 1994 to promote "science and reason," as Reese says, the 230-member Oregon group looks askance at such phenomena as crop circles.

Oregonians for Rationality is affiliated with the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, the national organization whose mission is to "encourage the critical investigation of paranormal and fringe-science claims from a responsible, scientific point of view." The group, known by the acronym CSICOP, publishes the Skeptical Inquirer magazine and shares information at events like the "Skeptics Toolbox Workshop" coming up Thursday through Sunday at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

Meanwhile, back at Lyle Spieschaert's place, the calls keep coming, from the curious, the hopeful, the believers.

"I'm open-minded," says Spieschaert, who doesn't quite know what to think about his crop circles. But he knows this. "If it is a message from beyond," he says with a smile, "they need to be clearer. 'Cause I don't know what they're saying."

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## Digging for the roots of the circles

So you've seen "Signs," and you're still confused. Here's a quick crop circle primer:

**Crop circles:** Large patterns carved into fields that appear seemingly overnight, bearing designs that may be circular, geometric or symbolic. About 250 crop formations appear each year on average, predominantly in the Northern Hemisphere, with southern England a center of activity.

**Origins:** The work of extraterrestrials, strange musical notations, arcane mathematical musings, the Earth's electromagnetic force — theories abound. In 1991, two retired Englishmen, Doug Bower and

Dave Chorley, claimed to have invented the phenomenon. However, ever-more elaborate designs keep appearing.

**Did you know:** Crop circle aficionados are called "croppies" or "cerealogists." Some report that when entering circles, they feel sensations of dizziness; excitement; electrostatic charge; compasses won't function; and photos taken don't develop.

**For more info:**

- ◆ [www.oregonunforeview.com](http://www.oregonunforeview.com)
- ◆ [www.swirlednews.com/crop](http://www.swirlednews.com/crop)
- ◆ [www.cccs-uk.org/](http://www.cccs-uk.org/)
- ◆ [www.csicop.org/](http://www.csicop.org/)

PRESS, Sheboygan, WI - July 11, 2002

## UFO Daze looks to the skies July 20

The 14th annual UFO Daze will be held Saturday, July 20 at Benson's Hideaway in Dundee, the area's local UFO headquarters, according to organizer John Hoppe of UFO-Wisconsin.

UFO Daze will include people from all over the country who gather to share their UFO experiences and sightings. From noon to nightfall, participants will enjoy activities including speakers, food and entertainment. As darkness falls, participants will cast their eyes to the skies for UFO sky watching.

Visitors should bring binoculars and cameras. Benson's Hideaway is located at N4241 Boy Scout Road, Dundee.

For additional information, visit <http://www.ufowisconsin.com/> or contact John Hoppe, director@ufowisconsin.com or Bill Benson at (920) 533-8219.

## Out of this world



Are UFOs real or imaginary?

Not sure 15% Real 43% Imaginary 42%

Is the government withholding information about UFOs?

Not sure 11% No 40% Yes 49%

Have you or anyone you know ever seen a UFO?

Yes, personally 6% Not sure 2% No 79% I know 13%

Source: Yankelovich Partners for Life magazine

CR: R. Heiden

# ROVING EYE

## CROP CIRCLE CREATIONISTS

1998's mysterious field formations solved

By Bingo Barnes

The timing couldn't be better. Just as Mel Gibson's new movie *Signs*, about a farmer's experiences as crop circles begin forming in his wheat fields, hits theaters this weekend, Boise Weekly has discovered the secret behind 1998's mysterious crop circles in Nampa and Star.

According to the International Crop Circle Database ([www.cropcirclesearch.com](http://www.cropcirclesearch.com)), two crop circles were discovered on July 20, 1998. One was described as a dumbbell with one large and one small circle. The other is described as a "circle/ring with 'pie piece' cut out of circle and a key shape coming off the circle." Both were created in wheat fields.

Interestingly, these weren't the only crop circles to appear in the region during 1998. Within days of being discovered in Idaho, two crop circles appeared near Providence, Utah, where for three years in a row they had been appearing in area fields. The Cache Valley crop circles stretched 316 feet and while some believed that aliens were to blame for the formations, local law enforcement officials suspected pranksters or hungry gophers.

In an article by Zack Van Eyck in Salt Lake City's *Deseret News*, the creators of the 1996 and 1997 crop circles admitted their roles in creating them and actually taught a class at Utah State University detailing their methods and training future hoaxers.

Crop circles began appearing in England during the 1980s. Year after year, the designs have become more complicated and, according to crop circle researchers, there are anomalies that would be impossible to duplicate if done by humans. A new profession of investigators calling themselves cerealogists have

formed around investigating these formations.

The 1998 Idaho crop circles were investigated by Ike Bishop, the Idaho state director for MUFON (Mutual UFO Network), an organization of investigators that research and study unexplained phenomenon. In 1998 the crop circles were "authenticated" by Bishop.

Speaking to Boise Weekly on condition of anonymity for fear of being prosecuted, a local resident has confessed his involvement with two of his friends being the creators of 1998's crop circles.

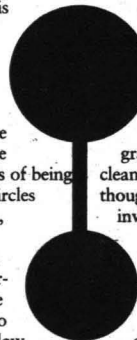
"We hung out in my friend's garage quite often," he said. "We were bored and so we decided to do it. We made our tools, flat boards with handles to push down the wheat and then my friend grabbed a bottle of battery terminal cleaner and coated his board with it. He thought that might throw a kink into any investigation."

After they created the crop circles they watched reports on local television about the crop circles and later attended a MUFON seminar discussing the formations. A few days later, our informant said his friends, joined by others created a third circle. While only two were discovered and made public, the third, on the north side of the freeway near Dermitt discovered while the farmer was harvesting the field was known to Ike Bishop and was unable to be "authenticated" because of harvesting.

"Our purpose is to search and find the truth," Ike Bishop said in response to the hoax news. "People (hoaxers) that do that make our investigations that much more difficult."

Bishop said that hundreds more crop circles defy explanation. **BW**

For more information on creating crop circles see [www.circlemakers.org](http://www.circlemakers.org).



## Searching for UFOs has become retired Air Force major's mission

By MICHAEL VITEZ  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

SURF CITY, N.J. — Around 4 p.m., George Filer 3rd took his plastic deck chair, put it just under the shade of the gazebo, and began to scan the ocean sky.

"I'm looking for anything interesting in the sky, like a glint, a reflection off a shiny surface," said the retired Air Force major, sitting in his aviator glasses, sipping a Coke. He and his wife rent a house here for the summer, and every weekend afternoon he perches here.

He looked at the sky above Long Beach Island on this Sunday afternoon — deep blue, dotted with white clouds. A glint appeared far to the South, above the beach — an airplane pulling a Miller Lite banner.

Filer's granddaughter Nicole, 8, in bathing suit and Backstreet Boys T-shirt, walked past on her way to the ocean. He stopped her. "About a year ago you told me you saw a UFO," he said. "Were you just pulling my leg?" "I saw a shooting star," she said, and skipped away.

George Filer, 65, saw his first

UFO in 1962. He was flying a tanker plane for the Air Force, refueling fighters over England. The control tower sent his plane to investigate a UFO on the radar, near Stonehenge. His plane dove from 33,000 feet to 1,000 feet to find it.

"I picked it up on radar — like a ship, a huge aircraft carrier in the air," he recalled, still excited nearly 40 years later. "This was the biggest return I'd ever seen on a radar screen." As his plane approached, the object van-

ished. "If you've ever seen the night launch at Cape Canaveral, it just kind of lit up and took off like that."

His second encounter came a few years ago, from the bedroom of his Medford Lakes home, which faces Briarwood Lake. "I woke at 4 a.m.," he said. "The bedroom was filled with light pouring in from out the window. I saw a UFO surfacing. It looked like a submarine coming out of the water, a blue ionization." His wife slept through it.

Filer spent 20 years in the Air Force, logging over 5,000 hours in the air. Most of his career he

was an intelligence officer. He even briefed generals in Vietnam, where "a lot of times we'd get UFO reports over the DMZ."

After the Air Force, he worked many jobs, including teaching high school students aerospace science at Cherry Hill West. He taught about UFOs, among other things: "The kids seemed to like it. The school didn't." When he retired in 1997, he devoted himself to finding UFOs.

"For me," he said, it's "like Copernicus, and proving that the Earth wasn't the center of the

solar system. I believe UFOs exist. I believe we are visited by aliens. I want to change people's viewpoints. This may be mankind's most important endeavor."

His son, George 4th, 38, an estimator for a construction company, brought a tray of crackers with crab dip to the gazebo.

"When I was 16, I did see something unusual at summer camp," the son said, "so I kind of believe they're out there."

Like his mother and two sisters, the son can't quite relate to his father's zeal. "First couple of

years, it was all he wanted to talk about," the son said. "I guess he's still obsessed about it, but now he brings other subjects to the table."

Like sports-talk radio. "A lot of them make less sense than UFO people," Filer said.

Since he retired, Filer has become East Coast director of the Mutual UFO Network, the nation's largest UFO organization. From his home office he edits a weekly Internet newsletter known as Filer's Files.



Philadelphia Inquirer/ERIC MENCHER

George Filer is director of the Mutual UFO Network and has devoted his retired life to recording and reporting on UFOs. He watches the skies from behind his shore house in Surf City, N.J.



# UFO WATCHERS

e v e r y w h e r e

Dundee Daze story drew a lot of attention across the planet

By Mary Ann Holley  
Sheboygan Press staff

On that weekend in July, when six glowing amber spheres lit up the night sky above a forested area on the northern edge of Long Lake, 150 or more spectators who spent the day celebrating UFO Daze in Dundee believed, "They're out there."

The next day, The Press ran a story recapping that mysteri-

ous evening just outside Benson's Holiday Hideaway. It went out to the Associated Press, and USA Today reprinted it in their next day's edition. Links to the story were posted on UFO and paranormal Web sites for worldwide review.

Talk to anyone, and they'll have an opinion about a UFO. Whether you believe or not, it's an interest that has been alive as long as we have. No one can truly call themselves an expert,

but letters and e-mails came to us from across the world responding to our inquiry: What do you think?

Some chided us, others praised us; all were interesting.

Ross Dowe of [ufohotlines.com](http://ufohotlines.com) said UFO sightings are indeed on the rise worldwide.

"It is our opinion that the current increases of UFO sightings are a direct measure of

peoples and communities stress levels".

Sean T. Devney, an artist/writer living in Queens, N.Y., said he happened upon the story about the UFO sightings while surfing the Web. He suggested a way to follow up on the story:

"You have to realize that the field of UFOlogy is extremely

complex, so don't expect any quick answers. Now, if you are psychically gifted at all, you can communicate with these beings. Just after you go to bed tonight, dream about the UFOs you saw. Think about making contact and you'll be surprised by the result. Now, it doesn't happen all the time, so if it doesn't work for you, don't worry about it. Keep an open mind."

Andrei Ol'khovatorov of Moscow, Russia, said that sometimes similar strange lights are associated with cloudiness and especially disintegration, an atmospheric aerosol in special conditions such as electric fields.

"The phenomenon is at our science frontier, and maybe even a little bit beyond, so, as in the case of a ball-lightning, we can rely just upon observational/empirical data," Ol'khovatorov said. "When I checked meteorological data for the area of the July 20 evening sightings, I saw that there was a disintegrating large cloud system in the region, and moreover, local meteorological stations showed cloudiness at about the time of the sightings. So, the most probably the UFOs were geophysical phenomena."

Aaron Woodin (location not identified) read the story through a link from the Fortean Times, a magazine that deals in the paranormal. Woodin said he had never seen a UFO, ghost or anything truly out of the ordinary, and although he remains open to possibilities, is a skeptic at heart. He said he interprets the term UFO in its purest context: It simply means "unidentified flying object."

"I believe that whatever is behind UFOs is a combination of poorly understood physical phenomena and human psychological reactions," Woodin said. "Most likely, I think 'UFO lights' are unusual electrical discharges in the atmosphere or plasma 'sparks' from crustal plates rubbing against each other. Not to mention planets, stars and aircraft that overtired/overanxious people mistake for an alien craft."

Add in a good dose of hype, he said, along with hope and expectation, and a psychological component comes in. There is just something in our makeup that compels us in our heads to turn these things into evidence of alien visitation.

Five hundred years ago, homes were supposedly invaded not by silver-suited gray men

with big black eyes, but by demonic figures like something out of Dante. For example, take the woodcut of an alien spaceship that a farmer claimed stole some cattle in the late 1890s. Interesting that the illustration resembles airships of that day, Woodin said.

"At this point I find the notion of alien visitation rather banal," Woodin said. "In order to unlock the mystery, I feel we need not look up to the stars, but more closely at ourselves."

Aart van Wijk of The Netherlands said he read the article about the strange hovering lights and recalled a time 10 years ago when he returned from the pub at about midnight. Since it was a night with a clear bright sky, he said, he looked at the stars and noticed an elliptical object with a couple of lights moving from east to west in the northern sky. One light was flashing or getting weaker and stronger, a display that lasted 20 minutes.

"I could not find an explanation for what I saw except for a flying saucer until a couple of days later when I was driving on the dike along the river Waal and noticed a police patrol using a searchlight to shine at

the shore," van Wijk said.

"Then I realized that I had seen a 'fata morgana,' (a mirage) of a police patrol boat in the night sky."

Ken of Oklahoma said, "Yes UFO's are real. I am sure that someday in the future mankind will understand the technology behind the 'UFOs'. To even think that we are the only form of intelligent life in the universe capable of flight is completely idiotic. Just how righteous and all knowing are we to think we are advancing on the cutting edge of technology? If mankind was even a fraction as smart as we thought we were, we would not be killing our own kind nor would we be destroying the very resources we depend on for life."

As far as aliens living among, he asked, "Have you ever stopped to think that perhaps our ancient ancestors were aliens? It would explain why the world governments were saying there is no such thing as UFOs."

"I hate to think of the total chaos the world would be in if we were ever to learn that all world religions were nothing but folklore and mankind was simply a distant relative to beings from another world," he said. "I

can only dare to guess what the six strange lights were over the hillside. I live in NW Oklahoma and strange lights in the sky are a fairly common site both day and night. Sadly out of fear of public ridicule most lights are never reported no matter how many people have seen them. I can only say there is no idea too radical or thought too deep for an open mind."

Rich Winslow of Palm Harbor, Fla. asked, "Think about it — doesn't every animal think the world was made for it? We see people who think the universe revolves around them. It is the Creator's way. UFO sightings, encounters and visual verification of unknown beings and creatures, and events throughout our history show we are not Top Dog."

"As our awareness grows, with the advent of instant news, please examine how many strange occurrences are reported around the world daily. Whether it is a UFO sighting, cattle mutilation, crop circle, abduction, ancient structure, Big Foot, Chubacara ... the list goes on," Winslow said. "The problem is the realization that we are not the Creator's number one creation. Are we ready for the truth?" (continued on page 5)



# Naysayers find down-to-earth answers to sightings

By Mary Ann Holley  
Sheboygan Press staff

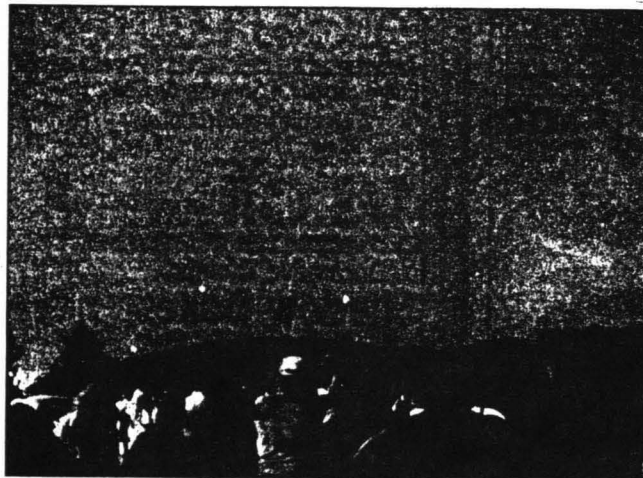
The naysayers, of UFO reports had some plausible things to say about the mysterious lights seen at Benson's Hideaway in July.

Gary Hart of Bloomington, Ill., said he researched video and still pictures from last year's UFO Daze sightings and concluded that they were several tethered weather balloons with light sticks inside.

"I used professional video processing equipment and standard investigative techniques," Hart said. "Someone targeted the UFO watchers for an obvious hoax. Was this year the same?"

A few people responded with instructions on making your own UFOs, a process which involves birthday candles and clear laundry bags or balloons.

One woman sent a humorous story about grandsons' brush with UFOs: "About 10 years ago, my two (then teenage) grandsons and a group of their friends made some of these 'UFOs'. I didn't see their handiwork myself, but their mom caught them at it. A police helicopter had been sent up to investigate the 'lights' but it couldn't catch them. After an article appeared in the paper the following



A CROWD outside of Benson's Hideaway near Dundee watches as bright globes of light hover in the sky above the Kettle Moraine State Forest. This photo was taken on July 20 when six globes of light hovered and flashed as spectators from the annual UFO Daze event watched. Submitted photo/Kevin Sturges of Milwaukee

day, Mom took the boys to the police station and made them 'fess up' to what they had done. Party pooper! I guess, being a Granny, it was easier for me to see the humor in it than it was for her."

She and the boys still laugh about it to this day, she said.

"With a well-advertised UFO conference in town, though, it wouldn't surprise me at all to learn a group of young people had pulled a stunt like

this," she said.

Peter B. Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Wash., reviewed some of the photos taken from Benson's Hideaway that night, he said they certainly show lights in the sky, but based upon his experience, he said, lights in the nighttime sky are not necessarily "bonifide" UFOs.

"They could be lights on aircraft, or any of several things that are not related to UFOs," he said. "The fact that we did not receive any other reports makes us question whether the lights are related to UFOlogy. Frankly speaking, I believe this is the second occasion on which NUFORC has received ambiguous photographs of UFOs from witnesses who apparently gather at the Benson's Hideaway tavern."

He recommended a more coordinated effort in investigating the lights from different locations.

"Until that is done, we will not know what is causing the phenomenon," Davenport said. "To the best of my knowledge, UFOs do not show up on demand, and we are suspicious of suggestions that they do. We are really suspicious of reports that groups of people who have gathered at a local tavern to see a UFO, actually saw one. ...

EXPONENT TELEGRAM, Clarksburg, WV - Sept. 13, 2002 CR: G. Fawcett

## Flatwoods celebrates 50th anniversary of monster sighting

by Michelle Saxton  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FLATWOODS — On a summer evening 50 years ago, a group of boys playing football noticed an oval-shaped, flaming object fly overhead and appear to land on a nearby hilltop. The boys grabbed flashlights and went to investigate. They stopped at

Kathleen May's residence on the way, and May and her two sons accompanied them to the top of the hill.

What they reported seeing next remains a mystery.

But the events of Sept. 12, 1952, remain vivid for some as Flatwoods celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Flatwoods Monster, also known as the Braxton County Monster and

the Green Monster. It's also the town's centennial year.

"It's a part of our folklore, part of our heritage — whether we like it or not," Mayor Margaret Clise said earlier this week as the town prepared for a three-day festival set which began Thursday.

explained as a meteor sighting, he said.

In 1956, May told *The Charleston Gazette* she likely saw some kind of new government aircraft — not an object from outer space. But the monster story never died.

Although that was the only reported sighting of the creature, several reports of unidentified flying objects were made that night throughout Braxton County and in several other eastern states, researchers said.

Clise, 56, recalled seeing something resembling a ball of fire in the sky as she walked to her grandparents' house in Flatwoods.

"I saw this thing that looked like a burning star," she said, adding that in her haste to get inside, she broke a bowl she'd been carrying. Afterward, she noticed the tops of some trees appeared to have been burned.

While the Flatwoods Monster gained much attention, townspeople seemed reluctant to discuss it, Clise said.

"Things that people can't explain, they ... just don't want to accept or have any belief in," said Judith Davis, 60, a local historian.

Feschino said 1952 was a "hot time" for UFO sightings nationally.

"Everyone was on the edge of their seats," Feschino said. "Every time you picked the newspaper up there were UFO sightings ... and then you have something like this happen."

Some claimed the story was fabricated, Feschino and Clise said.

"The May family took a lot of flak," Feschino said.

Kathleen May is now 83 and in assisted care living. Fred May, 61, is a retired Union Carbide supervisor who lives in nearby Gassaway with his wife. They have a son who lives in Teays Valley.

The Mays rarely discuss the incident publicly, but both were expected to attend the festival, along with Feschino and Stanton Friedman, an author and nuclear physicist who investigated the purported 1947 crash-landing of a UFO in Roswell, N.M.

Clise said she remains skeptical but open-minded about the incident. She also said Kathleen May was a credible witness.

"I have no clue as to what happened, but I honestly can't see her as having lied," Clise said.

Today, the site offers no clues as to what might have happened.

The tree from where the creature reportedly appeared no longer stands, having slowly withered away. There are no markings in the freshly cut fields atop the hill, but Clise said a dark green circle about 10 feet in diameter is sometimes visible in the spring when the grass is fuller.

"They saw something. I'm convinced," Davis said. "I don't know what."

Clise said the monster legend is fun for both children and the town.

Some have compared this summer's dry weather to the dry summer 50 years ago, suggesting a possible return by the Flatwoods Monster, Clise said.

"I'd love it," Clise said, laughing. "Man, would that be good."

## UFOs now attributed to terrorists

I've been affected by Sept. 11 in many ways, some different than others, because of my lifelong interest in UFO sightings and personal investigations of dozens of incidents that have been reported from the McGuire Nuclear Plant, Lake Norman, Terrell, Triangle areas, etc.

Car chases, pilot reports, UFOs near power lines and large bodies of water, huge objects at low altitude, animal and human reactions, photographs, etc. have been reported and investigated from the late 1950s through the 1990s.

The best cases regarding the credibility of the eyewitnesses and the reliability of the sightings for the most part, remain "unexplained" even today.

Unfortunately, since Sept. 11, many of these cases are "wrongly attributed" to possible terrorists in our midst.

UFOs continue to draw the highest secrecy of any subject in government history, two points higher than the Manhattan Project.

In the earliest years, these incidents were reported directly to the Atomic Energy Commission, AEC, in Washington, D.C. Today, these reports go directly to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, NRC.

Looking back to the fall of 1950, so many UFO cases were logged by the AEC, that the AEC printed up its own UFO report forms and distributed them to the personnel operating and guarding nuclear installations across the nation. Perhaps the truth behind the AEC, NRC UFO links will be fully revealed soon.

GEORGE D. FAWCETT  
Lincolnton

LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS, Lincolnton, NC - Sept. 11, 2002 CR: G. Fawcett

# Inventors to go fishing for UFOs in Port

■ Science buffs building device on bluff to attract extraterrestrial visitors

By KRISTYN HALBIG ZIEHM

Ozaukee Press staff

They say they don't necessarily believe in flying saucers, but three Port Washington men have set out to determine whether UFOs exist.

The men — Myron "Mike" Muckerheide, Dee Willden and Allen "Butch" Klopp — are building what they call The Attractor, a device intended to lure UFOs to the area and record information about them.

They plan to have the bulk of the system up and operating in the back yard of Muckerheide's home atop the Lake Michigan bluff next month.

"There's been so much controversy — are there (UFOs) or not," Muckerheide said. "We thought it would be a good thing to try to find out."

"We're fishing. Lake Michigan is a good place to go fishing."

"We invite the curious," Muckerheide said.

The men are reviewing the need for any licenses to run their module, he said. If it can't be placed in his Noridge Drive yard, he added, they will consider placing it elsewhere.

Muckerheide and Willden said they've been intrigued by the topic of UFOs for some time.

There has been an increase in UFO sightings in eastern and central Wisconsin recently, Muckerheide said, and this spurred their venture.

One sighting that intrigued the men was in Port Washington in October 1998. According to a report by the National Institute of Discovery Science, a woman and her husband saw a large craft about 500 feet in the air above their home moving silently. The UFO executed a perfect, rapid, flat bank before flying slowly over the lake.

Still, the men said, it took some time to decide whether to pursue the project.

"We talked about it for three or four months," Willden said. "First, we had to kind of talk ourselves into it."

They have poured themselves into the project, spending a considerable amount of time researching the topic and designing the modules.

"We're looking at advanced technology," Muckerheide said. "We're not fooling around."

"This is the kind of thing that is high-tech, it has possibilities, and it's worth a shot. Besides that, it's exciting."

Although plans for the Attractor are still evolving, the device will have three domed modules arranged in an 8-foot triangle and a decahedron (10-sided) module placed off to the side.

The domes, which each measure about two feet in diameter and are 14 inches deep, will contain a variety of equipment. There will be a laser magnetometer, which will measure even small changes in magnetic fields.

"In many sightings, they've found that compasses were affected," Muckerheide said. "Any deflection will set off a bunch of other systems for recording."

There will be a range finder to measure how far away the object is, and a barometer sphere. An ion chamber will determine radiation.

Solar panels will charge the circuits, and a shortwave scanner will monitor high and low frequencies. The scanner will pick up beacon and satellite tones, Muckerheide said.

An audio receiver and tape recorder, as well as a video recorder and an infrared viewer, will be in the module.

An on-board computer will run the modules.

In addition, there will be a ring of

The men said they realize their venture will give some people pause, but they are serious.

"Some will say we're nuts," said Willden. "We're open-minded. We're just trying to find out are there UFOs or not."

"There are going to be people upset about this," Muckerheide added. "It's a harmless thing. We're not hurting anybody."

"I think fear is a factor. Whenever things aren't known, there is fear."

"Me? I'm intrigued."

Anyone interested in what they're doing is invited to check out the Attractor, the men said. They're particularly interested in talking to anyone who has seen a UFO.



CHECKING OUT THE shell of the Attractor were (from left) Allen "Butch" Klopp, Myron "Mike" Muckerheide and Dee Willden.  
Photo by Vern Arendt

lights around the perimeter of each module. The red and white lights will pulse in sequence and change color.

The pattern of lights has been copied from configurations reported on a number of UFO sightings, Muckerheide said.

Strobe lights may also be used, he added.

The decahedron module will contain a variety of lights that will diffuse and shine in patterns. This module probably won't be operating until August.

The lights used in the Attractor will shine 500 to 1,000 feet into the air, Muckerheide said.

Once the devices are in place, Muckerheide said, he won't stand around watching for UFOs.

"I'm going to let the system find them," he said. "When it senses something, it'll turn on the video camera and infrared camera."

The device will detect things 50 feet above the surface or higher, Muckerheide said.

"It'll pick up a plane, but that's a definite signature," he said. "We'll know if it's something normal."

While some people snicker when hearing about the device and the men's quest, Klopp said they should be taken seriously.

"Don't take these guys lightly," he warned. "These guys do everything seriously."

Their background bears that out.

Muckerheide is a scientist whose specialty is laser technology. He has received eight patents dealing with lasers.

Muckerheide talked about the early 1960s, when scientists — himself included — raced to become the first to create a laser. He wasn't the first, but devoted his

career to working on lasers in the medical, weapons, space and corporate fields.

"It consumed my life," Muckerheide said. "It put total direction in my life."

"Lasers have taken me from aligning sewer pipes to meeting with White House security people during the Iraq war. Some of the lasers I've worked on are so powerful the air explodes into plasma and it sounds like rolling thunder."

Willden, one of the founders of Matrix Packaging Machinery in Saukville, has spent much of his life in the food processing industry and has several patents pending for laser technology. He met Muckerheide 20 years ago when they both worked at St. Mary's Hospital.

Klopp, the newest member of the group, brings experience in underwater diving and that expertise can be applied to their current project, the others said.

Muckerheide said he's been interested in the subject of UFOs for years. He's talked to many men, some of them respected members of the military and scientific communities, who have seen these

objects.

"I've talked to astronauts about UFOs, too," he said. "Some believe, some don't."

If UFOs are real, Muckerheide said, the technology used to create them shows that those who operate them are intelligent.

"If they're that intelligent, they're peace-loving beings," he said. "What must they think of our wars?"

"I think they're concerned about these atomic bombs we have."

It's likely that people have little to fear from them, Muckerheide said, noting they have not interfered or caused problems in the world yet.

"I think they're going to be as interested in us as we are in them," Willden said.

The men are cautiously optimistic about their chances for success.

"I just hope if there is some contact, we can record it and prove it," Muckerheide said.

"That's the bottom line, to see if there is anything," Willden said. "Just because we don't make a contact doesn't mean there's nothing there."

## ROVINGEYE

### LITTLE GREEN ALIENS

Disclosure Project outs the government's secrets

by Chris Stevens

The ad read, "Two hours of historic video testimony by military witnesses on UFOs, extraterrestrial intelligence and advanced energy and propulsion technologies." The "Disclosure Project," held last Saturday at Boise State, and expected by some to be like a *Star Trek* convention, was a mix instead, of regular folk who—for one reason or another—were interested in aliens.

According to the handout about the video testimony, The Disclosure Project is a non-profit research effort that has been identifying top secret military and government witnesses to UFO and extraterrestrial events since 1993. To date, over 450 such witnesses have been identified throughout the world and populate every branch of the armed services.

The project doesn't stop with just exposing these eyewitnesses. Its organizers are pushing the government to release information about extraterrestrial contact and technologies from top-secret, and beyond top-secret intelligence groups they insist exist. These groups, claim project organizers, are outside of congressional oversight and have even left presidents out of the loop. One witness's testimony states that President Jimmy Carter asked for information from the intelligence groups and received a flat "no" from then head of the CIA, George Bush, Sr.

The video testimonies were given by what appeared to be very credible witnesses, mostly older gentlemen who had either top-secret military credentials or were retired civilian military contractors.

Their reports state that not only have UFOs been tracked traveling in excess of several thousand miles an hour, but a base of extraterrestrial origin has been

photographed on the dark side of the moon. All this documentation has been routinely confiscated or destroyed, say witnesses. Some of those who testify on the video, say that from their observation, aliens seem very concerned with our nuclear missiles and weaponry. They tell stories of test missiles being shot down by alien craft and missile silos and bases being shut down by unknown forces. Reminiscent of the '50s science fiction classic *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, yes, but deadly serious for those testifying. One witness questioned why almost half of the space-based military satellites he was working on were pointed into space, rather than towards Earth.

One of the last topics covered was also one of the most interesting. David Greer, founder of the Disclosure Project, states that the study of alien craft has resulted in advanced technologies that once publicized, will replace all currently used forms of energy and propulsion. These technologies are already fully operational and developed within unacknowledged special access projects. The technologies will enable the Earth to attain sustainable energy use without significant pollution, energy shortages or global warming. In short, definitive solutions to the world's energy, pollution and poverty problems already exist—thanks to knowledge gleaned from captured alien spacecraft. Big oil companies, say Disclosure Project directors, not to mention our own government, are keeping info under-wraps.

And you thought the X-files were heavy. ☹

More about the Disclosure Project:  
[www.disclosureproject.org](http://www.disclosureproject.org)





# Marlow's red light mystery continues

REVIEW, Marlow, OK - Aug. 1, 2002

## Police photos add to mystery

Marlow residents continue to be baffled by a strange red light that drifted across the night skies last week.

Several residents watched for nearly 45 minutes as the mysterious light moved across the sky on July 23.

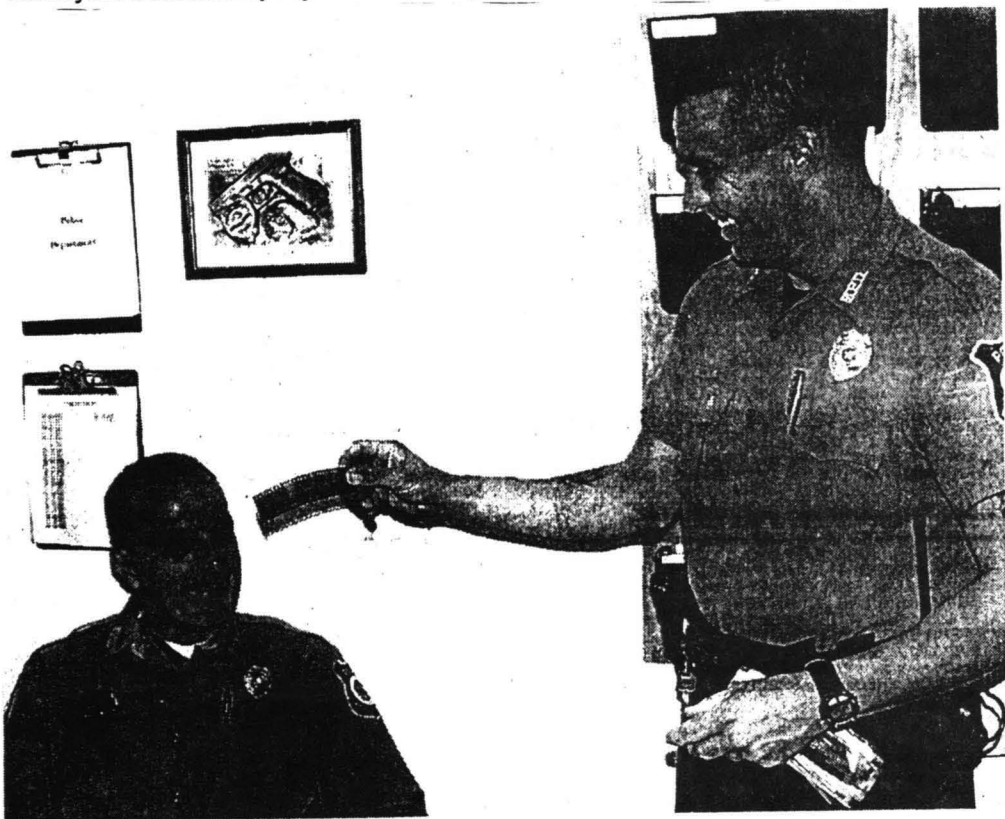
Marlow police officer Johnnie Drewery added additional mystery

to the event when he attempted to take pictures of the strange glow.

Officer Drewery grabbed his camera and began snapping pictures while on duty that evening. He had the film developed, but to his surprise, none of the seven exposures of the

mysterious light produced any images.

"The lady at the camera place said it was like there was nothing there," Drewery said this week. "The negatives were blank. At least, the seven I took of the light were. All the other negatives were just fine."



**SPOOKY:** Marlow police officer Johnnie Drewery shows fellow officer Steve Biffle his blank negatives taken of an unexplained red light that recently crossed the Marlow night sky.

"I've taken enough pictures in my life to know. You would think I would at least have something blurry show up. But nothing," Drewery said. "It's really strange."

Officials at the National Weather Service in Norman were contacted last week about the light. They said their instruments failed to register any information to verify or substantiate any reason for the mysterious occurrence.

"We didn't have any reports of meteors or weather balloons in the area," said weather service public affairs officer Keli Trap. "I really don't know what it might have been."

Officer Drewery said he noticed several other residents taking pictures at the time he was.

"I'd be interested to know if anyone else got any pictures," Drewery said.

He asked individuals with pictures to contact him at the police department.

# Forest Grove farmer puzzles over crop circle

CAPITAL PRESS, Salem, OR - Aug. 30, 2002

By JILL HOHNSTEIN  
For the Capital Press

FOREST GROVE, Ore. — Lyle Spiesschaert was watching footage of a crop circle on the evening news, when he noticed something familiar.

"I thought it might be my field," he said. His suspicions were confirmed later when he discovered researchers, reporters and the curious inspecting the phenomenon. The origin of the crop circle remains unknown. But, the Forest Grove farmer isn't ready to dismiss it as a hoax — yet.

"I like to remain open," he said, regarding the mysterious formation — a 140-foot design composed of a large center circle flanked by two smaller ones, and connected to a key-shape — that appeared in his field sometime around the July 4 holiday.

Spiesschaert said he was ill-prepared for the crowds of people swarming his field and, initially, struggled with how to handle it. He eventually decided he did not want to keep anyone away, he said.

"People should have the opportunity to witness this," he said. What, exactly, it is, Spiesschaert does not know.

"There are many things humans cannot explain," he said.

This particular crop circle may — or may not — be an example of that, he said.

Spiesschaert is still awaiting test results of wheat and soil samples collected by Carol Pedersen, a researcher for the Oregon chapter of the Centre for Crop Circle Research.

The samples have been sent to Dr. W.C. Levensgood, a Michigan biophysicist. Levensgood will analyze both the wheat shafts and soil samples looking for, among other criteria, elongated nodes, seed changes and evidence of magnetism in the soil, Pedersen said.

How significant would positive results be?

"People cannot make these changes by themselves," Pedersen said.

Although groups such as the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal and the Association for Rational Thought have debunked crop circles for years, Pedersen says science is on her side. Only science, she said, will prove that the oddities we find are not caused by man.

She admits that some crop circles are fakes. They can be rather easily formed by pressing down the crop using boards and ropes. In fact, a Forest Grove teen has come forward claiming to know



Lyle Spiesschaert and Carol Pedersen discuss the mysterious crop circle. Pedersen took wheat and soil samples for analysis and expects positive results.

who created this circle, but his statement has not yet been substantiated.

Pedersen said even the empirical evidence invalidates the teen's claim. She saw "with my own eyes" enlarged nodes and the tell-tale swirl pattern, which would signify a genuine, unexplained crop circle, she said.

Plus, her gut feeling, she said, tells her this is the real thing.

"Whatever mysterious source it comes from, I don't think it came from human beings," she said. She'll know for sure when Levensgood finishes his work.

In the meantime, Spiesschaert has harvested the wheat. He said the crop circle is still somewhat

visible, but there's really not much to see.

Even so, people continue to visit.

And Spiesschaert continues to let them.

"It's better than so many things that go on in America. At least this gave us time to pause and consider other things."

## "Up there!"



**UP THERE:** Jo and Floyd Evans, 809 West Apache, point to the heavens where they say they saw a large balloon carrying a silver cross hovering over Marlow on the same afternoon

many area residents reported a red light crossing the night skies.

# Marlow couple says a silver cross produced the mysterious red light

A mysterious light that appeared in the night skies over Marlow on July 23 took a new twist late last week after a local couple reported seeing a silver cross being carried across the skies underneath a large balloon.

Floyd and Jo Evans, 809 West Apache, say they saw a silver cross being carried across the sky by a large balloon on the same day the red light was reported.

The couple said they first no-

ticed the shimmering cross around 5 p.m., almost six hours before Marlow police reported seeing a red light. The Evanses, though, say they feel certain the silver cross was the source of the sighting later that night.

"I pulled in my driveway and caught a glimpse of something flashing," Floyd Evans said last Friday. "I looked up, and this big, square balloon was floating over the house."

"I couldn't figure out what was flashing underneath. All at once, I said 'that's a cross hanging down,'" Evans said. "A silver cross."

Jo Evans estimated the cross to be about three feet in length, while Mr. Evans estimated the balloon to be about 10 feet square.

"It (the cross) couldn't have been very heavy, or it wouldn't have floated the way it did," Floyd Evans said. "It looked like it was about 1,000 to 1,500 feet in the sky."

Jo Evans guessed the balloon and cross were the creation of an area Bible school.

"I think some kids in a Bible school somewhere made that, and they turned it loose. No telling where it's from," Jo Evans said.

The couple said the balloon and cross had moved from west to east, then east to west, climbing all the time.

"It just hovered around up there. That's why I think it was the same thing the police saw later that night," Floyd Evans said. "The moonlight may have shown off the cross to give it the red glow, or something. I don't know."

The couple said they watched the balloon and cross drift back and forth across the sky for about 30 minutes.

"Finally, we just got tired of watching it and came in the house," Jo Evans said.

"We never thought anything more about it until we started reading about it in the paper. I know that's what it was. I'm just sure," Jo Evans said.

Marlow officials are still searching for answers into the strange sighting.

Marlow policeman Johnnie Drewery attempted to photograph the light on the night of the sighting, but the developed film was blank.

Officials at the National Weather Service in Norman were contacted after the initial sightings. They said their instruments failed to register any information to verify, or substantiate, any reason for the mysterious occurrence.

## Here we go round in crop circles

### Farms see signs of tourist boom

By CRAIG WILSON

USA TODAY

Spending August down at the beach? Or up in the mountains? How unimaginative. If you want to be really trendy, you'll head out to the farm.

Early signs indicate that tourists will soon be flocking to farm fields in search of "crop circles" — some mysterious, some man-made.

You can thank Mel Gibson and "Signs" for the farm tour. His newest flick deals with the mysterious geometric forms, which appear overnight in rural fields from Wiltshire, England, to the American Midwest.

Theories vary about what's behind the circles — from natural causes such as wind to the landing of alien spaceships. More than 10,500 crop circles have been identified since 1980.

"Hits to our Web site (www.cropcircles.org) have tripled since last week," says Ron Russell, a crop-circle expert from Aurora, Colo. Next summer, he'll lead three week-long expeditions (\$2,000 a person) to England's Stonehenge region, where most of the world's unexplained crop circles appear.

"I'm sure (the interest) is because of the movie. The movie has raised consciousness."

What's the lure, you ask? "To walk into one of the circles at dawn, right after it has been found, I've got to tell you, it takes your breath away," says Theresa Weiss of Power Places Tours (www.powerplaces.com), one of a handful of companies offering such tours. About 130 travelers sign up for her crop-circle trips (\$2,500 a person) to England every July — the high season for crop circles — and she expects more with the publicity generated by the movie. So far, nobody has been unlucky enough to pick a week when no circles have appeared.

The tourist board in England's West Country does not actively promote crop circles but will point visitors in the right direction.

"I am just stating the fact that crop circles do bring in a lot of visitors," tourist officer Kairen Hellard told the BBC. "And as that's the case, why not make hay while the sun shines?"

Brett Herbst of Springville, Utah, who owns MAiZE, a company that makes crop circles, is doing just that. Farmers hire him to design and lay out mazes in their fields that they can operate as tourist attractions, many of them turning into "haunted corridors" for Halloween. The 300-plus corn mazes he has created (www.cornfieldmaze.com) have attracted more than 2 million curiosity seekers since 1996.

"People will say to me, 'How did you do that?' And I'll say, 'The aliens helped me!'"

He's convinced that "Signs" will have a huge effect on business.

"This movie will have you looking at my cornfield mazes the way 'Jaws' had you looking at oceans!"

ECHO, Ligonier, PA - Aug. 22, 2002

## UFO sightings continue to crop up in Keystone State

By Stan Gordon

As I have previously reported, UFO sightings have been active this year from many locations in Pennsylvania. Many statewide sightings have been reported to my UFO Hotline, as well as to the National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC) in Seattle.

Some of the reports appear to be easily explained as misidentifications of the bright planet Venus, and bright meteors, but some of the sightings are indeed more detailed.

Low level UFO observations were reported in February and April in Indiana County. The NUFORC, and my website have both posted many interesting UFO accounts from various state locations.

I have been investigating a more recent incident which occurred on July 24, 2002, in North Huntingdon Township. Three people observed a small solid sphere about the diameter of a tennis ball, from only about 10 feet away, and at a height of about 6 feet off the ground, moving slowly down the road in a steady controlled manner.

July and August continues to be active with UFO sighting reports. The following are some of the additional reports which have come to my attention and are currently under study.

July 3, 2002 — Greensburg

(Reported initially to the NUFORC). Two witnesses reported observing a huge bright white light which was shining and shimmering. The object which was observed for a long period of time, reportedly made sharp movements, then shot straight up into the sky.

July 24, 2002 — Pittsburgh area. I am awaiting further information on this report. I have learned that a white round object at apparent tree top level, moved fast across the sky and vanished. This sighting occurred at about 6:15 p.m., on the same date that the small sphere was reported later that evening from North Huntingdon Township.

July 27, 2002 — New Stanton. The witness was driving down Route 119 North, when at approximately 4:15 a.m. he observed a bright white light in the sky ahead in the distance, which was dropping in altitude. His first thought was that it was a medical helicopter landing at an accident scene ahead. But suddenly the white light shot straight up into the sky, then moved to the left. The light then moved towards the right. Suddenly the light shot across the sky at an "incredible rate of speed toward the direction of Delmont" and could no longer be seen.

August 3, 2002 —

Susquehanna County. At about 11 p.m., a witness reported seeing a dull triangular shaped object, appear in the east, and move at a high rate of speed across the entire sky towards the west, where it was lost from sight. The object which was at a high altitude, was described as faintly lighted, and larger than a nickel at arm's length.

August 4, 2002 — Beaver County. The wife was awakened at about 3:45 a.m. A bright round object could be seen through the bedroom curtains. The object which was behind a tree that was about 50 feet high, and about 100 feet from the house, was also observed by the husband. The couple's first thought was that it was the moon, but realized that the silent object was too large, and too low. While the object was present, a large area of their field was illuminated with a whitish glow.





## FOREIGN NEWS

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

# Fields of Gold

## TOURISTS FLOCK TO CROP CIRCLES AS MOVIE SIGNS RAKES IN £120M

**CROP circles are turning into a multi-million pound industry fuelled by the new film Signs starring Mel Gibson.**

The blockbuster is already giving English tourism a boost similar to the one Scotland got after Gibson's 1995 epic Braveheart.

Signs' sci-fi storyline — inspired by circles in the southern part of the UK — is that aliens leave messages in crop patterns like the ones pictured here. Gibson plays farmer Graham Hess who at first dismisses a giant circle in one of his fields as a prank.

But then come reports from around the world of strange lights in the sky and it seems Earth is about to be invaded by extra-terrestrials.

Signs has made £120million in its first three weeks at the US box office.

And it is expected to rake in at least £20million when it opens in Britain next month.

Already travel agents report thousands more bookings from Americans who want to visit the most famous crop circle sites.

And British farmers are hoping new interest in the "alien" markings will bring a return to the glory days of the Nineties when landowners could make more money from circles than from the crops themselves.

In the summer of 1990 a farmer pocketed £30,000 from visitors to a circle near Stonehenge in Wiltshire, the county which has had dozens of circles.

Another Wiltshire farmer Tim Carson was among those who cashed in 12 years ago.

He charged £1 a head for access to a circle that the rock group Led Zeppelin used on the cover of its Remasters CD set. He also sold £1.75 crop circle key rings, postcards and photos.

He said yesterday: "It was a bit of fun and you could make some money in those days."

"I certainly did."

"Americans still turn up by the busload. But I've had over 80 circles over the past 12 years and it's starting to wear a bit thin."

"Nowadays some farmers destroy them as soon as they get

By TIM SPANTON

them. People turn up on your land and think they have the right to roam."

Tim, who was flown to New York earlier this year to appear on a national TV show, added: "There was a farmer who was reported to have taken £30,000 one summer."

"Maybe Signs will bring that kind of thing back."

The film was written and directed by M Night Shyamalan, who also directed the 1999 thriller The Sixth Sense.

Signs, which American critics compared with Steven Spielberg's Close Encounters Of The Third Kind, was shot mainly last year near Shyamalan's home in Pennsylvania.

Fields of corn were planted at different times to give the

They were first seen in the late Seventies and became a craze in the Nineties. But supporters of the aliens-make-them-theory have to explain why there were fewer crop circles last year.

Maybe Martians were aware of foot-and-mouth restrictions?

Many circles were the work of amateur "artists" Doug Bowers and the late Dave Chorley.

They admitted to being inspired down the pub after seeing photos of a strangely disturbed reed bed in Australia.

But it is claimed not all crop circles are man-made, although experts disagree as to the percentage of inexplicable sites.

George Bishop of the Centre For Crop Circle Studies said yesterday: "It's generally reckoned that 80 per cent of crop circles are hoaxes — man-made."

"That leaves 20 per cent which are of unknown origin."

"They could be caused by the paranormal, by aliens or something else unexplained."

"There are other phenomena, like balls of light, whose cause has not been proven."

"Some scientists come up with explanations, but these explanations have not been proven."

"I have mixed feelings about Signs."

"It is one man's interpretation and he may be right or he may be completely wrong."

"People may come out of the cinema saying, 'So it wasn't all down to these two old men after all.'"

Documentary film producer Suzanne Taylor is convinced aliens ARE trying to contact us just as in Signs.

She said: "Another intelligence is making contact — that's all we know for sure."

"We are being visited and signalled. That there is so little recognition of the fact that this is happening is as astonishing as the very existence of these art works that are executed from another dimension."

"Many people who I speak to about crop circles are unaware of the intricate weaving that is present in the designs."

"A couple of guys with boards smashing down crops in the middle of the night? I think not."



G-GROUND FORCE... Gibson and screen son in Signs

impression of a passing season. Makers Disney paid Indian-born Shyamalan a world record £3.3million for the script.

He received a further £8million as director because his name is seen by backers as guaranteeing a box office smash.

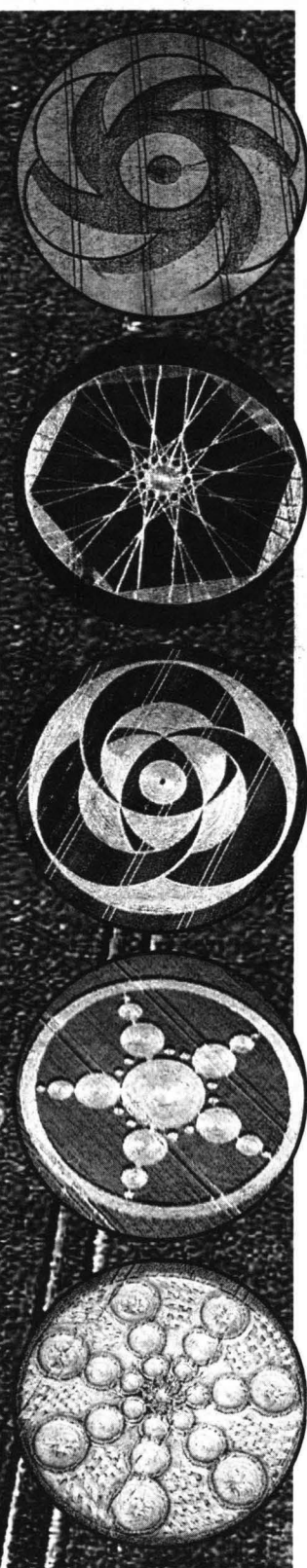
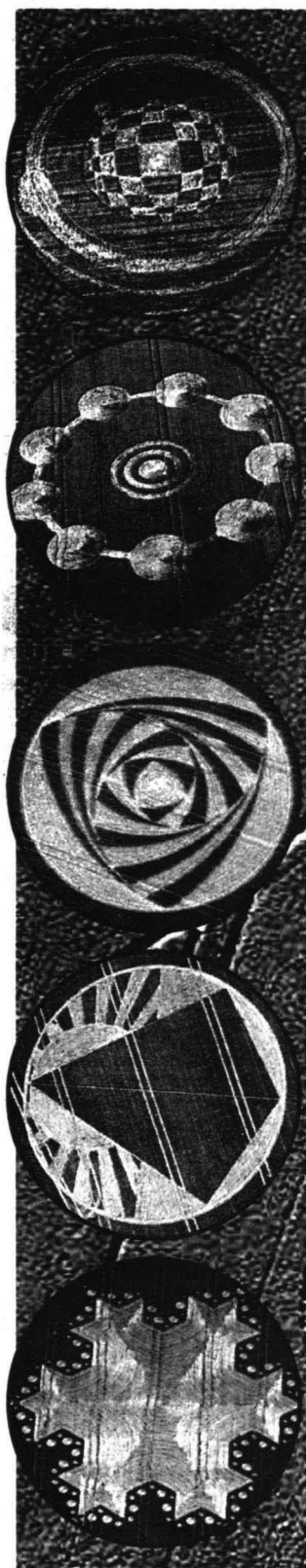
Shyamalan said of crop circles: "Most people think they are bogus but if only one of them is true you have something that is a real mystery."

"It's one of those funny, little quirky oddities in the world."

"I have always liked things that insinuate something supernatural and the whole idea of this is fascinating."

"The premise is, what if one were authentic?"

Up to 400 crop circles appear in the UK every summer — more than anywhere else in the world.



HEMEL HEMPSTEAD HERALD EXPRESS, Hertfordshire, England - Sept. 12, 2002

## UFO sceptics converted by sighting

**Couple see bright light and portholes over Shendish**

A UFO encounter turned a Sunday evening into an unforgettable experience for one disbelieving Kings Langley couple.

For it changed Shirley and John Carlisle's lives forever as they are now firmly convinced unidentified flying objects do exist.

Describing what had happened, Shirley said: "We had just parked the car and were walking to the house when we saw a really, really bright light that attracted our attention."

"It came from a flattish cir-

cular object just above the horizon in the Shendish direction from where we stood."

"As we watched in amazement, there was no movement for a few minutes. We fetched our binoculars and could see a few round portholes."

"It sounds absolutely unbelievable and I could barely believe what I was looking at," added Shirley.

"When my husband looked, he saw exactly the same as me. He has always been very sceptical about sightings but said he was glad we'd both

seen it because otherwise he wouldn't have believed his eyes."

The astonished couple called their daughter, 25-year-old Amy, to take a look and they all watched as the bright lights dimmed a little before the object — about 30ft across — disappeared at an incredible speed, much faster than an ordinary aircraft.

The sighting lasted eight to 10 minutes.

**DID you see the UFO? If you did please call the newsdesk on HH 26231**

# Photographic mystery crops up

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN  
Pembrokeshire Record Office

AT THE Pembrokeshire Record Office, Haverfordwest, a member of the public researching the landscape of the Pen Caer peninsula drew our attention to an intriguing photograph. He had noticed clearly visible circular patterns in one of the fields.

Unfortunately, none of us was able to come up with a definite explanation as to what had caused the circles. The location is just west of Goodwick and the photograph comes from an aerial survey of Pembrokeshire undertaken between 1956 and 1958 for the Central Electricity Generating Board.

What we appeared to be looking at was an image of mysterious crop circles, but here in Pembrokeshire.

Circles in the landscape have many explanations from being created by hoaxes, to eddies of wind, to a grazing animal on a chain, to a circular spraying boom, to UFO landing sites.

In the 1990s, two men admitted to being behind the crop circle phenomenon by creating the circles at night by means of a plank of wood and a rope, and claimed they had been doing this from the 1970s. The intriguing thing in this case is that our photograph was taken in the Fifties. Eddies of wind can cause circles

but this can probably be discounted because the circles are all so regular.

A grazing animal on a chain or a circular spraying boom may produce a similar effect, but strangely none of the other photographs of the area reveals anything remotely similar going on. There are faint circular marks in nearby fields but the circles only appear to be in this one location and nowhere else in the surrounding area. Does this mean that the explanation regarding UFOs is true or are we really just looking at something that can be easily and rationally explained?

When we tried to discover more, the plot suddenly thickened. A search of the Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1908 revealed that the field in which the most prominent circles appear is in fact Parc yr Francwr or Frenchman's Field. It's the only named field on the map and none other than the location where the men of Solva fought the French in 1797. It's the only place where anything resembling an actual battle took place during the Last Invasion. Coincidence, or something a little more strange?

We expect that the Truth Is Out There and would be interested to here from anyone who can logically explain our mystery.



David Llewellyn, of Pembrokeshire Record Office, puzzles over the mysterious crop circles clearly visible in an aerial photograph of the Goodwick area taken in the 1950s. A detail of the circles is inset.

NEWS SHOPPER, Bromley, Kent, England - Sept. 18, 2002

## Did you spot this 1955 UFO?

More than 47 years ago, an unidentified flying object was spotted in the Bexleyheath area by several people. Now a former policeman is doing research on the sightings. LINDA PIPER investigates ...

A FORMER policeman is appealing for people who saw a mysterious UFO way back in 1955 to come forward.

John Hanson, from the West Midlands, is appealing for a group of children who saw the craft land in the King Harold's Way area of Bexleyheath to get in touch with him, as he is researching the incident for a journal.

Mr Hanson believes many of the children may now live in other London boroughs, such as neighbouring Bromley.

Two Bexley men, both now in their 60s, have been reliving their own X-Files experiences of their childhood since seeing an appeal in News Shopper.

Rodney Maynard, from Belvedere, who is now 62, said he was one of the youngsters who saw the UFO.

Mr Maynard was 15 at the time and was working as a labourer on a building site in nearby Streamway. He remembers the incident vividly.

"We were on our lunchbreak when we heard something was happening in King Harold's Way, so we went up there to have a look.

"This thing had landed in the roadway. It took up the whole width

of the road and overlapped onto the pavements. It wasn't on the ground. It had about eight massive suckers.

"The centre was still, but the outer rim was spinning slowly and it had white lights flashing, like a camera flash," he recalled.

"There were about 30 of us staring at it. We could hear it humming. It had what looked like windows but the glass was concave and moulded together so you couldn't see in.

"A couple of us went forward to try and touch it and it began to spin faster. Then it lifted slowly off the ground and hovered above our heads, tilting slightly."

The craft moved slowly until it was over Bedonwell Primary School, where it stayed for about a minute, then shot up into the sky.

Mr Maynard, whose 16-year-old brother also saw the craft, said: "It was black, sleek and streamlined with a surface like polished metal. It was beautiful. It wasn't a prank."

He went on: "I have never forgotten it but I don't talk about it because people would think you were barmy. We used to talk about it among ourselves but our mums kept telling us we hadn't seen anything."

Besides his brother, Mr Maynard

listed several other pals who were also there -- Ron Deadman, Tony Savin, Vic Clarke, Tommy Staggs.

Ken Fairman knows just how he feels. Mr Fairman, from Bexleyheath, says he saw a similar craft with his pal Roy Beadle three years before, in 1952.

They were out walking Ray's dog at an old farmstead in Bexleyheath known as The Warren (now the Warren Road area).

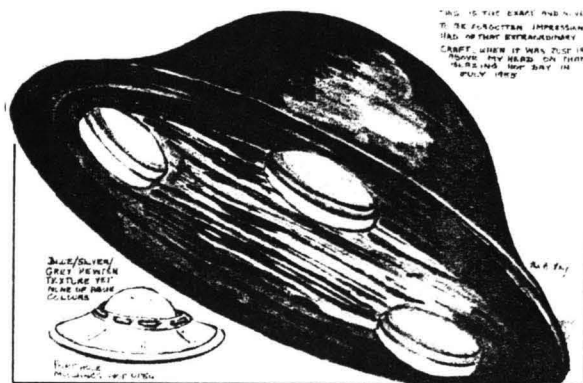
"It was late afternoon. We had just come home from Bexleyheath School and we had Ray's young border collie with us.

"We saw it come down and hover about 18ft above the ground. There was no noise at all. We threw ourselves down on the ground, lying flat, and watched it. The dog which was young and usually very lively, lay down quietly between us.

"We lost all track of time. It was about 20 or 30ft wide, with terrifically bright white lights underneath. It looked like the drawing in your September 4 issue. Then it shot off.

"I don't know how long we watched for, but I got told off for being late home for tea. I told my parents but they thought I was crackers."

● John Hanson is still looking for a group of Bexleyheath children who saw the UFO in 1955. If you were one of them or know anything about the incident, email him at hanson45@btopenworld.com or write to him at PO Box 10467, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B30 1WF. Or call News Shopper on 01689 885723 with your account of events.



● Margaret Fry's sketch, published on September 4, of the craft she saw in Bexleyheath



● I SAW IT: Ken Fairman recalls his unusual sighting at The Warren, with his daughter Anne-Marie Annetts

FALKIRK HERALD, Stirling, Scotland - July 4, 2002

## Village's UFO links proves draws the tourists

SCOTLAND is the "Costa del Sol for aliens" according to a new report -- with Bonnybridge the star attraction.

The village is described as the "epicentre" of UFO activity in Scotland and the unofficial European capital of UFOs -- making it a must-see for Earth-bound visitors as well

as little green men.

Bonnybridge is attracting visitors from as far afield as America, Germany and Japan and at least one tour company is planning a UFO day-trip which includes a stop off there.

UFO enthusiast and author Ron Halliday said Bonnybridge was famous.

"It has been recognised

worldwide as a centre of UFO activity," he claimed. "I took some Americans round myself. You get visitors from Germany, Japan, all over."

Mr Halliday said there were various suggestions as to why Bonnybridge was seemingly awash with UFOs.

"One theory is the area around Bonnybridge is some kind of window into another

dimension," he revealed. "That would explain why some people see a UFO and others don't -- because a UFO is some kind of paranormal phenomenon rather than a nuts and bolts spaceship."

A spokesman for VisitScotland, which commissioned the study, said: "This confirms Scotland is the nearest thing there is, to the Costa

del Sol for aliens."

Bonnybridge councillor Billy Buchanan beamed into homes last week ... speaking about the UFO phenomenon on national TV and also on radio in Iceland.

And he has repeated his call for the village to be twinned with Roswell in New Mexico, the UFO capital of America.

BELPER NEWS, Derbyshire, England - Aug. 28, 2002

## UFO sighting

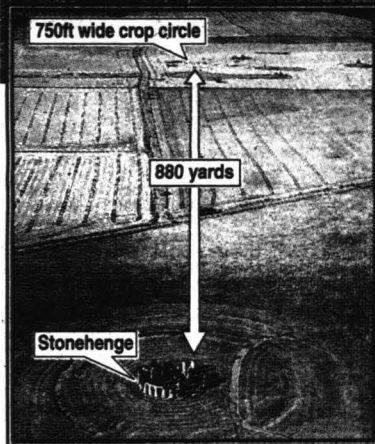
RESIDENTS in Allestree reported an unidentified flying object over the village. Residents said they saw a white light going up and down in the sky.

Police officers attended the scene but could not find any flying objects. The incident occurred at 10pm on August 15.



# Crophenge

750ft shape appears near ancient stone



Above: The intricate crop circle which is said to link three Bronze Age burial grounds. Left: The crop circle and Stonehenge

ONE of the largest crop circles ever discovered has appeared in a wheat field near Stonehenge.

The symmetrical shape measures 750ft in diameter and is said by enthusiasts to have been formed linking three burial grounds dating back to the Bronze Age.

The discovery has been made only a few weeks before a Bruce Willis movie which focuses on the phenomenon, *Crop Circles: A Quest For Truth*, is released in Britain.

'This is very exciting,' said enthusiast Steve Alexander. 'To discover a crop circle near a

## Daily Mail Reporter

historical landmark isn't that unusual but this is Stonehenge we are talking about.

'Nobody really knows why circles appear at places like this but a lot of experts say that it's got something to do with the energy lines running through them.'

'Whatever the reasoning behind it, this is big news and sure to bring even more people to the area.'

'Stonehenge has a mysterious new age appeal about it and when you add that to its historical importance you have

a winning formula for crop circle enthusiasts.'

Mr Alexander, 43, from Gosport, Hampshire, had a ready reply for those who find the many theories - often involving aliens - which surround the creation of the intricate circles to be somewhat far-fetched.

Such cynics suggest the circles are the work of pranksters but Mr Alexander said: 'A lot of people think that crop circles are hand-made but this one is placed with pin-point precision just a matter of inches from the ancient burial grounds.'

'It's far too precise to have been done in the dark overnight

and if there is anyone talented enough to do that then I for one would like to meet them.'

'This is certainly not the work of a couple of drunks coming out of a pub, that's for sure.'

'There is certainly something a bit mysterious about this particular circle.'

The crop circle near the Wiltshire monument is the second largest found.

The biggest was a 1,500ft diameter shape, featuring 400 individual circles, which appeared last year 30 miles away at Milk Hill, Alton Barnes, Wiltshire.

Pictures: STEVE ALEXANDER/M&Y



Rick Jones gets wired

"...half of us are idiots but I would hate to hazard a guess as to which half..."

## We are not alone...

THERE'S nothing like a good old mystery to keep tourists happy! At a recent visit to Dover Castle with some friends from New York, all the old ghost stories were being recycled for the visitors by one of the castle staff. This week's WIRED looks at the unexplained mysteries of the universe and asks the question: How on earth do I use that new microwave oven I bought?

### LOCH NESS MONSTER

[www.nessie.co.uk](http://www.nessie.co.uk)  
Nessie has often been photographed using fuzzy cameras and blurry film stock, and has even been captured on hand-held shake-o-cams. But what lies beneath the mystery of this enigmatic puzzle of the strange Loch of weirdness?

This web site attempts to shed light on the oddness by presenting listings of sightings, a cool photo gallery, stories, and loads more besides.

Some of the 'sonar evidence' is actually quite compelling! But, really, is there a giant dinosaur swimming about the depths of Loch Ness or is it simply a romantic pastime for curious tourists?

### UFOs

[www.ufoworld.co.uk](http://www.ufoworld.co.uk)

This site has everything you ever thought you wanted to know about little grey men with almond eyes and presents some spooky stories to give you the willies before bedtime.

As you wade through the content, you get an eerie feeling that you're

WELL, silly season has started! The Loch Ness Monster is being spotted all over the place, UFOs are buzzing around the skies, and RICK JONES of [DoverWeb.co.uk](http://DoverWeb.co.uk) has been keeping watch on the web...

being watched by odd little beings who can walk through walls and bend time and stuff like that.

### THE YETI

[www.legendofyeti.com](http://www.legendofyeti.com)

The Himalayas contain a legend that is unique in the world. The snowy mountains are home to a strange, white hairy snowman (now that IS scary).

There are no actual photos of the Yeti, but a few giant footprints in the snow and various artefacts that claim to be Yeti-related so if you like your snowmen big, hairy and, well, abominable, then give it a whirl.

### BIGFOOT

[www.netcomuk.co.uk/~rfthomas/big-foot.html](http://www.netcomuk.co.uk/~rfthomas/big-foot.html)

The guy-in-a-gorilla-suit intro picture is chillingly realistic, and the site defies you to believe that this missing link exists.

There's a lot of content here, as

the authors obviously take the subject seriously and attempt to cover as much ground as possible. There's the usual obligatory pics of plaster-cast footprints and more guys-in-gorilla-suits images that you can shake a fancy dress shop at. Hey, what do you mean I'm cynical? I DO believe that guys-in-gorilla-suits exist, I saw one once at a local pub during a stag night!

### PLANETARY MYSTERIES

[www.planetarymysteries.com](http://www.planetarymysteries.com)

Planetary Mysteries is a site aimed at people who believe in a higher order in the universe, be it some form of god, aliens, or The Force (TM). There's bags of good stuff to explore here, including some amazing photos of Mars showing weird sphinx sculptures and pyramids, artificial structures on the moon, UFOs, and all that gubbins.

One thing that struck my mind was how badly half of us have been fooled. Either the non-believers have been conned into believing what the authorities want, or the believers have been tricked into thinking that mythology and folklore are facts. Either way, half of us are idiots, but I'd hate to hazard a guess as to which half!

### Your local web

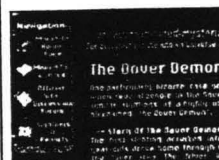
#### LOCAL UFO GROUP

<http://www.homestead.com/kentufowatch/ufomek.html>

Seen any UFOs lately? If so then you'll need to contact these guys

who will record your sighting and attempt to investigate. There's plenty to do on this site, which features a picture gallery of flying saucers. Watch the skies!

## Website of the week



[www.unexplained-mysteries.com](http://www.unexplained-mysteries.com)

At the end of the day we all love weird mysteries in one form or another. Whether it's UFOs, giant apemen, sea creatures, or dogs chasing ghosts across the garden, the unknown is hugely entertaining stuff!

So what could be better than spending a couple of hours clicking through this vast library of unexplained phenomena? This site is very nicely made, pleasant to use, and is choc-a-bloc full of interesting gooky stuff. You'll find all your favourite mysteries here as well as some bizarre gems, such as green rain caused by bees, pet mouse that ate an entire family, and an assortment of similar daftness.

Great stuff. Another great site is [www.unexplained.info](http://www.unexplained.info), also bundled with extraordinary weirdness.

Cause of annual formations remain a mystery

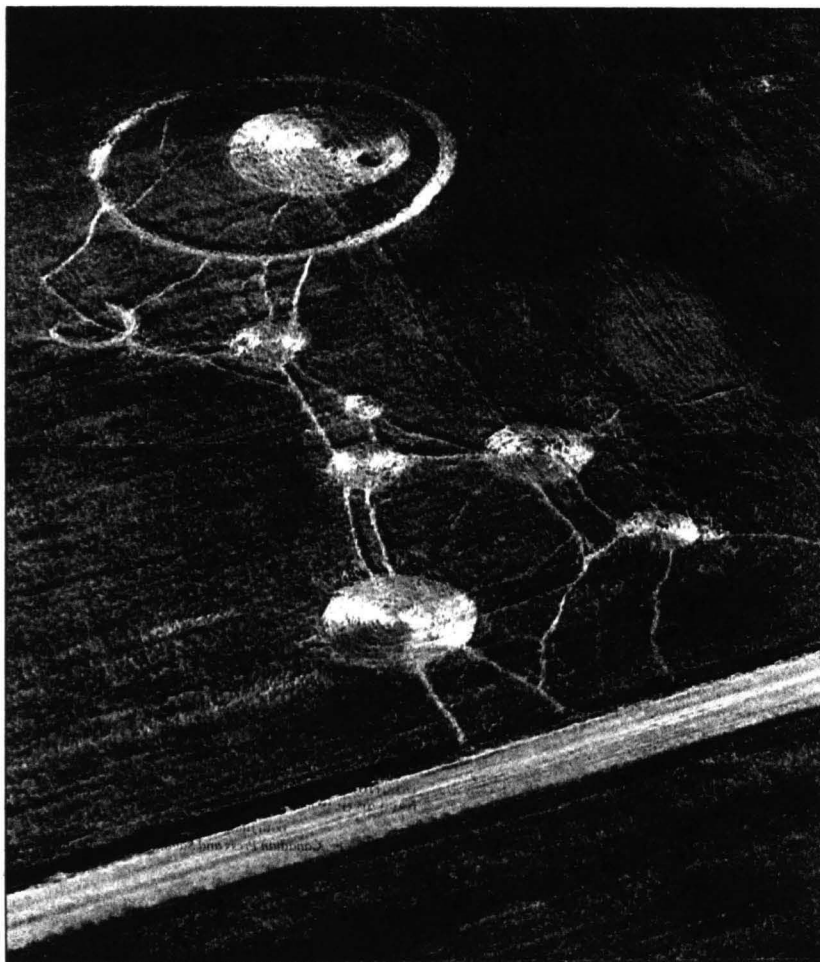


Photo taken from John Erickson's plane shows crop circle in a field near Midale, Sask.

LEAH HENNEL/CALGARY HERALD

## Circles start to crop up on Prairies as wheat matures

By ROBIN SUMMERFIELD

MIDALE, Sask. — Ten steps off a dusty, gravel road in the heart of Saskatchewan farming country, a mystery lies in a field of durum wheat.

Seven circles, a three-pronged fork and an "eye" stare up from the ground.

Stalks of yellowed wheat bent over, but not broken at the nodes, completely combed into shape, the earth below unseen under a thick mat of stalks.

At the edge of the circles, untouched grain stands thigh-high at attention, as nature intended.

Flattened into place by some unseen, other-worldly force or alien invasion?

A meteorological phenomena, a whirlwind of low pressure dancing across the field, dropping and rising in a symmetrical pattern?

Or a team of pranksters, teenagers out for a night of joyriding with wooden boards strapped to their feet, and a creative streak?

"It's the closest thing to impossible that you could find," says John Erickson, a pilot who has been spying the both intricate and simple crop art from the skies over his patch of southern Saskatchewan farmland for four

years.

In 1998, he saw five formations. A year later, it was a bumper crop for the unexplained phenomena — 17 in total.

A drought followed in 2000, when not a single circle was spotted in the area. In 2001, the tally jumped to eight.

This summer, his count stands at one so far, in a field two kilometres south of Midale, and he can claim this formation as his own, so to speak.

On Aug. 17, Erickson, a soft-spoken 55-year-old who wears a blue tracksuit with his name stitched in white thread on the sleeve, was giving a budding pilot a lesson in instrument flying when he spotted the design from his four-seat, single-engine Cessna.

"If the light's shining on them right, they're just like a mirror," says Erickson.

Since his first sighting, Erickson has been hooked and documents every formation with photographs, which he has loaded on to his office computer at the airfield for quick perusal.

He is an enthusiastic believer. Of what — he is the first to admit — he does not know.

"I think it's alien teenagers putting graffiti on Earth. Maybe we should leave a sign 'Does your mother know you're here,'"

deadpans Erickson. "But," he continues in seriousness, "if I did have a choice, that's what I'd like it to be."

With the recent release of the Mel Gibson movie *Signs*, it's clear the public's interest in crop circles has not been satisfied and the mystery remains. In the movie, designs in fields of corn are aerial landing markers for a race of aliens intent on harvesting humans.

Documentaries, newsletters, conventions, and more recently, Web sites, feed the passion for the unknown.

Rag-tag groups of enthusiastic believers across the globe trek out to the middle of nowhere and beyond to delve into the mystery of the circles, stars, spirals, triangles and other patterns printed into fields of wheat, corn, alfalfa, barley, rye and a variety of other crops.

In Saskatchewan, the Midale formation, about 100 metres across, draws the same enthusiastic believers.

A second circle, a trio of rings with a 'handle' at the top, was discovered last month by a farmer in Weyburn, an hour north of Midale.

The community has started to buzz as another year of crop circle harvesting begins.

Calgary Herald

METRO NEWS, Manchester, England - Aug. 16, 2002

## Airport clue to UFO sightings?

by Helen Tither

A POLICEMAN investigating UFO sightings says Manchester Airport could hold some vital clues.

Detective Constable Gary Heseltine of the British Transport Police believes the airport's radar picked up an object which may provide proof of extraterrestrial visitors.

The alleged sighting in 1989 is one of many listed in his new report *Police Officers Who Observe UFOs*, compiled as part of his own personal off-duty investigations.

According to the report, radar controllers picked up a stationary object in the sky in the early hours of one morning in December hovering over Mow Cop in North Staffordshire and asked local police to investigate.

Says DC Heseltine: "When they got there they observed a green and white UFO hanging motionless in the sky in the position indicated by the radar return. At the same time their personal radios went dead."

"A number of checks were made but no aircraft could be found to account for the object. Several members of the public rang in to say they too had seen it but officers never got to the bottom of it."

Another key sighting dates back to 1986 when DC Heseltine says a police officer on foot patrol on Alderly Road in Wilmslow saw a UFO just 100 yards in front of him.

The object, which was described as 30 feet wide and as bulky as a double decker bus, was hovering in mid air giving off a greenish-grey glow and making a high pitched whine.

Now DC Heseltine is appealing for more Greater Manchester police officers to come forward with details of possible UFO sightings.

"Any officer who wants to come forward with a sighting, even if it's an old incident they have never



● Hard to spot: A police officer says Manchester Airport could have vital evidence

told anybody, can speak to me confidentially," he says.

"I have already collected accounts of 42 different UFO sightings by more than 100 officers, and I think there are a hell of a lot more to be found. It is my belief that only one in 10 officers have actually reported unusual things they have seen."

"Police officers are trained observers and very down to earth people who I think should be seen as ex-

cellent witnesses. Until now, the problem has been that they may feel they will be ridiculed or their reports might damage their career aspirations."

An appeal on the internal police website has already resulted in several officers reporting their inspectors to be extraterrestrials.

● For more information on the report visit: [www.prufos.co.uk](http://www.prufos.co.uk)

SEPT. 14, 2002  
EVENING GAZETTE, West Lancashire, England

## Pair spot strange light over homes

RED sky at night may be a shepherd's delight, but it certainly wasn't welcomed by one resident from Mereside who thinks she saw a UFO.

Elsie Brown and her daughter, Linda Rigby, spotted the strange object moving slowly across the sky on Tuesday evening at around 8pm.

She got her binoculars out, but was left no wiser after having a closer look. Then, no sooner than she had seen it, it had gone.

"It was like a big

flame in the sky," said Elsie, 81. "It was moving very slowly. It wasn't the Lights. I wasn't on the bottle. And we both saw it."

"I'm elderly but I'm not round the bend," she added.

### Disappeared

The UFO went over the back of the houses on Annan Crescent in Mereside before it disappeared.

Elsie and her daughter Linda, who is a teaching assistant, now wonder if anyone else saw the strange object?

NOW, Surrey/Delta, B.C., Canada  
Sept. 4, 2002 CR: G. Conway

ISPACE/Once a hotbed for UFO sightings, the local area is quiet this summer

## Strange silence in the skies over Surrey

Once the buzz for UFO-spotters, the Surrey-North Delta-White Rock area has lately not been living up to its reputation as one of Canada's premier haunts.

Only two UFO sightings were recorded here in July, and none so far this

month, according to the National UFO Reporting Centre (NUFORC).

Northern B.C., on the other hand, has been a hotbed for freaky sightings, recording 53 reports in 60 days.

North Delta resident Graham Conway, president of UFO "B.C.", is at a loss to explain the shift.

"We've not had anything out of the ordinary," he said of the Surrey-Delta corridor.

A few years ago, so much strange stuff was reportedly seen in local skies that crews from the U.S. *Sightings* show, as well as Fox Network's *Encounters*, came up from Los Angeles to investigate.

But lately, the local skies have been inordinately quiet. "As far as I'm presently aware, the answer is yes," Conway offered.

Of the two latest local sightings reported by NUFORC, the first came from a 13-year-old Surrey boy who described a "very

mind-boggling" encounter with 15 orbs during the wee hours of July 2, while he and his buddy were camping in his backyard in Guildford.

The other report involved a July 20 incident in which a Surreyite suffering insomnia got up for a smoke shortly before 4

a.m., looked up and saw a dark, irregular-shaped object slowly cruising by at a height too low for conventional aircraft.

"It scared the living s--- out of me," the Surreyite reported.



# TRANSLATIONS

[The following translations are all courtesy of Scott Corrales and the Institute for Hispanic Ufology, with translation copyright being retained. Credit for individual contributors will be given at the end of each article. All articles are from Argentina newspapers and other media sources.]

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June 26, 2002 — *Diario El Oeste*, Carlos Casares, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina — UFO SEEN OVER SMITH — **"Seen Twice on Monday Night"** — A family from Smith, with whom we spoke over the phone and made a request for anonymity, saw a UFO twice over the town of Smith. According to the version of a resident of said community, she was on her way home from running errands around 19:30 hrs. when she saw lights in the sky traveling from NE to W, issuing bright flashes which cast their light downward. When she reached home, she called her husband and her son Guillermo—who was also arriving at the same time—so they could witness the phenomenon. But according to the story of the resident from Smith, this was not the only time that the strange phenomenon was sighted. At 22:00 hours they saw these lights with the same characteristics, aiming multicolored rays down toward the ground, moving in the opposite direction from the earlier sighting. There is even an unconfirmed version of the same phenomenon having been seen in Moctezuma and Bellocq.

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MUTILATED BOVINE FOUND AT HORTENSIA — **"Missing tongue, eye and showing incisions on maxillaries"** — It couldn't be otherwise: in order to be attuned to what is going on in the rest of the country and with all manner of speculations, both scientific and harebrained, a mutilated bovine was found in Casares. The discovery was made on Saturday at the rural farm "Don Angel", in the vicinity of Hortensia by foreman Carlos A. Llantada who made the respective report to the authorities. According to the claim and the police report, as well as the report of the veterinarian who acted as the expert, the animal found was an 18 month female weighing 280 kg., presenting a right lateral incision on both maxillaries, the extraction of its tongue and the right ocular sphere. The expert was unable to determine the cause of death. This allows the case to be placed with other similar mysteries of Bahia Blanca, Pehuajo and other parts of the province which have caused consternation at the national level, leading some to think it could be the handiwork of aliens, of "vernacular mythological creatures" like the Chupacabras, or unknown scientific experiments and even the deeds of a sect involving sacrifices and pagan rites. There is talk of perfect incisions, the absence of tracks surrounding the mutilated animals, and everything imaginable, even associations to a mystery that appears in "X-Files" of the United States. The police classified the offense as "a Violation of Law 1434611 since the codes have no provisions for fantasy, beliefs or much less superstitions, although much of that is fact nowadays, and should be taken into consideration. The fact is that prosecutor Daneiri is involved in the matter, and her job will be to ascertain if any little green man did the deed, or if it is merely the fact that fashion has reached the fields of Caceres, so as not to be left behind. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

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June 28, 2002 — *Diario Uno*, Argentina — Livestock Ministry Found Nothing "Abnormal" — A specialist from the Provincial Management said the animal presents signs common to a carrion bird attack — By JOSE BORDA, *UNO* correspondent, General Alvear — The technical secretary of the Provincial Office of Livestock, Eduardo Maldini, after visiting the La Daiana field in Corral de Lorca and seeing the dead Aberdeen Angus calf found nine days ago, said that he found nothing abnormal about the animal's carcass beyond what normally occurs in an animal death. "I found nothing strange," stressed the official to *UNO*, adding that he saw "things that are common in a dead animal following a carrion bird attack." He explained that this type of bird had eaten the eyes, anus and mouth of another calf approximately one year ago. "It's only logical that there should be no soft tissue left, not even the tongue," he detailed. Regarding the hide, he stated that parts of it were scattered around the animal and there were even remnants of fecal matter from other animals. Maldini said there was no need for samples, since "there is no point to sampling, because if we wished to diagnose an infectious/contagious disease, only a few hours would have had to elapse from the animal's death, which did not occur in this case, since [the death] occurred some days ago." — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

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June 30, 2002 — *La Nueva Provincia*, Bahia Blanca, Argentina — MANY BELIEVE MUTILATIONS PHENOM WILL NEVER BE EXPLAINED — **"The guidelines for unraveling the discovery of mutilated animals"** — Animals with strange incisions keep appearing. However, since there is already an official theory on the subject (the bovines died of natural causes and were later attacked by scavengers), it is unlikely that investigations into the matter will continue. Even as more claims against the version put forth by the government become known, two specialists from Bahia are detailing the guidelines to be followed in shedding light on the subject. Alien researchers, brutal attacks by carnivorous wasps, first world scientists interested in finding ailments in the bovines of the Pampas, macabre cultic rituals and even perverse CIA experiments: all of this was said in the past 25 days in an effort to explain the mutilations in our region, but the fact is that very little has been done to find an explanation that will satisfy most of the population, at least.

Not even the official version—which speaks of animals dying of natural causes and being mutilated by carrion animals—is convincing to ranchers who have experienced the mutilation of their cattle, some of which have seen circular incisions or in 90 degree angles, different to what any known wild animal can make. The fact remains that the official theory—offered by specialists from the Schools of Veterinary Medicine of Rosario, Tandil and La Plata—shall remain standing from now on, even though more animals turn up with wounds as brutal as they are strange, and huge water tanks emptied in a single night and strange lights in the sky continue to occur.

Unless, of course, that an investigation such as the one proposed by Elsa Mensch and Liliana Arro, both in charge of the Chair of Investigation Methodology of the Higher Institute of Communication Sciences of Bahia Blanca, have proposed. These professionals, consulted by *La Nueva Provincia*, mentioned that before anything else, an interdisciplinary team to approach the subject from various angles must be constituted. "It would be ideal to have biologists, anthropologists, geologists, pathologists, veterinarians, and why not, persons knowledgeable in paranormal or folkloric matters, among others," said Mensch. "Furthermore, a specialist in methodology should be present, checking step by step in order to offer no false results," added Arro.

Both stated that an investigation also implies being very careful and critical, abandoning beliefs or personal values in order to work with data that can be scientifically attested. Regarding the hypotheses to be discussed, Arro pointed out that prior to creating new ones, consideration must be given to historic ones: in other words, those which were formulated years ago in other countries in which similar phenomena have occurred. "Many hypotheses were put forth in

the U.S. and Mexico which were neither confirmed nor denied, except for two. It would be necessary to review that research, since a long time has gone by. At the time it was confirmed, for example, that the incisions were not made with materials known at the time (the '70s and '80s). This may have changed today, because technology has progressed considerably and it is perhaps possible now to find out what they were made with." According to her perspective, it is important to reject hypotheses that have already been disproven so as not to confuse the public or the researchers themselves. "As regards new hypotheses, the subject of water disappearances would have to be included. How can we understand the fact that liquid vanished, leaving the tanks completely dry?," she asks.

"Likewise, it is necessary to work with people who understand soils and can look into the possible tracks that may have been left around the animals." To Arro, it is obvious that one must point toward the verifiable with scientific hypotheses and not fantasy. "There exists physical, palpable data surrounding these cases whose existence does not depend on whether the researcher believes in them or not. Such is the case of the soil on which the bovines were found. This data must be analyzed rigorously and under stringent methodological control."

Mensch opined that after establishing goals and the research stages on the cases, a theoretical model must be furthered which would allow obtaining reliable and interesting data regarding the mutilations.

"This is particularly hard in the cases presented, because there are few scientific studies on the matter. In any case, an effort should be made to find reports which could address part of the case, or photos, reports and other things. Interviews with trained persons can also be performed," she added. "The more unknown the phenomenon is, the more people would have to be added to the investigation. No hypothesis can be formulated without taking all of the elements compiled into consideration."

In regard to the fact that many hypotheses have been put forth and none has been satisfactorily confirmed in the minds of the people, Mensch stated that this does not necessarily mean that the cases have to do with supernatural matters. "In fact, the absence of satisfactory explanations can be due to the fact that the correct hypothesis has not been formulated." She also mentioned that the appearance of explanations having little to do with scientific hypotheses may have hindered the investigations. "These are mere efforts by persons, who cast a stone, so to speak, to see what happens, and respond to how people react or believe. The scientific method, when seriously applied, can be used on any discipline, even the study of the UFO phenomenon. But not everyone who calls himself a researcher is actually one."

"Regarding cases like these, many journalists and alleged experts have appeared on TV with theories explained in such a way that many of them are based on belief. Caution is called for. I have not heard that the subject has been approached from a strictly scientific standpoint," she added.

Arro also made reference to the subject and considered that in a more normal social context that can be found in Argentina at this time, it would be necessary to ask who would benefit from the subject of mutilated cows being resolved in one way or another.

"Days ago, I was watching a program called *Memoria* (hosted by Samuel Gelblung on Canal Azul) and every other moment there was a new wild hypothesis on the subject, but no answers were being given. Furthermore, the silent gaps were highly suggestive and the persons doing the talking were not serious specialists but opinion-givers. At one point I wondered if those programs had agreements with the government, since rather than provide information, they supply disinformation."

In closing, she recalled an axiom which, to her understanding, must always be kept in mind: Science does not care what is true, only what can be demonstrated. "There are great truths that cannot be demonstrated," Arro explained. "Such was the case with quantum physics. Einstein realized at the age of 12 that Physics, as he knew it, was wrong. However, he couldn't prove it until he was 46 or 47. Before Einstein, in spite of the fact that there was no one to discover it, the Truth was the same, unique and irreplaceable." — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

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June 26, 2002 — *El Diario*, Parana, Entre Rios, Argentina — TWO NEW MUTILATION CASES IN ENTRE RIOS — These two new cases increase the death toll in Entre Rios to sixteen. The breakdown of what is known so far about the mutilated animals in the province is as follows: one in Lucas Sud Primera (Dept. of Villaguay), two at Aldea Asuncion (Guauguay), one at Costa Grande and another at Las Cuevas (Diamante), one at Pedro Vallejos (La Paz), one at Sola (Rosario del Tala) two in the Third District (Guauguay), one in Hasenkamp, two at Santa Luisa and two in Maria Grande Segunda (Dept. of Parana).

#### Two New Cases in Nogoya

Two new mutilated bovine cases were made known at this time, having occurred in the Dept. of Nogoya. One of the animals was found in Laurencena and the other at Seccion Urquiza. Pablo Seeling, a veterinarian with the Police's Cattle Rustling Brigade, manifested his surprise at the discovery, recalling that the Laurencena case involved "a bull missing part of its testicles and tongue, which had been extracted in a very special way."

"What makes these characteristics special is the fact that one must have a very special scalpel or something to make a cut as clean as the one on that animal. I don't want to think about aliens or anything, but I wonder how one could make such a precise incision. I made an incision with my scalpel right next to the existing one and it was completely different."

The professional noted that in any event, the animal "must have been dead for almost five days, and its flesh looked like what one would see at the butcher shop. That was something that attracted our attention considerably."

Regarding what occurred in Seccion Urquiza, the Police reported that "no explanation can be found for these events."

"Science asks us to keep our feet on the ground, and we must therefore be cautious before any type of appreciation we may make without having precise information," said Eduardo Boroni, Dean of the School of Agronomy and Veterinarian Science of the Universidad Nacional del Litoral (UNL) based in Esperanza, Santa Fe.

This school is providing "technical support" in the area to meet the requirements, although as Boroni observed, there is no relationship with the government of Entre Rios "on an official level. All is being done on an extra-official level [...]"

"But there is no in-depth work that has been performed beyond the mere external appreciation of the samples received. Imagine that these remains are several days old. Under these conditions, there isn't much we can say. We must determine first if it is the same thing that people think they're seeing everywhere. Today, we do not know," he said.

Boroni pointed out that "the logical thing would be to work with much fresher animals. We receive animals that have been dead for over 15 days, and we also received samples that were discarded for that very reason." In any event, he highlighted that the cases that are now causing a sensation among the public throughout the country "are highly related to mysticism."

"In order to have a scientific opinion on the cause of death of these animals, we must first have a conjecture on a



given event, a hypothesis. This is what is not happening. There is no clear and definite hypothesis, and under these conditions, one does not know what is being looked for. The uncertainty arises from the manner in which cases are being presented, and because the majority become known days after they have occurred, making their analysis difficult," he explained.

Cow mutilations have become a source of intrigue. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 27, 2002 — *La Nueva Provincia*, Bahia Blanca, Argentina — A WILD BOAR IS ADDED TO THE LIST OF COWS, HORSES, SHEEP AND A GUANACO — **\*\*Wild animals are also experiencing strange mutilations\*\*** — The case is suggestive, because wild boar are highly distrustful and detect--through their sharp olfactory system--the presence of strangers. On this occasion, an eight month old boar was mutilated. This is the second instance of a wild animal being mutilated since the appearance of a mutilated guanaco in Chubut.

While the mutilation count is now reaching 170 and the cases recorded extend to nine Argentinean provinces, a new ingredient has been added to the phenomenon: the discovery in Rio Colorado of a wild boar carcass showing strange incisions. This is the 6th species hit by the phenomenon, since the mutilated remains of cows, horses, sheep, pigs and even a guanaco (in the province of Chubut) have been found. Cattleman Nestor Soule, owner of a rural property some 55 km from Rio Colorado, in the Department of Pichimahuida, found the boar specimen last Sunday near a gully. The animal, he explained, had geometrically perfect incisions and was missing the anus, tongue and jaw. To the surprise of the rancher and the farmhand escorting him, the animal was still soft in spite of the -14 C temperature marked by the thermometer.

"It's impossible that an animal could remain in this condition after dead and after the cold, but I was surprised not to find any tracks nearby," said Soule, who is aware of the "map" presented by the animals and the varying forms and conditions of the pasture surface. The rancher chose not to file a police report, but did put the boar carcass in his pickup truck to show his neighbor. He later left it in the wilderness.

"Due to its traits, a boar is an animal that is able to smell any living creature a quite a distance, even though [the boar] may be young .... this is why it flees at the slightest sign of any peril," Soule explained. The rancher thus made clear why this case is so fascinating and different to the ones involving breeding animals. "I'm not a researcher or anything similar, and that's why I don't know what to say, but this is strange and I never saw anything like it before."

**\*\*In La Pampa\*\***

The carcass of an Aberdeen Angus bovine missing parts of its body were found last weekend in a field located 2 km from the town of Embajador Martini, province of La Pampa. The professionals who analyzed the case verified that it was missing part of its tongue and mammary glands, and that its left maxillary had been sectioned off. A mysterious situation also occurred to the north of the Pampan town of Rancul at the "Los Caldenes" ranch, where a cow had died of natural causes in the afternoon only to be found with incisions on its jaw and missing its tongue the next day. The province of Entre Rios has also the epicenter of these events: in a field located 2 km from Rt.11, a rancher found a 170 kg heifer and a 500 kg. milk cow some 800 meters from each other, both presenting the notorious incision marks.

**\*\*In Carhue\*\***

Cases involving strange animal deaths are still a subject for discussion in this city given the fact that mutilations continue to appear day after day for unknown reasons. The discoveries made by veterinarian Fernando Lopez are complemented by those of his colleague, Horacio Volpe. Last week, the professional was summoned by the owner of a rural property located 25km from Carhue--no personal information mentioned for privacy reasons--where an 8-9 month calf showing the trademark incisions recorded in the area had been found.

The professional noted that his attention was drawn by the perfect incisions, the flaccidness of the animal --"which seemed recently dead," he noted -- and the absence of blood.

While Volpe preferred not to hazard a theory, he pointed out that an employee of the property told him that his brother, who was cultivating during the night, "saw some intense red lights, as though from a laser, moving very quickly across the countryside."

Veterinarian Omar Fernando Lopez also observed a new case in a rural establishment close to this city: it involved a pregnant cow found in the fields of Juan Carlos Robilotte, showing the same incisions, with the difference that the cow was about to give birth. "There was a circle [on the left flank, above the udder] through which half of the calf's body was protruding, but I couldn't ascertain if there were any lesions, since it was in an advanced state of decomposition."

**\*\*A Racehorse\*\***

A racehorse belonging to the Quarter Horse breed, belonging to stables near the Rio Negran town of Choele Choel, was found dead with strange mutilations. "It was as though it had been hollowed out from within," reported police sources in describing the stud horse, of considerable economic value.

Veterinarian Carlos Montobbio, who certified the case, reported that the horse was missing an eye and part of its tongue, but no incisions on the maxillary had been performed. It had also been castrated and a significant part of its small intestine and rectum had been removed. The expert dismissed the possibility of an attack by "yellow-jacket" wasps: "the surgical incisions presented by the animals cannot be made by insects," said Montobbio.

**\*\*Lights Over Carhue\*\***

Several residents claimed to have seen strange lights allegedly related to the presence of UFOs. Manuel Alesso and Raul Blengio, two rural livestock owners owning property in the Paraje Cilley area, 10 km from Carhue, saw these lights in the same way as did other witnesses from different parts of Buenos Aires province. "Between 7:30 and 8 p.m., I was touring the fields of Arroyo Venado when I saw two lights to the northeast," said Alesso. He added that he stopped his pickup truck and flashed his headlights at the lights. "The light began to shine even brighter and seemed to descend, which is why I went over to where Raul (Blengio) was planting and asked him to look. The lights were white, round and gave off a sort of haze," he noted. He said that behind the light there was another less shiny one.

Raul Blengio added that the lights moved slowly: "The weren't stars ... they were strange moving lights," explained Alesso, while adding that a third witness accompanying them also saw the lights. "I'm certain they have something to do with the cattle mutilations," he added.

Carolina Montenegro, a young Carhuensan about to graduate with a degree in Business Administration, spoke of having a similar experience: "On Friday night, around nine, I was in the countryside and to my surprise I saw a small light, orange in color and smaller than a star, and at the height of said lights there were no other stars to be seen. As I watched, the light changed colors from orange to red, then to green and then back to orange until after 5 minutes it became smaller and vanished." — CREDIT: Proyecto CATENT

June 28, 2002 — *La Verdad*, Buenos Aires, Argentina — EXPERTS SAY MUTES DYING "FROM

**MALNUTRITION" — LA PLATA (DIB)** - No more talk of aliens, goatsuckers or ghosts. A report from the Universidad Nacional del Centro at Tandil contains a scientific explanation regarding strange bovine deaths in the provinces of Buenos Aires, Santa Fe, La Pampa and Rio Negro. The document states that the animals died due to a lack of food and their soft tissue was consumed by rodents and other carrion animals post mortem. The School of Veterinary Medicine of Universidad del Centro studied 13 cases involving dead and mutilated bovines in recent days. Four of these animals were found lying in fields less than 48 hours after dying. The results of tests on this group of bovines shed greater light: within the animals' remains and around their carcasses, researchers discovered fecal matter from rodents and other animals. The mutilation cuts and wounds had clear rodent tooth marks--the report explains that the cauterizing effect that caused so many theories over the days is caused as the dead animals' flesh is exposed over time. The study promotes the belief that the animals died from their own weakness; analyses indicated that the animals were malnourished and showed Magnesium deficiencies, with the presence of parasites and metabolic shortcomings. The poor nutrition from the harsh winter pastures, and the climactic severity of recent days, would have brought about their deaths. Experts also account for the proliferation of rodents: they claim that the large amounts of mice are a result of new agricultural production methods, such as direct cultivation, for example.

This method keeps chaff on the field's surface and provides an ideal habitat for these animals. The report, which has already been forwarded to the government of Buenos Aires, the national government and SENASA--which requested the study--bears the signature of the dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of UniCen, Alejandro Soraci, but was performed by an investigative team from said Faculty. Researchers also found blood and other liquids near the dead animal, and were further able to trap rodents which are being analyzed. The dead animals came from fields near General Dorrego, Tres Arroyos and Tandil. As a refutation of the rural legends which arose due to the multiplication of animal deaths throughout the territory, the University's document dismissed the presence of radiation near the mutilated carcasses, and also explained the absence of tracks in early cases since the carcasses were found many days after their deaths occurred. Over a hundred animals were found mutilated within two months in pasture fields of Buenos Aires, Rio Negro, La Pampa and Santa Fe. The similarity in the incisions, coupled to the lack of blood and tracks, gave rise to irrational conjectures, such as attributing the mutilations to extraterrestrial practices. Soon after the dead animal phenomenon was unleashed, there was a confrontation between the scientific and popular beliefs, with a slight preference for the latter, at least among rural dwellers. Now, the university assures that there is a rational explanation for the cases. (DIB). — CREDIT: Alicia Rossi

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June 30, 2002 — **NORTEEdicion Digital** (<http://www.diarionorte.com.ar/index.htm>) **RESIDENTS OF LA CHIQUITA BLAME ANIMAL MUTILATIONS ON "RED MAGIC" — SAENZ PENA** (Agencia) — "This is a matter of 'Mandinga.' No animal can die that way, it didn't scream, something weird is going on," said Maria Eusebia, referring to the strange case involving a mutilated horse missing an eye, its tongue and its anus. It was found by residents of La Chiquita, located some 8 km east of Presidencia Roque Suarez, on National Route 16. Stories received yesterday regarding this event made evident the consternation felt by local residents, who point out that these events "are the work of practitioners of red magic." On the night of the alleged animal mutilation, "the dogs slept like bears and didn't bark, despite the fact that they slept right next to the horse," added Maria Eusebia. Daniel Acufia, who happened to pass that location on his way to work in the early morning hours, claims having seen red lights over some trees on many occasions, "like an evil light, which I was told are those who practiced magic." The event, as was indicated yesterday, occurred over a month ago, adding to the mysterious mutilation of more than 60 animals found in the provinces of La Pampa, Rio Negro and Buenos Aires, but the case was only made known on Friday, after the horse had been buried. "They took out its eye completely, but there was no bleeding. They also took out its tongue and anus, but there was no blood on the ground, nothing at all," said Emilia Lopez, another resident of the ranch in which Agustina Torres, the horse's owner, also lives. Torres "in order not to suffer, since she misses [the horse] so much, went off to Quitilipi," said locals. In the property where the mutilation took place, located some 8 km of Saenz Pena, almost on the tracks of the Belgrano Railroad, there are several neighboring ranch dwellings, in which the horse--named Dominga by the local children--"was like a pet." "He was tame, good, young and had just grown out of colthood," said Adriana, a young girl saddened by the horse's fate. "But dona Agustina Torres became ill, because that was the horse with which would pull her cart to sell firewood and coal in town. She won't be able to feed herself now," she adds. One of the woman's children, Diego Torres, is still amazed: "It's not normal. We buried him because here in the countryside we know nothing about the Chupacabras that the TV talks about. But the incisions were perfect--there was no blood, and if [the perpetrators] were human, the horse should have whinnied a little, because it's not going to let its tongue be cut out. It's also weird that the dogs didn't bark, either." The animal's owners and neighbors cannot find an explanation to the event "because we have seen other animals die of old age or disease, but never like this, without screaming or bleeding." For this reason, some women did not hesitate to assign the event to "practitioners of red magic," in their own words. — CREDIT: Pablo Omastott, CEUFO

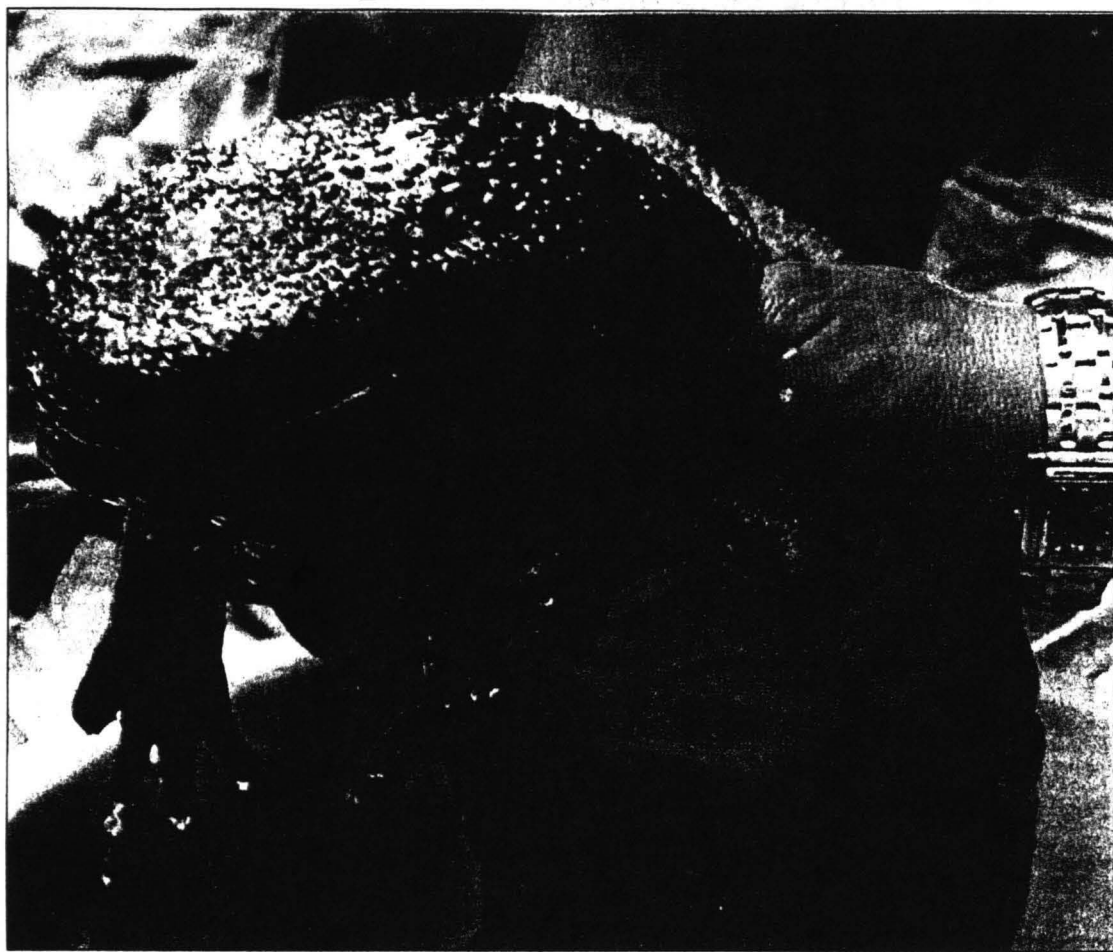
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July 1, 2002 — **EFE News Service**, Buenos Aires, Argentina — Final report made known today — **AUTHORITIES EXPLAIN ARGENTINEAN CATTLE DEATHS** — [[www.terra.cl](http://www.terra.cl)] — Small carnivorous mouse known as "red muzzle" (*hociudo rojizo*) was responsible for mysterious mutilations — (EFE) **BUENOS AIRES**, July 1 — Argentinean health authorities concluded that a small carnivorous mouse known as "red muzzle" (*hociudo rojizo*, in Spanish) was responsible for the mysterious mutilations found in recent months in over a hundred cow carcasses in different rural sectors of the country. The lifeless bovine bodies, which were largely found without anuses and missing parts of the mouth and genitals, and around which no tracks or traces could be found, gave rise to a wide array of speculations ranging from Satanic rites and UFOs to little green men.

Bernardo Cane, president of the National Health and Agroalimentary Quality Service (SENASA), brought the mystery to a close today and pointed out that the party responsible for the mutilations is a mouse that dwells in rural areas and whose nutritional habits have changed due to the scarcity of worms and insects it normally feeds on, turning into a scavenger. This was the conclusion reached by scientists from the Universidad Nacional del Centro, whose final report was made known today by Bernardo Cane.

"We were able to establish that the cows died of natural causes as customarily occurs this time of year," explained Cane, adding that "their carcasses were subsequently mutilated by various predators." — CREDIT: Rodrigo Cuadra, TOC





LOS ANGELES TIMES

This one-metre-long giant salamander was found near the Kamo River in Kyoto, Japan. One theory is that the massive salamanders spotted recently in Pitt Lake, near Vancouver, are actually a species of Asian salamander released into B.C. waterways.

After spotting a large, black 'something' swimming in Pitt Lake, Barrie Alder is convinced the area is home to a new species of 1.5-metre-long amphibians

## One man's search for king-size salamanders

BY MARK HUME  
in Vancouver

A large, black "something" that was reported swimming in a lake near Vancouver has revived a hunt for a new species of giant salamander that has long been dismissed as myth.

"There is definitely something out there," says Barrie Alder, an outdoors writer and broadcaster who for more than 20 years has been collecting anecdotal information about huge salamanders more than a metre long. At that length, they would be more than three times the size of the Pacific giant salamander — a rare, seldom encountered amphibian that can grow up to 42 centimetres.

"They are much larger than the Pacific giant salamander. They are huge," Mr. Alder said.

"It's still in the league of the Sasquatch as far as I'm concerned. But there are more and more sightings ... when you put it all together, it tends to make you think they exist."

"I think there is enough sighting evidence now to think these creatures in-

habit our deep, cold lakes."

Mr. Alder has believed in what he calls "giant black salamanders" since 1978, when he interviewed Warren Scott, a prospector who had been exploring in the rugged wilderness northwest of Pitt Lake, which cuts through the Coast Mountains, just outside Vancouver in the Fraser Valley.

Mr. Alder said Mr. Scott told stories of encountering huge salamanders at night and watching in a spotlight beam as they hunted and killed mice on the forest floor.

But when Mr. Alder repeated those stories and began lobbying for a research expedition to find "the dragons of the forest," he was laughed at. Mr. Scott, meanwhile, had vanished, leaving him with no corroboration.

"I was ridiculed over that," Mr. Alder said. And so he stopped talking about the giant black salamanders but continued collecting stories.

Over the years, he said, he has heard from loggers, commercial fishermen and others who have reported seeing "big lizards" in the Pitt Lake area, on the Fraser River and in nearby Harrison and Cultus Lakes.

The latest report came just last week when Danny Gerak, who runs the Pitt

River Lodge, a sports fishing resort, encountered "something different" swimming on the lake.

"I was coming up the lake, cruising along, 8:30 in the morning, crystal clear, flat, calm," he said. "About 300 yards out I saw something swimming. I said, 'Holy cow, look at this thing, it's a giant snake.'"

But as he drew closer, he realized it was not a snake and was unlike anything he'd ever seen before.

"I've seen otters, mergansers, minks, all kinds of ducks — this wasn't anything like that," he said.

"Its head was raised about eight inches above the surface and it had this black, undulating body. It was swimming like a snake, but with its head held up. It was solid black."

Mr. Gerak's boat drew within about 20 metres and then the creature lowered its head and swam out of sight. It did not surface again.

"I've seen garter snakes swim. It wasn't like that at all. It was about three-and-a-half, to four feet long. Its head was the length and thickness of a beer can. I've been going up and down that lake for 30 years. This was definitely unusual."

Mr. Gerak said others in the Pitt area have since told him they've seen a similar creature in the same area, near the narrows, where Pitt Lake empties into Pitt River. There are extensive mud flats in the area, which Mr. Alder says fits with other sightings of giant black salamanders.

And there is a report of at least one being seen on land.

"There's an old tale of a logger seeing a lizard cross the road in front of his truck," Mr. Gerak said. "It sure makes you wonder. I'm going to be watching for it and I'm going to have to get a camera for on the boat."

John Kirk, president of the British Columbia Cryptozoology Club, said the reports are intriguing and deserve to be investigated.

"I would think, if there are giant salamanders up there, that we should be able to find evidence," he said. "Perhaps egg masses could be located. Either that, or one has to either ... be caught by people or we will have to get a carcass.... I know I'm going to go up there and have a look."

Mr. Alder said he plans to start looking in the area of the Pitt narrows and he expects others will too, once the word is out.

Mr. Kirk, whose organization takes seriously reports of animals that have not yet been identified by science — which includes things such as the Sasquatch and the Ogopogo — said a photograph would help but would not be conclusive, because digital manipulation is so easy.

He said there have been several reports of giant black salamanders over the years, and he thinks the latest from Pitt Lake sounds credible. But that fails to prove anything.

"They did see something in the water. The big question is — what is it?" he said.

John Richardson, who works

in the Department of Forest Sciences at the University of B.C., and is researching the demography of Pacific giant salamanders, said the sightings are interesting, but he doubts it indicates an undiscovered species is swimming around out there.

"The probability of it being a new species is very small," he said. "But you hate to say something is impossible."

Mr. Richardson said if there really was a giant black salamander species, it likely would have been captured by now, or at least observed by wildlife biologists who each year spend countless hours in the field doing research.

"If there was something that was living there it would have to have a sustainable population. To be breeding, there would have to be hundreds of them, not just a few, so you'd think there would be some evidence of that."

He said it is unlikely the Pitt Lake mystery is just an oversized Pacific giant salamander, because they have never been observed north of the Fraser River, which is where the Pitt drainage is.

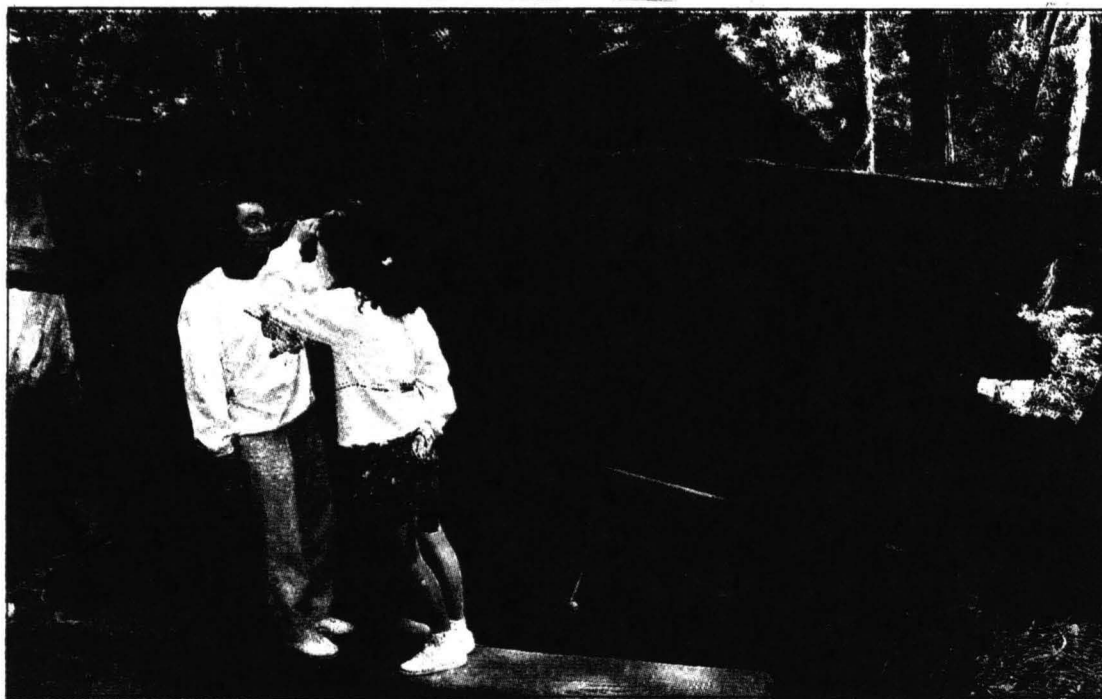
Mr. Richardson said there are huge salamanders, known as Sirens and Hellbenders, that live in the U.S. southeast, and that grow to more than one metre in length. There is also a species of giant Chinese salamander (*Andrias davidianus*) that grows to 1.5 metres.

"It's possible someone had one of those and let it go. That happens from time to time. People do that with pet caymans and alligators. They can live for a short period in our lakes. It's possible something was thrown in there."

Mr. Richardson said there are sightings of all kinds of unexplained creatures, but scientists need more than that to get them excited.

"People still report Ogopogo and Sasquatch. But we are still waiting for the proof."

National Post  
mhume@van.nationalpost.com



The Mystery Spot's perceptual illusions have been baffling visitors for 50 years.

Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

## Mystery Spot's secret: Straight-out fun

By MIKE MASON

SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

Santa Cruz's own Mystery Spot is world famous (it says so on the sign).

The Spot, which opened in 1940, has been part of many national television specials.

I'm a former tour guide at the Spot, so people are always asking me: Is it a hoax?

I have no reason *not* to reveal a hoax, if one existed. The Spot is no hoax.

At the Mystery Spot, you go on a 40-minute tour of the grounds and the tilting house, where you're treated to a series of demonstrations of perceptual illusions, like the ball that appears to roll uphill.

More demonstrations follow in the house, as a person walking uphill loses 12 inches in height, or three people change places on a level surface as they get smaller, then larger.

One guide tells his groups you can change position on a level surface and make your feet larger than your head. We try to include as many people as possible in the demonstrations so they can experience the Spot first hand.

Another myth about the Spot is that it's an optical illusion.

Psychologists tell us it's a perceptual illusion. People are not that hard to trick. The Spot plays with our ability to perceive reality.

Why is the little house on a tilt?

Bruce Prather, the son of the first owner, tells the story of his father building a cabin for birds. When the cabin slid off its foundation during a mud slide, his dad saw the possibilities. The rest is the history of the Mystery Spot.

When guides do the ball-on-the-board demonstration, people swear the ball rolls up the board, not down. That's our

most famous demonstration.

A few years ago, Bruce Prather sold the Spot to his lawyer, Christopher Smith, who has added a wonderful garden full of flowers and many improvements in the physical plant.

One of the managers spends a lot of time caring for the grounds so that those who visit have a lovely place to enjoy while they wait for their tour to start.

The tour guides like me love to talk. One guide has been here for 18 years, and at 87 he still loves to entertain the folks by playing his trombone.

Another guide, Dave Bentarrow, knows everything about anything. He won some of Ben Stein's money on that TV quiz show.

Another guide is a professional magician who drives everyone crazy with his sleight-of-hand magic.

Still, people continue to ask me: If the Mystery Spot was a hoax, would you tell us?

I would not have to. A hoax would have been exposed years ago. Anyone who wants to study the Spot is free to do so. The Spot has nothing to hide.

This roadside attraction is here to stay so your grandkids can be baffled the same way I was in 1947 on my first visit.

The Mystery Spot is an interesting way to spend 40 minutes. For \$5 (or \$3 for kids), you'd be hard pressed to find a better value.

The Mystery Spot is open every day of the year. Winter hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For information, call 423-8897 or go online to [www.mysteryspot.com](http://www.mysteryspot.com).

CHRONICLE, Crossville, TN - June 19, 2002 CR: M. McCormack

## NATION

### Bigfoot continues to elude capture

SAPPHO, WA (AP) — Police followed up on a reported sighting of the legendary and ever-elusive Sasquatch, also called Bigfoot, but came up empty-handed.

"We were unable to locate, identify or capture the Sasquatch," Forks Police Chief Mike Powell said.

The report came from a man living on Burnt Mountain Road in this community, about 30 miles northeast of Forks. The man, whose name was not released, said he spotted the hairy, human-like creature near his house Monday. An animal control officer checked the area but found no signs of the creature. That took the burden of figuring out how to deal with such a discovery off local law-enforcement officers, Powell said.

"I don't know why we would impound him or where we would keep him," he said.

Clallam County Undersheriff Joe Martin said he hears reports of Sasquatch sightings on the North Olympic Peninsula about once every five to 10 years.

"Out west, that's not an uncommon thing," he said. "But it's very few and far between."



## TECHNOLOGY

# Exhaustive fusion research released

By FRANK MUNGER  
Scripps Howard News Service

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. — Rusi Taleyarkhan is 49, suddenly famous and emotionally spent.

"It's been a pressure-cooker for the past one year," said the senior scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory who has attracted worldwide attention this week regarding his research on "bubble fusion."

In January 2001, after four years of study and experimentation, Taleyarkhan started seeing "interesting results" in his research with sono-luminescence — a phenomenon in which sound waves produce bubbles that collapse explosively and release energy in the form of light flashes. The feedback gave him confidence that the tabletop experiment might achieve nuclear fusion — the fusing of deuterium atoms at high temperatures.

"I've been living on adrenaline since then," he said.

On Monday, however, the stress became too much. On the same day that Science magazine unexpectedly lifted an embargo on its March 8 publication and broadly released a paper revealing the preliminary — and controversial — results of his research effort, Taleyarkhan was in bed. The long-standing intensity had made him sick.

"I couldn't get off my back," he said.

When he returned to work Tuesday, a couple of hundred e-mails and a bank full of phone messages awaited him. Colleagues from around the world, including friends in his native India, offered congratulations. Others wanted more details on technique and analysis. Reporters posed the obvious questions, most notably, "Is this 'cold fusion' all over again?"

Taleyarkhan said his favorite message was from a one-time skeptic, a fellow scientist who previously had doubted his research in the strongest terms. The message simply congratulated the researcher on his perseverance.

Having the work published was a huge relief. For months the results had been pored over in the peer-review process, every detail challenged by experts inside ORNL and a dozen others retained by Science magazine — one of the world's premier scientific journals. Tale-

yarkhan and his research team members addressed the questions one by one.

One senior-level administrator in Oak Ridge told Taleyarkhan he had never seen a scientific paper receive such critical attention or so many reviews.

Why? Mostly because of the unfortunate history of tabletop fusion experiments, especially the 1989 fiasco known as "cold fusion."

In that instance, Martin Fleischmann and Stanley Pons of the University of Utah announced prematurely that they had achieved a fusion reaction at room temperature through chemical means and thus set off wild speculation about the possibilities. The celebrated work had not undergone peer review, and when scientists around the globe failed to reproduce their results, the affair turned into one giant embarrassment for the Utah professors and science in general.

Taleyarkhan's research was based on different principles and was decidedly not cold fusion, but there were enough similarities that it would draw the inevitable comparisons. Taleyarkhan knew it would. ORNL management knew it. Science magazine knew it, too.

Everybody knew there'd be plenty of hoopla surrounding the work because once again scientists were claiming to have achieved nuclear fusion in a beaker. Or at least there was evidence that appeared to support such a claim, including the presence of radioactive tritium and the timely release of neutrons from the experimental chamber.

Taleyarkhan said he has performed the bubble experiment more than 100 times, each time taking apart and reassembling the test apparatus.

The experiments rely on what's called "acoustic cavitation," which is the collapse of bubbles formed during the process using sound waves.

According to information from ORNL, cavitation works like this: "When a sound wave propagates through a liquid, the molecules in the liquid are subjected to positive and negative pressures. During the negative pressure phase of the wave, tiny bubbles in the liquid can grow dramatically (up to a factor of 1,000 in volume), since the pressure is below the vapor pressure. When the positive pressure of the sound wave passes, the bubble collapses, and the energy accumulated in the bubble during growth is released."

Taleyarkhan did a couple of things to enhance the research environment. He used acetone, an organic liquid known best to many as nail-polish remover, because it allowed researchers to achieve a high tensile state in the liquid without bubbles

collapsing too quickly — a problem known as premature cavitation. Deuterium also was added, thus allowing scientists to study the possible nuclear reaction of deuterium atoms fusing.

The process then was stimulated with strong pulses of neutrons.

The research team reportedly produced bubbles 1,000 times bigger than any

achieved by prior studies, with resulting clouds of bubbles interacting and grandly multiplying the implosive force as they collapsed.

Taleyarkhan estimates that the collapsing bubbles generated temperatures approaching 18 million degrees Fahrenheit in pockets of the deuterated acetone — enough to allow the fusion process to take place.

EAST OREGONIAN, Pendleton, OR - Aug. 18, 2002



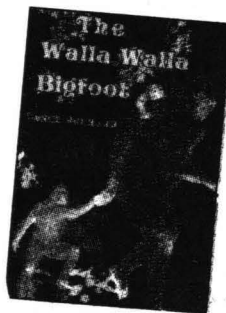
Virgil  
Rupp

Northwest Books

## Orchard gives more reports of bigfoot

Vance Orchard's new book, "The Walla Walla Bigfoot" (Ox Yoke Press, 174 pages, soft cover, \$14.95) will cause a lot of discussion, some of it sure to be heated. Does Bigfoot exist? Of course, say those who've encountered the creature. Nonsense, the unbelievers will reply.

Orchard is a retired and respected Walla Walla newsman. For many years he turned out the best regular column ever to appear in a Northwest newspaper, "Just Rambling."



His work took him all over our part of the country. So of course he encountered bigfoot stories. The accounts center on the Mill Creek Watershed, 176,000 steep acres near Walla Walla, set aside to supply water for Walla Walla. The watershed, unmarked by man, may be home to a Bigfoot family.

This book updates Orchard's 1963 book, "Bigfoot of the Blues."

You can obtain the new book from David Cosby at Earthlight Books in Walla Walla. The Bigfoot evidence includes numerous accounts, plaster casts of footprints, a few hairs — but no photos. The accounts date back to pioneer days and to American Indian legend. If you spend much time in the Blues at all, the book should interest you. Maybe you will be next to see one of the towering, hairy figures moving quickly through the brush.

Nitpickers will say the book would have benefited from a thorough proofreading and perhaps a little editing. All in all, however, it's fascinating.

COUNTRY LEDGER PRESS, Balsam Lake, WI - July 25, 2002 CR: R. Heiden

## Strange sighting scares woman into hotel

By Greg Marsten

Loretta Potter is dead serious. So serious, she has spent the last four nights in a Turtle Lake hotel.

She swears there is a "Bigfoot" type creature near her home, just two miles outside Polk County in the Town of Maple Plain, north of Highway 48.

Potter described her encounter with vivid, and sometimes frightening detail.

"It was the smell," Potter said. "It was an acrid, sort of a putrid smell. The kind of smell that burns the nose."

Potter, and her son, Peter Cupp, 18, were the lone witnesses in the strange sighting last Thursday, in the early morning hours, between 1 and 2 a.m.

Bigfoot - or "Sasquatch" - sightings are more common in the Pacific Northwest, but the Wisconsin northwoods have had their share of encounters in the past, and several Native Americans have talked among themselves about the "legend," but few have come forward to relay their experience, for fear of ridicule.

Potter and Cupp now believe the stories.

"All the neighbors know now," Cupp said about their experience, while pointing to the scattering of a half-dozen homes in view of their hilly Sand Lake vicinity.

Cupp claims to have been within 20 feet of the "creature," almost running into it, and confirmed the awful smell.

"It was rotten, like something dead," Cupp described, later comparing to a "burning" smell.

Potter had heard the stories and tales of the Bigfoot for years, and there is precedent for other sightings in the Sand Lake region, going back as far as July 1976. Potter had never seen the

creature before, but she claims to have heard it in the past.

"It's been out there for many years, but it's never ventured so close to the houses before," she said. "I'm just worried about the kids."

Cupp, a security officer, was the first to spot the creature on Thursday. He described in detail his terror and surprise.

He describes going out to his car that morning, which was parked on the southwest end of their relatively new rambler home on the Reservation.

"I saw something from the corner of my eye," Cupp stated. "I knew right off what I'd seen...it freaked the heck out of me."

Cupp described something very large and dark. He ran inside when he saw and heard the creature stand up from between three evergreens next to the driveway.

Cupp grabbed a flashlight, and went back outside to confirm or deny his suspicions.

"I think it was more scared of me than I was of him," Cupp said with a light laugh. "I was shaking, though. It shocked me."

Potter mentioned the flurry of broken branches, some very large, that made her so afraid.

"It would take something pretty big to break those branches," Potter said. "Right away, you'd think it was kids. But the smell, and how would it break all those branches?"

Potter claimed to have heard the creature "howling" two nights before, and has also heard the legends from over the years, but the "close encounter" was too close for her this time.

She has stayed in a motel ever since.

"I can't even return there, can't

sleep there, that's for sure," Potter said.

Cupp, six feet tall and large framed, said the creature was much larger than him. He was not sure what drew the creature to the home, but mentions his brother's loud stereo was playing shortly before the encounter.

"We probably shouldn't have been playing it so loud," Cupp admitted. "But there was no one else around, and no one in the area was awake...I don't know, maybe that's why it showed up."

Cupp returned to the car with a flashlight to retrieve his cellular phone and called Barron County authorities a short time later. A deputy and St. Croix Tribal Police Officer Marvin Halverson both made separate visits to the Sand Lake property.

"We took some pictures of the tracks, but they were pretty well driven over," Halverson confirmed. He refused to comment any further on their merit or source, waiting to confer with the Tribal Police Department's animal control officer.

"We want to make sure our ducks are all in a row first," Halverson said.

Cupp tried to preserve those tracks, but the driveway area where the supposed creature ran was later washed with heavy rains on Sunday, destroying what remaining evidence might have existed.

Cupp described the tracks as large, "with human toes."

"They (authorities) tried to say it was a bear, but these were different," Cupp said. "Besides, we haven't seen a bear here in over five years, with all the dogs around."

Cupp noticed that several local dogs had been barking loud that evening, in an area to the southeast of their home, where new homes are being built.

Potter feels that new construction, combined with the

recent heat wave, may have brought the legendary creature to their home and onto her deck that evening.

"I don't know what to make of it," Potter said. "But it's real...I don't know how to remedy this."

Cupp has been staying at the home, but he's been a bit more careful and cautious since last week. And he is a little hesitant when someone knocks on the door.

"I feel like I'm being watched when I come to the car," Cupp stated while he walked across the yard in the high grass, looking for more evidence of footprints, or anything to prove what he saw last week.

Other creature sightings have been made in the Sand Lake/Cumberland area, although only a handful have ever been officially reported. The most recent sighting was noted in an area seven miles to the west of Cumberland, in the proximity of Sand Lake. The area has dense woods, many ponds, and tall grass. There are few paved roads.

Cupp and Potter also separately confirmed another haunting detail of their incident last week.

Two pet rabbits were missing from their yard the next morning. "Whatever was left," Potter said. "I won't tell the kids, though. I just say they're 'gone.'"

Cupp confirmed the two rabbit's demise.

"I was kind of mad...I'd just paid \$30 for 'em," he said with a sigh.

IDAHO STATE JOURNAL, Pocatello, ID - June 23, 2002

## Bigfoot legend still fascinates

I've always been a fan of Bigfoot — even the notion that some Missing Link-type critter is roaming the woods just under the scientific radar sends chills of intrigue up my spine.

The recent announcement that local anatomy professor Jeff Meldrum is helping source a Discovery Channel documentary on the topic piqued my interest, and now I find myself really looking forward to the November broadcast.

While I've never seen a Bigfoot, I lived in Bigfoot country for a couple of years (I realize that's comparable to "playing a doctor on TV," but bear with me, here, will you?).

One night in October 1998, I was manning the city desk at the Times-Standard in Eureka, Calif., when a story from the Redding Record-Searchlight came across the wire:

**HAYFORK, Calif.** — A 9-foot-tall, yellow-eyed beast making bloodcurdling screams turned a group of campers as shaky as the marshmallows they were roasting when they decided the creature must be

the legendary Bigfoot.

Tim Ford, 22, told California Department of Fish and Game officials Thursday that he's convinced he saw the elusive man-beast, who he claims left tracks six inches wide and 20 inches long in remote Hayfork, about 200 miles north of San Francisco...

Whoa, I thought. That's a big foot.

We'd lived in Northern California for about a year at the time of Tim Ford's encounter, and when I read the text of the article aloud in the newsroom, I got the usual replies from skeptical journalist-types:

"Sounds like Tim's been smoking some prime Humboldt County sensamilla."

"Roasting marshmallows? Yeah, right."

"Bigfoot through beer goggles. Probably just a bear."

I read further from the wire story — Tim swore that he and his buddies weren't drunk or on drugs. In fact, Tim's camping partner, James Harmon of Reno, Nev., was coherent enough to give a description.

"You could see his arms hanging way past his knees," he told a reporter from the Record-Searchlight. "It was scary."

Sounded pretty darned scary to me.

But then, I was a newcomer to the area. These folks, a lot of

them North Coast natives, had been putting up with rumors of the giant creature for years. Why bother with rumors of a giant as-yet-undiscovered mammal when stories of real substance existed.

After all, we lived smack dab in the heart of California's natural disaster region — frequent earthquakes jolted the area, an annual mudslide or two blocked U.S. 101, making a five-hour drive south to San Francisco a 10-hour drive through the rugged Coast Range, and then there was the rain. Steady, unrelenting winter rain. These things were real. Bigfoot was just another tourist attraction, right up there with the drive-through redwoods and the rocky coast.

We moved to Eureka in December 1997. Shortly after Christmas, we took the obligatory drive into the mountains to the little community of Willow Creek — the site of the official Bigfoot Museum and home to a redwood sculpture of the legendary beast. Bigfoot is Willow Creek's claim to fame — the famous Patterson film shot in the late 1960s was taken near there (you know, the oft-broadcast film of the large beast walking through a rocky creek bed — I heard later that video enhancers actually identified a zipper on the animal's collar, but I don't know if that's been confirmed or not).

We goofed around Willow Creek for a time, chatting with some of the locals — one of whom swears she saw Bigfoot walk through her back yard with a 6-point buck slung over his shoulder. She also worked at a little Bigfoot tourist trap, so I im-

mediately questioned her motives for sharing the story.

"I swear it's true," she said. "You know what you need? You need a Bigfoot keychain. How about a Sasquatch snow globe?"

Yeah, she was probably yanking our chain.

But I remained fascinated by the tales of the immense beast anyway. It's more fulfilling to hold out hope than to completely dismiss the legend as, well, just a legend. Like I said, I've never seen one and if Tim Ford's encounter is indicative of the experience, I suppose I could live a long and happy life never seeing Bigfoot. But I'd like to think Bigfoot is a possibility.

Meanwhile, it's nice to know that the legend is being given some credible attention. Meldrum works at an accredited university, for crying out loud, and has always been pretty good about declaring his research purely scientific. Imagine if it's true. Imagine how cool it would be if the legend of Bigfoot was confirmed by science.

Then maybe my snow globe will really be worth something.

Chris Hunt is the Journal's city editor. He can be reached by phone at 239-3137 or by e-mail at [chunt@journalnet.com](mailto:chunt@journalnet.com).

CAPITAL JOURNAL, Topeka, KS

Sept. 22, 2002 CR: A. Yoho

## Bigfoot believers attend convention on creature

**JEANNETTE, Pa.** — Big believers in Bigfoot ignored a history of hoaxes and misidentifications and gathered Saturday to exchange stories and peruse books and items on the creature.

About 120 people attended the fourth annual East Coast Bigfoot Conference and Expo in this town outside Pittsburgh. Sale items included plaster casts of footprints — some with five toes, some with three.

"There's just too much evidence collected, too many sightings, too many reports for the creature not to exist," said Eric Altman, director of the Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society.

Over the past three years, the society has investigated more than 50 Bigfoot reports in Pennsylvania. Though the Northwest is best identified with Bigfoot, or Sasquatch, Altman said Pennsylvania ranks fourth among states with more than 500 sightings dating to the 1800s.



CHRIS HUNT  
COLUMN