

UFO

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Opinion Still Split 50 Years After Monster Put Flatwoods on Map

September 12, 2002, marks the 50th anniversary of the appearance of the Flatwoods Monster. There were two main camps — believers and skeptics — of opinion that quickly formed as reports of the sighting of the Monster at Flatwoods and others around Braxton County quickly circulated around the area that smoky weekend.

Between believers and non believers was a minor third camp — “I don’t know what to believe.”

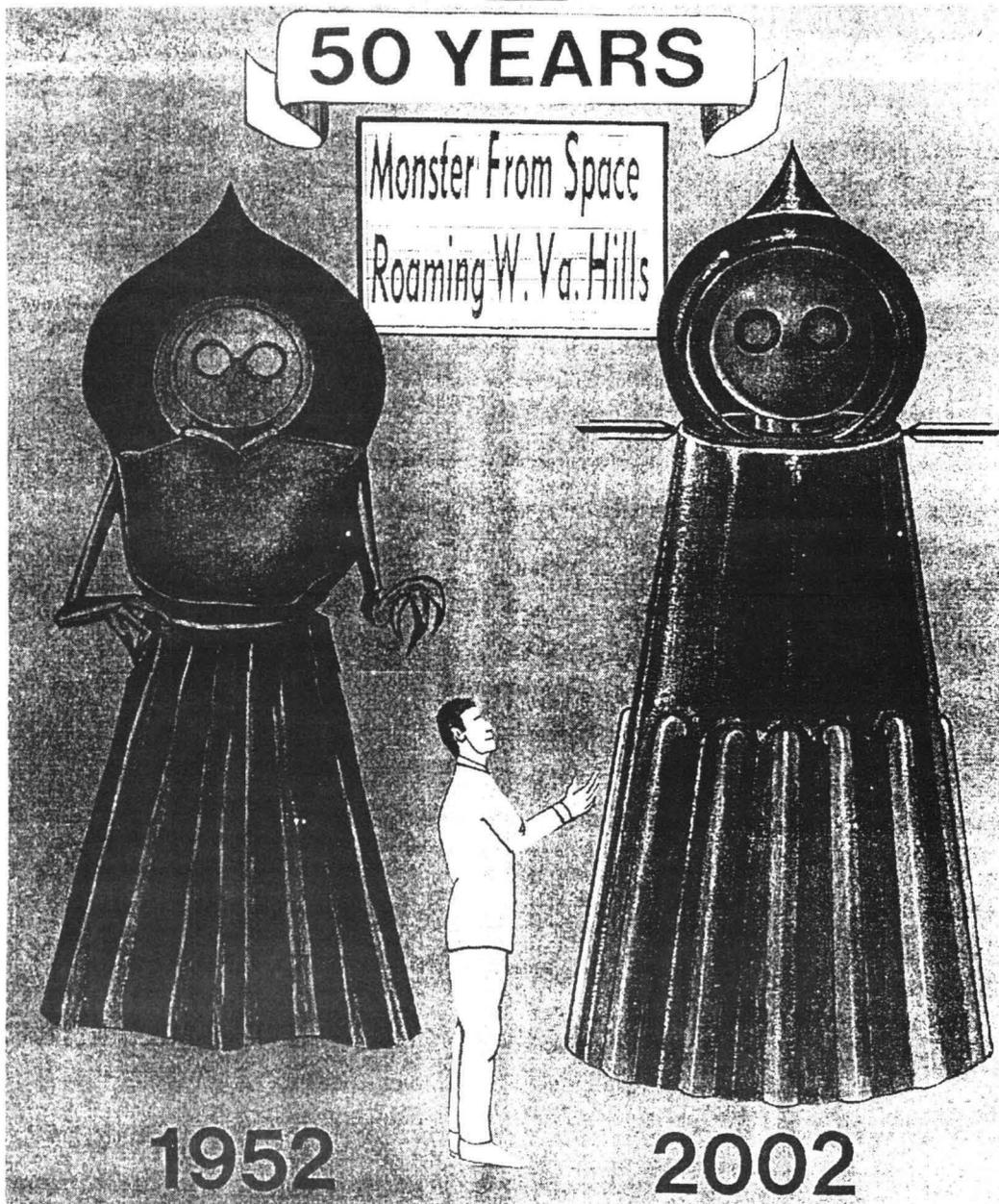
Little has changed in the half century since a group of my friends had a sand lot football game on the Flatwoods Gradschool playground interrupted when a fiery object flashed across the sky and appeared to land on the hill above the school.

Like curious youngsters, they had to investigate even if twilight was fading to night. They raced past the depot, crossed the tracks and headed up the hill where the object appeared to have landed. The path took the by the home of Eddie and Freddie May, two of the boys in the group.

They decided to stop for a flashlight. After excitedly relating their mission to their mother as they grabbed the flashlight Mrs. Kathleen May decided she had better accompany them.

The rest has been told and retold in newspapers, magazines and books and even a new book, 50 years later, is now awaiting publication. This one is by Frank Feschino, Jr., who has spent a decade researching previously classified data and early reports and interviewing those who witnessed the Monster that made Flatwoods famous or perhaps infamous, depending which camp you follow.

Through his interviews and study of descriptions that were written by the witnesses shortly after the sighting, illustrations of the Monster have taken a new, high tech look.



MONSTER INTERPRETATION CHANGES. Interpretation of the description of the Flatwoods Monster has changed since the original drawing by a New York artist in 1952 and an illustration by researcher and author Frank Feschino who makes his living

The original drawing by a New York artist 50 years ago reflect ideas consistent with the early 1950s.

There very few television sets in Braxton County in 1952 and the Saturday matinee in Sutton, a rare treat for Flatwoods youngsters, still featured cowboys and indians and cops and robbers.

Changes to the illustration by Feschino are still very minor, though. The main differ-

ences are the arms, where chicken legs and claws have been replaced by antennae like elements and the “skirt” is replaced by a more metallic base structure.

Newcomers to the area and younger folk are mostly skeptical and refer to the Monster as a “legend.” Natives who roamed these hills and who knew the witnesses are more likely to be convinced that “those folks saw

as an illustrator. Feschino, who has spent more than a decade researching the Monster, including exclusive interviews with witnesses did his drawing from the same descriptions, but times and references have changed since that night in 1952.

something that scared the (fill in the blank) out of them.”

Feschino’s book promises to tell the “real story” behind the Flatwoods Monster once it is published.

The following United Press article from Sunday, September 14, 1952, broke the news of the Monster to the rest of the world:

Sutton, W. Va. (UP) - Eye-

witnesses accounts of a tall, glowing monster with a blood-red face skulking in the hills divided Braxton County today into two camps — believers and skeptics.

Several persons said they saw the unearthly being, described as “worse than Frankenstein,” in the hills above Flatwoods, W. Va., Friday night.

State Police and a number of residents hooted at the re-

ports as a product on mass hysteria. Police said the eye-witnesses’ guess as to the monster’s height varied from seven to 17 feet.

The excitement began when the two young sons of Mrs. Kathryn May, a Flatwood beautician, said they saw a “flying saucer” land on C.B. Fisher’s farm near here.

Mrs. May, National Guardsman Gene Lemon and five boys climbed a hill on the Fisher farm to look for the “saucer.”

Mrs. May said a “fire-breathing monster, 10 feet tall with a bright green body and a blood red face,” bounced and floated toward them.

“It looked worse than Frankenstein,” she said. “It couldn’t have been human.”

Lemon, 17, said he thought he saw a ‘possum or ‘coon until he put his flashlight on the “thing.” It was then that he saw the monster with the blushing face and green body “that seemed to flow.”

Mrs. May said Lemon stared and then screamed as the monster duckwalked toward them. All of them fled, occasionally looking over their shoulders.

The monster, Mrs. May said, had an overpowering metallic odor that nauseated them. She said they vomited for several hours.

A. Lee Stewart, co-publisher of the Braxton County Democrat, received the first report from Mrs. May. The veteran newspaperman organized an armed posse and went to the scene.

“The odor was still ther,” Stewart said. “It was sort of warm and sickening. And there were two places about six to eight feet in diameter where the brush was trampled down.”

Stewart said he did not know what to think.

“I hate to say I believe it, but I hate to say I don’t believe it,” Stewart said. “Those people were scared — badly scared and I sure smelled something.”

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Flatwoods Celebrates 50th Anniversary of Appearance of Famous Green Monster

By Frank Feschino, Jr.

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The Monster, The People and the Investigation

Five years after alleged Roswell, New Mexico crash story the most terrifying UFO encounter in history occurred

September 12, 1952, the United States government got caught off guard when a damaged UFO penetrated this country's airspace and crash landed in West Virginia.

The infamous "Flatwoods-Braxton County Monster," the occupant of this down UFO, departed its craft and shortly thereafter confronted a group of unsuspecting local townspeople.

The terrified eyewitnesses described this alien entity as a tower twelve-foot-tall monster being of tremendous size.

Overnight Flatwoods was put on the map and thousands of people visited the area. After making nationwide headlines the story was also broadcast via radio and television. This incident gained worldwide attention

and reports kept the story alive but, there was a major drawback.

The American public was working its way into a panic. Only weeks before the world famous Washington, D.C. UFO sightings had occurred and many Americans were still shaken up about Flying Saucer Invasions.

At this point the government could not afford a full blown nationwide panic that was beginning to brew all across the country. The Flatwoods Monster Story had to be defused before it blew up and it was.

The dis-information plan was implemented by the government and the story became deflated. The media coverage of this incident became horrendous and the facts grossly distorted.

The eyewitnesses were ridiculed and made fools of and the embarrassed residents of Flatwoods fell silent to the public.

Most of the people involved in the incident just stopped

talking about the monster and story became a part of West Virginia folklore. Until recently the story of the Flatwoods Monster was still unsolved.

In 1990 I (Frank Feschino, Jr.) became the first investigator to thoroughly research this old mystery. After an intense 10-year investigation into this case, I have uncovered the truth of a massive government UFO cover-up. I will expose official government documents which are part of the cover-up as well as testimonies of the witnesses involved.

Key witnesses I interviewed include the U.S. Army Captain who led the on-site crash investigation, eyewitnesses to the monster landing and to the craft. Also a local news journalist who broke the news to the Associated Press.

Other interviews included are of scientists who assisted me with their expert opinions. After piecing together all of the government documents with the witnesses testimonies and 48 years of uncovered historical data about the incident, I compiled and wrote an indepth book.

My documentation exposes

the incident and the ensuing coverup conducted by the U.S. Government. The evidence contained in my research may very well prove this UFO incident to be the best kept secret in U.S. history.

Recently my submitted manuscript to the U.S. copyright office in Washington, D.C., was finally and officially approved. The government coverup of the Flatwoods Monster incident has now stood for 49 years. It took the government only a few ongoing days to achieve this. It took me 10 years to uncover it.

The residents of Braxton County and the people involved in this incident who talked and worked with me during the past 10 years are silent again. I have become their mouthpiece to tell the world the real story about the monster who landed in Flatwoods. With their trust, faith and blessings, I have been designated as their spokesperson to tell the truth.

The world has the right to know the truth about alien visitation this planet. The Flatwoods Monster incident can now prove it.



TREE DIED. Did the Monster kill this tree on the hillside where the the Monster was sighted? Frank Feschino Jr, author of a forthcoming book about the Monster stands in front of the stump early in his investigation. The stump is gone.

Flatwoods Monster Synopsis

Located in the mountains of West Virginia is a small town named Flatwoods, population 300. This thriving little town in the Allegheny Mountain plateau is the geographical center of the state.

It was September 12, 1952, that Flatwoods became the focus of the world when a 12-foot tall monster was sighted by a group of local townspeople. At sunset a group of boys playing football at the local schoolyard witnessed a blazing, tremendous sized object pass over them flying very low. What appeared to be a flaming meteor just cleared the treetops in the area and landed on the hilltop of a nearby farm.

Overwhelmed with excitement the curious group decided to investigate the area where this object was seen landing on the hill. Some of the

boys shouted, "It's a spaceship!"

Others commented that it was a meteor. Regardless, they were headed to the farm to find out.

What no one realized was that this gigantic object was actually a damaged UFO that was seeking refuge in the mountains of their town. Enroute to the hilltop the group stopped at the home of Mrs. Kathleen May.

Mrs. May, the mother of two of the boys within the group was quickly informed by the excited boys about what they had just witnessed. Mrs. May decided to escort the anxious group on to the farm and investigate the hilltop. A visiting neighbor, 17-year-old national guardsman Eugene Lemon decided to also join the group and offer his assistance.

As dusk turned to darkness the group followed a path leading into the nearby woods. Enroute to the hilltop some of the group noticed a peculiar

pulsating dark object sitting in the distant pasture.

One of the boys recalled hearing an unusual whining sound coming from the area. With the two adults leading the group they moved further into the recesses of the dark woods heading toward their destination.

Suddenly the group encountered a very unusual warm, foglike mist which began to engulf the path area. This unusual mist had the odor of a burnt metallic smell and caused some of the group to become nauseous. The group followed Lemon up the path, leading the way with his flashlight through the mist with Mrs. May walking beside him.

As the group pushed on their destination was now about 100 yards away from there the object was seen to land. As the metallic smell began to get worse, Mrs. May then heard a strange hissing and throbbing noise emanating from the woods to her left.

sheriff and his deputy were not available. They were away investigating reports which were called in earlier of crashed objects thought to be downed planes throughout Braxton County.

What I discovered as a result of my investigation, the Flatwoods Monster incident was not an isolated UFO related

event. This incident was only a segment of a very big picture of what actually occurred that evening.

The Flatwoods UFO landing was but one of several crash landings involving damage UFOs that night. Thousands of witnesses across the northeast United States had actually seen these damaged UFOs

As May and Lemon walked further these strange noises were coming from the area of a large oak tree situated to the left of path. At this point May and Lemon both noticed a pair of glowing eyes, some 12 feet off the ground next to the tree.

These eyes were looking towards them and shining through the mist which now had engulfed the entire area around the huge tree. May turned on her flashlight and Lemon redirected his flashlight and both aimed the beams towards the eyes peering at them.

To the shock of the witnesses what they saw were not the eyes of an animal perched on top of a 12-foot high limb. They were the eyes of a towering, tremendous sized figure which then hovered towards them.

The shocked group, terrified at its sight, frantically turned and ran back to the May house, never looking back.

The hideous figure they witnessed is commonly referred to as the Flatwoods Monster.

blaze across the skies.

After these blazing UFOs were seen the skies over the United States were once again plagued with more UFOs. Witnesses throughout the east had sighted strange looking aerial objects passing through the sky. These UFOs were actually another group that were searching for the damage crafts



INVESTIGATOR AND WITNESS. Frank Feschino Jr., author of a forthcoming book about the Flatwoods Monster poses with witness Kathleen May.

seen earlier.

They were on a search and rescue mission to assist the damaged crafts which were crash landing around the United States. At this point in time the most severely damaged craft was the Flatwoods UFO.

When the United States Government covered up this entire series of events they overlooked too many details.

As this series of UFO events unfolded they occurred so rap-

idly that the United States Air Force and other intelligence organizations were unable to keep track of their own stories.

I was able to pick up on all their mistakes and the holes in this story. For the first time since 1952 the world's most terrifying UFO-alien encounter can be told.

I have exposed the most massive coverup story implemented by our government as witnessed by the American public.

Strange lights in the Gulf Coast sky

AN ABDUCTEE'S STORY

By Billy Watkins
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GAUTIER — Charles Hickson has no proof.

No photograph he can pull from his wallet, no papers certifying his story.

Just his word that 29 years ago this month he and a fishing buddy were abducted by a UFO, examined by a machine resembling a giant eyeball, then released physically unharmed.

He has told his story under hypnosis, told it to Johnny Carson on national TV.

Recently, while sipping coffee in his modest home in Gautier, he told the story to a *Clarion-Ledger* reporter.



Hickson

His account of that night never changes. He has passed numerous lie-detector tests.

What Hickson hasn't talked about publicly, until now, is that he believes whatever — or whoever — was on that craft has kept track of him.

"I think they know where I am at all times," he says. "Too many strange things have happened."

Hickson, a retired shipyard foreman with five children and a no-nonsense demeanor, is 71 and spends most of his time caring for Blanche, his wife of 48 years who suffers from rheumatoid arthritis. He is fighting health problems of his own, including clogged arteries in his neck.

Hickson says he is a God-fearing man who "believes Jesus Christ died for my sins."

Whether people believe his UFO story doesn't seem to be a big deal to him. "If you were in my place right now, I'm not sure I'd believe you or not," he said.

But others saw something that night, too.

Several people later reported strange lights in the Gulf Coast sky just after sunset on Oct. 11, 1973 — about the time Hickson and then 19-year-old Calvin Parker say they were abducted.

Mike Cataldo, a retired Navy chief petty officer now living in Rotonda West, Fla., says he saw "a very strange object on the horizon" late that afternoon while driving on U.S. 90, between Pascagoula and Ocean Springs.

"Puddin' Broadus, a Pascagoula detective back then, told me he saw something streak through the air," says Glenn Ryder, a former captain with the Jackson County Sheriff's department who was the first to interrogate Hickson and Parker. "Puddin's dead now, but he was a fine man. He wouldn't make up something like that."

"A guard at Ingalls (Shipbuilding) saw it. Another guy was in his back yard and said he saw something streak above his house."

"When we studied it, all those reportings were in a straight line. And I'll tell you this: After talking with (Hickson and Parker) that night, I'm convinced they had some kind of experience. I don't



Pat Sullivan/Special to The Clarion-Ledger

Charles Hickson of Gautier holds a drawing that was done for his appearance on *The Dick Cavett Show* in New York. Hickson and then 19-year-

old Calvin Parker say they were abducted and examined by a UFO while fishing on the Gulf Coast in 1973.

know exactly what, but something happened to them. They were both shook up, especially that boy."

Parker, now 48, has avoided the media in recent years.

"This thing really messed Calvin up," Hickson says. "He was so young ... he just couldn't handle it."

In a 1993 interview with *The Commercial Appeal* in Memphis, Parker said he was convinced it was demons, sent directly from Satan, who visited them that night.

Beverly Parker, Calvin's stepmother who lives with his father in Kiln, says they haven't heard from him "in a couple of months." Last she knew, Calvin was work-

ing construction in North Carolina and "doing pretty good."

The UFO incident is "something he won't talk about anymore," she says.

It is late on a Saturday night, and Blanche Hickson has gone to bed. The house is quiet and dark, except for a single lamp softly illuminating the den.

"I don't mind talking about it," Charles Hickson says, settling his 5-foot-8, 172-pound body into an easy chair. "I don't seek folks out to tell it, but it's something I feel like people deserve to know if they ask."

Hickson begins his story: "Calvin was working for me at Walker's Shipyard, and doing a

dadgum good job. Calvin and his brother had sorta grown up with my oldest boy, Eddie. Some evenings after work, we'd go fishing.

"We got off about 4 o'clock that day and came by my house to get the fishing tackle, then we went and got some shrimp for bait. We tried several places and hadn't caught anything. I said, 'Calvin, there's one more place I want to try. If they don't bite there, we'll give it up and go on home.'

"So we went down toward Ingalls and started fishing off a pier. We sat there for a while, and I finally got a bite. I was reeling in and started hearing this hissing sound. Like steam coming out of a pipe.

"I looked around, and it just startled me. Something was hovering two or three feet above the ground, probably no more than 10 or 15 yards from us. There were two blue flashing lights on the top part of the end that was toward us. I couldn't tell if it was round or oblong. I could see a little dome on top, but I couldn't see all the way around the thing so I couldn't tell for sure how big it was.

"I jumped to my feet, looked over at Calvin, and he looked plumb strange. Then a door opened and this brilliant light came out of it. I couldn't figure what in the world was happening. I've known fear. I fought 20 months in hand-to-hand combat

in Korea. The only thing I'm scared of is a snake. I'll run from a snake. But this wasn't normal.

"All of a sudden, these three things began coming out of that door. They looked like they had elephant skin. Wrinkled. Real wrinkled. And triangle shaped ears that had to be some sort of antennas.

"These things were robots. They seemed to come right out of that beam of light. They never touched the ground. They moved

right out there beside me and Calvin. I couldn't move, and neither could he. Two of 'em came around behind me, took me under each arm. When they grabbed me, I seemed to rise to their height. They weren't as tall as me, but they sorta had me in a leaning position.

"One took hold of Calvin, and I saw him go limp. He told me later that he fainted. They took us through that doorway, in the middle of a room, and I couldn't see

Calvin anymore. There was nothing in there ... just a real bright glow. I couldn't move anything but my eyes.

"They let go of me. I still wasn't touching nothing, just kinda floating. All I could think was, 'What are they gonna do with us?' I figured they'd take us off, and we'd never see our families again.

"I didn't see (the robots) for a while. Then an eyeball, about the size of a football, came out of the

wall. It moved right in front of my face. I saw dials and gadgets moving around. It went behind me, then came back over me. Then it disappeared back into the wall.

"I was just about out of my mind. I thought they were gonna kill me. Folks would think we fell off in the river and drowned, and nobody would ever know about this.

"It seemed like a long time, but it couldn't have been more than a few minutes. (The robots) came and

carried me back outside. They didn't throw me down, they eased me down. And when they did, I fell to the ground. My legs were real weak.

"I saw Calvin standing there, staring out at the water. He was in shock. I've seen men in shock, and if you don't do something pretty quick, they'll die. I started going over to where he was, and I saw the

(continued on page 4)



Pat Sullivan/Special to The Clarion-Ledger

Charles Hickson, a lifelong Mississippian, has claimed for 29 years that robots took him and a friend onboard a UFO for a physical examination. Hickson says his eyes were the only thing he could move.

craft leave. The blue lights were on again, I remember that.

"When I got to Calvin, I had to slap him a time or two. I finally got him to where he could say something. He said, 'Charlie, what in the world was that?' I said 'Son, I don't know. But they didn't kill us.'"

As they drove away in Parker's Plymouth, Hickson and Parker agreed not to tell anyone about the incident.

"I knew people would call us crazy and everything else," Hickson says. "But I thought about it some more and said, 'What if it's a threat to our country?' That's when I decided to call Keesler (Air Force Base in Biloxi)."

The person who answered the phone at Keesler said they didn't investigate UFOs and suggested Hickson call the sheriff's department.

That's when Hickson spoke with Glenn Ryder from a convenience store pay phone.

"He said, 'I want to tell you something, but you've got to promise not to laugh,'" recalls Ryder, now 63 and retired. "I was about to get off work, so it kinda aggravated me. I said, 'If you want to tell me something, then tell me.' He asked me again to promise not to laugh, so I promised.

"He said, 'I just got picked up by a UFO.' And, of course, I busted out laughing. He got real upset, so I apologized and told him to go ahead with his story. I could tell he was serious."

Ryder convinced Hickson and Parker to drive to the sheriff's office. He called Jackson County sheriff Fred Diamond, now deceased, to join him for the questioning.

Ryder remembers: "When they walked in, Charlie said, 'I just want to tell you up front, I've had a drink. I had to do something to try and settle my nerves.'"

"The young boy was real fidgety. He was about to crawl the walls."

Hickson and Parker told the officers what had happened. Ryder says it was a struggle to keep a straight face.

Then he and Diamond plotted to find out the truth. "We kept a tape recorder in the top drawer of the desk," Ryder says. "It was a small office, so it would pick up everything said in there. We let them go to the bathroom and decided to turn the recorder on, then leave them alone for a while."

"We did that, and when we listened to the tape later, we expected to hear them saying, 'Boy, we sure

fooled them' or something like that."

But they didn't. Here is the transcript from the hidden recorder.

Parker: "I got to get home and get to bed or get some nerve pills or see the doctor or something. I can't stand it. I'm about to go half crazy."

Hickson: "I tell you, when we're through, I'll get you something to settle you down so you can get some damn sleep."

Parker: "I can't sleep yet like it is. I'm just damn near crazy."

Hickson: "Calvin, when they brought you out — when they brought me out of that thing — (expletive) I like to never in hell got you straightened out."

Parker: "My damn arms, my arms. I remember they just froze up and I couldn't move. Just like I stepped on a damn rattlesnake."

Hickson: "They didn't do me that way."

Parker: "I passed out. I expect I never passed out in my whole life."

Hickson: "I've never seen nothing like that before in my life. You can't make people believe..."

Parker: "I don't want to keep sitting here. I want to see a doctor."

Hickson: "They better wake up and start believing."

Parker: "You see how that damn door come right up?"

Hickson: "I don't know how it opened, son. I don't know."

Parker: "I just laid up, and just like that, those (expletive) come out."

Hickson: "I know. You can't believe it. You can't make people believe it."

Parker: "I paralyzed right then. I couldn't move."

Hickson: "They won't believe it. They gonna believe it one of these days. Might be too late. I knew all along they was people from other worlds up there. I knew all along. I never thought it would happen to me."

Parker: "You know yourself I don't drink."

Hickson: "I know that, son. When I get to the house, I'm gonna get me another drink, make me sleep. Look, what we sitting around for? I got to go tell Blanche... what we waiting for?"

Parker: "I gotta go to the house. I'm getting sick. I gotta get out of here."

Hickson leaves the room, and Parker is left alone.

Parker: "It's hard to believe... Oh, God, it's awful. I know there's a God up there."

Parker begins to pray. His words become inaudible.

Hickson and Diamond agreed to keep the story quiet.

When he got home, Hickson told his wife what had happened and where he had been.

"I was like everybody else... I had a hard time believing it," Blanche Hickson says. "But three or four hours later, I knew something was wrong. I was up all night, wiping sweat off of him. He'd jump straight up in the bed. He was scared to death."

Hickson went to work the next morning. "I had to get my men going," he says. "But as soon as I got back to my office, the phone rang. It was a reporter from Jackson, asking what had happened the night before. I just slung the phone down."

Diamond called minutes later. He said word had leaked out and that his office was flooded with reporters.

"He asked me to come over and talk to them, and I told him I wasn't going no damn where," Hickson says.

Hickson took off work for two weeks, hoping things would die down. They didn't.

Officials at Keesler interviewed him and Parker. Reporters and astronomers were coming to Hickson's house, begging for details.

"It got to the point where I was like, 'They know about it. I might as well tell them what happened.' And I told Calvin that," he says.

Hickson and Parker were all over the national news and made the talk-show circuit: *The Dick Cavett Show*, *The Mike Douglas Show*, *The Tonight Show*.

Something surprised Hickson: "Nobody was laughing at us, at least not to our face. I never took any ridicule. My children at school never took any ridicule. It surprised me."

Hickson became friends with Allen Hynek, an astronomer at Northwestern University and one of the world's leading UFO investigators at the time. Hynek is now deceased.

"He convinced me to undergo hypnosis," Hickson says. "I wasn't sure about it at first, but I did it several times."

His story was basically the same during each session.

"But under deep hypnosis once, I discovered something that still gives me chills," Hickson says. "There were people on that spaceship — living beings in another compartment. They never came in there where we were. And I'm telling you, they looked almost like us."

"Only thing I can figure is that they couldn't live in our atmosphere, so they let the robots come out there and carry us inside."

The Pascagoula incident was not the first — nor the last — reported abduction. The first documented case involved Barney and Betty Hill, who said they were taken aboard an alien craft in 1961 while driving in New Hampshire.

Hickson visited Betty Hill in Boston a few months after his encounter. "Her husband had died, but she wanted to try and find out if it could've been the same craft," he says. "From what she described to me, I told her I didn't think so."

Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, has studied both cases extensively.

"It was the Pascagoula case that played a crucial role in convincing my predecessor (Robert J. Gribble) to set up this center," says Davenport, a graduate of Stanford University with degrees in Russian and biology.

"He said cases like Mr. Hickson's and Mr. Parker's made him realize the need for a centralized place where people could call and report things they had seen."

More than 2,400 sightings have been reported to the center this year — the latest by a TV news photographer in Albany, N.Y., last week.

Davenport realizes many people believe UFOs are about as real as the Tooth Fairy.

He is not one of them. When he was 6, Davenport witnessed a bright red object, the size of a full moon, hovering like a traffic signal in the night sky above a drive-in theater in St. Louis. "People were getting out of their cars and pointing and actually running toward it," he says. "In a matter of seconds, it accelerated and was gone over the horizon."

"My father had seen it with binoculars from the airport tower where he worked. I always thought it was strange he didn't care to talk about it."

Davenport can cite numerous inexplicable cases, including the Phoenix Lights of 1997. "Tens of thousands of people witnessed objects acting in an utterly bizarre fashion over Arizona," he says. "The objects hovered, then flew at supersonic speed through the air space of at least three major airports."

He says five years ago, "prestigious people" with the U.S. government requested a meeting with him in Washington.

"They asked not to be identified," Davenport says, "and they were 32 minutes late to the meeting. But when they got there, they said, 'As a courtesy to you, we'd first like to tell you our position on UFOs. One, we know they're real. Two, they appear to be sophisticated crafts under intelligent control. And, three, we're worried about them.'"

"That confirmed everything I had suspected up to that time. I don't think I'm crazy. I don't think I'm dumb. And I believe the UFO phenomenon is real."

So does John Podesta, President Clinton's former White House chief of staff. Just last week, Podesta said he will be leading a group to gain access to secret governmental records about UFOs.

"It's time to provide scientists with data that will assist in determining the real nature of this phenomenon," he said.

On Mother's Day, May 1974, Hickson was riding back from a family get-together in Jones County with his wife, their youngest son (Curtis), their daughter (Sheila) and the man she was married to at the time.

"It was almost midnight," Hickson says, "and I kept noticing a light back behind us. I nudged Sheila, who was sitting on the front seat beside me, and said, 'Look out

that window and see if that light ain't following us.'

"She looked out the window and just froze. Blanche saw it and started screaming."

Seconds later, a saucershaped craft was hovering 150 feet above, and to the right, of their car.

"I saw it with my own eyes," says Sheila Hynum of Vicksburg, who was 18 at the time. "Mama was so scared, she was screaming."

"It was a terrifying thing to see," Blanche Hickson says. "It affected me bad. Tore me up. We stopped the car and Charles wanted to get out, but I wouldn't let him. We were all grabbing him and holding him."

"It hovered there a while, then just disappeared."

Charles Hickson, whose 1983 book *UFO: Contact at Pascagoula* will be re-issued in November, says that wasn't the first sighting he'd had since the initial encounter.

While squirrel hunting in February 1974, he knelt down beside a tree to eat a sandwich. Through the brush, he says, part of a craft was visible. Suddenly, he heard a voice.

"It was like a radio signal or something inside my head," he says. "They said, 'Tell people we mean you no harm. You have endured. You have been chosen. There is no need for fear. Your world needs help. We will help before it is too late. You are not prepared to understand. We will return again soon.'"

"I picked up my gun and came straight home."

The same voice, with the same message, came to him again a month later in his back yard. Since then, he says, all the fear has left him.

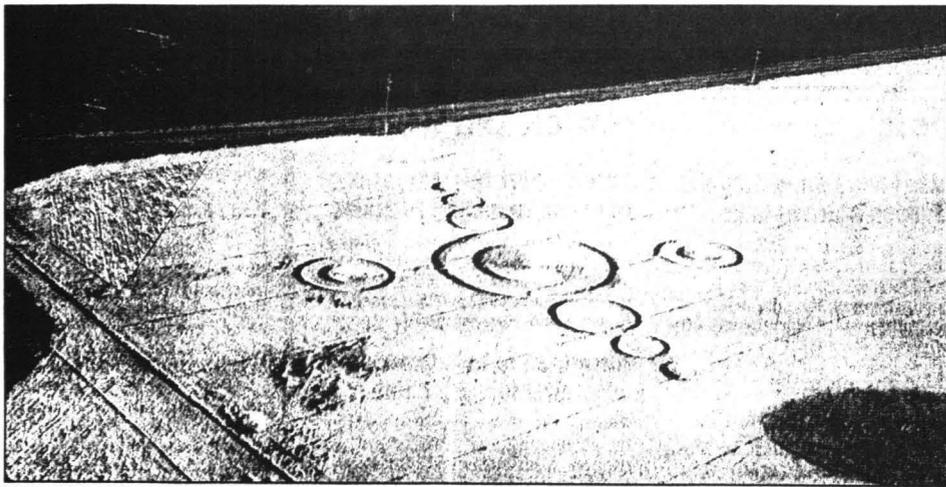
"I want to go to that world — wherever it is they came from," he says. "I don't think they'd carry me if they couldn't bring me back. And if they ever decide to destroy this world, they might save a few of the people. I'd like to think I'd be one of those."

Well past midnight now, Hickson gets up from his chair, leaves the den, and returns with a large brown envelope. He pulls out several X-rays and shows them to the visiting reporter.

"See that little mole-looking thing behind my (right) eye?" he says, holding the image over the lamp. "I think they implanted something in there. I've been to the VA hospital in New Orleans twice. Been to a cancer doctor at Tulane University. Nobody can figure out what it is."

"Me, I think it's maybe how they keep track of me. It doesn't hurt. Doesn't affect my vision. It just showed up when they were taking pictures of the arteries in my neck."

"Strange, ain't it?"



Courtesy Photo
From the air, it's easier to see the 100-yard-wide crop circles left on a field farmed by Bryon and Louis Parker of Teton. The circles are visible from the ground, though, because there's a hill to the east and south of the formation.

Signs of the times in Teton

Crop circles attract the curious and the serious

BRIAN DAVIDSON
Post Register

TETON — This isn't the kind of community where you expect the unexpected.

If it's Sunday, the sure bet is just about everyone in town is in church, getting home from church or getting ready to go to church. If it's Saturday, folks are cutting grain, cutting their lawns or cutting out completely, taking a final weekend vacation before school begins next week. This past Saturday morning, however, the unexpected happened.

Bryon Parker, mayor of Teton, and his brother Louis discovered a series of 12 circles of flattened wheat in a 150-acre field they farm about a mile south of town. They spotted the formation, about 100 yards wide, about 6 a.m.

The formation, commonly called a crop circle, has attracted hordes of locals curious to see the formations, as well as the attention of a Colorado alternative-lifestyle and unexplained-phenomena expert who happened to be visiting with family in St. Anthony when wind of the discovery blew north.

That wind brought Dick and Sharon Marler south from St. Anthony on Monday morning to take a peek at the circles.

"We heard about it like you hear about anything in a small town," said Sharon Marler. "We stopped in at Mutt's," a St. Anthony gas station and social gathering point.

Crop circles started getting worldwide media attention after groups of them were found in



Brian Davidson / Post Register
Brenna Parker, center, and Cassie Parker point out weaved wheat in the center of the largest crop circle to a local TV cameraman.

CROPYCAT

The crop circles south of Teton is not the first instance of the formations in eastern Idaho. In 1998, a formation featuring circles and triangles oriented toward the Teton Mountains appeared in a wheat field off 4000 West in the Hilbard area. That formation was also about 100 yards wide. Farmers were able to harvest the wheat crop in the field without difficulty.

England and Australia. In 2002, the Crop Circle Connector, an England-based group of crop circle enthusiasts, recorded 64 formations, including one in the United States in Naperville, Ill., reported July 26. Most of the sightings — 57 of them — recorded at [\[www.cropcirclecon-\]\(http://www.cropcirclecon-\)](http://www.cropcirclecon-</p>
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nector.com, are in England. The irony of the Teton circles' appearance, just shortly after the release of "Signs," a film starring Mel Gibson as a farmer trying to solve the mystery appearance of

crop circles in his field, isn't lost on Dick Marler. "Somebody's having a little fun," he said.

The Marlers saw the film over the weekend.

"It was a good movie," he said. "Kind of slow. But once in a while something jumps out of the closet and hollers 'boo' at you, so that made it fun."

The movie has proved popular in nearby Rexburg, according to Denton Brewerton, manager of the Holiday Theatre, where it is playing locally. "We've had a lot of people come see it," he said.

Some of Bryon Parker's and Louis Parker's daughters, Brenna, 17, Morgan, 16, and Cassie, 14, have served at the site as impromptu guides for the curious. They've also peddled more than \$100 worth of aerial photos the Parkers took of the formation from a borrowed para-glider.

"Why aren't we selling T-shirts?" Brenna asked. "If we'd have sold T-shirts, we'd be doing even better."

They're eager to see the film, but for now they're busy selling photos, going for \$3 apiece or \$15 for a set of eight, and watching so people don't trample the wheat down trying to get to the circles.

"Dad said he's probably lost more wheat to people walking out to the circles than what was flattened in the circles themselves," Brenna said.

The family contacted a friend from the Fremont County Sheriff's Office to put up police tape along the cemetery road nearest the formation to keep people out. "It's not working, though," Parker said.

The Parkers have varying theories on who might have left the circles. Cassie said the most popular theory points not toward extraterrestrials descending from the sky, but mere terrestrials traveling the back roads to Teton from

Brigham Young University-Idaho in nearby Rexburg.

"Grandpa is sure it's a bunch of students, trying to pass a class or just looking to do something stupid," she said.

Brenna agreed. "Whoever did it had must have been bored and had a lot of time on their hands," she said.

More elaborate circles still appear with regularity in England, where some artists have revealed in documentaries how they make the circles and shapes with ropes, wood, sleds and other objects dragged over the crops to flatten them. There's still a core of believers, however, who insist the shapes are leftovers of alien encounters with earthly agriculture.

One of those believers is Patricia Hill, who, according to the Parkers, is a crop-circle enthusiast from Colorado who visited the site Saturday afternoon and declared it authentic.

"Whatever that means," Brenna said.

Hill told them signs of "authenticity" include wheat straws that are flattened, not broken, and the weaved look of the wheat in three circles where the plants were flattened completely.

The circle in Teton will likely be left alone only long enough for the wheat to finish ripening — at most two or three days.

"Dr. Hill told us, though, that we won't be able to harvest it, because other farmers have had their combines conk out when they tried in their own fields," Brenna said.

They'll have to watch the film, then, to see how Mel Gibson's character overcame that obstacle and hope that "Reign of Fire," another Touchstone Pictures release featuring an Earth battling fire-breathing dragons, doesn't come to life in their back yard as well.

'YOU WILL SEE SOMETHING'

UFO group: Truth will land in 2003

N.C. chapter suggests evidence will force government to 'fess up

BY HOWIE PAUL HARTNETT
Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Even with some prompting, the crowd couldn't sing "Happy Birthday" in unison.

Everyone gathered around the cake mumbled the group's odd name.

Even after 13 years of documenting UFO sightings in North Carolina, many people still don't believe the mission of the Mutual UFO Network or MUFON.

But believers will have their day — and soon, if George Fawcett is correct.

"By the end of the year, you will see something," said the Lincoln-ton resident and self-described UFO researcher. "Most times we make a prophecy, it never happens. (But) I've never seen so much happen in one year."

Many of the 37 people — almost all older adults — who gathered at a Rowan County recreation center Sunday nodded solemnly.

Every three months, network members from across the state meet to discuss UFO conventions, trade information about the latest government coverups and talk about the day when the rest

of the world will have its eyes opened.

"We try to open up to the public to make them aware that it's not a joke," said network State Director George Lund.

Fawcett and about a dozen others founded the N.C. chapter in 1989. The group now has about 70 members.

So why is 2003 going to be the year?

With all the sightings and information available on the Internet, the government won't be able to hide the truth much longer, network members say.

But can the average American middle-class consumer, soccer mom, suburbanite handle the truth?

Those in the so-called military industrial complex don't think so, say network members. That's why despite more than 50 years of what they cite as evidence — from the Roswell, N.M., crash of a UFO and the alleged recovery of aliens from it to crop circles — aliens remain only in the movies.

"It could cause mass hysteria depending on how it's revealed," said Charlie Aites, from Statesville.

Sound a little nutty? You're not seeing the big picture, Lund said.

"If (people) think it's nuts, why does the highest level of clearance in the U.S. government deal with UFOs and aliens?" asked Lund, who served in the Army.

LANTERN, [Ohio State University] Columbus, OH - Nov. 12, 2002 CR: W. Jones

Roswell excavation documented

Daily Lobo (U. New Mexico)

(U-WIRE) ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A group of investigators, led by a University of New Mexico archaeologist, excavated the alleged UFO crash site in Roswell in September for a documentary that will be aired Nov. 22.

William Doleman, senior archaeologist at the UNM Office of Contract Archeology, said his work on the Roswell excavation is top secret and that he signed a contract with the SCI FI channel preventing him from disclosing its results.

"Our confidentiality agreement with SCI FI does not allow me to reveal project results, but I can say that OCA's project yielded some very intriguing and surprising results," Doleman said in a UNM Public Affairs press release.

The project is believed to be the first attempt to excavate physical evidence of the alien crash that allegedly occurred during the summer of 1947, Doleman told University officials.

He said the two-hour documentary will include background information and interviews of key people involved with the excavation.

"Throughout the project, I took care to maintain my and OCA's role in the project as impassionate researchers providing archaeological expertise," Doleman said in the press release. "At the same time, I remained open-minded and supportive of the first attempt that I know of to bring scientific methodology to the search for physical proof of this historically significant, if controversial, event."

The alleged crash, which occurred outside the small New Mexican town, has captured the public's imagination

for decades. The U.S. government has said the incident was the result of a downed weather balloon, while UFO hunters say it was something far more significant.

Doleman said the excavation project entailed both geophysical prospecting and archaeological testing. The crew's work also included backhoe trenching of the "furrow" allegedly created by the spacecraft that supposedly crashed and skipped, making a debris field before coming to rest at the final crash site.

He added the project used high-tech testing and remote sensing technologies. The excavation lasted about 10 days.

"I have been told that the show will reveal some real smoking-gun evidence for the first time. However, I haven't been told what that evidence is," Doleman told university officials.

OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC - Nov. 4, 2002 CR: G. Fawcett

Roswell incident had victims, program says

By RICHARD BENKE
The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE — While he told the world that a weather balloon went down in Roswell, an Army general had in his hand a memo telling Pentagon brass of a UFO crash with "victims," according to a new television documentary.

A computer analysis of that memo, held by Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey during a July 1947 press briefing, is the "smoking gun" of the Roswell Incident, researchers say in the documentary being

broadcast today on the Sci-Fi Channel.

Using a digital photo scanner to enlarge and enhance words printed on the folded piece of paper Ramey held, and using another computer program to select the most likely words, researcher David Rudiak, who has a Ph.D. in physics from UC Berkeley, found two key phrases: "the victims of the wreck" and "in the 'disc' they will ship."

With the textual study plus University of New Mexico archaeological findings from one of three alleged UFO crash sites, science fiction seeks to close the gap with

fact, producers say.

A photograph taken July 8, 1947, in Fort Worth, Texas, by James Bond Johnson of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram shows Ramey clutching a communique to Washington, D.C., while he displays a deflated weather balloon just hours after other Army officers in Roswell had reported a UFO crash.

It was one of a series of inconsistent military reports about the incident, which has become part of American mythology.

"Unless national security is at



This photo taken July 8, 1947, shows Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey clutching a communique to Washington, D.C., while he displays a deflated weather balloon just hours after other Army officers in Roswell had reported a UFO crash.

The Associated Press

SATURDAY STANDARD/JOURNAL, Milton, PA - Oct. 5, 2002

Personal View

UFOs in the area?



Eric Mayes

Northumberland County is likely to bear the brunt of an alien invasion of earth, which will spur the collapse of civilization as we know it, and likely result in the enslavement of mankind.

In fact, a reconnaissance mission has already taken place. Humans are being snatched up by marauding aliens and used as the basis

for ghoulish scientific experiments. They are compounding their crimes by dumping the bodies of their victims near the site of their abduction.

A blatant act of intergalactic littering if ever there was one.

My evidence for these outlandish claims? The Internet of course. The mysterious death of Point Township resident Todd Sees has been splashed all over several Web sites furthering their claims of alien activity on earth. And it's all unfolding right here in our own back yard...apparently the fate of universe hinges on the region.

According to UFOCity.com (a Web site sponsored by "Signs," the latest alien thriller, which incidentally was shot in Bucks County), Sees was found in an isolated area of the woods not far from his home wearing only his underwear with "an expression of horror on his face." It claims his body was "emaciated" and not bloated as one might expect considering the circumstances.

In a series of leading questions, it asks why FBI officials showed up at the site within 30 minutes of the discovery of Sees' body and refused to allow family members to see the body. There is a quote from an unnamed neighbor who says he saw a bright light in the area and watched as an unspecified object being drawn up toward the bright light which then vanished to the west with amazing speed.

Apparently the aliens lost no time in beginning their horrifying exploitation of Sees because UFOCity.com is emphatic in the fact that one of his boots was found four miles from the site of the abduction — at the top of a tree. The little green men must have rolled down the windows of their flying saucer and jettisoned the clothes.

Few of the facts are corroborated by any eyewitness accounts and some are absolutely untrue.

So you can either crouch in the shadows of your basement wearing a tinfoil hat and wait for the imminent invasion or you can believe authorities when they say it was a drug overdose.

...

To comment on this column, contact Eric at eric@standard-journal.com.

stake, there is absolutely no reason to keep this information from the public," said Thomas Vitale, a Sci-Fi Channel vice president. "Whatever crashed at Roswell, let us know what the truth is."

The Air Force had responded to a 1994 call from the late U.S. Rep. Steve Schiff, R-N.M., by saying it had no information on the Roswell Incident. Schiff, an Air Force reserve judge advocate general's officer, then took his query to the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress.

In 1997, the Air Force acknowledged the weather balloon had been a false cover story, but a new story also was called into question. In a report written by Lt. William McAndrew, the Air Force suggested reports of alien bodies in the wreckage must have originated because of a crash-test program in which mannequins were dropped from balloons. The mannequins did not come close to matching 1947 descriptions of alien bodies, and the crash-test program was not introduced until 1953, Rudiak said.

Sci-Fi, guided by longtime Roswell UFO researchers Tom

Carey and Don Schmitt, commissioned William Doleman, an archaeologist with UNM's Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, to excavate the alleged initial crash contact point on the ranch where the late Mack Brazel worked as foreman.

Doleman said he knows little about the Roswell Incident but agreed to excavate the site using purely scientific methods because it is "culturally significant" and because so much of what is circulated about the Roswell crash landing is based on hearsay. What was needed, Doleman said, was physical evidence.

"So this project is a very bold step by people who claim to know what happened and where it happened," Doleman said. "What makes it bold is they were willing to go out there and look for physical evidence."

Details of the excavation are being kept confidential until after today's premiere. But Doleman said he agrees "that obviously something happened in July 1947 in southeastern New Mexico." After his work there, though, he said, "I'm still uncertain" about UFOs and alien beings.

The documentary will introduce some witnesses who have

not been heard from publicly before, attesting to the existence of alien bodies in the wreckage of the "flying disc," Carey said by phone from his home in Pennsylvania.

"This is where we loaded the bodies," he quotes one New Mexico witness, Robert Slusher, as saying. Slusher, among those appearing in the documentary, was part of a B-29 crew that he said loaded bodies up through the plane's bomb bay at the Roswell Army Airfield.

Three victims were supposedly recovered from the final crash site, and a team of archaeologists, coincidentally, were in the area doing research on ancient Indians at the time, Carey said. Among them was Curry Holden, an archaeologist from Texas Tech in Lubbock, whom Carey located in 1992.

"Curry Holden said he saw everything — the craft and the bodies," Carey said. Holden died a few months later.

Carey, an investigator for a private corporation, said he started looking into Roswell 12 years ago "as a hobby."

But it became more than that. And now, he said, he and Schmitt are in a race against time, as witnesses become scarcer.

Obsessed with the unexplained

Look to the skies. Things on earth may be a bit slow these days for John Podesta, who served as White House chief of staff under President Bill Clinton.

Podesta's public relations firm, PodestaMattoon, is supporting the Coalition for Freedom of Information in pressing the U.S. Air Force for documents involving unidentified flying objects, or UFOs.

Podesta and freelance journalist Leslie Kean, of California, are seeking information about Project Moon Dust and Operation Blue Fly, secret Air Force programs reportedly created to investigate UFOs and retrieve objects of unknown origin.

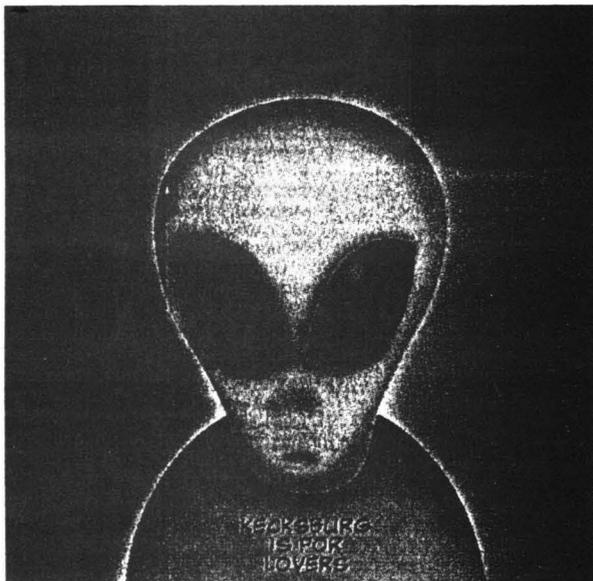
In one case, they are seeking documents related to a locally famous incident in our very own Kecksburg, where on Dec. 5, 1965, an object about the size of a small car fell from the sky and was taken away by the military.

"We can't come up with a reason why this information is being withheld," Kean said.

The Sci-Fi channel backs the request and is calling for a serious investigation.

Incidentally, Kean is coming to western Pennsylvania this week to interview Greensburg's Stan Gordon, a longtime UFO buff who has investigated dozens of claims of unexplained sightings over the years.

Cynics might say Podesta is



particularly suited to investigate the sudden, unsettling appearance of heavenly bodies. As Clinton's chief of staff, he had to deal with periodic "bimbo eruptions," the most famous of which was the Monica Lewinsky affair.

Podesta has long had an interest in UFOs. During his White House years, he was devoted to "The X-Files" television program. In a 1998 Washington Post

story, then-press secretary Mike McCurry talked about Podesta's obsession with the unexplained.

"He's been known to pick up the phone to call the Air Force and ask them what's going on in Area 51," McCurry said.

Area 51 is a secret site in the Nevada desert that UFO buffs suspect may hold the secrets to the mystery of UFOs.



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

DAILY MAIL, London, England - Nov. 7, 2002 CR: N. Oliver

WILD THINGS!

ON NOVEMBER 22 we will be going to war with Iraq, 'oi can feel it in me water,' says the florid-faced man with the heavy Hampshire burr, sitting in the smoky corner of the pub, 'And do-not-be in Hawaii next June,' he warns. 'The volcano is going up, 'oi just feel it.'

Suddenly, via the pub sound system I can also hear him singing, and we are back in the 1960s when, with his smokily sexy voice and striped suit from Carnaby Street, Reg Presley, aged 22, led the Troggs to eight Top Ten hits.

It is hard to believe that this paunchy country soothsayer was once the face of teenage sexual fantasy.

The Troggs' first record, Wild Thing, was a smash hit in May 1966, selling a million copies and topping the U.S. charts. It, quite literally, turned Presley into an overnight success.

They followed it up two months later with With A Girl Like You, another No 1.

Then, after 18 months their success was over almost as quickly as it had begun. Obscurity followed and lasted for nearly 30 years until 1995, when Wet Wet Wet recorded the Troggs' song Love Is All Around as the theme tune for the film Four Weddings And A Funeral.

The single spent 15 weeks at No 1 and was named international hit of the year. It made Reg, now 61, a second fortune.

He's had quite a life — from Andover bricklayer to 1960s icon, from has-been to come-back star, and he has just produced his first book. But Wild Things They Don't Tell Us is not about his extraordinary rock career.

Instead, it details Reg's obsession with UFOs and crop circles, and his ideas on religion, auras, numerology, money, the Holy Grail and the Government.

'If we don't do anything soon the human race will run out of time,' he tells me, at his large mock Tudor home in Hampshire.

Reg spends most of his time with his friend Frederick Taylor, 60, known as 'Busty', a driving instructor who belongs to the Circle Phenomena Research.

It was Busty who first got Reg hooked on the paranormal 12 years ago. Now they roam Hampshire using a 'magnetometer' to measure sites for signs of alien visitation.

'I believe that some crop circles are created by an intelligence that isn't from here,' says Reg matter-of-factly. 'They might be a kind of message.'

Among the most explicit of these was a crop formation in the shape of male genitalia that he found in a field next to Chequers in August 1994, when John Major was in residence.

AT THE time, Reg thought it was a message warning about the declining sperm count among Earthlings. But now, after Edwina Currie's revelations about her affair with the former PM, he is not so sure.

Why would people from other galaxies want to warn Norma about her husband's proclivities? We ponder this together.

'You could see it as a kind of alien graffiti,' he says.

Self-styled 'rock star and visionary', Reg claims to have seen 11 UFOs and two 'elliptical craft' (flying saucers to you and me), and has spent £12,000 investigating odd phenomena.

His explorations have attracted widespread interest from other pop stars, many of whom have long been in a kind of twilight zone themselves.

He reveals that Ray Dorset of Mungo Jerry once saw 'ten small figures, about 4ft in height' which ran across the road in front of his car.

Noddy Holder of Slade saw a huge UFO outside his hotel

Once a 60s heart-throb, Reg of the Troggs is now obsessed with UFOs and aliens



by Jane Kelly

window in Bournemouth, and Sting saw 'the top of a mountain lit up like a Christmas tree'.

Robbie Williams has also phoned him in the past asking to visit corn circles, but has so far been too busy, probably sowing his own kind of wild oats.

'I want people to know it's not as simple as the Church and the Government make out,' says Reg. 'Extraterrestrials reveal the truth. One day we will all find out about free energy and then the oil companies will close down.'

'If they bring us a cure for disease, that will destroy the drug industry, so we've been steered away from these things by the Government.'

Then he's on to pixies and elves, who he says were deliberately made to look small (and, presumably, fairy-tale like), by the Roman Catholic Church.

Brenda, 58, Reg's wife of 40 years sits in the kitchen reading her newspaper. A handsome woman, she ignores her husband's eccentricities.

'Some people cannot absorb the information,' says Reg, nodding towards Brenda.

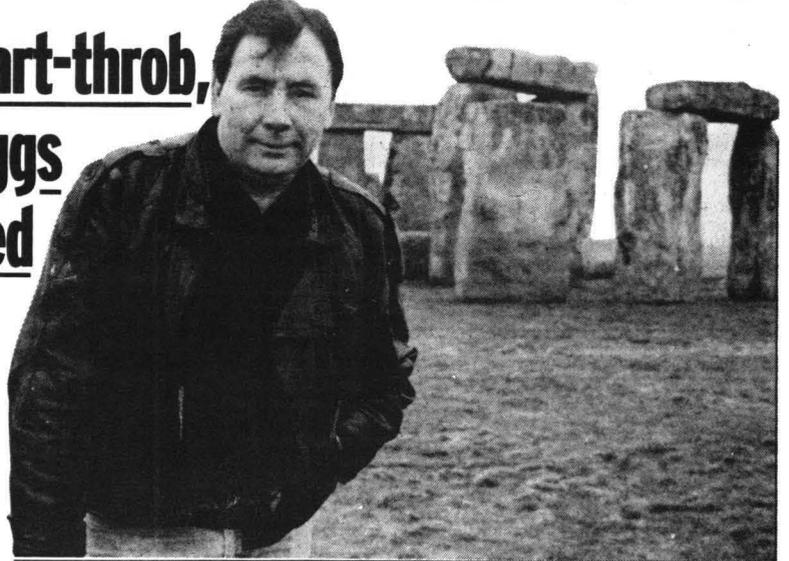
'I have never seen a UFO,' she adds, 'although Reg says I did see one on holiday in Florida. I keep an open mind, but I do hate to hear him going over all those old stories.'

But Reg is charming and persuasive. Like Tom Jones, he still has charisma by the bucketful.

He was born Reginald Maurice Ball, near Andover, where his father, Ernie, drove milk tankers and later buses, and his mother, Ivy, ran a small cafe.

Reg left school at 15 and became a decorator and bricklayer before meeting Brenda at a local dance when he was 20. 'I wanted someone domesticated, who would be a good mother to my children,' he says.

She was 19 when they married. When their first child, Karen, was born, Brenda suggested that Reg take up the guitar to



Speaking out: 'Extraterrestrials reveal the truth,' says Reg. Inset: With The Troggs in the 1960s

give him a hobby. Unable to play it well, Reg took up singing instead and formed a band called The Croaks, who played at a local coffee bar where they were noticed by Larry Page, manager of The Kinks.

They got the name Troggs when they were driving an old van and picked up two female hitchhikers, one of whom said they should be called the 'grotty troggs'.

'She was talking about the state of the van,' says Reg.

REG became obsessed with making it big despite the misgivings of his family. Reg played Brenda an early recording of Wild Thing but 'I thought it was rubbish,' she says.

The rest of the world did not agree and within a few months, it was No 1.

It was a rock dream come true: Reg the bricklayer was finally famous and the family moved into a plush house with a swimming pool.

Then, just as they were adjusting to the fame, it was all over. Soon, the band were reduced to touring holiday camps and bars. At one venue they were billed as 'The Frogs'. 'We didn't argue,' says Reg.

'There was a bit of a resurgence of interest in the 1980s,' he says, and he was thrilled to be invited to play at Sting's wedding reception in 1992.

Despite his brush with fame, Reg has few complaints. Only two things seem to annoy him: Radio 1, which won't play the Troggs' records, and taxation.

'I made £2.5 million from Love Is All Around,' he confides, having previously confessed to earning only half that sum. 'But the Government took £1 million.'

I feel I might have stumbled on why Reg is so keen to convince the world that our rulers are part of a giant conspiracy — they have taken his money.

'Something is going to happen soon to make the economy and everything crash,' he says.

'I'd like to be remembered not as a pop star, but as the man who tried to get this truth across, and then said: "I told you so."

■ WILD Things They Don't Tell Us by Reg Presley is published by Metro at £16.99.

Encounters with aliens deeply moving, report says

Humans report being told to solve Earth's problems

By DENE MOORE

VANCOUVER — Forget the probes. Don't worry about an invasion.

Aliens are actually quite affable, according to a recent university study.

When extraterrestrials abduct earthlings, they often share with them a message of hope, according to anthropologist Krista Henriksen.

'They tell people they're not alone, that they're special, they're chosen for a purpose,' said Henriksen, who studied the personal accounts of 60 men and women who claimed to have had close encounters.

Most of them recounted being told there are profound, terrible problems with the world but that they had been chosen to do



VANCOUVER SUN FILES

No need to fear alien travellers, SFU researcher says.

something about it.

'Sometimes they have malevolent messages, manipulative, nasty messages. But that was, by far, the minority,' Henriksen said

'This could be one of them.'

Chris Rutkowski, research coordinator of Ufology Research of Manitoba, said there were 375 reports of UFO sightings in Canada in 2001.

For some, such encounters are a religious experience.

'Whether they're 'real' or not, is another matter entirely,' he said in an interview from Winnipeg.

Tens of thousands of such encounters are reported annually in North America.

Most of the stories, which are posted on a Web site for Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, describe the alien abductors — all human-like with feet, fingers and eyes — as researchers, according to Henriksen.

'They are "interested in us, and not necessarily in taking us over," she said.

Henriksen, who has studied religion, said that, while not a religion, the belief in extraterrestrial life is certainly a spiritual experience for those who report encounters.

'People are having profound experiences, whatever the experiences are,' she said.

Canadian Press

TELEGRAPH & ARGUS, Bradford, England Oct. 31, 2002

Plea to shed light on UFOs

A paranormal investigations group wants to hear if people have seen strange lights over Skipton amid what it believes is an upsurge in local activity by unidentified flying objects.

Members of Skipton Independent Researchers say they have had a number of peo-

ple reporting sightings of flying objects carrying out strange manoeuvres in the area.

The group usually goes out looking for instances of people who have spotted unusual lights in the sky, but says that in recent weeks it has had a number of people getting in touch to

tell of strange objects they have seen in the Skipton and Silsden areas.

Anyone who wants to pass on details of their sighting of unexplained lights can contact Mr Cooper on (01756) 795006 or Joseph Skelton (01756) 791957.

UFO scare they didn't want you to know about

THE strange glowing object hovered over the forest, bathing it in brilliant light.

Watching from the ground were a group of bewildered and probably terrified servicemen.

As they drew nearer, the metallic craft vanished into the trees, only to be spotted again an hour later before disappearing altogether.

It could have been a scene from the X-Files. In fact, the UFO sighting is recorded in a secret Ministry of Defence file.

Yesterday, more than 20 years after the incident outside an American air base in Suffolk, the file was made public. It describes the sighting of the triangular object over Rendlesham Forest in the small hours of December 27, 1980.

It says a number of U.S. Air Force men witnessed the object appear to hover and illuminate the forest, sending farm animals into a 'frenzy'.

The next morning the Americans found radioactive circular impressions in the ground nearby. In the report, entitled Unexplained Lights, USAF Lieutenant Colonel Charles I Halt told how he saw an object emitting a 'red sun-like light' moving through the trees.

Three USAF patrolmen were sent to investigate. They reported seeing a glowing object in the forest. The

Daily Mail Reporter

object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three metres across the base and approximately two metres high.

It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs, said Mr Halt.

'As the patrolmen approached the object, it manoeuvred through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy.'

The UFO was spotted an hour later near the back gate to the base.

Mr Halt said: 'At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared.'

'Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about ten degrees off the horizon.'

'The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles.'

Next morning Mr Halt and his men discovered three circular depressions in the ground, seven inches across. In them they recorded radiation at a level ten times higher than normal, according to the file.

Although the servicemen had tried to capture the sightings on camera, a further docu-



Halt: 'White light'

ment disclosed that their film was faulty.

Nothing had shown up on the RAF's radar.

A memo from the MoD in the file shows some scepticism about the sightings, although it said it remained 'open-minded'.

'No evidence was found of any threat to the defence of the United Kingdom, and no further investigations were carried out,' it said.

The MoD said one theory about the sighting was that it could have been 'fireball activity', or the beam of the Orford Ness lighthouse, distorted by the trees.

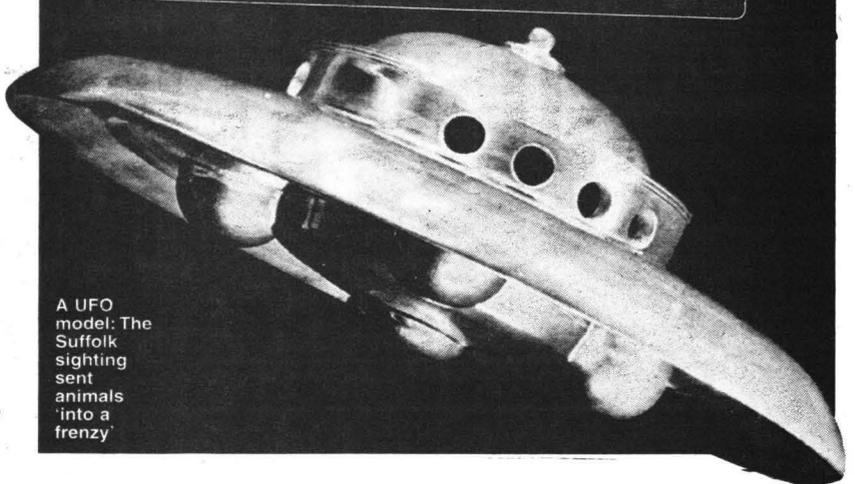
The file was released under the Freedom of Information Act.

UFO couple

A school caretaker and his wife have mobilised UFO experts after witnessing a mysterious green and orange light crash into the ground in South Normanton.

Gerald Mottram and his wife Marie, of The Ridge, Blackwell, claim they witnessed the phenomenon near their home in the early hours. The Derby-based Phenomena Research Association is investigating.

BRITAIN'S X-FILES



A UFO model: The Suffolk sighting sent animals 'into a frenzy'

WHITBY GAZETTE, North Yorkshire, England - Sept. 6, 2002

Mum's shock at lights in the sky

by Greig Tindall

A SLEIGHTS woman has described her encounter with UFOs while walking her dog last Friday evening.

Her experience was shared by her family and several people living nearby. Sightings from as far away as Scarborough have also been reported.

Gill Wood, of Lowdale Lane, was with her dog Max at 9.30pm.

"It was very strange," explained a startled Gill. "As I was walking down Lowdale Lane I saw these four revolving lights just above me in the sky. They actually followed me down the road. I was a bit scared so I picked my little dog up and went home."

Gill told her husband Bill and two teenage children about what she had witnessed. They too went outside to take a look for themselves.

The four UFOs, which Gill described as being like "opaque oval-shaped lights, almost like looking at small revolving cloud formations", were hovering over a neighbour's bungalow roof top. The couple living there also came out to have a look, and someone further down the road was viewing them from a bedroom window.

Bill told his wife there must be an explanation such as something to do with RAF Fylingdales.

But Gill was "100% convinced" they were out of the ordinary, so she and Helen, her 14-year-old daughter, went back out in the street.

The lights seemed to follow them as they walked up and down. As they made their way down to Coach Road the lights "filtered past" them and hovered behind a large tree.

By this time her daughter was "taken aback" so they made their way home.

"When Helen saw them she was really frightened and said 'I'm not going out there again'. It was very, very weird."

But with intrigue getting the better of her, Gill couldn't stop herself from investigating the

strange phenomenon further. "On that night at 11.30pm I went to the back of our house," she explained. "It's quite a tall house with a large chimney. I sat in the corner in the dark to observe and two of the lights came over the roof top. One was hovering above the chimney stack and the other was behind a tall tree about 20 feet away."

"They were two feet wide and two feet in length and were hovering at the height of about one and a half telegraph poles. I feel I was pretty close to them, a lot closer than a low flying aircraft for example."

She said the lights disappeared at around midnight and have not been seen in the village since.

Gill is adamant that what she saw was not a normal, every-day occurrence. And the fact that other sightings were reported both locally and further afield led her to contact the Whitby Gazette to relay her experience.

"I didn't really believe in this sort of thing," she said about the possibility of UFOs. "But having had such a close view I think I do now. It was incredible, it was as if they were seeking out an energy or body heat or something like that. I still feel very strange. It was an exhilarating and amazing thing to see but also a bit frightening. It was just so unbelievable."

"I guess it's just one of those things that happens. But all I know is that they were as interested in us as we were with them."

"I'm not a crank or a religious freak," said Gill. "I'm just a mum who took her dog a walk and witnessed something that I've never seen before."

If you too have witnessed strange lights hovering about at night or any other UFOs, drop us a line at the Whitby Gazette on (01947) 829910.

DAVENTRY EXPRESS, Northants, England - Sept. 12, 2002

Close encounter with UFO truth

by Adam Hollier

AN APRIL Fools hoax which appeared in the Daventry Express in 1989 may turn out to be true.

The article said scientists at Jodrell Bank deep space tracking station in Cheshire were picking up radio messages from Daventry which were sent during the Second World War.

The story was picked up by a UFO enthusiast and sent to UFO Magazine.

The magazine attempted to contact Dr Walter Malachie, who was quoted in the story but the director of Jodrell Bank told the magazine our story was 'total rubbish'.

In January this year our reporters contacted Peter Aengenheister, former

Daventry Express editor and the writer of the article who confirmed the story was a hoax.

But, in this month's edition of UFO Magazine, Roy Chandler from Queensland in Australia wrote to the magazine about our story.

Mr Chandler said when he was in the Australian Air Force during the Second World War radio equipment they used often picked up the 'echoes from space'.

Mr Chandler said: "Some of these [messages] were identifiable, simply radio messages sent by other sections of the Australian forces."

He said: "One night, while setting up a network of radio

vehicles over a 15 mile radius, a message I sent one month previously came booming back through the radio!"

He said it was an unmistakable message which he had had with an inefficient netting operator.

The message was: "If you b****r this up again I'll put a bloody monkey in your seat and you go back in the cage."

An operator later confirmed the original message and the re-receipt were picked up by the army monitoring station.

He was told holes in the atmosphere allow signals to escape.

Some return quickly, others are lost for years.

So perhaps there is truth in the hoax after all.



CHEESY: They've got B.O.

Aliens love to party

from NICOLA PITTAM in Los Angeles

ALIENS do exist - they love to party and smell of cheese, according to a Close Encounters expert.

But we shouldn't be afraid of the bug-eyed beings from outer space who visit Earth.

They're friendly and just want to chat, said scientist Dr Krista Henriksen.

The Canadian boffin has probed accounts of more than 60 victims of alien abductions.

"These are not war-like people who want to take over our universe," said Dr Henriksen of the Simon Fraser University.

Pong

"They are kind, considerate and extremely affable. They love group type activities. The sharing of knowledge is their No 1 priority."

According to scientific accounts, aliens' most offensive trait is B.O.

They smell like a mix of horse manure and pongy French cheese.

Dr Henriksen said: "Most extraterrestrials who visit us may smell, but they bring messages of goodwill."

"They are OK people. They tell abductees they are special."

To boldly go for an alien weekend

PSYCHICS, spiritualists and people who believe they have been abducted by aliens are lecturing at a weekend workshop.

The two-day event to see if the truth is really out there takes place on October 26 and 27 at Hourne Farm, Steel Cross, near Crowborough and will cover topics including psychic surgery, astral projection and UFO activity.

Lecturers include Graham Sheppard, who believes he saw several UFOs while working as a pilot for a major airline company and now researches the subject in Puerto Rico, and Norman Oliver, a founder member of the British UFO Research Association.

Event organiser Alan Hilton, who believes he has been abducted by UFO entities many times over the years, will speak about his experiences as well as delivering the lecture 'Sai Baba: Man or God?'

He said: "The main object of the UFO weekend is for like-minded people to meet and have plenty of time for discussions in a pleasant and peaceful atmosphere."

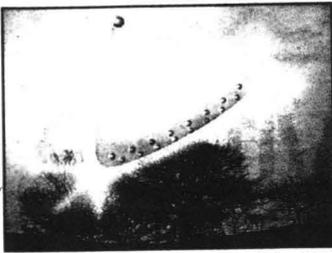
Accommodation is available at the farm, which is used for conferences throughout the year. The full residential fee is £85, while a one-day ticket is £25.

The prices include vegetarian meals and coffee and biscuits during the break.

For further information or to book, contact Mr Hilton on 01892 890726 or 07710 246614.

DAILY MIRROR, London, England
Nov. 29, 2002 CR: K. Potts

I SAW A UFO



HOVERING: Artist impression of the UFO

US air force chief admits mystery lights buzzed his Suffolk airbase

A HIGH-ranking US air force officer and his troops reported seeing a brightly shining UFO in an English forest, it was officially admitted yesterday.

The triangular craft was said to have a pulsing red light on the top and blue lights underneath. It was either hovering or on legs

By BOB ROBERTS

before slipping through the trees as the men closed in. The sighting, featured on TV programmes about unexplained UFOs, was finally revealed by the Government yesterday under the Freedom of Information Act.

The mysterious craft was spotted on December 27 1980 by American airmen at RAF Bentwaters, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

In a report called Unexplained Lights, deputy base commander Lt Col Charles Halt said he saw a "red sun-like light" moving through the trees in Rendlesham Forest.

Three security policemen were given permission to investigate.

Lt Col Halt said: "They reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest."

"The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three metres across the base and approximately two metres high."

"It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs."

"As the patrolmen approached the object, it manoeuvred through the trees and disappeared. At this time, the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy."

The UFO was spotted an hour later near the back gate to the base.

Next morning, Lt Col Halt and his men discovered three 7in circular depressions in the ground. Radiation around them was 10 times higher than normal.

Lt Col Halt told how the UFO returned. He said: "Later in the night, a red sun-like light was seen through the trees."

"At one point, it appeared to throw off glowing particles, then broke into five separate white objects and disappeared."

"Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed."

"The objects moved rapidly in sharp, angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights."

b.roberts@mirror.co.uk

HERNE BAY GAZETTE, Kent, England - July 11, 2002

UFO sightings - more reported

by Dianne Stingemore

THE mystery lights in the sky we reported in last week's Gazette have prompted many more local people to contact us with details of similar sightings.

But the mystery has deepened further with their evidence.

It seems lots of readers witnessed the weird spinning lights on the night of the midsummer solstice, including one man on holiday in the south of France.

"I read your story and thought that's exactly what I saw when we were camping at Sete," said the man who comes from Broomfield but does not want to give his name.

"It was quite late, about midnight, and my wife had gone to bed when I saw these long fingers of grey light moving around in groups, shrinking and then coming back."

"I thought it was a laser show, but when I asked around the next day there hadn't been one. I only saw them that night."

The man had wondered if it was the French equivalent of the Aurora Borealis until he read our story. Now he is not so sure.

Mystery over lights deepens

Another call came from a woman who says the lights came from a laser show at the Christ Church summer ball.

Tom McGorin of Cavendish Road, Herne Bay, saw them several times while he was working that night.

A taxi driver with Central Cars, he first noticed them while taking someone out to Reculver and then again on the way back.

"It was raining and I thought I was seeing things the first time," he said. "They were just like your description - oval grey lights spinning in groups like a tornado and then disappearing."

"Then later at the Roman Galley when the sky was clear, I saw the same thing again, only this time the groups of lights were moving around over Reculver, then over to Whitstable and then out to sea. It

was very strange."

In the early hours of the following morning Mr McGorin was taking a fare to Chestfield where he believes the lights originated.

"The beams were coming from somewhere in the Wilson Estate area," he said. "They were definitely disco lights but I got out and listened but couldn't hear any people or music, so I don't know what the occasion was."

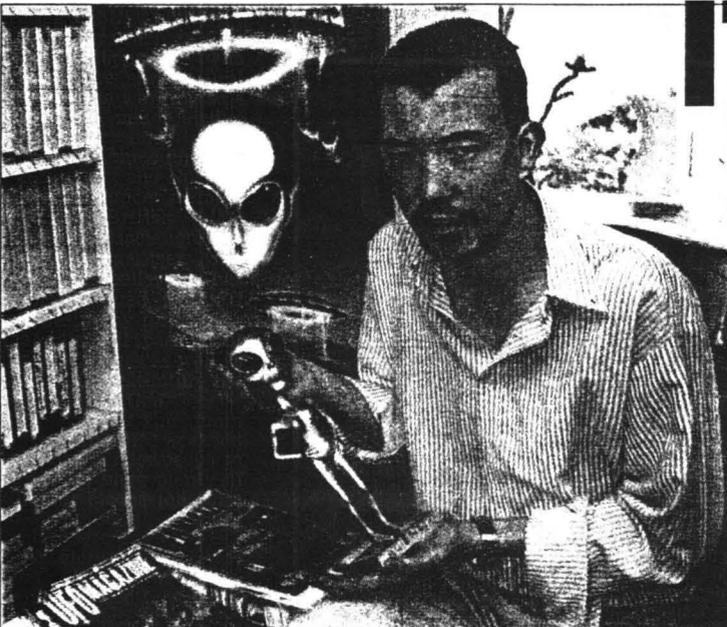
Charlotte Buskell was having a cigarette in the garden of her home in Carlton Hill, Herne Bay, when she spotted the lights.

She was initially embarrassed to speak out for fear of being teased by her friends. But after reading the experiences of others she contacted us with her account.

"It was very spooky," she said. "I have never seen anything like it before. I saw exactly what the other people saw. It was quite weird."

She has no idea what may have caused the phenomenon but added: "I think if we were going to be visited by aliens, they wouldn't come to Herne Bay."

IT'S OUT THERE AND IT'S SCARY



SOMETHING is out there...and Michael Rutherford has seen it.

Now he wants to know if you have too because he has become the latest investigator of UFO sightings in the borough.

Shelf Stacker Michael, 27, of Blake Avenue, Barking, became obsessed with Unidentified Flying Objects after he saw a cigar shaped object hovering above the trees on a cold winter day in Parsloes Park four years ago.

Before that moment, Michael didn't believe in aliens at all.

He said: "I was completely gobs-macked. I just didn't know what it was at first. What was strange was that no-one else could see it. The cars drove along like normal and a man walking in the park with a dog didn't notice - it was scary."

"The sighting was what sparked off my interest in UFO's. I bought UFO Magazine, ordered books and read up about the subject on the internet."

By Janine Kelso

"I've built up various contacts via the internet with people that are also UFO investigators - there's one in Dagenham called Roy Hale who's given me lots of help."

The father of one is now absolutely convinced that aliens exist.

"I am sure that aliens have landed on earth and I think that people have been abducted by aliens."

"I also believe in underwater flying objects that glide in water. People have seen them coming out of the water," says Michael.

Michael's friends are a bit more suspicious about his ideas.

"All my friends think I'm spaced out. They don't believe in UFO's - they would only believe in it if they saw them for themselves," explains Michael.

But Michael's wife believes in aliens and supports his beliefs, although they don't talk about it in front of their six-year-old daughter.

Michael's bedroom walls are plastered with posters of alien space crafts and he has every episode of The X-Files on video. And, naturally, 'Independence Day' is among Michael's favourite films, although he doesn't think that it portrays aliens in an accurate way.

Michael got the idea of being a UFO investigator from a woman called Sharon Larkin who advertised her investigating services in UFO Magazine.

Sharon investigates sightings round Cumbria. Michael explained how the atmosphere was less polluted than in London, so people can easily spot UFO's.

Michael adds: "If anyone in Barking and Dagenham thinks they have seen a UFO, they can contact me and I will look into it."

"People often see UFO's but don't want to report it, but now they can tell me about it."

If you have spotted a UFO, contact Michael by email on: rutherfordmichael8@cwctv.net

Leading paranormal expert investigates to find if the truth is really out there

Cream of crop circles

NICK ELLIS talks to one of Britain's leading crop circle investigators.

CROP circles, ghosts and UFOs are some of the mysteries a paranormal investigator from this area is aiming to explain. Gary Rowe, 60, of Rhyl, has travelled across the United Kingdom for the last 40 years studying paranormal activity.

The electronics engineer and co-founder of the Welsh Federation of Independent Ufologists regularly holds lectures at schools and colleges in the region about weird and wonderful phenomena.

He said sceptics may doubt his investigation skills but he remains certain that "the truth is out there".

"When it comes to ghosts I have probably spent more time in haunted buildings than many have spent at home," he said.

"I am credited with the discovery of the Perthshire Zodiac and was invited to lecture on it in Scotland which also made it on to radio. From a historical perspective, my model of the *Resurgam* submarine is also on display in Rhyl museum. I have also travelled the country investigating Arthurian legends.

"I've led a successful expedition to locate a sunken palace and made many discoveries that have advanced our knowledge of paranormal.

"UFOs have always held the top spot in my list of interests. I have seen them at close quarters in broad daylight. My approach is always to act scientifically and to keep one foot firmly planted on the ground."

Gary is one of the country's leading experts on crop circles and holds international conferences on the subject.

He uses a number of scientific field study equipment to gain his information such as a magnetometer, Geiger counter and optical rangefinders.

"I would suppose you could say that crop circles are circular patterns that appear in fields of cereal crops," he said.

"Many think crop circles are a new-age craze but simple crop circles have been recorded from as far back as the ninth century. The modern versions of this phenomenon have only been happening since the 1980s.

"Today very few patterns are even circles. The more elaborate patterns are known as pictograms and the people who study them are cereologists.



On the trail of the unexplained: Gary Rowe (above) has spent 40 years investigating unexplained phenomena such as crop circles (main picture).

"Rather than harm the farming community some farmers have been able to cash in on the circles by charging admission and parking fees. One wonders how many are actually created by farmers themselves!"

In 1990, three 12ft circles appeared on a hill in Llanfairtalhaiarn which baffled scientists from the University of Bangor.

And in the same year, dozens of rings appeared in a grass field in Gronant.

But Gary said explanations for crop circles range from the sublime to the ridiculous.

"In 1980, Dr Terrence Meaden attempted to find a scientific explanation for the circles and came up with a lot of credible sounding theories that might explain how wind vortices could cause simple circles," he said.

"However as the patterns became more elaborate his wind theories had to be ruled out. It is believed by a great number of cereologists that aliens have been visiting us for decades and leaving us important messages in the form of corn circles.

"If this were true then we could all sleep a lot easier in the knowledge that the aliens are of no threat because what intelligent alien ambassador

would try to impress us with its first contact by destroying our food crops? After countless years of crop circles no one can say what any of the messages mean.

"It has been show many times that it is possible for people working in the dark can construct elaborate crop patterns which have fooled most of the so-called experts.

"In fact there have been competitions organised to see who can produce the best pictograms. To me hoaxers provide one of the best possible explanations of crop circles.

"But I also believe that some circular indentations in remote areas may have been caused by the

landing of alien craft. It is these simple indentations when reported that get me excited and running for my field study equipment."

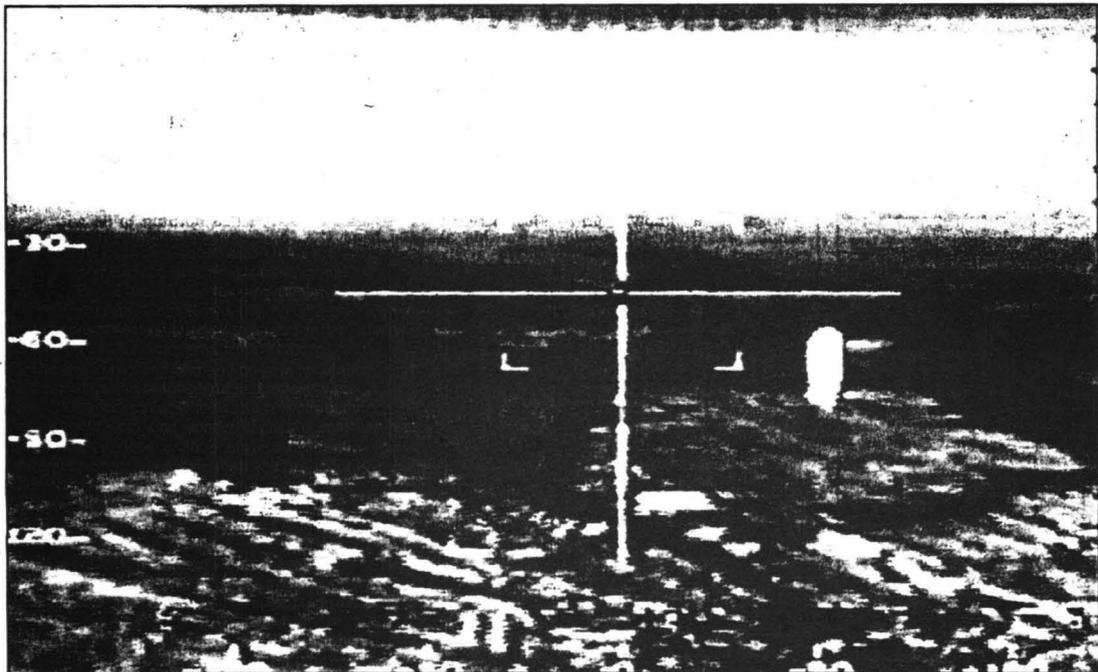
Hollywood has recently cashed in the crop circles mystery with the film *Signs* which stars Mel Gibson.

However, Gary believes movies such as this are based on truth and not fiction.

"All the best science fiction films are based on a little fact," he said.

"Despite some very memorable trips to the cinema, no film I have seen to date has been as exciting as being involved with the real thing.

"The truth is out there but you have to go out there looking for it if you wish to know it."



CLOSE ENCOUNTER: Film from the helicopter's camera clearly shows a strange, cigar-shaped object in the sky above Brighton

Eerie object is an arresting sight at 1,000ft

A POLICE helicopter went on a dramatic high-speed chase - in pursuit of some little green men. The tale of the unexpected began when a suspected UFO was spotted next to the Sussex Police aircraft as it flew 1,000ft above Brighton. Inside, crew members Sergeant John Tickner and paramedic Sean Mitchell sat mesmerised as the glowing object floated next to them before disappearing into

the distance. They were so stunned they decided to follow it and used a thermal imaging camera to video events as they chased the mystery object for three minutes before giving up and returning to base. Now their video is being pored over by UFO enthusiasts around the world in the belief it could provide evidence of life on other planets. Experts say they are baffled by the Brighton

phenomenon. But both Mr Tickner and Mr Mitchell are convinced they did not witness a close encounter of the third kind. Mr Tickner, 50, who retired last week after 30 years with Sussex Police, said: "We were flying back from Beachy Head and at 1,000ft we didn't expect anything to join us. Not for a moment did we believe it to be anything sinister. "We thought it was funny

though so we chased it around for three minutes and were laughing and joking about little green men. None of us took it seriously." The bizarre incident happened on the evening of August 11, 2000. The crew passed the film footage to a TV company making a documentary about their work. The story was picked up by a magazine and the film has been screened at a UFO conference.



BAFFLED: Sgt Tickner

Was a UFO spotted near Stiffkey?

JOHN HANSON,
PO Box 6371
Rednal, Birmingham,
West Midlands, B48 7RW.

I am a retired police officer who has been compiling a journal of UFO reports, covering the period 1943-1982.

One incident reported to me took place in October 1966, when a serving police officer with the Met was travelling to Cromer Railway Station to pick his son up.

As he and other members of his family passed through open countryside after having left Stiffkey, they were astonished to see what looked like a railway carriage snaking its way along the nearby road.

When they reached the station they discovered that the rails ended a few hundred yards from the station!

The following day they returned to the locality, but found only open countryside!

Has any reader information about reports of strange happenings in this area which may be of some relevance? I can be contacted as above.

'Our 1950s X-Files experience'

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

TWO Bexley men, both now in their 60s, have recently been reliving their own X-Files experiences from their childhood.

Rodney Maynard, from Belvedere, who is now 62, has contacted the News Shopper to reveal he was one of the youngsters who saw the UFO featured in our September 4 edition.

Retired policeman John Hanson, from the West Midlands, was appealing for a group of children who saw the craft land in the King Harold's Way area of Bexleyheath in 1955 to get in touch with him, as he is researching the incident for a book. 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 and disappeared.

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 very fine and beautiful. It certainly 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."

As well as his brother, Mr Maynard listed several other pals who were also there — "Ron Deadman, Tony Savin, Vic Clarke, Tommy Staggs, we were all there."

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

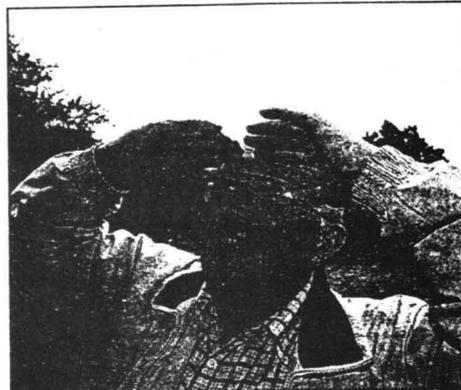
They were out walking Ray's dog at an old farmstead in Bexleyheath known as The Warren (now the Warren Road area).

"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

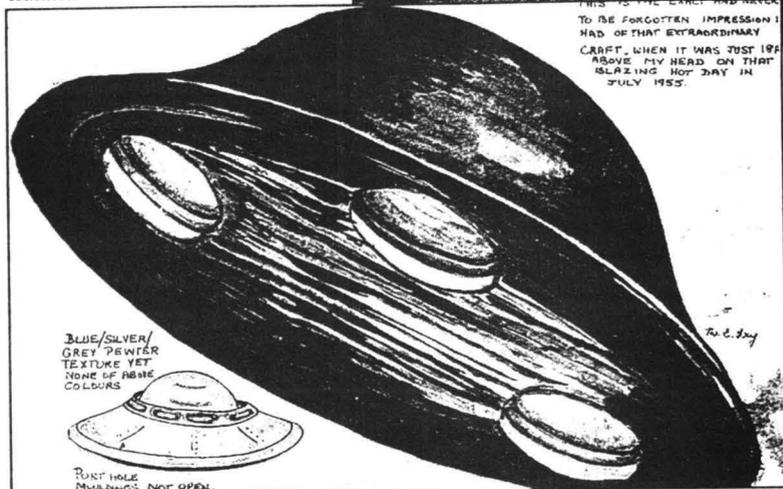
all. We threw ourselves down on the ground and watched it. The dog which was young and usually lively lay down between us. We lost all track of time.

"It was about 20 or 30ft wide, with terrifically bright white lights underneath. It looked very similar to the drawing in your September 4 issue. Then it shot off and disappeared from view before you could click your fingers.

"I could still take you to the exact spot. 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."



TO BE FORGOTTEN IMPRESSION I HAD OF THAT EXTRAORDINARY CRAFT WHEN IT WAS JUST 19ft ABOVE MY HEAD ON THAT BLAZING HOT DAY IN JULY 1955.



BLUE/SILVER/GREY PEWTER TEXTURE YET NONE OF THESE COLOURS

POST HOLE MOUNTINGS NOT OPEN.

● UFO SPOTTER: Ken Fairman (top) recalls his sighting and (right) Margaret Fry's sketch which was published on September 4 in News Shopper

● John Hanson is still looking for a group of children who saw the UFO. 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 01689885723

WHITBY GAZETTE, North Yorkshire, England - Sept. 20, 2002

Lights in the sky bring back sighting memory

SIGHTINGS of unidentified lights in the night sky has brought back vivid memories for one Littlebeck man.

Michael Berkley decided to contact the Whitby Gazette after seeing the spate of sightings and reveal his experience of almost 20 years ago.

He was walking his dogs in a nearby field just off Littlebeck Lane in 1983 when his sighting happened.

"What I saw that night was one of the best sightings I've ever heard about," said Mr Berkley, who is recounting his experiences in public for the first time.

As the dogs were chasing around, Mr Berkley saw a small "bluish green" coloured "flare" hanging in the sky in the east which he thought was a distress flare.

"It was about a mile away and I was below the trees standing perfectly still," explained Mr Berkley.

"The light travelled closer and closer in my direction in a perfect, straight line. It came right over the field and I could see that it was 18 to 20 feet across, seven feet in the middle and shaped like a disc.

"It was so surreal, it appeared to be some sort of mechanism. I know it sounds stupid but I shouted at the thing to stop. It did, about twenty feet above the ground. It started to move off very slowly above the lane and I was literally walking with it for ten minutes.

"My only hope of continuing the observation was to ask it to stop again, and it did. I couldn't see anything except for the dense lights.

by Greig Tindall

At this point Mr Berkley realised his dogs had vanished out of sight. He later found them at home.

"I was of the opinion that it (the object) was able to control itself," he said "I told it to land and the thing pulled away - it changed direction 45 degrees and moved away from me ever so slowly.

"The thing started to come down and it got to about five feet from the ground. It was then that I decided that I must somehow get some kind of evidence.

"I got myself really worked up. My mental faculties were frozen. The way it was landing was so controlled. But I started thinking about what I would do if it came down and how I would get evidence of it."

Mr Berkley has come to think that the object "sensed" his increased state of anxiety, and he believes this led it to abort the landing.

"It went back up to the original height and disappeared," he said.

Mr Berkley was worried at the time he may have been exposed to radiation. "I went back to our house 50 yards away and told my wife about it. She didn't believe me. I also told my children and I swore them all to secrecy.

"But after reading about these recent sightings I just had to tell someone. I didn't want people to think I was a crank. I didn't want to be ridiculed."

Mr Berkley has since tried to rationalise

what he witnessed. But his efforts to produce a logical explanation have left him far from convinced.

"The object could have been some unknown natural phenomena," he preferred. "But I spoke to this object three times and it obeyed my commands.

"I'm also certain it wasn't ball lightning because I was experiencing this for 15 to 20 minutes. If I hadn't got angry it would have landed because it was doing everything I said. I regret that I ever thought of being aggressive towards it. I've regretted for 15 years that I became hostile to whatever it was."

Following his encounter, an advert appeared in the Whitby Gazette asking people to call a number about sightings of lights that same night. He telephoned this number and he spoke to a UFO investigator who asked him about his sighting and said a woman living on the other side of the valley witnessed a similar light.

Mr Berkley said he never attempted to locate this woman and never had any more dealings with the UFO investigator.

But his research led him to discover that a fighter plane in the Belgium air force "locked on" to a UFO and asked for permission to fire before it got away.

"I'm not a crank, I know what I saw," said Mr Berkley.

"I just hope that by coming forward it might help other people who are serious about these things to gain information. If everybody keeps quiet then we will never know for certain that UFOs exist."

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Derby, England - Oct. 4, 2002

Family reports sighting of cigar-shaped UFO

A CIGAR-SHAPED UFO drifted over Ilkeston - and then did an encore.

A family, from Kirk Hallam, say it appeared to head for the village of West Hallam before returning from whence it came at about 7.45pm on Monday.

The mother, father and son, who do not want to be named, have lodged a detailed report with the Derby-based Phenomena Research Association.

They also called Derbyshire police, who did not receive any other reports. Although looking like a cigar, they say it flew sideways and had a series of lights.

The mother watched the object through binoculars from the family home. She said: "I have never seen anything like it. There's no aeroplane like that.

"It seemed to float across and there

was this hum coming from it."

Her son first saw the UFO while he was looking towards Little Hallam Hill, and alerted his parents.

The object had two rows of white lights near each end. Underneath were two yellow lights - and a red pulsating beam.

The centre of the craft was dark and it was difficult to gauge its size. But the mother held a pen at arm's length

and said it appeared as long as that.

The UFO came from the direction of the Stanton Works and later headed back that way.

Omar Fowler, Phenomena Research Association spokesman, said: "The family said that it made a low-pitched droning noise and that is typical of a large UFO craft. It is a major sighting and points to an increase in activity in the Ilkeston area."

WEST BRITON, Truro, England
Oct. 24, 2002

Reports of UFO visits to towns in Cornwall

HELSTON, Penryn, Perranwell and Truro were visited by a UFO, says Truro expert and UFO conference organiser Dave Gillham.

Mr Gillham runs Cornwall UFO (Unidentified Flying Object) Research Group. The annual conference was held at Truro on Saturday.

A fortnight ago, he said, two people near Tintagel saw something in the sky with multi-coloured lights on top each other that climbed before shooting off in different directions.

Recently, a Portreath resident said he spotted a boomerang object in the sky, while in December 2000, more than 100 people saw an object, with four white and orange lights around it, move in the sky from Helston, Falmouth, Penryn, Perranwell, Truro, to the A30 and to St Austell."

Mr Gillham said an RNAS Culdrose spokesman told him an aircraft had been on a rescue mission and had used flares. The station did not want to see video footage of the UFO.

UFO expert in the spotlight

COULD evolution from ape to man be down to alien intervention?
If Nottingham's UFO expert Tony James' theory is correct, then we could be forced to completely rewrite the history of mankind.
Joely Hawksworth and Lauren

Taylor caught up with the former investigator at his Nottingham home to discuss everything from sightings of greys and spacecraft
Q. The subject of UFOs is popular all over the world, what got you interested in it?

25 years ago I bought and read a book on UFOs and that was it, I was hooked! I really wanted to join a group that was interested in the same thing really, but to my horror, I discovered there wasn't any, so I was forced to set up my own, which by 1991 had eight investigators.

Q. It's OK reading about it, but have you had any experience yourself to suggest they do actually exist?

Yes I have. I've seen two actually, one whilst at home and one on holiday in Florida.

Q. What did it look like? It wasn't your traditional saucer shape was it?

The one I saw whilst in the garden I can only describe as a black smartie tube flying through the air length ways.

The other one I accidentally caught on camera whilst filming in Florida. It was only later while watching it back that I actually noticed it in the background hovering above the buildings in the distance.

Q. So, if you believe these creatures exist, where do they come from and what do they look like?

In my opinion they come from a planet called Zeta Reticuli. They look slightly like humans but smaller, grey and have big bug eyes.

Q. Why would anything so advanced want to come to our primitive planet, we've only gone as far as the moon, these things travel light years?

Simple really, this is their experiment and the reason they come here is to check up on how it's going.

Q. So they created us?

Well, I think they definitely are the missing link. They came here, found primitive man and genetically upgraded us over the centuries, hence how we can do such wonderful things nowadays.

Q. But, surely, if this is your theory, then you can't have any religious beliefs. It completely contradicts what religion says about the genesis of man.

You are right, I am not religious, I used to be! In fact, I wanted to become a vicar when I was younger. But, once I began conducting research into UFO sightings, my opinions changed completely. I discovered there was out there, but it wasn't God.

Q. Do you believe in alien abduction?

I personally do believe in abduction but I think that some people take it too far. When the aliens abduct humans they just do basic medical



examinations and insert little tags in our arms so that they can track us down wherever we are and observe us.

Q. Do you think that the Government are covering up the fact that there is life on other planets?

Yes I do. There is a place called Area 51 in New Mexico which I've visited with my wife a couple of times.

Many people who worked there have come forward and said there is alien craft there. They cover it up because they think that if everybody else knew the truth, there would be chaos. Let's not forget how reliant we are on the billion dollar industry around fuel.

These alien craft are energy free transport, if we could master that, there would be no need for fuel and the industry that surrounds it would go bust.

Q. Do you think that Nottingham is quite prolific for UFO sightings?

Yes, Nottingham is quite prolific for UFO sightings?

No but there was one quite big incident in 1991. Two giant triangular crafts were seen by hundreds of people as they passed over most of Nottingham. My wife and I interviewed 100 people including policemen on patrol, housewives, road sweepers etc and they all said they saw the same thing.

Q. Do you still investigate UFO sightings?

No I don't, the UFO sightings group split up in 1998. I don't miss investigating UFO sightings but if anybody in Nottingham wants to start up a group, I would be more than happy to help them. I send out a newsletter via e-mail every other week which goes round the world. That's my only contribution these days really.

If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter then please send your name and e-mail address in an e-mail to

AJAMES@emufora.freeserve.co.uk

Derbyshire, England - Oct. 10, 2002

Baffled by UFO sighting

A GREEN light fell from the sky to spark off a UFO alert.

With its glowing orange tail, school caretaker Gerald Mottram feared he was witnessing a plane crash.

He shouted to wife Marie - who saw the green light through her bedroom curtains at 5.50am on Sunday.

She got out of bed and the couple watched as the UFO appeared to come down in fields near South Normanton.

Mrs Mottram of The Ridge in Blackwell said: "My husband shouted me and thought it was a plane crashing.

"It came straight down very quickly and was definitely not a firework.

"You don't know what to believe and it could remain a mystery."

The couple were awake because their son Luke, 20, had just left work. They are hoping that other people may have seen the UFO and can shed some light on it.

They alerted police who have received no other reports.

The case is being checked by the Phenomena Research Association.

The couple's bedroom window gives them a clear view of South Normanton with the church tower visible on the skyline. From their angle, they believe it landed to the right of the church in open country.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Aug. 17, 2002 CR: G. Conway

LETTERS FROM READERS

Mixed response

Gullible people

Regarding David Stonehouse's article about crop circles ("Fields of dreams," Aug. 10), I am constantly amazed that living in this modern era there are still so many gullible and desperate people attempting to find "deeper meaning" behind both explainable and unexplainable events. Several years ago I watched a documentary on television that demonstrated how crop-circle makers create their works. It included testimonials from the makers themselves, completely dispelling any notions of "alien" or "spiritual" influence.

People such as Paul Anderson and Chad Deetken would be of much greater use to society if they focused their attention on real world problems such as disease, poverty, overpopulation, pollution and crime.

KEMP LEVIS
Burnaby

Your article on crop circles suggests no way of deciding which of the competing claims for the origins of these circles is most plausible. Let me suggest some ways for deciding: evidence and refutation.

The most important thing in deciding if they are hoaxes or not is whether there is evidence that can be tested. Apart from feelings of emotion and paralysis when in a circle, believer Deetken refers to a lab analysis of cereal from a circle that found the molecular structure had changed. This is very intriguing evidence. However, this also suggests many questions were unasked: What lab? How was the molecular structure changed? How were the samples gathered? If Mix had pursued these questions, we might have had a better opportunity to judge the validity of Deetken's claim.

Hoaxers, on the other hand, have demonstrated how the circles can be made by humans, as the Mix article states. For readers who want to verify this or even try their hand at it, the Circlemakers in England have a Web site, www.circlemakers.org that explains the steps in detail, including suggested designs and equipment (surveyor's tape, planks, garden rollers, hangers).

Another way of deciding which of these claims are most likely to be true is to consider whether the statements can be proven. A valid explanation must be open to being refuted or proven correct. Statements in the article by believers who have vis-

ited these sites refer to a feeling of a strong spiritual sense and a feeling of a presence. These may be real but they are too vague and subjective to refute or prove.

I share with John Robert Colombo his sense of wonder about the crop circles. However, my wonder is about the myth, folklore and stories that have build up around these circles and the role of the media in the mythologizing.

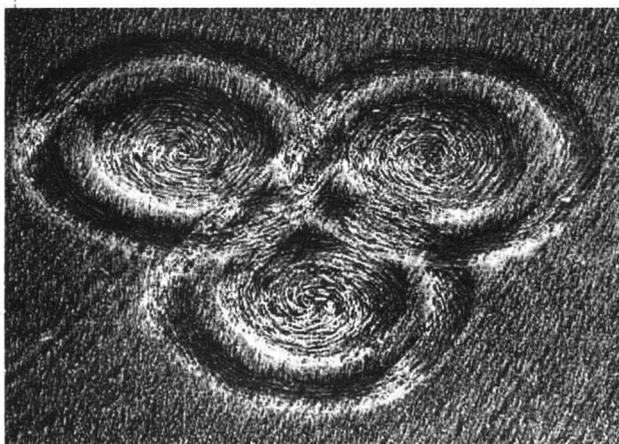
TOM MORTON
Vancouver

Re: your recent crop circle article: I'd like to clarify a point that is very important when it comes to studying physical phenomena such as these. I'm quoted as "not often travelling" to reported sightings, but in fact I am not just an armchair researcher. The article made no mention of Canadian Crop Circle Research Network trips to the Canadian prairies — trips made, at my own expense, specifically for this research.

Along with other members of the network, I spent a full two weeks last summer, for example, in both Saskatchewan and Alberta. (The Midale, Sask., photo used in the article was taken by me.)

We have met and talked to dozens of farmers where formations have appeared. Yes, I do want to "track" the phenomenon in this country, and share the findings via the Web site and reports, but members of CCCRN and I also do field research.

PAUL ANDERSON
Canadian Crop Circle Research Network



Crop circles in Midale, Sask.

BURY TIMES, Lancashire, England - Aug. 23, 2002

Sighting in sky sparks off search for other UFO witnesses

Clouds have a silver ... ball?

By DAVID THOMSON

A BURY woman watched in amazement as a UFO, which she described as a "silver ball", shot across the sky at breakneck speed.

Mrs Sandra Pilkington said the sighting took place as she, her mum Joan and family friend Donald Gill were enjoying a barbecue in the garden of a house in Almond Avenue on Saturday evening.

And she is anxious to know whether other residents saw the same object at around 8.15pm. "The three of us were in the garden when at first we saw a plane, which we believe had just taken off from Manchester Airport," explained Mrs Pilkington.

"Suddenly, as the plane was going past, a circular silver ball object shot across the back of it. It was above our heads for about five seconds. We all saw it. But in a matter of seconds, it had sped away."

She added: "The object definitely wasn't another plane because it didn't leave a trail. There was a clear blue sky above us. The three of us looked at each other and asked 'did you see that?' I then heard later about a crop circle and wondered if there was any connection."

Mrs Pilkington, who works at Bury College, now wants to know whether other people in Bury also saw the object.

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 South American newspapers and other media sources.]

July 11, 2002 — *El Diario de La Pampa*, Argentina — MUTILATED COWS: Government commissioned a study--partially released--suspecting the presence of a toxic agent, in a report presented by Dr. Marta Paturianne--a police expert and officer in charge of the Santa Isabel precinct of the Ministry of Production's Livestock Extension--suggesting that a narcotic or toxic element was present in some of the animals found out West? Why did the government not publicize this possibility? Nor is it mentioned if these agents may have consequences on humans.

When the first mutilated animals appeared in the Pampan Region, Bernardo Cane--the director of SENASA--said that they were the consequence of "esoteric practices" and finally stated that the incisions were produced by the "red-muzzled mouse".

Days later, the Minister of Production of La Pampa, Nestor Alcalá, was kicking the stands: "That type of mouse does not exist in the region," he retorted, responding to a question posed by *El Diario*. Alcalá made his statement after having seen one of the official reports to which this newspaper later had access.

It is a report presented by Dr. Marta Paturianne which posits that the lesions were not produced by known animals nor humans, and suggests another possibility: that the animals died upon breathing a toxic or narcotic agent. The report is in two folders with abundant explanations regarding the description of the anatomical/pathological lesions, but possible causes are suggested and photographs included the "La Pastoril Case" and "The Puesto de Sosa Case" in the western region of the province. Both describe the pattern lesions (defined by the Dept. of Pathology of the School of Veterinary Medicine of the National Univ. of La Pampa at General Pico). For example, in the "La Pastoril Case," the doctor describes the following characteristics:

- the cow is missing facial musculature (jaw and upper molars) and the ocular globe and the left ear,
- missing its pharynx, larynx, part of the trachea and its tongue,
- one of the characteristics is the thorough cleaning of the lodes bone, the bony base of the tongue,
- in the first few days after death, carrion birds shy away from the animal and the characteristic nauseating odors are not present. After the animal decomposes, foxes and other predators approach,
- absence of the mammary gland, perineum and vaginal tract.

Meanwhile--writes Paturianne--the causes of death are not clear. She supposes that at least three animals died due to having breathed in a "caustic narcotic" or "toxic agent" because "dissection shows that the trachea and hard palate are affected." This would have produced a cessation of cardio-respiratory function. "The mucosae of the hard palate appears mutilated, even carbonized," she writes. In any event, no studies have been made to establish this point. On the other hand, the report points out that the incisions are not produced by carrion animals since these will not approach the carcass. Paturianne makes no mention of mice, because the report was produced only days before SENASA's report become known. Yesterday, when questioned by *El Diario*, she said that "we have no mice or ants here--nothing."

The mouse theory is further mistrusted by Gustavo Siegenthaler, Director of the National Museum of History of La Pampa, and Alberto Pariani, academic secretary of the School of Veterinary Medicine. The experts agree on the following, however:

- the incisions follow a similar pattern: they appear with clean cuts on the ear, eyes, cheek, tongue, vagina, rectum and mammary gland, among others,
- the incisions are made post mortem, since there is no evidence that the animals put up a fight,
- most of the incisions appear between five and ten days after the animals' death. However, at least three cattlemen claim that they appeared from "one day to another" in dead and mutilated animals, according to the School of Veterinary Medicine at Pico.
- the presence of narcotics, or firearm holes, or blows from heavy objects has not been detected.
- poachers were not involved because the incisions are useless (with the exception of the tongue) and there are neither human nor animal tracks).
- abnormal levels of radiation are not found at the mutilation sites, according to the Nuclear Activity Regulatory Authority, which conducted studies in Toay and Santa Rosa.

But who is making the incisions? The hypotheses regarding the parties responsible for the mutilations are divided: SENASA and the Univ. del Centro de Buenos Aires at Tandil insist that "red-muzzled mice" and foxes were to blame. The Specialized Veterinary Diagnostic Service (SDVE) operations out of the INTA's Experimental Station in Balcarce states that in all cases "the bovines died normally and the extirpations were simply the work of carrion animals."

-Provincial Government agencies dismiss the possibility that the red-muzzled mouse could be to blame, since the species does not inhabit La Pampa.

-Specialists from the Dept. of Pathology of the School of Veterinary Med. of the Natl. Univ. of La Pampa also question the SENASA report.

-The Uruguayan government prepared another report, stating that "yellow jackets" [wasps] are to blame.

From April to the present, 59 mutilated animals have been found in our province, according to police statistics. "The number of cases I am aware of is 46, with one or more animals involved in each event," said Inspector Adolfo Sanchez. The causes are labelled as "damage". For each animal, the average loss is of 300 pesos. "The mutilations do not have a delinquent origin in themselves. Some owners made reports and others didn't, and the Police participated to unravel [the mystery], since it is clear that theft has not been the motive here," added Sanchez. [....]

Aside from the theories presented by scientists, there are others. The hypotheses and suppositions range from alleged "genetic creations" like the Chupacabras to the presence of Umbanda-type sects, including a corporate plot to take over the properties in the region:

-UFO researcher Fabio Zerpa suggests "alien scientists" are conducting research on the planet. This version is supported by multiple accounts which claim that "strange lights" can be seen in the sky, and the alleged absence of tracks around the mutilated animals.

-Cults: the theory originally proposed by the Buenos Aires police.

-Green Dwarves: there are those who say that a creature known as "the green dwarf" is roaming around the province. Residents claim it is between 50-60 cm. tall, has a large head and ears, large green eyes, two legs and long

arms.

-Chupacabras: this creature would be half-bat, half-kangaroo and half Grey-alien and murders cattle. It has been described as about 1.20 meters tall, weighing 32 kg. and with red eyes. It is said to jump or fly toward trees, attacking horses and chickens alike, draining their blood.

-Corporate Conspiracy: some residents believe in a corporate conspiracy aimed at causing fear among the locals to force them to sell their land at low prices.

-Aguara Guazu: a corpulent animal with long hands and legs native to Northern Argentina, but which occupied the banks of the Rio Colorado until the late 19th century. It has been dismissed since it feeds on small animals only.

-CIA: this theory holds that the mutants are the work of the US Government, linked to some kind of research in biological warfare. — CREDIT: Alicia Rossi

July 12, 2002 — *Semanario Colon* (Internet Edition), Argentina — COLON JOINS THE MUTILATED COW CLUB — The bovine, sporting non-traditional injuries, was found in a pasture field located in a field of the Boulevard 17 extension. It was mutilated and this time cattle rustlers were not to blame. The government drafted an official report blaming the shy red-muzzled mouse. By comparison, popular tradition suggests the Chupacabras or little green men.

Whether it is one thing or another, a rancher from Colon had the fright of his life. His name is Forti, and he lives in a development with 150 dwellings. The pasture field is located between Colon and Wheelwright, and there it was that the owner found a bovine with strange mutilations. The parameters followed by the alleged mice in causing the wounds are identical to the ones repeated in hundreds of cases in Cordoba, Santa Fe and Buenos Aires: precise cuts on the chest, the tongue extracted with admirable precision and the absence of genitalia. The rancher summoned an expert and was further astonished by the find, because nothing similar had ever happened before. This case can be added to the mutilated animals found at Hughes, Wheelwright and Villa Constitucion. — CREDIT: Alicia Rossi

July 13, 2002 — *Paralelo 32 - Digital Edition*, Crespo, Entre Rios, Argentina — UFOs on the Prowl in Entre Rios — In the past two weeks, "strange lights" were seen in various locales in the center of Entre Rios Province. Residents of Sola, Rosario del Tala and Mansilla were witnesses to the low-altitude maneuvers of objects they were unable to identify with known phenomena such as airplanes, meteorological events, animals or other elements. Last Saturday night, a resident of Parana filmed 15 lights which spun around in circles for 10 minutes. His home video was seen by some news media as proof of the strange phenomena.

The strangest case involved police officers in two squad cars at the truck stop on the crossroads of routes 39 and 6. The officers, according to a description offered by *Diario Uno de Parana*, saw how a powerful light made maneuvers in the night skies on Monday, July 1st. It approached the squad cars, producing "sparks similar to those of a photographer's flash"--a colorful spectacle full of "admirable" color bursts.

At a given moment, the light pulled back and the vehicles stopped operating. The engines wouldn't turn over and the lights were off. Half an hour later, when the strange luminosity had vanished completely, the police siren turned on "all of a sudden" and the engines responded to the ignition. The five occupants of both Renault 19 vehicles, one from Rosario del Tala and another from the Gobernador Sola sheriff's office, could find no possible explanation for what they saw. When the object came excessively close to the vehicles, the law enforcement personnel reached for their sidearms, but it seems that the strange light was not impressed, since it continued to fly close to the squad cars pursuing it, withdrawing in its own good time, after the photographic flashes. — CREDIT: Alicia Rossi

July 13, 2002 — *Diario El Cronista*, Chascomus, Argentina — STRANGE LIGHTS AT THE EDGE OF THE LAGOON — Residents of Sunchales street in the Esteban Echeverria neighborhood did not hesitate to notify the Squad Car Command last night after first making clear that they were not "seeing things" out of fear. Perhaps it was due to curiosity and uncertainty about the images before their eyes: strange lights changing colors and landing in the vicinity, on the edge of the lagoon, were the reason for the call. The lights further caused other local residents to remain on the lake's shores for forty minutes after the lights had vanished toward the south. Other lights seemed to land in the Monte Brown area and also in the proximity of the Fish and Nautical Club, where guests at a dinner held in the honor of racing fans caused the number of eyewitnesses to be even larger. — CREDIT: Alicia Rossi

July 14, 2002 — Investigation by the C.O.R. Group (Rio Cuarto, Argentina) — FLYING ENTITY IN ADELIA MARIA, CORDOBA — ****The C.O.R. Investigates**** — by Francisco Dominguez (C.O.R. Vice-Director), Natalia Urista, Lucio Fernandez and Mario Bracamonte (researchers). This Sunday, July 14, 2002, the C.O.R.'s research committee traveled to Adela Maria, 90 km from Rio Cuarto, with a population of 7000 and located amid a highly agricultural and livestock region. At this locality, whose residents have divided into skeptics and believers in ufological matters, the phenomenon has intensified and ranges from the death and mutilation of cattle to sightings of luminous objects of considerable size and the appearance of a flying entity over a cereal plant.

The C.O.R. Committee worked on this last event in particular, interviewing Pedro and Estela Moine, who on Wednesday, July 3rd, decided to go to the business district of the town, which is known as Barrio Norte to all residents of the locality, and crossed the old railroad yard (maneuvering yard) through pedestrian pathways that link both sectors of Adela Maria.

These are trails through low pasture areas and the rails run between silos, old railroad depots and abandoned wreckage. The aforementioned area is conveniently lit in its public and private areas. The time was nearly 21:00 hours when the couple moved through the premises from north to southeast, suddenly becoming aware of a "strange and incomprehensible conversation between many voices."

Startled by this, they stopped walking. They moved a few meters more and then heard the "voices" again, which now sounded like "strange 'O' sounds".

Pedro looked toward the silos and was able to see "something" he qualified as a "humanoid" but lacking upper and lower extremities. At least this is what he said during the interview. Despite the pleas of his wife Estela, Pedro ran several meters toward an inner alley in the silo plant, being able to make out-- some 45 meters to the west and in profile--the "entity", which acting surprised, avoided the encounter and moved again to the north. However, what filled the witnesses with wonderment was that the creature did so "as though flying or floating" without touching the facilities it passed. Filled with excitement, Pedro and Estela ran after it. It was thus that the man managed to see that the "entity" appeared to be "hidden" behind the control room of the truck scale.

[Pedro] ran toward it and was again startled [to see the apparition rising as a plane taking off, flying at an altitude of 5 meters and disappearing behind a large metal shed. Bewildered, both witnesses called out, but were unable to see

anything else. They decided to return home (a distance of some 250 meters to the north) to find their bicycles and complete the interrupted journey. It took them 15 minutes to go for the bikes and return to the site, where they were astounded to find that the lighting levels had returned to their normal levels, while everything had been darkened during the event, a fact which filled them with uncertainty and unanswered questions.

The apparition was described by Pedro Moine as "a thing with human shape" (he used the term "Christian", very common among the unschooled to describe something with human shape). It had some sort of light, although he could not say if reflected or self-generated, although he tends to believe the latter, since it was a nebulous whitish light which kept him from making out details, thus accounting for the lack of arms and legs. The entire mass of the apparition appeared to be a body covered from head to toe in some sort of mantle, which he described as though "it wore a hat, but covered with some kind of long raincoat" reaching down to what he took to be its feet.

He added that the "conversational sounds" repeated themselves on three separate occasions at various intensities. "They were like conversations in a strange language," he said.

On the following day, Estela decided to call FM del Sol, but the radio station did not give signs of being very interested in the event. She therefore resolved to phone FM Radio Adelia Maria, whose owner/director reported to the Moine household after hearing the first tale. He made a recording that was subsequently transmitted over the microphones. The Rio Cuarto *Puntal* newspaper echoed the news and published it. Subsequently, Channel 13 of Rio Cuarto did the same and sent a camera crew and reporter to make an audiovisual report of what happened to the Moines. And today, the C.O.R. research team made a detailed oral, photographic and video survey of the area, tasks which lasted until the late hours of Sunday. — Mario Luis Bracamonte -- Area Difusion C.O.R. [ovnicor@hotmail.com]
— CREDIT: Mario Luis Bracamonte

July 14, 2002 — *Salliquelo On Line* (Breaking News), Argentina — NEW ANIMAL MUTILATIONS IN SALLIQUELO — ****Mouse nowhere to be seen**** — A calf was found with incisions identical to those in cases which have already become known. What is strange about the find is that the calf, property of Aniceto Fernandez, was found dead and mutilated on a farm adjacent to his own. The owner believed that the animal fled to the neighboring property when it became frightened by something. This is the first case reported in which the animal is in an area of easy access, close to population centers and to any possible witnesses. Meanwhile, the phenomenon continues, with daily reports of new mutilations taking place in various parts of the country. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

July 14, 2002 — *El Argentino*, Gualeguaychu, Entre Rios, Argentina — DEAD SHEEP FOUND WITH HEAD MUTILATIONS AT SALTO (URUGUAY) — ****A resident of Salto is still astonished after finding mutilated sheep**** — Two dead sheep were found on the property of Walter Antonio Remedi, located at Colonia Gestido. The man found a dead sheep with mutilations on its head as he surveyed his fields.

The animal found by Remedi was missing an ear, an eye, the tongue and all of the flesh on the left side of the head. A swath of black fur and a lump of fat were found at its side.

Five hundred meters away, a second dead sheep was found with similar injuries to the head area, but it had already been attacked by dogs or other animals. As regards the other animals which have turned up dead in other parts of the country, this case involves sheep and not bovines. There were no signs of spilled blood. — CREDIT: Alicia Rossi

July 16, 2002 — *El Diario de La Pampa*, Argentina — WOMAN SEES GREEN DWARF AND FAINTS — A young woman fainted yesterday from nervous shock after having an alleged close encounter with "some sort of green dwarf" that appeared before her on 23:30 hours two nights ago as she walked--enveloped in darkness--along Misioneros Salesianos street, only meters away from Raul D. Diaz St. in the Villa Elisa neighborhood. This information was provided to *El Diario* by police sources in the Second District, stating in regard to the incident that "the protagonist's identity, and that of the other three women who attended her until the ambulance arrived, is not in our hands, We do know that at 11:30 at night a request for help was received from the corner of Raul B. Diaz and Salesianos and a squad car headed toward that location." According to the source, it was learned that "when personnel reached [the scene], the women were not there. In any event, the duty officer established that one of these persons saw some kind of green dwarf that looked at her pointedly, and she fainted."

Subsequently, a reporter for this paper was able to find out, from medical sources, that the woman was treated by personnel from an EMS ambulance under the direction of Dr. Brum, who "revived the protagonist and helped her out of her state of nervous shock. She was later sent home and the ambulance returned to the hospital where the doctor and paramedics were on duty." — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

July 16, 2002 — *Diario La Manana*, Argentina — TOWNSFOLK CLAIM HAVING SEEN UFO IN GOBERNADOR UGARTE — ****There was an intense light over an abandoned house**** — Residents of the 25 de Mayo rural area and police personnel from the Gobernador Ugarte barracks of said district claim having seen a powerful white light suspended in space for several minutes before taking off swiftly toward the West.

Three townspeople and three members of the Gobernador Ugarte police force witnessed something strange over a farmhouse--something that irradiated a very powerful white light from its lower section, making it difficult to see what was above the light. This fact has been made known to authorities of the Mercedes Police Department, who for the moment did not define the cause, although the eyewitness reports of local residents corroborates the sighting of a powerful light suspended over an abandoned house.

This "strange light" was seen by Jose Benavides and his wife Rosa Gutierrez, as well as by Manuel Gonzalez, who decided to report the event to the police barracks. It was thus that only a few minutes later the department's squad car, driven by senior officer Rafael Aragonés and assisted by two other officers, visited the field and attested to the truth of the call, since the strange light was indeed there.

The field where the light was seen is located some 7 km away from the city center of the locality in 25 de Mayo. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

July 17, 2002 — *La Voz de Bragado* (Year 2, No. 753), Argentina — A Mutilated Calf found in Bragado — ? Found in a field located in the town of Rauch Viejo ? — Died a natural death and was found mutilated 2 days after — A calf was found mutilated in the town of Bragado (Prov. of Buenos Aires) and the subject was discussed by several local residents. The event was confirmed yesterday morning and it took place in a ranch located in the Rauch Viejo quarter, more precisely at the Estancia Maria Magdalena, owned by the Vaccarezza family. Our newspaper reported to the scene and in a conversation with Mr. Oscar Latorre, we were led to the site where the lifeless animal lay, and where it was found by

Latorre himself. He explained that the animal died approximately 15 days ago, apparently intoxicated. "The animal died constipated," he remarked. He stated that he was able to see the animal with signs of mutilation on Monday morning and that he has no doubt "that it could be a rodent, given the tracks I found." What is most extraordinary about this case is the fact that the animal has been dead for 15 days yet "does not present any signs of decomposition and has not been devoured by vultures nor foxes, who are frequently seen around this area," said Latorre. On site, we were able to ascertain that the animal was missing its tongue, eyes or ears and had perforations in the anal area. — CREDIT: Alicia Rossi

July 18, 2002 — *El Nuevo Dia*, Coronel Suarez, Prov. of Buenos Aires, Argentina — MOUSE TAKES A HOLIDAY? — Perhaps to promote tourism, perhaps for reasons unknown--the fact remains that the red-muzzled mice have gotten their winter break early this year. The voracious rodents, which according to SENASA are responsible for the bovine mutilations which have caused such commotion among the population, have not been active for a while and the only explanation is that they are on winter recess.

In recent days, professional experts of the province of La Pampa have said with absolute certainty that these little animals do not exist--and have never existed--in that province. The explanation given by the ineffable director of SENASA is therefore not understood at all. This should not be surprising, since it was Bernardo Cane himself who said, prior to this astonishing scientific find, that the mutilations were due to esoteric rituals, then that they did not exist, then that too much gin was being drunk in La Pampa, and finally--at the maximum level of unreason--that "mysterious surgeons" played a role in these events.

To undercut his statements even further, there are unanswered questions. For example: at what medical school did the mice study the art of making such perfect geometric incisions? Where did they find the instruments needed to cauterize wounds? Where did the mice store the thousands of liters of water missing from the "Australian" water tanks? There are hundreds of other questions that are still unanswered. Meanwhile, speaking in a low voice so as not to be disparaged, many veterinarians of Coronel Suarez believe that that the explanation hasn't got the least footing and is incongruent no matter how it is examined. And although you may not believe it, the cases continue to occur, but no one reports them to avoid trouble.

What is strange is that the communication media have been satisfied with this answer. Or at least the major national media outlets, since in the provinces and smaller newspapers it is still said that the explanation is unworkable. The fact remains that Coronel Suarez has experienced at least three cases during the past month.

This strange silence speaks volumes. Has an order been issued to cease discussion of the subject? Does the presence of U.S. experts who arrived in large trucks and wielding costly equipment in La Pampa during the month of June have anything to do with it? There are many questions, and unanswered mysteries.

But it isn't true that the red-muzzled mouse has taken a holiday. The truth is that at someone's behest, it's gone into hiding. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

July 21, 2002 — *El Comercial*, Argentina (www.elcomercial.com.ar) — RESIDENTS OF FORMOSA CLAIM HAVING SEEN "LIGHT" — [note: first paragraph is missing] — Finally, Luis Fernandez retold the story of something that had captured his attention. In those locations, late at night, "I saw lights on the horizon in the places where the mutilations occurred. The light looks like a large flashlight that points down from above. We thought they were helicopters belonging to some agency touring the area. We went to look and couldn't hear or find anything. The lights look like someone's lighting something below from above, like a spotlight with an intense white light. That always happens around these parts, but we pay it no mind, otherwise one runs the risk of being called fanciful or a liar. We pay it no mind. But we will try to find what is really happening in those places. Some ten boys survey and comb the area with me. Someday, we'll find something," he said.

We checked with one of the persons who cross the area on a regular basis and they corroborated Fernandez's testimony. "It's true. We always see things like immense flashlights in this area which point downward from above, as though looking for something, but we never discuss it for fear of being taken for madmen or liars. This has to happen to you to understand it. Like my compadre, who would always laugh when I told him that at the edge of the Salado Creek, certain shining things would appear out of the sky, turning the night into day. We went fishing one night and what he didn't believe in unexpectedly happened. The light appeared above and lit up the area like daylight. We told [others] what had happened, but no one believed us. Therefore, it's not worth retelling it."

We also spoke to some residents at the 'Feklo' store who were talking excitedly about the 'burned cows.' They told us: 'It's true, from here we saw giant lights land in the area several times. Then they rise quickly to become lost in swift movement. At high speed. No one believes us, but it's true. It doesn't happen very often, but it happens after a rain shower or storm, and on cold nights, and always in the area where Don Luis found his dead animals. Maybe someday, someone will be able to take a photo [of them] or see what they really are. They aren't helicopters or anything we know. Of one thing we're sure--Luis Fernandez won't leave them alone. He'll watch them night and day until he has the chance to see what's happening to his cows.'" — CREDIT: Alicia Rossi

July 21, 2002 — www.vivechacabuco.com, Argentina — **Strange lights seen in the sky** — UFOs OVER CHACABUCO? — Two sightings in less than a week lead us to wonder about the certain possibility that we are being visited by aliens. The first of these cases occurred when a driver was taking three girls back to their homes on Sunday morning. According to the vehicle's four occupants, in the early morning hours of Sunday and at the Terapia exit, in the vicinity of the Garay extension, they saw a very powerful light that was not a star and appeared to be hovering low over the local houses. The light was motionless and changed colors from light blue to green. "When I stopped the car to see if I could hear something, I couldn't start the engine again. So I got out [of the car], fooled around with the engine a bit, and finally made it start. The girls were scared and holding hands, but we went over to the side of the road to get a better look. Before [getting there], we could already see that it was closer to us. It was about the size of the rising Moon, emitting flashes, and at a given moment the entire edge of the light was covered by some sort of fog, and I didn't like the matter at all," remarked the driver, who also made the report to the authorities.

"When the light still looked large in the sky, the police didn't even go out to look. When we left the Sheriff's office, it was still visible from the downtown area, and I'm certain that more people saw it, because it was clearly visible, and even though it was early in the morning, there are always people on the street." The 2nd sighting: Residents of 25 de Mayo street saw an object the day before yesterday during dusk. It remained in the sky for a few minutes before vanishing swiftly and mysteriously after having remained motionless. — CREDIT: Alicia Rossi



Sasquatch in Squamish?

People claim to have seen mythic beast

BY MARK HUME

VANCOUVER • A flurry of Sasquatch sightings on Vancouver Island and near Squamish on the Lower Mainland have revived hopes, among those who believe in the paranormal, that evidence of a mythical North American ape may yet be found.

"It has been really quiet for a long time, but now we're getting something of a comeback for Sasquatch

sightings," John Kirk, president of the British Columbia Cryptozoology Club said yesterday.

Mr. Kirk, whose organization seeks to document credible sightings by interviewing eyewitnesses and searching for physical evidence, said reports of "great hairy beasts" near Squamish and Port Alberni are encouraging.

"What we are really hoping for is that someone will have seen one of these animals rub against a tree or some branches so that we might recover a hair sample, or even some blood, that would allow us to do some DNA testing," he said.

the beast, only to be picked up and twisted in the air before being set back down.

Mr. Kirk said there have not been many sightings of Sasquatch, sometimes called Bigfoot, on the East Coast of Vancouver Island, but he is encouraged by the recent accounts.

"It's not an area that's been great for sightings. There might have been one or two over the years. But ... we think it's worth following up.

"The description of orange eyes gives them some credibility," he said.

"There's a reflective characteristic for Sasquatch eyes from all the sightings.... Many people report red, glowing eyes, and orange would just be a variation of that."

Mr. Kirk said the Vancouver Island reports follow closely on alleged encounters in the Squamish area, in which a larger animal was seen with two that are smaller.

Mr. Kirk said it could possibly be a female with juveniles.

"One report was by a woman who was camping. She was wakened by sounds in the early morning, looked out of her tent and saw the three animals," he said.

He said several other sightings from the same area have also independently described an apparent adult with two juveniles.

"This seems to be the same group of animals seen repeatedly," he said.

Reports of Sasquatch go back in B.C. history to undated native accounts from before European contact. But despite hundreds of expeditions by amateur Sasquatch hunters, no one has ever come back with any hard evidence of the mythical creatures.

Some people have recorded video footage, and others have collected casts of footprints but in all cases the evidence has been suspect or discredited as a hoax.

Mr. Kirk acknowledged that no matter how numerous or how intriguing the sighting reports have been, nobody has ever come up with proof that Sasquatch exists.

"People have run into them, that's why we get these sightings. But nobody has found the carcass of a Sasquatch yet. But quite frankly, how many hunters have ever found a dead bear or coyote in the woods? That's very rare, and yet there are lots of bears and coyotes out there," Mr. Kirk said.

"When you're dealing with an animal that is as intelligent and elusive as a Sasquatch ... if they are hard to see alive, it's understandable they would be hard to find dead.

"It's a difficult situation, though. Of course, we want to find hard evidence, and that's why we keep investigating these sightings."

National Post, with files from Graham Andrews, Alberni Valley Times mhume@nationalpost.com

The latest reports came in from the East Coast of southern Vancouver Island this week, where three people say they saw strange creatures between Port Alberni and Tofino.

Another individual has reported hearing the animals howling in the forest.

The Alberni Valley Times said in a story that Arnold Frank and Patrick Frank, his nephew, claim to have seen the creature twice.

The first encounter was in the bush: They heard a crashing sound and glimpsed the creature through the trees.

"We just saw some real big orange eyes, real high off the ground," Arnold Frank said.

The two men reported seeing the same creature run into the woods a few nights later when they drove along the highway.

"We both figured it was too big to be a bear," Mr. Frank said. "And bears don't walk on two legs."

They estimated the creature to be around 2.4 metres tall.

"To see something that big would scare anybody," said Mr. Frank, whose brother, Alex Frank, has reported hearing creatures in the thick woods in the area.

"There's a weird howling sound going on around Indian Bay during the day," he said.

The Alberni Valley Times also reported that an elderly woman claims to have seen a creature crossing the road in front of her car.

"The gigantic biped allegedly stopped in front of her car, and looked directly at her before disappearing into the bush."

Jessie Hamilton, an elder with the Hupacasath First Nation, said there are references to Sasquatch encounters throughout oral history, including one story about a man who wrapped himself in a blanket to hide from



Sightings and photographs of Sasquatch, sometimes called Bigfoot, have traditionally been discredited as hoaxes.

Ghosts, monsters, unexplained phenomena haunt Arkansas

By MELISSA NELSON
Associated Press Writer

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas can be a pretty scary place, and not just during the week of Halloween.

As a child in the tiny southwest Arkansas town of Fouke, Wanda Harris heard tales of a hairy monster roaming the countryside.

"He was supposed to be 7-foot tall, walk on two feet and have the ultimate body odor," Harris said. "When I was a teenager, our big weekend activity was to go hunt the monster, which of course we never saw."

Fouke's monster is among Arkansas' best known scary stories and ghost legends. The monster was the subject of the 1973 film, "The Legend of Boggy Creek" and has even found its way into the federal court system.

In a 1997 remark on the bench regarding a lawsuit challenging logging in the Ozark National Forest, U.S. District Judge William R. Wilson said the case had so many issues it was "as hairy as the Fouke monster."

According to local lore, the monster was last seen in 1991 by Shreveport, La., couple who saw it jump from a bridge. Harris said she believes the monster is still around.

Paranormal investigators at Eureka Springs' Crescent Hotel, which served as a Depression-era cancer hospital, say they have nightly visits from ghosts.

The investigators give tours, detailing for tourists the gruesome goings-on during the 1940s when Dr. Norman Baker swindled desperately ill patients into experimental surgeries.

Hotel staff and guests

have long reported ghost sightings. Manager Jack Moyer, who describes himself as a nonbeliever, said a door near his office opened by itself one night.

"I thought someone was joking with me, but then I looked and no one was there," he said.

The Arkansas Paranormal Society plans a live broadcast from the hotel basement, the former hospital morgue, on Halloween night. The hotel also plans a Halloween night masquerade ball.

"Personally, if I were a ghost, I would hide during Halloween because there is so much commotion around here," Moyer said.

Ghosts are also known to inhabit the E.C. "Took" Gathings federal building in Jonesboro. Two employees of the Internal Revenue Service reported hearing old-time piano music at night. Others in the building have reported mysterious voices and objects that were inexplicably misplaced.

Nancy Nelms, Craighead County's clerk, said the county courthouse next to the federal building is also haunted.

"We have a ghost we call Proctor who's lived over here for years. This is such an old building, and if you are up here at night you hear the racket," she said. "If we cannot find something, we always say Proctor moved it."

Nelms said she often frightens fellow employees with stories about the ghost.

"I can do a really good witch laugh that echoes down the halls," she said.

Brenda Fort also says she works in a haunted building. Fort, business director of the St. Francis County Museum, said employees have longed

talked about strange night-time goings in the museum.

The 1906 structure was built by Dr. J.O. Rush, who tended to the emergency medical needs of railroad passengers.

"There's one story about a man from a train whose arm was amputated in here by Dr. Rush," Fort said.

But she said most of the home's ghost encounters aren't scary.

"It's more playful, like if you put something down and cannot find it and come back later and it's in the most obvious place," she said.

Little Rock's zoo boasts its own ghosts in the form of tiny primates from Madagascar, who hang out on "Lemur Island." Their name means "ghost" and comes from Roman mythology, in which wandering souls of the dead, called lemurs, return to haunt the living.

Malagasy legend says that the souls of the dead enter the bodies of lemurs and lemurs' screaming cry was a signal the lost soul.

Zoo curator Carroll Hargrove says the lemurs' large, eyes have a haunting appearance.

"Their eyes are big and round and very piercing if you are looking at them head on and if you look at them at night they would scare you," he said.

Primate keeper Karen Caster said the calls of the red-ruffed lemurs are particularly frightening.

Now that her monster-hunting days are over, Harris, a Fouke Elementary School librarian, dresses in a monster costume at Halloween and shares the Fouke monster legend with her elementary school students.

WORLD, Tulsa, OK - Sept. 22, 2002

Big party for Bigfoot

► Sasquatch believers meet to swap tales about this much-ballyhooed man.

By DAN NEPHIN
Associated Press

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 Pennsylv-

ania Bigfoot Society.

Altman does not claim to have actually seen a Bigfoot. However, while investigating a report in the woods of Bradford County two years ago, he and another researcher heard some sort of creature.

"We couldn't see it, but we could hear it mumbling and growling — almost like speaking," said Altman, 32, who installs software for AT&T. He said it crossed the trail about 100 yards ahead of them, just out of sight.

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.

Christine Vinkler, 50, said she would have thought anyone claiming to see a Bigfoot was crazy, too — until June 2000,

when she said she saw one while driving to work. "I was a skeptic, very much so," she said.

Others not at the expo said they simply haven't seen any proof.

"There's a lot of evidence. The problem is it's not good evidence," said Benjamin Radford, managing editor of "Skeptical Inquirer," the magazine of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

"People have always believed in the fantastic," said Barbara Mikkelsen, who runs the Urban Legends Reference Page on the Internet. "We want to believe in a world where miracles can happen."

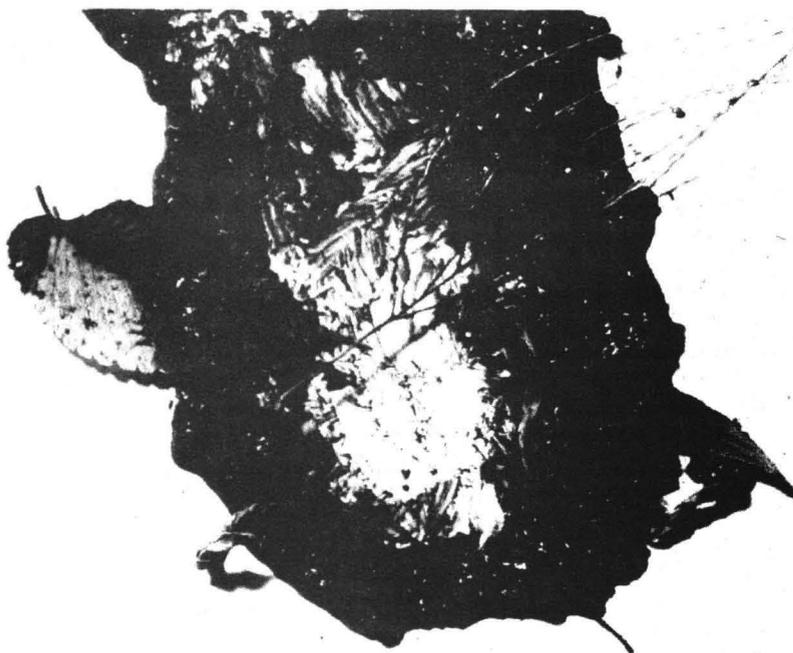
Dave Grim, 32, a high school history teacher, said he came to the expo out of curiosity.

"I'm open and would like to experience something I can't explain," he said.

The search by a Dallas-based group for an **East Texas swamp thing** makes Sasquatch hunters' hearts sing



AP PHOTO/FILE
This 1967 photo purports to show a female Bigfoot in Northern California, but, as with most reports of sightings, it has been disputed.



Believing in Bigfoot

By JESSIE MILLIGAN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

In the dead of night, they wait for the giant swamp ape they believe lurks along the creek bottoms of Texas, Arkansas and beyond.

Long after midnight, horrible screams jolt them upright. Did the recording device catch it? That was no panther, they whisper to one another. It sounded animal, all right. Something of a cross between a growl and a scream.

Chris Neal leaves his father's side at their post along the South Sulphur River and finds his way to the rest of the group that is hoping to prove the existence of the legendary Southern Bigfoot — also known as a monster, wild man, Sasquatch, or an elusive ape native to North America. About 90 Bigfoot sightings have been reported in Texas, the most recent one in August by a boy near Paris.

This October night was awash with heavy rains and not turning out as planned.

If not for the weather, a small airplane would have taken a night flight over the bottomlands of the river, near Copper Lake north of Greenville. The pilot would have radioed

coordinates to a ground crew if his infrared equipment had detected suspected Bigfoot movement.

John Neal, 57, of Garland and son Chris, 36, of Sachse were part of the ground crew, along with other members of The Texas Bigfoot Research Center, the name for a group of Bigfoot hunters who maintain a center only in cyberspace, www.texasbigfoot.com.

If the pilot had given the signal, the Neals were to have rushed through the bottomlands and helped capture photographic proof that an 8-foot-tall Bigfoot lives, breathes, twists trees down to mark territory, steals livestock and garden vegetables, and fills swamps and woods with unworldly hollers.

The mission was not an entire washout. The ground crew spent the night in the woods, where dripping branches enclosed hunters who stood in awe of the power, the cunning, the very essence of wildness attributed to the beast. Chris Neal fell almost into a trance as he strained to hear heavy footsteps or a howl.

He is among those who go out hunting for Bigfoot and instead find something within themselves: a love of unsolved mysteries and chilling hunches that find shape in the night. Chances, perhaps, at fame or fortune if a Bigfoot is ever proved to be real. And fear, always fear. Those are the things that draw the hunters.

The search for a Southern Bigfoot began in earnest in the late 1960s after several large-ape sightings were reported in Fouke, Ark., 15 miles southeast of Texarkana. The sighting reports were popularized by the movie *The Legend of Boggy Creek*, released in 1972. The low-budget docudrama featured real folks who had reported strange and terrifying encounters with an ape-like animal.

The creature was shot at several times by frightened Foukians, but not felled. Smokey Crabtree, a former oil pipeline welder and lifelong trapper from Fouke, built a metal cage-trap he says was "strong enough to hold a Brahma bull." But it never captured a Bigfoot.

The sightings in the area abated, but the image from the film took a firm hold on many a young person's imagination. For some, the enchantment held on into adulthood. *The Legend of Boggy Creek* is the inspiration for many of the folks who got together to form the Dallas-based Texas Bigfoot Research Center three years ago. They seek to photograph Bigfoot. They do not wish to kill one, though they wouldn't mind if a deer hunter called, saying: "I just shot the weirdest thing..."

The group of about 30 people has been using high-tech equipment, all-night stakeouts, baits and an Internet database of sighting reports in an effort to find solid proof that Bigfoot is real.

To accept the idea of a swamp ape requires following the believers up a ladder of logic. Each rung is a plausible, although often vague, hypothesis. The ladder has not led to anything tangible, but it does serve to prop up the fascination.

(continued on page 19)

At the very first step of acceptance is this: It is possible for an apelike creature to live in the South.

"The climate and ecology are right for primates," says Monica Rollins of Livingston, a manager with a Texas-based department store and one of the Bigfoot researchers. The federal government, citing environmental reasons, recently chose Louisiana for a haven for former research chimps. So why couldn't big, wild primates live in Southern swamps as well? Rollins asks.

Then comes the physical evidence. Several examples of what appear to be Bigfoot footprints have been found in Arkansas and Texas. They are more than a foot long, and usually are not found on the side of a road, where a prankster might have left them, but far out of the way. Or, oddly, right next to a window of a home. These "prints" frequently have just three or four marks that resemble toes, unlike the Northern Sasquatch, which is said to have left five-toed prints.

"They don't have much habitat to roam in the South. I believe that the lack of toes in Southern Bigfoot is the result of inbreeding," says Chester Moore Jr. of Orange, Texas, a free-lance outdoor writer. Hair samples collected by

the group have been sent to DNA test labs and the results have come back as "unknown species, unknown primate," says Craig Woolheater, a Dallas software programmer and co-founder of the Texas Bigfoot Research Center.

Photo evidence? The group keeps a surveillance camera posted at a secret spot along the Sulphur River, a frequent site for Bigfoot reports in Northeast Texas and Arkansas.

To accept the idea of a swamp ape requires following the believers up a ladder of logic. Each rung is a plausible, although often vague, hypothesis. The ladder has not led to anything tangible, but it does serve to prop up the fascination.

The Red River and Sabine River also have yielded reports. The cameras have not captured a conclusive image.

Then comes the evidence that has to do with scent and sound. Bigfoot sightings are often accompanied by reports of rank odors. Folks who wait in the woods at night also report hearing screams.

"I've traveled around the world as an outdoor writer. The only thing I've heard that resembles that noise is the one made by the howler monkey in South America, only angrier," Moore says.

The next rung of believing comes when researchers think that they've had an interaction, of sorts, with a Bigfoot.

Bigfoot is believed to be an omnivorous diner who eats wild fruit, stolen garden fruits and vegetables, and fish from its river home. A bait has been concocted, left high up in trees, and by morning has vanished.

And what is Bigfoot bait? Mix: Several cans of fish-flavored cat food

Handfuls of wild plums
A cantaloupe or two
Stir and serve.

The bait hasn't drawn any known Bigfoot, who may be not only persnickety but also

downright cranky.

And how is it explained that the Southern Bigfoot is said to be more aggressive than his Northern counterpart?

The Bigfoot in *The Legend of Boggy Creek* was reported to have looked in windows at night, tried doorknobs, crashed his hand through a window-pane, and even grabbed a man and shaken him senseless.

Again, Moore explains the violent behavior as the result of congenital bad moods caused by inbreeding.

The Texas Bigfoot Research Center does not reveal names or specific locations in its database of sightings. Much of the group's work is done in confidence, mostly because people who admit to such sightings are unmercifully ribbed and therefore less likely to make a report. Or are they more likely to fake a report?

Ken Marvel of Arlington interviews people who report a Bigfoot sighting. The Texas Bigfoot Research Center does not give polygraph tests, but instead relies on judging the character of the person doing the reporting. Occasionally reports are discarded as too outlandish, but many are logged into the group's computer database as probable sightings.

"Something happened to these people. I can see it in their eyes and hear it in the emotion in their voice. What are they going to get out of lying to me?" says Marvel of the interviews he finds most credible.

Of course, Bigfoot believers are a beleaguered crew. Are they hallucinating? Lying? Mistaking a standing bear for an ape?

Bigfoot hunters say they've heard it all.

"People think this is some person running around in an ape suit," says outdoor writer Moore. "With all the hunters in East Texas, wouldn't that be a stupid thing to do?"

And they hear this: Why hasn't a body been found? Shouldn't there at least be Bigfoot roadkill?

Among the responses are these, from Woolheater,

research center co-founder:

The chances of finding a body are reduced by the fact that there probably aren't many Bigfoots in the first place.

The belief is that bears in Texas and Arkansas probably outnumber Bigfoots. There aren't many bears. And how often do you find a bear carcass?

"There's been speculation that they are cannibalistic, or that they bury their dead," Woolheater says. "Also, things that die in the wild don't stay around long."

And this apelike animal, according to sighting reports, is fairly smart and fleet of foot, somewhat graceful, even, allowing it to avoid cars better than deer or armadillos do.

The swamp screams aren't the only thing that sustains fascination among Bigfoot believers. An unknown wild thing holds an emotional appeal as well.

Often when people talk about Bigfoot, they use words that describe characteristics or concepts they admire, things they may find within themselves.

"He's not a myth. He's always been with us, shy, powerful and free," Maryland writer and Bigfoot aficionado Fred Grimmnitz said at a recent Texas Bigfoot Research Center convention, attended by about 200 people in Jefferson.

There is faith among Bigfoot fans.

"I don't need to see one to believe," says Beth Meyer of Jefferson. "Man, in his infinite knowledge, believes he knows so much but knows so little. God has created so much we don't know about."

There is the thrill of risk.

"I like to be in on the adventure," says John Neal.

And there is fear, always fear.

As the narrator in *The Legend of Boggy Creek* says: "I'd almost like to hear that terrible cry again just to be reminded that there is still a bit of wilderness left, and there are still mysteries that remain unsolved and strange, unexplained noises in the night."

Jessie Milligan, (817) 390-7738
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Recent reported Bigfoot sightings



The Bigfoot Files

Recent examples of sighting reports:

Summer 2002: A 13-year-old boy jumping on his trampoline in his front yard hears his dog barking and looks up to the forest's edge. He later tells Bigfoot investigators he saw a creature similar to a gorilla looking at him. His mother believes him, and says she has found large footprints near her bedroom window. The incident is one of several reports that have come in from the Pat Mayse Lake area north of Paris.

Late fall 2001: A hunter near Marshall puts down apples to attract deer, only to look up and see what he says was an apelike creature standing 7 feet tall holding a deer hindquarter. The creature collects the apples and leaves.

Spring 2000: A couple driving between Lufkin and Longview report seeing an 8-foot-tall auburn-colored creature walk upright out of the woods.

Source: Texas Bigfoot Research Center

Documentary on Bigfoot will be aired this week

By Jim Williams

It's not uncommon to hear stories of campers and hunters in remote areas of the state having strange encounters with what is known locally as a Bigfoot.

While many believe the stories are simply the result of over-active imaginations or just tales told around campfires for fun, others firmly believe Bigfoot is real and is out there lurking somewhere in the woods.

A documentary exploring the possibilities that a population of the reportedly large hairy primates inhabits the woods and mountains of south central and eastern Oklahoma will air nationally this week and next on the Travel Channel.

Producer Rene Barnett said Bigfootville, an hour-long documentary project of the British company, Bluebook Films, will be on at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Tuesday and at 2 p.m. on Oct. 19.

The documentary on the legendary creature includes interviews with residents in eastern and south central Oklahoma, including some from McCurtain County.

Those interviewed come from every walk of life, Barnett said, and are very credible people.

"The people we spoke with really didn't want to talk," she said. "They were very reluctant to go on television. They had been through it before and didn't want the ridicule. That, to me, added to their credibility."

And there was another reason, she said, for taking those interviewed seriously.

"No one asked for any money." Barnett, who is originally from Stigler, said she had been in television work since 1996 and became involved in the production of Bigfootville after working on another program with British director Bruce Burgess.

When Burgess discovered that she had lived in Oklahoma, he told Barnett of his plans to do the documentary, and later asked her to work on it.

"It had a lot to do with the fact that I'm from Oklahoma," she said.

Barnett admits that she didn't hear too many legends of Bigfoot growing up in Haskell County, but was astounded by the number of stories and legends that are available.

"I was amazed at the Native American legends on the subject," she said.

Barnett said once the project started, the area was scouted in November 2001 and filming of the documentary took place during the following month.

Much of the filming took place in the Grand Lake area, Ada, Antlers, Broken Bow, Idabel and surrounding areas, she said.

And along with the interviews, she crew spent some cold nights in swampy and wooded areas on the chance of getting a Bigfoot on film.

"Our entire crew was British, except for me," Barnett said. "They were flabbergasted by the natural beauty of the area and they just fell in love with the people."

Crew members were very grateful to the reception given by the residents, she said, and liked the area so much that some even expressed a desire to return to the area at a later date to visit or live.

"Personally, it made me proud to be a native Oklahoman," she said.

Barnett said she hopes to return to Oklahoma in the future to work on additional documentaries dealing with the state's history.

Mysterious boom heard across Volusia

DELAND — For a little while, it seemed like there was a little Halloween black magic in the air.

From DeLand to New Smyrna Beach and even as far away as Lake Mary, people called local law enforcement agencies trying to figure out just what caused a loud boom Thursday afternoon. While brief, the noise at about 4:30 p.m. was strong enough to rattle walls in various locales.

And there were various theories as to the cause, as well.

Initial reports chalked it up to a space shuttle landing. But there was no shuttle landing Thursday. Other people reported they had seen and heard an explosion and subsequent house fire in Volusia County.

Again, no such event.

Then there was the power transformer blowout in Sanford. Or the one about a factory in Daytona Beach releasing a powerful blast of exhaust.

By Thursday night, this Halloween mystery appeared to have been solved.

Dispatchers at several Volusia County law enforcement agencies — all of which reported a heavy volume of calls about the boom — said military fighter jets passing over the area en route to a flight show were responsible for the spooktacular noise.

Radio talk show's Bell to hang up headphones

Radio talk show host Art Bell, whose overnight talk of UFO sightings and conspiracy theories made him famous, has announced his retirement.

Bell, 57, said on Wednesday night's show that he'll retire because of ongoing back problems.

Regular guest host George Noory will replace Bell on Jan. 1. Barbara Simpson will host on weekends.

Bell, who broadcasts from his home studio in Pahrump, 60 miles west of Las Vegas, plans to be an occasional guest host for Noory.

NEWS JOURNAL, Daytona Beach, FL - Nov. 1, 2002 CR: G. Conway

DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, UT Oct. 26, 2002

The biologist believes

By Andrew Findlay
Special to The Province

John Bindernagel wades through waist-deep salal, soaked from a fresh summer rain, on the shore of Wolf Lake, northwest of Courtenay. The going is slow as he guides his lanky frame over and under slash and around moss-covered rock bluffs in search of his quarry.

As he gazes out over the lake towards Mt. Washington, across a seemingly endless green expanse of uniform timber, the needle-in-a-haystack nature of his quest becomes starkly evident.

Bindernagel, an energetic 60-year-old wildlife biologist, is a believer — a believer in Sasquatch, Bigfoot, the skunk ape, or whatever name you choose to give that elusive primate that some people believe lurks in the shadows of the North American wilderness.

"As far as I know, I'm the only biologist studying the Sasquatch," Bindernagel says. "The evidence is strong enough to suggest we should study it more. There have been thousands of sightings in North America and all the descriptions are the same. This is intriguing."

Bindernagel scans the hillside for signs of a path, some kind of animal thoroughfare that would be a logical place to erect his new motion-detector camera. Fueled by reports of four different sightings in the vicinity of Wolf Lake, Bindernagel hopes to capture his first image of a Sasquatch.

Half an hour earlier, as we launched Bindernagel's boat at the south end of Wolf Lake, a man with a young family approached and wished us luck. If we caught our limit, he said, feel free to drop by the campsite with a cut-throat trout.

"Ah, sure," I said unconvincingly, opting not to inform him that we didn't have any fishing rods on board.

Bindernagel settled in Courtenay in 1975. He became fascinated with Sasquatch stories while doing an undergraduate degree in wildlife management at the University of Guelph. After completing a Ph.D. in Wisconsin and a stint in Africa working for the United Nations, the affable scientist moved to Vancouver Island convinced that the high concentration of sightings and confined geographical space would make it ideal for Sasquatch study.

Twenty-seven years later, his efforts have yet to yield a sighting. However, in 1988 he and his wife, out for a hike near Lake Helen Mackenzie

in Strathcona Provincial Park, found a set of large ape-like pug marks in the mud. Without a doubt, this discovery is the highlight of his Sasquatch research — so far, that is.

Before setting off this evening, he had ushered me into his cluttered home office and shown me a plaster cast of the prints proudly displayed on a wooden shelf. He also pointed out the scores of reports and sketches that keep trickling in from people who are convinced they have seen something in the woods that you won't find in a field guide for North American wildlife.

"I think it's been spotted more than we know but many of those sightings are not becoming reports because people are afraid of being laughed at," Bindernagel surmises, quite correctly.

He should know. Skeptical fellow biologists have ridiculed Bindernagel at professional conferences, and occasionally he is mocked in the press. As teenagers, Bindernagel's two kids were terrified that knowledge of their father's Sasquatch obsession would spread like a brush-fire through the school grounds. However, they outgrew their embarrassment, and both helped in the editing and illustration of Bindernagel's self-published tome, *North America's Great Ape: The Sasquatch*.

Bindernagel maintains a jovial outlook, driven by unexplained sightings and reports.

Dusk falls on Wolf Lake and the liquid shadows grow long and eerie. The fading light is barely able to penetrate a thick canopy of second-growth timber. Except for the sound of snapping twigs beneath our boots, it is silent. It's the time of day when the forest becomes animated by your imagination, and you feel as though you are being watched. Against this backdrop, it is much easier to understand Bindernagel's obsession.

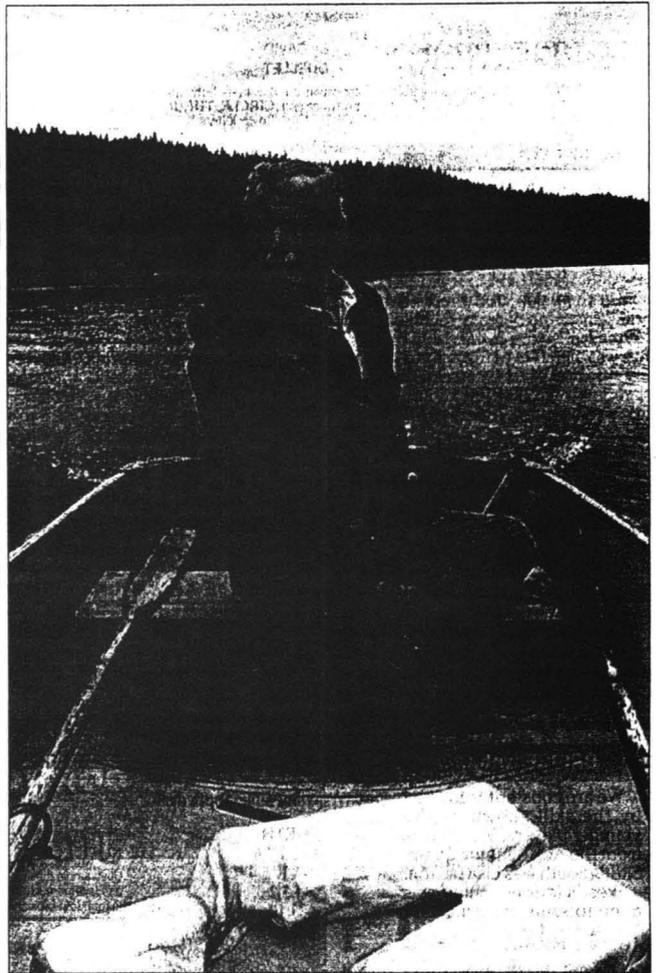
When it comes to Sasquatch, I count myself as a skeptic. If it existed, we would have a skeleton to prove it. Still, part of me wants to believe.

Back at the boat launch, we meet the same young man.

"Any luck?" he calls out hopefully.

"Ah, we didn't bring our fishing gear tonight," I tell him.

He gives me an incredulous look, as if he couldn't fathom anyone being afloat on Wolf Lake without a rod. And I just can't bring myself to tell him that we were out looking for a Sasquatch in the wilds of Vancouver Island.



Andrew Findlay photos — for The Province

Dr. John Bindernagel scans the quiet shores of Wolf Lake near Courtenay for any evidence to support past reports of Sasquatch sightings in the area.

Every culture has its mysterious monsters



Dr. Bindernagel shows the cast that keeps him going.

Why are humans so taken with tales of strange and elusive animals?

The answer is as blurry as the infamous 1967 Patterson film footage — 952 frames of 16-millimetre film which purportedly show a surprised female Sasquatch fleeing into the forest of Bluff Creek Valley in Northern California.

The film has been debunked as a hoax, but people continue to believe in legendary animals such as Sasquatch, or Bigfoot, and in aquatic oddities such as the Loch

Ness monster.

Robert Pyle, an ecologist and author, says many of the world's cultures have human-like giants in their folklore.

In his book *Where Bigfoot Walks*, Mr. Pyle says creatures such as the Sasquatch fill a human need for something to believe in, and a need for wilderness in our lives.

"We have this need for some larger-than-life creature."

But Mr. Pyle acknowledges that some Sasquatch believers are just plain nuts.

"Some Bigfoot people are like Elvis people," says Mr. Pyle. "It's not a matter of them not having both oars in the water. They don't even have a boat."

Mr. Pyle once attended "Sasquatch Daze," the annual gathering in Harrison Hot Springs.

"Those guys didn't want to find Bigfoot," he says. "They wanted to be Bigfoot."

Some believers think the Sasquatch descended from the extinct gigantopithecus, the largest ape that ever lived. Reports of large,

roaming, hairy bipeds have circulated in B.C. and northern California for at least 100 years.

The consensus among believers is that the Sasquatch is a nomadic, nocturnal, foul-smelling, ape-like creature at least six feet tall yet non-aggressive.

But for most people the Sasquatch is merely an entry in the paranormal catalogue, which includes UFO abductions, crop circles, the Loch Ness monster, and weeping statues.

— Bruce Ward

The fur flies over big cat sightings

By ROB DAVIES

ARE there really big cats out in the wild? Some believe passionately that the British countryside is now home to pumas, panthers, lynxes and hybrid versions of native wild cats.

Others dismiss such reports as fanciful and no more credible than claimed sightings of the Loch Ness Monster.

Crop circle devotees and UFO followers on the other hand, are enthusiastic supporters, no doubt hoping that if folk can be convinced about them, their own bizarre yarns might be easier to swallow.

The proof, of course, would be in solid photographic evidence. There isn't much — just a few blurred shots of the so-called Beast of Bodmin and the like.

There have been plenty of reports throughout the Midlands of big cats however, including this from Albert Preece of Tipton two years ago.

Looking towards the old railway track at the back of his house, he often saw foxes prowling through the scrubland. On this occasion the creature was entirely black and its ears were pointed like a lynx.

"I've never seen anything like it before apart from at a zoo," he said at the time.

Other reported sightings include:

● November 2000: A panther walking across a field in the Wyre Forest area

● October 2000: Large paw prints found in a back garden of a home in Wombourne, possibly



Robert Wilson's picture taken in Burntwood those of a young puma.

● July 1999: Big black cat spotted yet again in Tipton. Believed to be oversized felines, possibly a hybrid relic of old English wild cats.

● July 1998: Claims that video footage had captured the Beast of Bodmin — it appeared to show a black, 3ft 6ins long animal.

● Numerous reports over the years of large black cats on Cannock Chase, including Robert Wilson's picture taken in 1998.

The theory is that these creatures, if they exist, are descendants from those either deliberately released from captivity or escapes. For instance, during the First World War many private

menageries were closed and it is believed many animals were simply let free.

Amidst all this are two voluntary research organisations which investigate sightings from members of the public: The Exotic Animals Register run by Terry Hooper in Bristol and the British Big Cat Society founded by Danny Bamping in Plymouth.

They ought to work together but in fact they are bitter rivals who fight like cat and dog.

Last week, the BBCS announced that sightings of big cats, including pumas, black panthers and fen tigers had reached record levels in Britain this year. In the last 12 months, the BBCS claims to have received more than 800 reports of big cats in the British countryside.

Mr Bamping said: "During the first six months of 2002 we have seen an incredible amount of big cat activity. We have now had big cat reports in every single county. The public response has been fantastic."

Terry Hooper believes their claims are often wildly exaggerated and poorly researched.

Mr Bamping acknowledges he is not a specialist in big cats but has been an enthusiastic investigator ever since he claims he saw one himself a decade ago, and has experts working with him.

Mr Hooper says he is the only police accredited researcher to whom people should pass reports.

The RSPCA keeps an "open mind" on big cats and advises anyone who thinks they have seen one to tell the police and former Ministry of Agriculture, DEFRA.

Alaskan Bird Mystery



Residents in southwestern Alaska have reported seeing a giant winged creature flying around the villages of Togiak and Manokotak that looks like something out of the movie *Jurassic Park*, according to the *Anchorage Daily News*. A pilot who spotted the bird said that he believes its wingspan matched that of his 4.25-metre Cessna 207. Moses Coupchiak, a 43-year-old heavy equipment operator from Togiak, alerted his fellow villagers by radio to keep their children inside after spotting the bird flying toward him. State biologists believe the sightings of a very large, raptor-like bird, but are skeptical about the reported size. They theorize that it may be a fish-eating Steller's sea eagle, which can weigh nine kg and have a wingspan of up to 2.5 metres.

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