

UFO

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Billy Briddick has been fascinated by Stonehenge and crop circles ever since his son took an unusual photograph of the stone structure in 1996.

Brian DeNeal photo

3 generations of an Eldorado family are fascinated with the unknown

BY BRIAN DENEAL
STAFF WRITER

ELDORADO

Billy Briddick's first encounter with the unusual happened when he was a young man.

He and his friends used to walk along the L and N railroad track which led to a few fishing holes just north of Eldorado. One winter night he was walking alone and the temperature was near zero.

He spotted the cattle herd belonging to Nelson and Harry Fowler huddled together in a corner of the fenced pasture.

"From a distance you could see a kind of blue haze around them," Briddick said.

Getting closer the pale blue, semi-circular haze disappeared.

He thought he knew what the phenomenon was. He had read up on St. Elmo's Fire, a blue haze caused by static electricity that is sometimes seen on the mast of ships. He reasoned the cattle were packed in close together to keep warm on the frigid night and the rubbing together of their fur caused an electrical build up.

"It was a pretty thing. It looked like a halo," Briddick said.

Briddick doesn't consider himself superstitious, but his family comes from southern England where existence of ghosts is accepted as fact, he said.

It was in learning of his relatives in England that led to another odd experience.

Briddick and his son, Alyn, in May of 1996 visited England to meet some of their relatives and decided to go to Stonehenge in the Salisbury Plains of southern England while they were there.

Briddick said Stonehenge was an awesome sight. He said he never realized the rectangular blocks that stick out of the ground were about the size of trailers of tractor-trailer rigs.

"It's a weird feeling. There's a magnetism that draws you back to it. I don't know what it is, but we didn't want to leave," Briddick said.

The day was cool and overcast. Alyn snapped about 30 photos. They saw an ultralight fly across the gray sky. And finally, they left.

When they got the photographs developed, they noticed in one there were six white elliptical shapes, like smoke rings, in

the air over the stone structure.

The Briddicks didn't think much of the shapes in the photo until years later.

Always interested in the unusual, Alyn bought a book on crop circles. There was a picture of an ornate spiral-shaped crop circle in a corn field just across the highway from Stonehenge. The crop circle was photographed in June of 1996, just a month after the Briddicks were there.

From the book, Briddick learned an ultralight, possibly the same they saw over Stonehenge, passed over the area in the daytime and there was nothing unusual. The pilot flew over again about half an hour later, and saw the crop circle.

Also in the book, Briddick learned people have reported seeing elliptical lights in the sky before a crop circle was sighted.

Briddick still has the photograph. He and Alyn have examined it several times over the last eight years and it has faded some. Now only three of the shapes are evident.

The Briddicks have doubts the crop circles are man-made despite a confession of a few men they had created the circles as a stunt.

Briddick believes the designs are more ornate than what the men were able to demonstrate.

"I can't believe they were man-made. That's geometrically perfect," he said indicting a crop circle in the book.

"The point comes down to a single stem."

Briddick, Alyn and Alyn's son Adam don't consider themselves researchers in the unexplained, but have read enough on crop circles to form some theories of their own.

One is that Stonehenge was built on top of a crop circle 5,000 years ago. Though most people think of the structure as a single circle, they say it was at one time several concentric circles and a few stones still exist outside Stonehenge as evidence of this.

"They had to have a reason for bringing these stones. They didn't take them anywhere else but there," Alyn said.

Since Stonehenge was built, people have hauled away stones to build fences, Briddick said, stone being hard to find on the chalky Salisbury Plains.

He said there is evidence nearby of a "woodhenge", a similar structure made of wood that has mostly deteriorated. He believes this was built over a crop circle also.

There are other unusual designs in the area that seem to have been created to view from the sky.

In the chalky plains, designs have been scraped away in the field by ancient people. One design is a giant horse and another is a giant naked man prone on his back.

Alyn believes the crop circles are an attempt to communicate. Where the communication is coming from and who it is intended for is the mystery. And perhaps the horse and man carving were attempts of ancient man to communicate back.

"Maybe they were sending something through, for lack of a better word, dimensions, like somebody trying to send a picture through somewhere, and that's what comes out here," Alyn said.

They think perhaps the unusual magnetism in the ground in that area could have something to do with the locations. In their reading have learned about 90 percent of crop circles found most recently, as many as 200 during one year in the 1990s and some over 100 acres in size, are in a 40 mile radius of Stonehenge.

The Briddick's believe also believe crop circles have existed throughout history. Adam believes many of the ancient spiritual symbols could have originated in designs found in crop circles.

"The Christian Cross, the Egyptian Ankh, the tree of life... they came from crop circles and people recorded them," Adam said.

As for the practical purpose of Stonehenge, the three share a joke it at one time was the grease rack for flying saucers.

The three generations share theories about crop circles and the possibility of parallel worlds in Briddick's wood shop like others might talk football or politics, and inevitably, stories of past mysteries come up.

Briddick's wife and daughter were on their way home one cold, winter night from a shopping trip in Evansville. Close to New Haven they saw a sight in the sky that astounded them.

"When they got into the house they were hyperventilating, literally terrified," Briddick said.

They stopped on the road, along with a few other bewildered drivers, and saw the sky light up. Briddick said they described the sight as a city lit up in the air with five globular lights underneath.

They called the Illinois State Police and a dispatcher told them several people had already called reporting the sight.

The news the next day reported a Russian satellite had entered the earth's atmosphere causing strange lights in the sky that were seen all the way to Washington. Briddick has doubts, though, that a satellite would create such a light display. He has a theory that ice crystals in clouds could have reflected lights from an industrial

plant between Mount Vernon, Ind., and New Haven.

During the conversation, Adam said he had never before heard about the five globular shapes underneath the light display.

He said he had seen a similar sight with a friend while on top of a rural Eldorado barn watching the sky. Something that looked like a city with globular shapes underneath appeared to rise from the direction of the Eldorado reservoir and flew over them and away.

Alyn had a story of his own to tell about unexplained objects in the sky. In the late 1960s he was with some friends in the area of what is now the Eldorado Elementary School. They all looked up to see three silver objects in the sky pass over them.

"They were not even 1,000 feet high," he said.

He said the Evansville Courier reported a sighting in Indiana the following day.

He said the objects did not look like weather balloons. He said he has launched weather balloons and knows their appearance well.

The conversation then turned to ghosts.

Alyn was the only one of the three who told of a ghostly encounter, though Briddick said other members of his family have had unusual experiences with object mysteriously moving and televisions coming on by themselves.

Alyn and his wife were visiting with his cousin one night. Alyn sat next to the fireplace where he could down a hallway.

"We were all talking and I saw a shadow move down the hallway," he said.

He initially thought the movement was caused by vehicles on the highway, but noticed the vehicle that drove past did not create any shadows.

"I asked, 'Do you have ghosts here?'" Alyn said.

"They said 'Yes, we do.'"

He said their daughter had two imaginary friends. When she was away, as she was that night, she would take one friend with her and leave the other at home.

"They had the most activity when she wasn't home," Alyn said.

Strange noises, shadowy apparitions and appliances turning on seemingly by themselves were among the odd happenings.

After telling a story about seeing ball lightning travel along a fence off of an interstate, Briddick told the most unusual tale of all. This took place in the area where the Boz Adams Football Field is now.

As a boy, he and his friends used to play in five ponds in that spot.

They were five ponds organized exactly like toes of a giant human footprint.

Life's Story



Courtesy photo

OUT OF THIS WORLD — Walter Andrus was the director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) until he retired in 2000. During most of his 30 years, the MUFON headquarters was located in Seguin.

Seguin resident fascinated with extraterrestrials

By **BRYAN KIRK**
Gazette-Enterprise

SEGUIN — For more than 50 years, Walter Andrus has been fascinated with the idea of extraterrestrials and unidentified flying objects.

It began on a downtown Phoenix, Ariz., street Aug. 15, 1948.

Andrus, his wife and then-5-year-old son were returning from a vacation trip to the West Coast. They arrived in Phoenix, and because they had a two-hour layover, decided to take a walk around the city and check things out.

Andrus and his family weren't long into their exploration when their son pointed into the northwestern sky.

"My son pointed up and said, 'Look daddy, silver balloons.' Indeed we had silver balloons in the northwest sky," Andrus said.

On a clear hot summer day, four flying disks appeared, and according to Andrus, flew slowly over Phoenix.

Andrus recalled hearing, although very little, about flying disks when the Roswell incident made headlines the year before.

"This might be a flying saucer, who knows," Andrus thought to himself.

For approximately 15 minutes, Andrus and a host of other spectators watched as the objects flew away slowly and ultimately disappeared in the northwestern sky.

Twenty-one years later, on Aug. 15, 1969, Andrus and Dr. Alan Utke started MUFON — Mutual UFO Network.

For the first year, Utke was the International Director of MUFON, but the next year Andrus was appointed to replace Utke.

It was a position Andrus held until his retirement from MUFON in 2000.

During most of his 30 years, the MUFON headquarters was located here in Seguin.

When Andrus stepped down as international director, the MUFON headquarters moved to Littleton, Colo.

Since its creation, MUFON — regarded as the world's largest and oldest UFO organization — has investigated thousands of cases involving UFO sightings and alleged abductions of humans by extraterrestrials.

Of the cases, MUFON have investigated, Andrus said only about five percent of them have been classified as bona fide.

Andrus said when it comes to abductions by extraterrestrials, the experiences are consistently alike.

"There are definite patterns," he said. "They are quite repetitive. Most people who have been abducted, don't even know it."

Ashcroft's FOIA policy deepens government secrecy on UFOs

By **LESLIE KEAN**

As Steven Spielberg's recent TV miniseries "Taken" raises public interest in government secrecy about UFOs, The Washington Post reports that Attorney General John Ashcroft has tightened the lid on the Freedom of Information Act. Ashcroft gave federal officers the green light to bend or perhaps break the FOIA if they want to withhold records, and he'll defend them in court.

The American people already are frustrated. Two-thirds of them believe the government is withholding information about unidentified flying objects, and 60 percent of adults want the information declassified if it's not a national security risk, according to a September Roper Poll commissioned by the Sci Fi Channel.

So far, declassified records and scientific investigation clearly show that some UFO reports are not science fiction. Unexplained objects have been well documented by pilots and military personnel. Some have left physical "ground traces" in England, France and the United States.

"People have been digging through the files and investigating for years now. The files are quite convincing. The only thing that's lacking is the official stamp," says Apollo 14 astronaut Edgar Mitchell.

As a result, the Sci Fi Channel is publicly calling for declassification of government documents on UFO activity. "It is important to separate science fiction from science fact, a line which is becoming increasingly blurred," says Bonnie Hammer, the network's president.

So far, declassified records and scientific investigation clearly show that some UFO reports are not science fiction. Unexplained objects have been well documented by pilots and military personnel. Some have left physical "ground traces" in England, France and the United States.

In October, Hammer joined John Podesta, President Clinton's former chief of staff, to support a new FOIA initiative by me and the Washington law firm of Lobel, Novins & Lamont.

"I think it's time to open the books on questions that have remained in the dark, on the question of government investigations of UFOs," Podesta said at a Washington news conference. "We ought to do it because it's right. We ought to do it because the American people quite frankly can handle the truth, and we ought to do it because it's the law."

Currently a law professor at Georgetown University, Podesta was instrumental in the declassification of 800 million pages of documents during the Clinton administration. "This initiative will help keep the pressure on," he says.

The FOIA request seeks documentation on the crash of an object of unknown origin in Kecksburg, Pa., in 1965. The U.S. government denies anything fell from the sky, despite the signed affidavits of firefighters, radio journalists, dozens of witnesses at the scene, and newspaper reports to the contrary.

"These records are more than 25 years old," says Podesta. "They ought to be declassified and we ought to be able to see them for ourselves."

In 1969, the Air Force stated that "no UFO reported, investigated and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security" to justify closure of its official investigation. The government still takes this position — even though it routinely refuses to comply with FOIA requests about UFO cases on the basis of national security.

In fact, some UFO incidents have obvious national security implications, although this would not appear to justify the withholding of information about them.

According to North American Aerospace Defense Command logs, U.S. fighter jets attempted to pursue UFOs in 1975. Defense Department reports state that UFOs were also pursued after hovering over three supersensitive nuclear missile launch sites that same year.

And as recently as last July, two F-16s from Andrews Air Force Base were scrambled in the sky over Washington after radar detected an unknown aircraft. Military officials said they do not know what the jets were chasing, because whatever it was disappeared.

Earlier this month, the British Ministry of Defense released files on a famous multiple-witness case at Bentwaters Air Base in 1980.

A memo by U.S. Deputy Base Commander Lt. Col. Charles Halt, as well as a tape recording at the scene, detail the sighting of a glowing, triangular object that left three circular depressions on the ground and radiation 10 times higher than normal in a nearby forest.

Echoing the U.S. line, the British government also dismisses the phenomenon by claiming that the event was "of no defense significance." However, Britain's former chief of the Defense Staff, Adm. Lord Hill-Norton, says that whether this represents the hallucination of men with responsibility for guarding nuclear weapons or "the entry of a vehicle from outer space," it "cannot fail to be of defense interest."

Nick Pope, hired by the British Ministry of Defense to investigate UFO reports from 1991 to 1994, says "it's premature to say that there is nothing of defense significance when you don't know what they are."

There is no longer an acceptable justification for the withholding of reports on UFO incidents decades old, whether they are of defense interest or not. Nor is it acceptable for the attorney general unilaterally to refuse to enforce FOIA. The American people should not have to rely on Spielberian science fiction for answers.

Leslie Kean is an investigative reporter and producer for Pacifica radio and research director of the Coalition for Freedom of Information, www.freedominfo.org. You may write to her at Coalition for Freedom of Information; San Rafael, CA 94901; or via e-mail at lkean@netcom.com.

There are three varieties of abductees, according to Andrus.

The first include abductees who remember the entire experience of their abduction.

The second category of abductees are those who recall only bits and pieces and only under hypnosis recall their abduction.

The last category are those that recall nothing at all, but who may at times have fleeting glimpses or nightmares about their experience.

"Sometimes, if they get brave enough, we can place them under regressive hypnosis and find out what transpired," Andrus said.

While most encounters have indicated a pattern, there are a few that Andrus describe as unusual.

"There was a case here in Texas where three people were injured in Houston when a UFO hovered over the highway, and 23 helicopters emerged and began flying around it," Andrus said.

This particular case allegedly occurred Dec. 29, 1980 near Lake Houston.

"On the same night in Manhattan, a young lady was abducted from a 12th floor window of her apartment building," he said. "Since then we have found 12 witnesses that saw this abduction take place."

Andrus said most of the abductions stay in the immediate family, meaning that if a mother or father has had a close encounter, their children and children's children may also have extraterrestrial contact in the future.

While, Andrus has been involved with UFO investigation for a majority of his adult life, he himself has never been abducted.

He has however claimed to have had two sightings.

The first was in downtown Phoenix and the second was only five years ago near McQueeney, when a enormous box-shaped object traveled southwest across FM 78 on a cool autumn night.

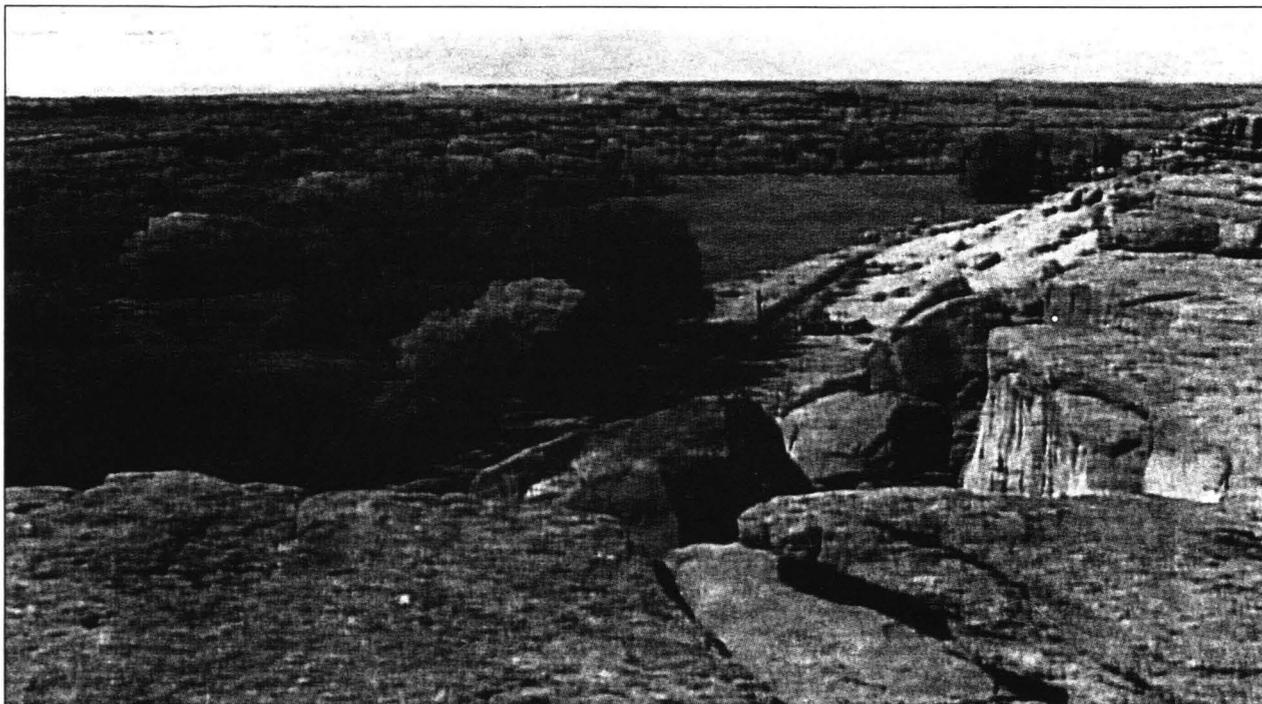
That object was reportedly seen by as

many as seven other witnesses.

Over the years, news interests has reportedly tapered off, according to Andrus, but it doesn't mean extraterrestrials have left Earth for good.

And it certainly doesn't mean that after two sightings and multitudes of interviews and case studies that Andrus himself believes in UFO's.

"Belief has a religious connotation," Andrus said. "I accept the fact that we have a God, a supreme being even though I have never seen him. When it comes to UFO's, I check the data, facts and evidence. It's overwhelming that we have UFO's. I don't have to believe. How naive do we have to be to believe we are the only intelligence in the universe."



This picturesque ranch in northeastern Utah is the focal point of scientific research into the paranormal.

PHOTOS BY MATT ADAMS

'Path of the Skinwalker'

A small ranch in northern Utah may be the strangest place on Earth

BY GEORGE KNAPP
MERCURY

First of two parts.

I'm sitting on a white plastic chair in what seems like total darkness. Strapped to my chest and shoulders is an array of electronic gear—microphones, a video camera, a box that detects magnetic changes and a Geiger counter. Somewhere in the mix is a flashlight, the only device whose function I understand, and thus, the only device I cannot find.

In front of me, I can almost make out the sinister shapes of some truly spooky trees. Malevolent bugs are buzzing in and out of my eyes and ears, and it occurs to me that there must be a tavern open somewhere nearby, even in this remote corner of Utah. One hundred or more yards away, beyond a barbed-wire fence and a little creek, are my fellow paranormal rangers, equipped with their own video cameras, night-vision glasses and assorted scientific gear. They are supposed to be watching me to see if anything

are powerful spirits that are here because of a curse that was put on them generations ago by the Navajos. And the center of the whole legend is this ranch. The Utes say the ranch is 'the path of the skinwalker.' Tribe members are strictly forbidden from setting foot on the property. It's been that way for a long time.

The ranch in question is a 480-acre spread of rich, well-watered pasture and a few thick patches of tall cottonwoods. It's divided into three sections, each section being a former homestead. Thick brush and a small river are on one side. A rocky, picturesque ridge is on the other side. Skinwalker Ridge is what the Utes call it, according to Hicks. A long dirt road is the only way in or out of the ranch.

When rancher Tom Gorman (not his real name) bought the place in 1994, it had been vacant for seven or eight years. Gorman, his wife and two kids were curious about the impressive array of bolts that covered the doors and windows of the main house. There were deadbolts on both sides of the doors. Even the kitchen cabinets had bolts on them. And at both ends of the house, iron stakes and heavy chains had been installed. Gorman guessed the previous tenants had positioned large guard dogs in the front and back of the home, but he had no idea why.

The bulletproof wolf

On the day the Gormans moved their furnishings onto the property, they had their first foreshadowing of the events that would follow. They spotted an extremely large wolf out in the pasture. The wolf cautiously made its way across the field, and

happens.

On this night, I am the bait. Bait for what, I wonder? The unspoken hope is my own inherent weirdness quotient might give me some sort of connection to the undeniably odd energy, or entity, that seems to have concentrated itself on this remote rural community, and, in particular, on this small ranch where I now sit, waiting for something to announce its presence.

Some very strange things have happened at the precise spot where I'm sitting. It is here that a visitor was accosted by a roaring but nearly invisible creature, something akin to the Predator of movie fame. It is here that a Ph.D. physicist reported that his mind was invaded, literally taken over, by some sort of hostile intelligence that warned him that he was not welcome. It is here that an entire team of researchers watched in awe as a bright door or portal opened up in the darkness and a large humanoid creature crawled

to the surprise of everyone, sidled up to the family, acting like it was a familiar pet. It had rained that day, and the family remembers the wolf smelled like a wet dog as they were petting it.

After a few minutes, the wolf strolled over to the corral and grabbed a calf by its snout, attempting to pull it through the corral bars. Gorman and his father began beating on the wolf's back with sticks but it wouldn't release the calf. Gorman grabbed a .357 Magnum from his truck and shot the wolf at point-blank range. The slug had no noticeable effect.

Gorman pumped another bullet into the wolf, which then let go of the calf but stood looking at the family as if nothing had happened. Gorman shot it two more times with the powerful handgun. The big animal backed off a bit, but showed no signs of distress, not even any blood.

The mystified rancher retrieved a hunting rifle and shot the wolf again, once more at close range. Gorman is not only an experienced marksman but a big-game hunter of considerable repute. Five slugs should have been enough to bring down an elk, let alone a wolf. The fifth shot caused a chunk of hair and flesh to fly off the wolf, but it still didn't seem fazed. After a sixth shot, the wolf casually trotted across the field into a muddy thicket. Gorman and his father tracked the beast for about a mile, following its pawprints through the mud, but the tracks suddenly ended, as if the wolf had simply vanished into thin air.

Returning to the corral area, Gorman examined the chunk of wolf flesh and says it looked and smelled like rotten meat. He made inquiries among his neighbors, but

no one seemed to know anything about any tame, over-sized wolves in the area. A few weeks later, Mrs. Gorman encountered a wolf that was so large, its back was parallel with the top of her window as it stood beside her car. The wolf was accompanied by a dog-like animal that she couldn't identify.

Over the next two years, a menagerie of weird animals was reported by family members and neighbors. While driving into the ranch on a bright afternoon, Gorman and his wife saw something attacking one of their horses. They described it as "low to the ground, heavily muscled, weighing perhaps 200 pounds, with curly red hair and a bushy tail." It somewhat resembled a muscular hyena and seemed to be clawing at their horse, almost playing with it. Gorman got within 40 feet of the animal but says it literally vanished before his eyes. Poof. Gone. They checked the horse and found numerous paw marks on its legs. (A few months later, the wife of a deputy sheriff reported seeing a similar muscular, reddish beast running across the property.)

Another visitor to the ranch had a more ominous encounter in the middle homestead, the same place where I was set out as bait. The visitor, along with Gorman and his son, say they saw a large blurry "something" moving through the trees. The visitor has been meditating when this thing showed up. It swiftly moved from the trees, across the pasture, covering 100 yards in seconds, and when it reached the man, it let out a ferocious roar, something akin to a large bear, a roar loud enough to be heard hundreds of yards away. But this was no bear. It was, according to the

been witnesses themselves.) Hicks and members of his family have witnessed their own UFO events over the years.

"The UFO activity really started getting intense in the early '50s," Hicks says. "There were cases where the whole school and all the teachers saw these things hovering over the town in broad daylight. In the '60s and '70s, we probably had more UFO sightings than any place in the world."

But run-of-the-mill UFO events don't begin to describe the rich array of unusual phenomena in this area. The Ute Indian tribe has been here far longer than white settlers. Tribal leaders are reluctant to speak to outsiders, but their oral history is replete with examples of strange creatures and sightings. Indian lore refers to some of these beings as Skinwalkers. Other cultures call them shape-shifters, werewolves or Bigfoot.

"The Utes take this very seriously," Hicks says. "They think the Skinwalkers

Gormans, nearly invisible, resembling the camouflaged being in the movie *Predator*. The visitor was so scared, he grabbed on to Gorman and wouldn't let go. He left the ranch and has never returned.

Other creatures and beings were also seen, including exotic, multicolored birds that were certainly not native to the region and could not be identified. There were numerous close encounters with dark, nine-foot-tall beasts that resembled a Bigfoot or Sasquatch. (More on those incidents will follow.)

As if those visual experiences weren't enough, the family claims its other senses were also challenged by assorted weird events. They often were overwhelmed by strong musk odors. The pastures would inexplicably light up at night like a football stadium. They claim to have seen shafts of light that seemingly emanated from the ground. They (and others) say they heard what sounded like heavy machinery operating under the earth. And they heard voices. Tom, his son and his nephew remember hearing a loud, disembodied conversation in some unintelligible language. The disembodied male voice spoke in what the witnesses say was a mocking tone and sounded like they were emanating from 20 or more feet above their heads, but they saw nothing. The dogs accompanying the three witnesses growled and barked at the voices, then took off in a panic.

There were physical manifestations that aren't easily explained. While checking on his herd in the third homestead, Gorman noticed that someone had dug up his

(continued on page 4)



Keith Wolverton, a Montana deputy sheriff, and microbiologist Colm Kelleher of the National Institute for Discovery Science discuss strange phenomena in the area.

pasture. Hundreds of pounds of soil had been scooped out of the ground. The edges of the hole resembled perfect, concentric circles, as if someone had dropped a gigantic cookie cutter on the pasture. Several smaller scoop marks were also found.

The Gormans also report phenomena similar to crop circles. One formation found in their pasture consisted of three circles of flattened grass. Each circle was approximately eight feet in diameter, and they were arranged in a triangular pattern, with each circle about 30 feet from the others. Keep in mind, there is only one road leading into the ranch. Anyone coming in or going out would almost certainly be noticed by the Gormans or their neighbors.

UFOs and other aerial oddities

In the spring of 1995, the Gormans started seeing strange things in the sky. While out checking on their cattle, Gorman and his nephew spotted what they thought was a recreational vehicle parked on the property. They approached it, figuring the driver might be having mechanical trouble. As they got closer, the RV moved silently away from them. They moved closer, it moved further away. They climbed a fence to get a better look at it, and that's when they knew this was no Winnebago. The craft rose above the treetops and slowly flew away, making no sound as it departed. It certainly wasn't a helicopter. The witnesses had a clear view and say the object was shaped like a refrigerator, with a single light on its front and a red light on the back.

the picturesque ranch. His herd, which ranged from 60-80 head, consisted of expensive, top-of-the-line heifers and four 2,000-pound show-class bulls.

From the day he moved his herd onto the ranch, though, his hopes—and his animals—seemed to be under assault. The balls of light that were seen so often on the property seemed to take special interest in the cattle and were often seen buzzing around the heads of the animals. Sometimes, the cattle would react violently, the herd splitting suddenly as if some invisible force was plowing through their middle. It soon got worse.

Although the Gormans kept close watch on their stock, something began exacting a terrible toll. One cow was found dead in a field. A strange, crisp hole had been cut in one of its eyes. There were no tracks or blood, and Gorman wondered what could do such a thing. He noticed a strong musk odor around the carcass, a smell he would come to know all too well.

Other cattle were carved up, as if with pinking shears. Cattle mutilations have been reported throughout North America for several decades. In typical cases, the ears, eyes, udders and sex organs are removed with surgical precision. Gorman's animals were subjected to all of the above.

As an experienced hunter and rancher, Gorman was more than familiar with the capabilities of natural predators. This wasn't being done by coyotes or mountain lions. The butchery was simply too clean. And no blood was ever left at the scene of

Before long, everyone in the family was seeing weird aerial objects. Mrs. Gorman says something that resembled a stealth fighter, but ringed with blinking disco lights, silently hovered about 20 feet above her vehicle before zipping off. Each family member had repeated sightings of a cloud that usually hovered just outside the property. The cloud was characterized as having "blinking Christmas tree lights" or "silent, mini-explosions" inside. Among the other aerial craft seen by the Gormans, their neighbors and other witnesses were classic flying-saucer objects, flying sombreros, shafts of light similar to fluorescent light bulbs and a cigar-shaped craft several football fields long.

By far the most common objects they witnessed were floating spheres of different sizes and colors. In 1995 and 1996, the Gormans and others reported 12 separate incidents of seeing large orange circles

flying over the trees of the center homestead. Tom Gorman claims that holes occasionally opened up in the orange spheres and other smaller spheres would fly out. (A neighboring rancher told this reporter of his own encounters with what he called a flying orange basketball.)

By early 1996, the sightings of blue spheres at the ranch became almost commonplace. These orbs were said to be about the size of a softball, made of glass and filled with bubbling blue liquids that seemed to rotate inside. Mr. and Mrs. Gorman say that in April 1996, they watched one of the blue orbs repeatedly circle the head of one of their horses. The horse was illuminated by an intense blue light, and there was a sound like static electricity in the air, but this wasn't ball lightning. The orb seemed to be intelligently controlled. When Gorman approached the horse with a flashlight, the orb darted off,

maneuvering through tree branches with speed and dexterity.

The Gormans say the blue spheres seemed to generate severe psychological effects on the family. Family members felt waves of fear roll over them, far in excess of what might be normal, whenever the blue orbs appeared. It was the appearance of one blue orb in particular that finally convinced the Gormans to sell the ranch.

One evening in May 1996, Gorman was outside with three of his dogs when he noticed a blue orb darting around in the field near the ranch house. Gorman urged his dogs to go after the ball. The dogs chased and snapped at the orb, but it dodged and maneuvered enough to stay just beyond the reach of their snapping jaws. The ball led the dogs out across the pasture and into the thick brush that borders the field. Gorman says he heard the dogs make three terrible yelps, then they were silent. He called for them, but they didn't respond.

The next morning, Gorman went to look for the dogs. What he found were three round spots of dried and brittle vegetation. In the middle of each circle was a black, greasy lump. Gorman surmised that his dogs had been incinerated by something. One thing for sure, the dogs were never seen again. The disappearance of their dogs prompted the Gormans to think about getting out.

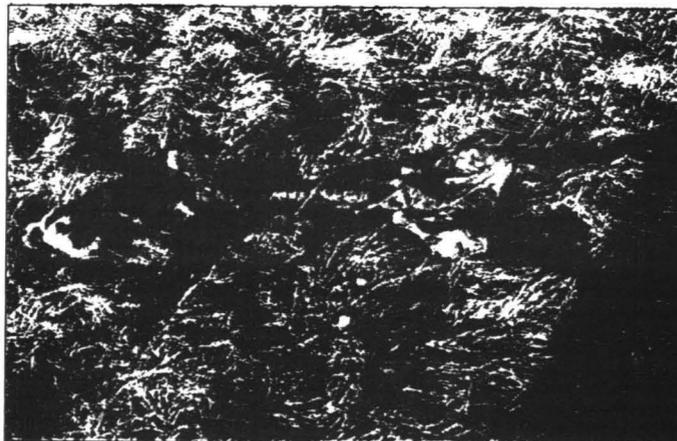
Mutilations and other animal mysteries

Tom Gorman wasn't some country-bumpkin farmer trying to get by. He had college degrees and advanced training in animal husbandry, was considered an expert in artificial insemination and had plans for raising hybrid, high-end stock at

Notes on sources and methods

This article is based on the experiences of numerous eyewitnesses, including scientists, law enforcement personnel, educators, ranchers and professional trackers. Many of the experiences were compiled into a confidential report prepared by the National Institute for Discovery Science. In addition, this reporter made two trips to the Utah ranch that is the focal point of the unusual activity. The owner of the property allowed us unlimited access to the ranch on the condition that we not reveal its exact location. The concern is that specific information about the location would result in waves of curiosity seekers flooding this rural community, hassling the residents, and interfering with ongoing research.

In addition, some of the witnesses spoke to us on the condition that their real names be omitted. A few of the witnesses simply don't want to be interrogated by other media or by UFO buffs. Others are concerned about the reaction from their neighbors or employers. This is a quiet, rural environment where people seem far more interested in privacy than celebrity. The rancher who is the central figure in this mystery insisted that his name never be mentioned in any media accounts. He and his family have moved to another state after enduring unimaginable hardships and have threatened legal action if they are ever associated with the property again. The author agreed to this request because, without it, access to the site, the witnesses and supporting material would have not have been possible.



Mutilated calf at Utah ranch.

the attacks. His other animals also suffered. His favorite horse had its legs slashed, as if by sharp instruments or claws. (The musk odor was still in the air when he discovered the damaged horse.) His dogs seemed to develop paranoia. They stayed inside their doghouses for days at a time, too fearful to emerge for food. Six of the family's cats vanished in one night.

Soon, cattle started disappearing altogether. One of the animals vanished from

a snow-covered field. Gorman saw the hoofprints lead into the field, but the tracks simply stopped, as if the animal had been plucked from the sky. A 1,200-pound cow leaves tracks in snow, Gorman told himself, so what happened to this one?

In all, 14 of Gorman's prized animals were either sliced up or vanished. In one instance, a cow was found mutilated just five minutes after Gorman's son had checked on it. Something cut a hole, six

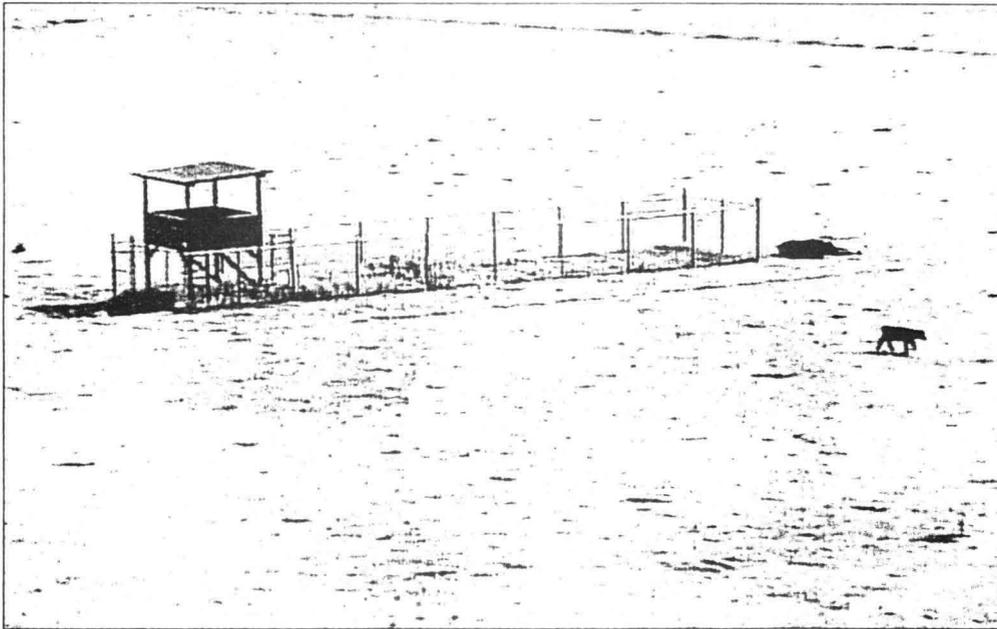
inches wide and 18 inches deep, in the animal's rectum. The cored-out section extended into the cow's body cavity, yet there was no blood on the cow or on the snow-covered ground.

The loss of 14 expensive animals from an 80-head herd is extreme by any standards. (There were other losses as well, but from explainable causes.) It meant that Gorman was close to financial collapse. One April afternoon, Gorman and his wife took a quick drive to town for supplies. As they passed the corral that contained their four bulls, they commented to each other that they would really be in trouble if something should happen to one of the bulls.

When they returned to the ranch less than an hour later, all four of the bulls were gone. The Gormans began a frantic search for the missing behemoths but couldn't find a trace. As a last resort, Gorman decided to peek into a metal trailer that is situated inside the corral. He thought it highly unlikely that the bulls would be inside because, from the corral, there is only one door into the trailer and it was secured with thick metal wire, wire that clearly was still in place.

Gorman was shocked to see that all four of his bulls were inside the trailer, squeezed like so many oversized sardines into the tiny enclosure, crammed in against the sides of the trailer and against each other. When he yelled to his wife that

(continued on page 5)



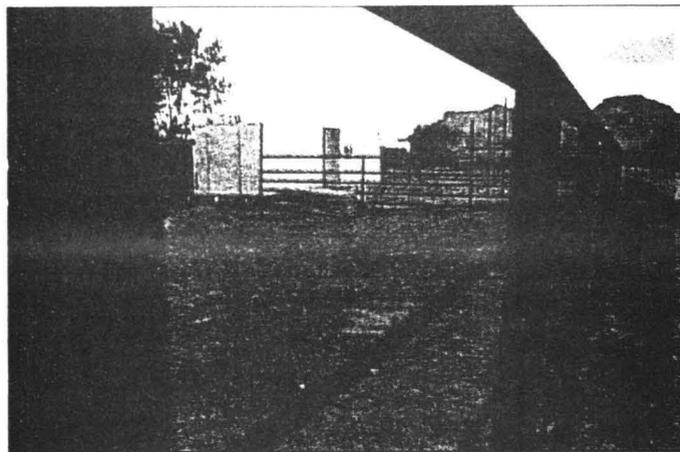
Observation post set up by NIDS.

he had found them, the bulls seemingly woke up, as if from a dream state, and started kicking the hell out of the trailer and each other.

"There is simply no way that anyone could coax those four bulls into that trailer," says Colm Kelleher, a microbiologist who would come to know the Gormans well. "It would be tough enough to get one of them into the trailer, but all four? Virtually impossible. The only door leading from the corral into the trailer was still securely fastened with wire. And there were cobwebs on the inside of the door, proving that it had not been opened. It's almost as if someone overheard the ranchers' worries about their bulls, then decided to mess with them."

NIDS to the rescue

Kelleher didn't realize it back in 1996, but the Gorman ranch was to soon become his home away from home. Kelleher is the deputy administrator of NIDS, the National Institute for Discovery Science, a Las Vegas-based research organization founded by local businessman Robert Bigelow. Bigelow's long-standing interest in paranormal topics, including UFOs, animal mutilations and human consciousness, prompted him to assemble an



Cattle in this corral allegedly were found stuffed into the white trailer with the door still tied closed with wire.

impressive team of physicists, engineers, psychologists and other doctorate-level professionals for the purpose of investigating subjects that are largely shunned by mainstream science.

By the middle of 1996, the Gormans were ready to cash in their chips. Those who know Tom Gorman say he blamed himself for the weird string of events that had ruined his ranching operation. He didn't want to give up but felt cursed, and

was ready to bail for the sake of his family. In an uncharacteristic moment, he told parts of his story to a news reporter. A respected journalist from Salt Lake City heard about it, came to the ranch and talked to the family. Pictures were taken, and a wire service picked up the story. That's how Bob Bigelow first learned about the ranch.

Bigelow and his team flew to Utah and introduced themselves to the Gormans.

NIDS staffers checked out the story, interviewed neighbors and evaluated the Gorman's seemingly incredible tales. Bigelow offered to buy the ranch outright with the idea of transforming it into an interactive paranormal laboratory, an ongoing experiment that might shed some light on questions that have been viewed with scientific skepticism. Amazingly, he talked the Gormans into staying at the ranch as caretakers.

By that point, the family was a wreck. The UFOs, balls of light, cattle mutilations, animal disappearances, Bigfoot sightings and Skinwalker legends were bad enough, but there had also been an ongoing series of more personal events. Things had occurred within their home that had made a normal life impossible. They saw apparitions in the house, blinding lights, dark creatures peering in the windows. Furnishings, tools and everyday items moved around, disappeared or turned up in unusual places.

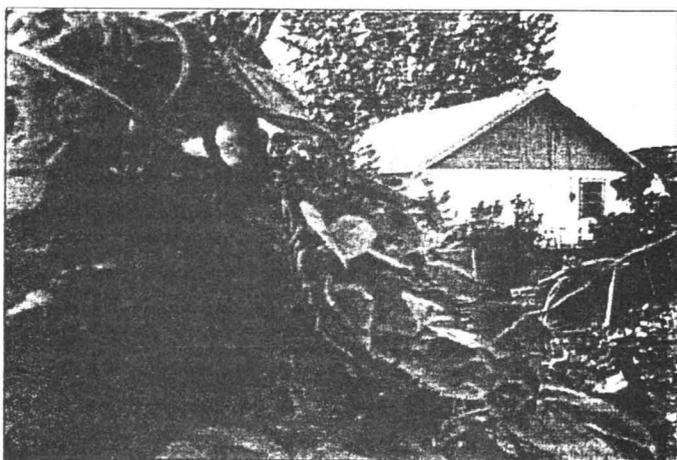
No one could sleep. When they did manage to grab a few hours, they were plagued by violent nightmares, often discovering later that different family members had experienced identical dreams. The two kids, honor students before arriving at the ranch, saw their grades plummet. Mrs. Gorman lost her job at a local bank because of her repeated absences and disturbing water-cooler tales. Hoping for safety in numbers, the Gormans slept

each night on the floor of their front room.

The folks from NIDS offered moral, emotional and financial support to the Gormans. What's more, they had a plan. The ranch presented what appeared to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to legitimately study a full menu of paranormal activities. They endeavored to seal off the ranch, pack it with high-tech monitoring equipment, staff it round-the-clock with trained observers, and see what happens.

Some residents sarcastically wondered what the hucksters from Las Vegas really had in mind. A scam of some sort was one oft-mentioned possibility. UFO buffs whined that Bob Bigelow was a "shadowy" guy who may or may not have CIA connections and that he was out to somehow corner the market on E.T. They demanded that whatever happened at the ranch should be made immediately available for their evaluation. And paranormal debunkers predicted the NIDS team would come up empty-handed because unexplained events inevitably wither under careful scrutiny.

As it turned out, all three groups were wrong. NIDS did seal off the ranch from outside observers but not for any monetary gain. Neither the CIA nor any other government agency had any input or



The ranch house where NIDS set up shop.

access to the things that have occurred under the NIDS watch. And the phenomena itself did not wither or evaporate.

For the past six years, events at the ranch have been under constant scrutiny. Witnesses, including highly accomplished scientists and law enforcement personnel, have documented a mind-boggling array of unusual activity. But there has been a near-total blackout on the release of any

information about the site.

By agreement with Bigelow, this reporter was granted the first outside access to the ranch and to the scientists and ex-lawmen who've been studying it. Interviews were conducted with ranch personnel, as well as with community members who had reported unusual events. And several nights were spent out on the ranch itself, watching for odd lights or other

manifestations.

No one who has studied this can say with any certainty what's going on here. The NIDS researchers are not making any claims about E.T.s or ghosts or Skinwalkers. They are merely collecting data and trying to make some sense of it. That is small comfort to me as I sit in the darkness on my little plastic chair, waiting for something to happen. The mind certainly can play tricks in such an environment, but could so many witnesses be completely wrong?

Next week: We'll examine a long litany of bizarre activity that occurred while the NIDS team was stationed at the ranch, including the shooting and tracking of an unknown creature, the destruction of electronic equipment by something unseen, the unexplained creation of "ice circles" and the opening of what some say is a portal to another dimension.

Warning to paranormal enthusiasts: Do not travel to the ranch. You are not welcome there. It is private property and the people who live on or near it don't want to be hassled by curiosity seekers or the media. What's more, the level of unexplained phenomena has taken a steady nosedive over the past several months, so chances are you wouldn't see anything even if you could get on the property.

Westmoreland County has had its share of mysterious sightings

By Maryann Gogniat Eidemiller
FOR THE TRIBUNE-REVIEW

At 10 p.m. July 24, three people in a parking lot in North Huntingdon Township witnessed a shiny sphere the size of a tennis ball hovering six feet above the pavement.

It moved slowly and "straight as an arrow," they told Stan Gordon of Greensburg, and it "zoomed on past us as if being driven by something unseen."

The witnesses might have been surprised at the incident, but Gordon wasn't.

As an investigator into the unexplained for the past 43 years, he's heard about everything from bigfoot creatures and UFOs to reports of supposedly extinct animals and huge birds with giant wingspans.

Information about those recent local sightings and some of the area's classic mysteries such as the nationally famous UFO landing in Kecksburg in 1965 will be on display Saturday at Westmoreland Mall. The annual event coincides with National UFO Information Week that's promoted by the Mutual UFO Network in Colorado.

"There's a lot going on around the world, around the country and locally, but except for the rare occasions, you don't read about them," Gordon says.

// There's a lot going on around the world, around the country and locally... People have been seeing (UFOs) for years. //

— Stan Gordon
investigator into the unexplained

In other words, although strange things are still happening, they're not getting the attention the media gave to "flying saucers" in the 1950s and 1960s, and the numerous bigfoot sightings 10 and 20 years later in the Laurel Highlands and near Greengate Mall.

The glowing sphere in the parking lot was only one unusual recent report.

The big birds are another, and witnesses all over the country describe them as having dark feathers and wingspans of 15 or more feet. In the world of cryptozoology — the study of hidden or unknown animals — they are being referred to as thunderbirds. "People have been seeing them for years," Gordon says.

"Back in the 1970s, I interviewed a

policeman in one of the northern counties who said that one came down over his antenna."

There were two thunderbird sightings near Pittsburgh on June 14 and 15 last year.

Another witness reported seeing one at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 25 near Route 119 in South Greensburg. He first heard a sound "like flags flapping in a thunderstorm," then saw a huge dark bird swoop down, land on a dead tree and spread wings that spanned nearly 20 feet.

This year, on June 7, a witness in a rural area near Greensburg reported hearing a "swoosh, like a huge bird passing over." Then, on June 26, two birds with 6-foot bodies and 12-foot wingspans were allegedly seen in Wyoming County.

Bigfoot creatures were reported being seen April 25 in Towanda; in June near Pleasant Unity; and a year earlier near Greensburg and Jeannette.

There were unexplained crop circles reported in May 2000 near Delmont.

UFOs make up the majority of incidents. So far this year, witnesses in Whitehall reported seeing two mysterious objects on Jan. 2. On April 10, an experienced pilot saw a "white diamond shape" hovering low in Peters Township, Allegheny County, before disappearing. Five days later in Clarksburg, Indiana County, two witnesses on Route 286

saw a hovering object the size of a bus. On May 14, someone reported seeing a hovering object near the turnpike in Harrison City.

There were three reports from Saltsburg. On Oct. 15, 2001, someone spotted a "bright green sphere" moving across the sky. This year, on Feb. 13, a witness saw "white lights hovering low," and eight days later, another person reported seeing a 100-foot triangle rise up into the sky, then disappear.

"The first thing we do in any of these reports is to try to explain them as natural phenomena," Gordon says. "Sometimes people don't realize that they are seeing meteors, the northern lights, or planets and stars." Gordon says space junk re-entering the atmosphere can look startling, too, and so can aircraft viewed from odd angles.

Gordon and his team of investigators rule out those things first and even post photos and examples on Gordon's UFO Anomalies Zone Web site (www.westol.com/~pauf0).

The other incidents remain unexplained, and that's what intrigues many, including Gordon, who has never seen a UFO or bigfoot. To make a report, contact Gordon at pauf0@westol.com or the 24-hour hot line, (724) 838-7769. For information on mysterious animals, visit www.cryptozoology.com.

GASTON GAZETTE, Gastonia, NC
Dec. 5, 2002 CR: G. Fawcett

UFOs topic of Sunday program

When UFO expert George Fawcett presented a public program in December last year, he drew a large Sunday afternoon audience from throughout the western Carolinas region. In fact, the program was so popular, the Lincolnton resident promised to present an update at the Gaston County Public Library.

Well, he's back. George Fawcett will present "UFOs Updated," a review of recent unidentified flying objects activity, research and related events at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Gaston County Public Library, 1555 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia.

The free public event, planned for adults and older students — high school and college — is presented by the Gaston County Public Library, in cooperation with the Friends of the Gaston County Public Library, as the final event of the Fall 2002 The Thrill Of It All! series of author appearances.

For people interested in extra- and inter-terrestrial activity, Fawcett is no stranger. The native North Carolinian began research and investigation of UFOs in 1944 and has been active in the field for nearly 60 years.

Fawcett has traveled nationally and internationally, addressed more than 600 school, university, military, scientific and UFO-interest groups since 1951. An internationally acknowledged expert in the field, he has published more than 100 journal and periodical articles, as well as two UFO reports. He has appeared at several symposiums in Roswell, N.M., and served as consultant

for the film, "UFOs — Target Earth," produced by Centrum Films in 1974.

Fawcett also has been a guest on dozens of radio and TV interview shows and served as a consultant, field investigator and advisory member for several organizations, including the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization in Arizona, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena in Washington, D.C., the Scientific Bureau of Investigations in New York, and J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Illinois, the Fund of UFO Research, Incorporated in Maryland, and The Mutual UFO Network in Texas.

During his career as an UFO authority, Fawcett has investigated more than 1,200 UFO sighting reports. Although his primary geographic area of interest is the southeastern states of North Carolina, Florida and Tennessee, his interests have led him throughout the U.S. and overseas.

In addition to field work and investigation, Fawcett has eagerly shared his interests, enthusiasm and knowledge with others in various venues; from 1979 to 1982, Fawcett taught an accredited college course, "UFOs: A New Frontier of Science," at the Lincoln County campus of Gaston College.

Fawcett compiled a Sauceriana Collection of more than 15,000 UFO-related items, including photographs, slides, films and videos, books, published journals, periodicals, maps and investigative reports. In the last year, he and his family have donated much of that extensive collection to the International UFO Museum and Research Center at Roswell.

Copies of George Fawcett's books will be available for purchase following the program.

For more information about "UFOs Updated" and other Gaston County Public Library events, call (704) 868-2167 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Carol Reinhardt is program coordinator for the Gaston County Public Library.



CAROL REINHARDT
At the Library

TIMES, New York, NY - Dec. 18, 2002 CR: V. White

Researcher Finds Buried Memories In Alien Territory

By DIANA JEAN SCHEMO

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — When Susan Clancy, a psychologist at Harvard University, wanted to study people with memories of events that had never happened, she cast her net wide. So wide it reached galaxies far, far away.

Have you ever been "contacted or abducted by space aliens?" the newspaper ads she ran read. Researchers at Harvard, the ads said, were seeking subjects "to participate in a memory study."

The responses tumbled in. From people outraged that a venerable institution like Harvard would raise such oddball questions. From illegal immigrants who thought that Dr. Clancy was asking about abductions by the border police. From reporters, and from tricksters who left the names of unsuspecting friends. From people who, Dr. Clancy guessed, believed that they were aliens themselves, and left messages that went "beep-bop-boop." And a few from people who genuinely believed that they had been taken by extraterrestrials and had built elaborate narratives of space travel, mind control and erotic encounters with beings from other planets.

"I felt like I had one foot in the ivory tower and one foot in the reality of their experiences," said Dr. Clancy, whose main interest is not outer space but the more mysterious question of whether children who are sexually molested can bury knowledge of their abuse, and yet later, as adults, recover true memories. Dr. Clancy says the answer to that question, one of the most fiercely disputed issues in psychology today, is no. Many psychiatrists, psychologists and victims of child sex abuse dispute her view.

In choosing people who remembered being spirited away by visitors from other planets, Dr. Clancy said she aimed to study people whose tales were undoubtedly fabrications. "I was so naive," she said.

She found herself walking from one intellectual land mine to another, and under attack from two camps: those who believe that memories can indeed be repressed, and those who support the work of John E. Mack, a Harvard professor and author of a 1994 book, "Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens," who maintains that alien visitations may really occur.

Dr. Clancy asked her subjects — eight of whom said they had recovered memories of abductions — to memorize lists of words that suggested ideas without stating them. One, for example, gave the words sour, candy, sugar and bitter. The people with recovered memories were more likely to mistakenly remember the word sweet than the control group. She concluded that people with recovered memories were open to suggestion, and more likely to distort memories.

"The whole notion of repressed memories has done a great disservice to the field," Dr. Clancy said. "Some people are prone to forget how, where or when a memory was acquired. They see a movie as a kid and remember the events, but don't remember whether they saw it or it actually happened to them."

But why would a psyche adopt the memory of



Susan Clancy, a psychologist at Harvard University, is examining the accuracy of memories.

being taken away by space aliens?

Dr. Clancy said all of her subjects had experienced a strange moment between sleep and wakefulness, where the eyes may be open but the body is still in the rapid-eye-movement stage of sleep, with its sense of paralysis. Sometimes there are hallucinations. Troubled by the experience, an "effort at meaning" follows, she said, in which popular portrayals of alien encounters, in science-fiction television shows, movies and books, seem to fit in the memory hole.

"What they're getting from alien abductions is what I wish I could get from religion," Dr. Clancy said. The people who spoke of abductions described a sense of belonging, and of someone watching over them. "Not one of them said, 'I wish it didn't happen,'" Dr. Clancy said.

The same, of course, cannot be said of victims of childhood rape. Daniel P. Brown, a psychiatrist at Harvard Medical School and author of the 1998 book "Memory, Trauma Treatment and the Law," said Dr. Clancy was not naive, but instead canny, in trying to equate adults who say they have unearthed memories of abuse with people who swear they have talked with space aliens.

"There's a political agenda here," he said. Many of the main players in the highly charged debate over memory are here at Harvard, separated by only a few minutes' walk. But they never speak to one another, and each side accuses the other of doing shoddy science for political or financial ends.

"It's all about spin," Dr. Brown said. "It's absolutely hostile."

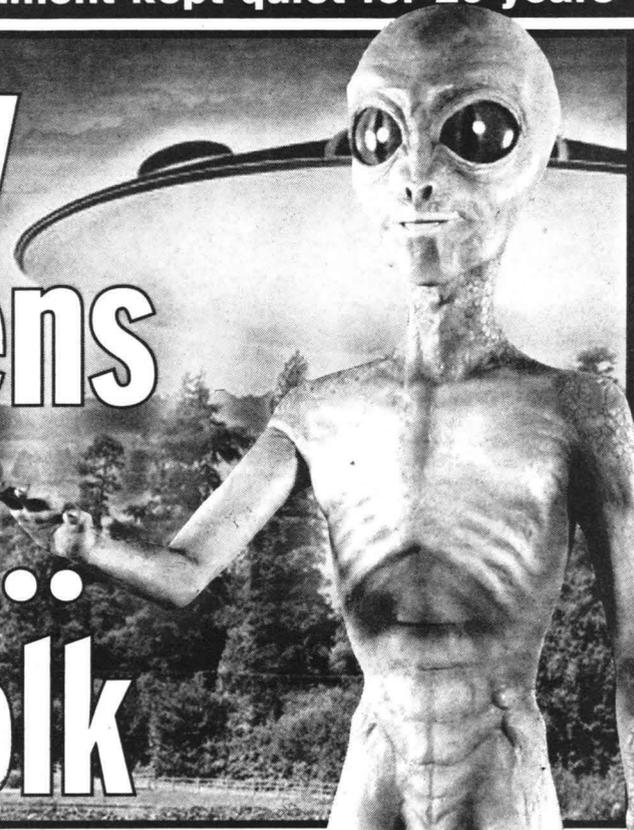


[All British clippings courtesy of Timothy Good, unless otherwise credited.]

DAILY MAIL, London, England - Dec. 6, 2002 CR: N. Oliver

Revealed: the UFO sighting the Government kept quiet for 20 years

The day the aliens landed... in Suffolk



THE YOUNG airmen ran through the crisp stillness of the forest towards the strange glow in the trees, fearing it might be a crashed aircraft.

Suddenly, the whole area was covered in a brilliant white light from above, where an unearthly triangular craft seemed to float silently above the trees.

Frozen in terror, the servicemen watched as the object hovered for a while, appearing to observe them, then shot off faster than any aircraft they had ever seen.

This was not Hollywood's latest venture into science fiction, but the genuine account of U.S. airmen at a Suffolk RAF base more than 20 years ago.

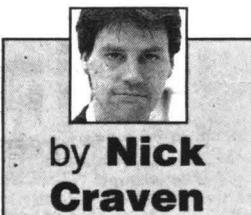
In December 1980, Rendlesham Forest near RAF Woodbridge was, according to alien watchers, the site of Britain's most celebrated UFO sighting, which the Government has tried to keep quiet ever since.

This week, the Ministry of Defence was criticised by the Parliamentary Ombudsman for repeatedly refusing to reveal the contents of the secret 'Rendlesham File', despite much of its contents being released in America under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act.

Now, the Ministry of Defence has finally — and reluctantly — released the Rendlesham files to public view under the British version of the Act, so we can — officially — learn exactly what a group of military witnesses saw in the forest on that chilly night 22 years ago. It makes for astonishing reading.

Between Christmas 1980 and New Year, two incidents occurred on successive nights near the U.S. Air Force nuclear base at RAF Woodbridge.

They were reported in a remarkable memo by the Deputy Base Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, under the innocuous title 'Unexplained Lights'. He told how three military policemen saw lights in the trees outside the back gate of the airfield and set off, fearing a crash.



by Nick Craven

LT COL HALT wrote: 'They reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest... described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three metres across the base and 2m 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, it manoeuvred through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy.'

The next day, Lt Col Halt joined a patrol which found three depressions on the forest floor where the object had been sighted. Radiation readings of ten times the normal level were found around the site.

Not all Lt Col Halt's account has the hallmark of military efficiency. He got the date of the incident wrong, recording the initial sighting as December 27 when it was the 26th.

While checking the area, the officer recorded what he found on a Dictaphone, but the tape was to record something far more dramatic when the strange lights returned after nightfall.

The breathless officer can be heard saying: 'There's no doubt about it, there's a strange flashing red light ahead... pieces of it are shooting off... this is weird. It's like the pupil of an eye looking at you, winking.'

Later on, he observed: 'We got two strange objects, half-moon shape, dancing about with coloured lights on

them... Yeah, they're both heading north. He's coming in towards us now... Now we're observing what appears to be a beam coming down to the ground.'

In the background there are excited shouts from members of the four-man patrol and another officer exclaims: 'Look at the colours...s**t!'

'This is unreal,' gasps Lt Col Halt.

Over the years, as the memo leaked out, other former officers went public, backing up the story. Most notable was another USAF security patrolman, Larry Warren. According to his account, there were not just lights, but something far more incredible.

He said the triangular object appeared right in front of him and he felt nauseous as the hairs on the back of his neck stood on end.

He claims to have seen three 'aeronaut entities' communicating telepathically with a senior officer. The aliens were 3ft tall and resembled 'kids in snowsuits'. He said they floated in bluish/gold balls of light out of their craft.

According to Warren, the next morning, he and the other airmen were checked over with a Geiger counter and instructed to sign statements which merely mentioned seeing 'unusual lights'. They were told by senior officers not to discuss the incidents.

Other parts of his story emerged during subsequent hypnotic regression, it seems — itself a highly controversial technique by which to divine the truth. In this account, following his close encounter, he was abducted by aliens and taken under the base to a network of tunnels. The aliens

told him they used the tunnels to get to the North Sea.

Warren's account, published in a book in 1997, merely allowed sceptics to rubbish the Rendlesham incident as fantasy, obscuring the facts that something inexplicable does seem to have happened that night, and that the witnesses, far from being anorak star-gazers, were seasoned Air Force personnel.

Ian Ridpath, editor of the Oxford Dictionary of Astronomy, is not convinced. He believes the men were merely seeing the revolving beam of the Orford Ness lighthouse five miles away.

The depressions in the earth were merely rabbit diggings, he said, and the radiation was of naturally occurring levels.

ADDITIONALLY, he discovered that a very bright meteor had been visible in southern England that night.

'UFO hunters will continue to believe that an alien spaceship landed in Rendlesham Forest,' concludes Ridpath, dismissing it as 'a marvellous product of human imagination'.

Brenda Butler, one of a regular band of 'sky-watchers' who spend their nights in Rendlesham Forest, doesn't mind being accused of using her imagination or of being called downright 'nutty' when she tells people how she has been abducted by aliens three times.

The chirpy 58-year-old grandmother from Leiston, near Woodbridge, spends three nights a week in the woods with other devotees, and says she has seen spacecraft on no fewer than five occasions.

'People say I'm mad, but I just tell them they should keep an open mind until they've seen it for themselves,' she said. 'There's a portal between our world and that of the aliens. They come through on interdimensional energy.'

The most recent investigation into Rendlesham was led by the unlikely figure of glamorous society internet gossip columnist Georgina Bruni,

who interviewed more than 100 witnesses for her book, *You Can't Tell The People*.

'I started out as a sceptic,' said Miss Bruni, 51, who became interested in the case five years ago.

'But after speaking to the people who saw it, I am sure this was an event of biblical proportions and it was not of this world.'

'I'm less convinced by accounts of abduction by aliens and whatever, but something very strange happened here and the Government, by trying to deny it and put the lid on it, have given the conspiracy theorists a field-day.'

So what really happened at Rendlesham — was it just a case of over-excited Americans indulging in group hallucination? Did trained military personnel really mistake a lighthouse for a moving spaceship? None of the solutions seems to hold much water and we are forced to file the incident under 'unexplained'.

Rendlesham has been described as 'Britain's Roswell' — the alleged incident in which an alien spacecraft was recovered near the town in New Mexico in 1947 after crashing.

The U.S. government says it was a weather balloon, but that only fuelled the fascination of Hollywood producers and UFO-logists still further.

Initially, the MoD denied that anything out of the ordinary had been reported at Rendlesham. Years later, Georgina Bruni says she tackled Lady Thatcher about UFOs at a charity event and was told: 'You must have the facts and you can't tell the people.'

That seems to have been the official line on UFOs for years, and it has helped maintain the sinister X-Files aura about the whole area.

After all, no good mystery is complete without attendant conspiracy theories. The Truth May Be Out There, but there's no fun in searching for it unless you have to cut through a blanket of official denials and cover-ups, is there?

One day, even the MoD might learn that lesson.

HERALD, Calgary, Alberta, Canada - Feb. 17, 2002 CR: W. Benedict

The crop files

Re: "Crop art or unsolved mystery?" Feb. 7.

I wonder if Alan Hildebrand has been in any crop formations.

We acknowledge some formations are made by people. However, a growing body of evidence suggests there is an unexplained phenomenon which hoaxers simply try to copy.

Many anomalies are often found in a large number of formations, including complex lay patterns, with bundling of the crop and elaborate alternating layers or flows, sometimes multiple layers deep; stretched, ruptured or even burned nodes on plant stalks, increased magnetic microscopic particle content in soil inside some circles, shrunken or missing seeds in seed heads and deformed seed heads.

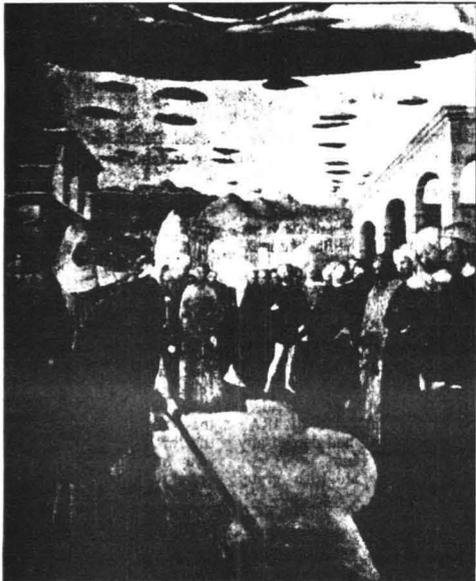
There have also been camera failures, drained batteries and other electrical malfunctions, compass deviations or spinning, light phenomena videotaped hovering over some formations or shortly before a formation's appearance and unusual photo or video anomalies.

These suggest electromagnetic or microwave energy involved in the creation of some crop formations. Laboratory studies show involvement of high heat rapidly affecting the plants and soil. These phenomena are not found with formations strongly suspected to be man-made.

The circles and other patterns have appeared in wheat, barley, canola, oats, flax, grasses, corn, pastures, blueberry plants and rice paddies.

PAUL ANDERSON
VANCOUVER, B.C.

PAUL ANDERSON IS DIRECTOR OF THE CANADIAN CROP CIRCLE RESEARCH NETWORK.



Pie in the sky? A man gazes at a "UFO" in Filippo Lippi's *The Madonna and St John*, top; more "UFOs" in *The Miracle of the Snow*, by Masolino da Panicale; and an odd sphere in *Glorification of the Eucharist* by Bonaventura Salimbeni

They came from outer space – and posed for portraits

From Richard Owen in Rome

ITALY'S Old Masters were recording flying saucers and unidentified flying objects in their paintings as far back as the 15th century, according to a scientist in Rome.

Roberto Volterri argues that artists, dating back to 1406, included evidence of "strange objects in the sky" for later generations to see. He says that far from being the product of the paranoid Cold War years, UFOs were documented but overlooked, because they were often "extraneous to the subject of the painting" and could only be explained as "testimonials of something seen or heard about".

Signor Volterri, 56, an archaeologist by training, specialises in the measurement and analysis of metallic objects. He said that he had spent his working life in a thoroughly down-to-earth environment of cold, rational calculation and sophisticated and precise instruments. He was convinced, however, that science did not have all the answers.

"I have been fascinated by the inexplicable since I was a boy," he said. "Scientists tend to dismiss what cannot be rationally explained as belonging to the realm of fantasy. But it is the job of science to examine what seems mysterious, not to dismiss it out of hand."

He has published a book, *As the Ancient Chronicles Relate*, in which he claims to show that past generations have also wondered whether there is life beyond Earth.

Perhaps the most striking example is *The Madonna and St John*, attributed to Fra

Signs from above

Experts have searched for evidence of extraterrestrial activity in ancient times. One of the best-known examples is *Chariots of the Gods*, by Erich von Däniken. He put forward the theory that aliens visited Earth hundreds of years ago. Although mocked by science, he sold millions of copies. Von Däniken wrote his second book in jail, serving 3½ years for fraud and tax evasion. Damned as a fraud and a charlatan, von Däniken had the last laugh when his books later became bestsellers.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT

Can UFOs be taken seriously?

E-mail your views to debate@thetimes.co.uk

THE TIMES

Filippo Lippi (1406-1469) and kept at the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence. In it a man and a dog are clearly gazing up at a UFO-type object behind the Virgin Mary's shoulder.

No less baffling is a painting by Masolino da Panicale (1383-1447), *The Miracle of the Snow*, painted in 1429 and kept at the Capodimonte Museum in Naples. "The painting shows a real event in Rome in the second half of the 4th century AD. But what are these strange, dark, elongated clouds in the shape of UFOs?" Signor Volterri said that he had compared them with photographs taken in 1955 in Namur, Belgium, which purport to show cigar-shaped UFOs.

By contrast, *Glorification of the Eucharist*, by Bonaventura Salimbeni (1567-1613), in the church of San Lorenzo in San Pietro, at Montalcino, near Siena, shows "what looks very like a satellite such as the Russian Sputnik".

In Salimbeni's painting, Christ and a white-haired God are holding between them a metallic sphere, from which protrudes "what appears to be the lens of a television camera". The sphere is also sprouting two slender antennas, "rather like radio aerials".

Signor Volterri said that in *La Tebaide*, by Paolo Uccello (1397-1475), objects in the sky were identical to photographs taken of alleged UFOs in the

US in the 1950s and 1960s. "I believe the painters deliberately put these objects in because they knew they were of great importance and wanted to leave a record," he said.

Martin Kemp, Professor of the History of Art at Oxford University, said that the "Renaissance UFOs" had a perfectly rational explanation.

"Many artists used their imaginations to represent celestial or sacred powers," he said. "Angels are not described in the Bible, but painters have given them the form we are familiar with. You could call them flying objects, too." The objects in Masolino da Panicale's painting were "not UFOs at all but merely clouds schematised to fit in with his perspective."

UFO sightings galore reported over B.C.

THE CANADIAN PRESS
PRINCE RUPERT, B.C.

Brian Vike isn't about to start pointing to little green men but he says something strange is happening above the skies of northern British Columbia.

Vike, a "ufologist" and editor of the paranormal magazine *Canadian Communicator*, is mystified by the largest deluge of bizarre airborne phenomena he's ever seen.

Since Feb. 1, Vike has received 73 reports of strange lights and objects in the sky around the region.

That compares to five or six reports at the same time last year.

Now Vike is hearing about unexplainable sightings over the North Coast and wants to hear from Prince Rupert, B.C., residents who think they've had a close encounter.

"Things like real bright lights doing real strange things," he said.

"If you look up in the sky and see a bunch of stars and all of a sudden five points of light start moving together, then disappear — that's not a satellite."

Of the 73 sightings, Vike said five can be easily explained away as mistakenly identified heavenly bodies such as shooting stars and planets.

The rest evade easy answers — such as the case of three women travelling from Smithers to Houston, B.C., who encountered a "huge craft" sweeping over their car.

"It descended through the cloud cover, went towards them at about tree-top level and went right over their car," Vike said.

"I interviewed them and they were just freaked. One wouldn't even go to work. The thing is, people want some answers for what they're seeing."

Vike is guessing that the spate of unexplainable events may be linked to armed forces activity in the area.

"One report we got from nine witnesses in several locations on July 29 was of a white (and) yellow object as big as a school bus that was seen below the horizon going into the valley," he said.

"Did something crash? Did someone lose something?"

More weird goings on

THERE'S been another addition made to Newsquest Wiltshire's Weirid Wiltshire site.

The site is fast becoming the one-stop resource for anything and everything about Wiltshire weirdness.

It has a new section on UFOs and a fantastic new Flash introduction complete with specially composed spooky music.

Another new addition to Weirid Wiltshire are the great virtual postcards.

The new section on UFOs tells the mysterious tale of the Thing, a UFO which appeared in Warminster in the 1960s, along with reports on more recent sightings.

Each section has a gallery, news updates, feedback facility, message board and a complete news archive dating back to 1965.

These articles come from the *Evening Advertiser*, *Gazette* and *Herald*, *Salisbury Journal*

and the *Wiltshire Times*.

As well as all this, Weirid Wiltshire is constantly updated with all the latest news, pictures and links to related websites.

Lisa Flynn, web manager, is delighted with the site so far and promises big things to come.

She said: "The great thing about a site like this is that you can keep adding to it, making it bigger and better."

"We are constantly updating Weirid Wiltshire and we are soon going to have some new additions."

"There will be sections on white horses and ghosts very soon, and also a great new section on big cats, earthworks, forests, folklore, Roman remains and much more."

To check it out go to www.weiridwiltshire.co.uk.

For advertising opportunities on Weirid Wiltshire, please contact James Hannah on (01793) 528144.

Flying saucer near Irton

SCARBOROUGH UFO investigator Russ Kellett has video evidence of a flying saucer disappearing into the sky near Irton Moor.

He wants to hear from anyone who may have seen a similar sight last Wednesday. A contact provided him with the video and Mr Kellett said he will be "amazed" if nobody else saw it.

He said: "It was at the woodland area near Red Brick Hill and the video shows the saucer on the ground then it takes off into the sky and shoots to the left."

"I have tried to think of any explanation of something else that it could have been such as a council truck with lights on or a breakdown vehicle but I believe it is a flying saucer."

Anybody who saw this or anything similar should call Mr Kellett on 07901 597743.

INTERIOR NEWS, Smithers, B.C., Canada - Aug. 7, 2002 CR: G. Conway

UFO sighting in Telkwa and Houston

By Nicole Fitzgerald
The Interior News

On July 29, winding down from a day on his Telkwa farm, Gordon Stewart settled into his chair facing two bay windows, overlooking the valley for a late-night movie.

At 10:45 p.m., a bright light flashed by his field of vision, raising him from his chair, astonished at the peculiarity and speed of the sight.

After walking onto the front porch for a clearer view, only silence filled the valley sky smudged with light cloud cover.

He called the RCMP. There was no air force activity in the area.

He woke his wife Joanna, who had already turned in for the night without hearing or seeing anything. On sharing his description of the round, white light with a yellowish hue, he learned his wife had seen the same light in the same location a couple of months earlier.

"I didn't want to tell him because he'd think I was crazy," Joanna recounted.

Earlier that evening at 10:20 p.m. in Houston, a Canfor employee stepped from a forklift to examine a phosphorescent like white ball of light with yellow undertones, which appeared to hover, before slowly crawling across the sky line. The worker called out to

two fellow co-workers who caught sight of the glowing light, which grew a tail as it gained momentum.

The phenomenon gained speed towards Tweedsmuir Park and shot out of view over the horizon.

"I called them over because I wanted prove that I saw something and that I wasn't crazy," the Canfor employee explained.

Despite having two witnesses, the Canfor employee wished to remain anonymous.

Despite his wife having seen the same phenomenon, Stewart was relieved a similar sighting was reported the same day.

Crazy and UFO are often terms that go hand in hand when trying to determine an experience that appears to be out of this world.

Already this year, over 70 unidentifiable sightings have been reported in northern B.C.

Only two days before the Telkwa/Houston sighting, a irradically moving, bright light was spotted in Prince George. Sightings in Prince Rupert and Port Simpson were reported the same day of Stewart's experience. The two days that followed it reports from Terrace were filed on a glowing, cigar-shaped craft and four multiple sightings of an unidentifiable light.

"There is so much going on here it's nuts," Houston B.C. Canada UFO researcher Brian Vikes remarked.

Vikes suspects action in space is growing with the number of hits he receives on his UFO Web site.

"Recently, I have been getting numerous hits," he said. "Everything from the National Defense Department to Federal Aviation."

He also noted that open information transitions between himself and the national Department of Defense has since clammed up with the publishing of the recent sighting in Telkwa — where three women attested to seeing an unidentified object with bright lights.

that the object flew in a flat line unlike meteorite or space debris's falling arc pattern.

Planes might be a credible explanation, but because no sound was detected and the size of the light — the size of a pick up truck from the distance he sat at — flew so low, a plane wasn't a logical solution in Stewart's mind.

According to Central Mountain Air, there were no late night flights except for a training run July 29.

Northern Thunderbird training was up between 10:07-11:04, however, a Central Mountain Air spokesperson saw no connection between the occurrences. She speculated that the tiny Sessna 185 would not emit a bright light of that magnitude and its engines would be heard at a close proximity.

Although a comet spotted the same evening would solve Stewart's mystery, its glowing green light, arc-shaped flight and Hudson Bay Mountain location did not pair up with what he saw — leaving Stewart questioning, "What the heck was it?"

For Stewart, the speed of the light was the most notable.

"If you had blinked, you would have missed it, it was that fast," he said.

He assessed the light reached faster than the speed of light at over 650 miles per

hour. Stewart is well acquainted to gaging speed, he assessed, after driving dragsters that reached up to 200 miles per hour.

As to whether he believes in another life force travelling through the universe, Stewart has always believed since reading space comic books as a kid, that people on earth weren't the only ones out here.

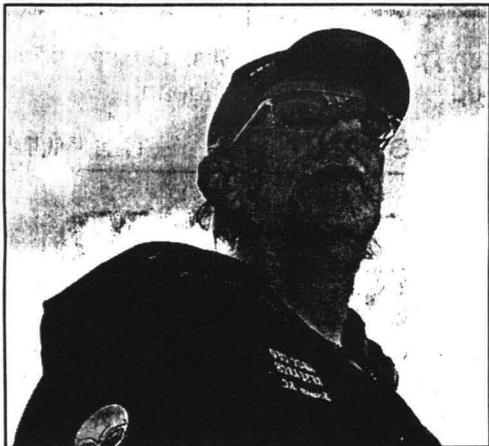
"There's too much on earth not to disbelieve," he argued, noting other phenomenons such as the Pyramids. "I think there was someone before us."

Despite Stewart's open mind towards other life forms, he talked himself through other possible explanations, but came to the same conclusion: "I knew I saw something out of the ordinary."

Although highly skeptical, the Canfor employee agreed his sighting was something more than an everyday occurrence.

"In my mind it looked like a meteorite," he comforted himself, but wavered as he turned the 20 second experience over in his mind.

"But, it was like no meteorite I've ever seen. I've seen meteorite showers before, but they never looked anything like this. I really don't know what it was."



BRIAN VIKE



News photos by Nicole Fitzgerald

UNIDENTIFIABLE WHITE LIGHT: Stewart caught the tail end of a movie when he was startled from his chair by an unidentifiable round light streaking across the valley. Combined with his house being stationed at 3,000 feet — Smithers sits at approximately 1,750 feet — and large bay windows, Stewart has an ideal birds eye view of air traffic.

MEDWAY TODAY, Kent, England
Dec. 5, 2002

Put UFO cases on database

SIGHTINGS of spaceships and little green men in Medway are to be recorded on a new UFO database. UFOTREK, Britain's newest UFO information news line, provides the latest news in the world of Ufology. It is updated every week and gives details of the latest sightings and events.

Now residents in Medway are being urged to record any unusual activity and sightings of unidentified flying, standing or sitting objects. Last year, Chatham residents were whipped into hysteria after an alleged sighting of a UFO on The Great Lines. Bright, circular, blue and orange lights were spotted over The Great Lines, and strange circular patches of burnt grass were discovered.

Sightings can be recorded on the 24-hour UFOTREK hotline on 0870 046 2270.

Alternatively, email astratech@supanet.com or visit www.homestead.com/kentufowatch/ufomek.html

STANDARD, Warnambool, Victoria, Australia - Dec. 13, 2002 CR: P. Norman

UFOs visit Grampians

THE Grampians has been identified as a hot spot for Unidentified Flying Objects.

The latest edition of *The Australian UFO Bulletin* reports on a series of ongoing sightings in the national park area.

Investigator Paul Norman writes that the sightings have been reported since May and initially involved a large white-lighted object, a pale yellow ob-

ject and smaller active luminous objects.

Mr Norman said the patterns of sightings had recently changed and the large white object had not been seen since October 15.

The number of smaller objects spotted, however, had increased with as many as 20 at a time appearing in various formations and movements, he said.

"The nature of their activity

has included blinking or signalling each other as well as manoeuvring around in the valley."

The yellow-colored object has displayed 35 or more small, equally-spaced red or black lights within its circle, the article reports.

Mr Norman said witnesses had been attending the viewing location on a nightly basis to monitor the strange sights.

Rocket clue to spaceman

DAILY MAIL, London, England - Dec. 13, 2002

QUESTION Has it ever been established if the Solway Firth spaceman photo (a picture of a little girl with what looks like an astronaut in the background) of 1964 was real or fake?

AS AN amateur photographer on a day-trip with my family, I took the photograph on Burgh Marsh on May 23, 1964, using an SLR camera loaded with the new Kodacolor film which was processed by Kodak.

I took three pictures of my daughter, Elizabeth, in a similar pose — and was shocked when the middle picture came back from Kodak displaying what looks like a spaceman in the background.

I took the picture to the police in Carlisle who, after many doubts, examined it and stated there was nothing suspicious about it.

The local newspaper, the Cumberland News, picked up the story and within hours it was all over the world.

The picture is certainly not a fake, and I am as bemused as anyone else as to how this image appeared in the background.

Over the four decades the photo has been in the public domain, I have had many thousands of letters from people all over the world with various ideas or possibilities — most of which make little sense to me.

It should also be noted that I have received no payment for taking this picture.

The only suggestion that struck a chord with me was a letter from Woomera in Australia which came a month after the picture was shown around the world.

The people there were keen to see a good colour copy of the photo, as they had stopped a countdown of the Blue Streak rocket within hours of my photo being taken.

Apparently, two similar looking 'spacemen' had been seen close to the rocket.

Only later did I find out that part of the Blue Streak rocket was made



Mystery: James Templeton (inset below) who took this baffling 1964 photo (left) of his daughter Elizabeth with a spaceman visible in the background



and tested within sight of Burgh Marsh. James Templeton, Carlisle, Cumbria.

GUARDIAN, London, England - Nov. 23, 2002

Stalin was a UFO obsessive

The US government might have spent more than half a century trying to convince suspicious conspiracy theorists that no UFO ever crashed at Roswell, New Mexico, but one man never believed the official story. That man, according to Pravda (Nov 19), was Joseph Stalin. The Soviet dictator apparently thought the US was covering up with its story of a weather balloon crashing, so he ordered senior scientists to investigate.

"In order to assess the situation, the scientists recommended that Stalin organise special investigations of similar phenomena: As a result, a number of programmes to study UFOs were launched in the USSR ... Until the end of the 90s, there were seven research institutes and about 10 secret military departments of the [former] Soviet defence ministry that studied UFO phenomena." In fact, suggests Pravda, one UFO-related discovery — the remains of an ancient alien rocket — provided vital technical knowledge for the Soviet space programme. The paper, once home to endless accounts of Communist party congresses, did not offer any evidence to back this assertion. www.pravda.ru

EAST CUMBRIAN GAZETTE, Carlisle, England - Dec. 5, 2002

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?

TODAY (which, for the purposes of this column, is December 5) sees the 57th anniversary of the start of the Bermuda Triangle mystery.

On December 5, 1947, six US military aircraft carrying 27 airmen went missing without trace in the Atlantic after taking off from Fort Lauderdale in Florida.

Five bombers took off and disappeared, and then a sixth plane — sent to look for the said bombers — also vanished into thin air.

Since then, other inexplicable events, including ships and aircraft going AWOL, have been linked to a "triangle" of ocean between Bermuda, Puerto Rico and Florida.

Now you may be asking yourselves — and not for the first time, no doubt — what's all this got to do with the price of fish, Phil? (to quote one of my mum's quaint if idiosyncratic sayings of days gone by).

Well, I'll tell you. Eleven days ago I think I saw a UFO. No, honestly, I did. And the fact that some investigators, and people with wild hair, anoraks and staring eyes, believe the Bermuda Triangle disappearances could be explained by alien abduction, is the rather contrived way I've decided to go ahead and tell all you sceptical readers about what happened. If it's good enough for Michael



● Who's that? Jim Templeton's picture of his daughter, complete with spaceman

Knighton, it's good enough for me!

I was on my own in the car, travelling back on the A6 from Kendal when, in the gathering gloom at about 3.45pm, I caught a glimpse of a flashing green light.

This was just past the Shap-Wells Hotel, looking north-west over towards the Wet Sleddale Reservoir. It was quite bright, and it appeared to be pulsating rhythmically and moving across the sky very slowly. I was so intrigued that I parked in the next lay-by and continued to watch it for a good two or three minutes, before it suddenly stopped flashing — and then vanished.

At first I thought it must be a tail-light on an aircraft, but it was too big and moving too slowly. It certainly wasn't a star or planet — I know a bit about astronomy, and having been a bit of a star-gazer in my younger days I know my way round the night sky pretty well — and it wasn't a warning light for air-

Phil Taylor

THE COLUMN

craft on top of a radio or TV mast. Masts don't move slowly across the countryside, do they? Well, not unless you're into smoking things stronger than Capstan Full Strength they don't...

So what was it? I couldn't identify it, it was definitely flying, and I think it was an object. So there you go — it was a UFO!

I'd be intrigued if anyone else saw it, but the chances are slim. Just one other vehicle, going south at speed, passed me while I was watching the light. The A6 at that spot is a pretty deserted stretch of road, and the countryside over to the west of it is bleak.

I'm fascinated by tales of the unexplained — ghosts, flying saucers, ESP, Iain Duncan Smith — and although not necessarily a believer, I would never dismiss out of hand the countless thousands of eye-witness accounts of strange phenomena reported down the years by ordinary people from all walks of life and from all over the world.

In our photographic archives here at Cumbrian Newspapers, we are privileged to have a copy of one of the most bizarre 'unexplained' photographs of all time — the Solway Coast Spaceman — taken at Burgh Marshes by Jim Templeton back in 1964 and reproduced here. When I first saw it, I thought it looked so

obviously a fake that — well, it just couldn't be!

Who knows? Perhaps that 'Neil Armstrong' figure poking up from behind Mr Templeton's daughter's head was piloting that green flashing light I saw? Or perhaps not. I've had a hard week.

Any road up, I am not pulling a stunt like the one a former colleague of mine told me about that was once perpetrated by a paper in the mid-west of America back in the early Eighties.

A reporter on the paper wrote an article describing how he saw a flying saucer land by a major inter-state highway in the early hours of one morning. A couple of small android figures came out, poked around the ground a bit, got back into their craft and sped off at enormous speed.

More than two dozen readers contacted the reporter to say they'd witnessed the very same thing. "What is truly amazing," wrote the reporter the following week, "about this incident is — it never happened. I made the whole thing up!"

Herd mentality? Some deep, psychological craving to believe that there really is something out there, and that it will come and save us all from a terrible fate? Or were they all just a vol-au-vent short of a buffet? The truth is out there...

More mysterious lights in the sky

THERE has been another sighting of a possible UFO off our coast.

A recent Free Press story about mysterious objects being filmed over Bridlington, and other sightings of possible UFOs in the area has prompted Wilsthorpe woman, Lynne Steinman to tell us about the mystery object she saw in the skies over Wilsthorpe earlier this month.

Mrs Steinman, who lives at Wilsthorpe Flats, close to the sea's edge, was driving home on her own after work at around 10.45pm on Friday November 9. It was a clear night and she could see the stars.

"There was a big, bright blob in the sky, I would have recognised it if it was a planet, but it was larger than that," she said.

Mrs Steinman continued down the road to Wilsthorpe flats and the light was still in the sky.

When she got out of her car and turned to go into the house the mystery object which had been to her left, was now to her right hand side. "I didn't see it move, but it had moved far enough to be completely

at the other side of me," she said.

The mystery object was also seen by her neighbour.

"Afterwards I just went inside, I presume it must have just gone away," she added.

A couple from Burton Agnes had a close encounter with what they think might be two UFOs.

Kathleen and Christopher Wilson, of Main Road, were driving home from Bridlington on the A614 earlier this month when they spotted two strange lights above fields between Haisthorpe and Thornholme.

Mrs Wilson said: "I was looking out of the nearside window when I saw a bright red light coming across the field towards the road.

"It was about 150 yards in front of us, travelling north. It was low in the sky and went in front of us about tree top high.

"I looked back across the field and saw a second red light. It did exactly the same thing and it seemed to be following the first light."

Mrs Wilson said the objects suddenly changed direction in a zig zag movement, and rose in the air and the couple then lost sight of them.

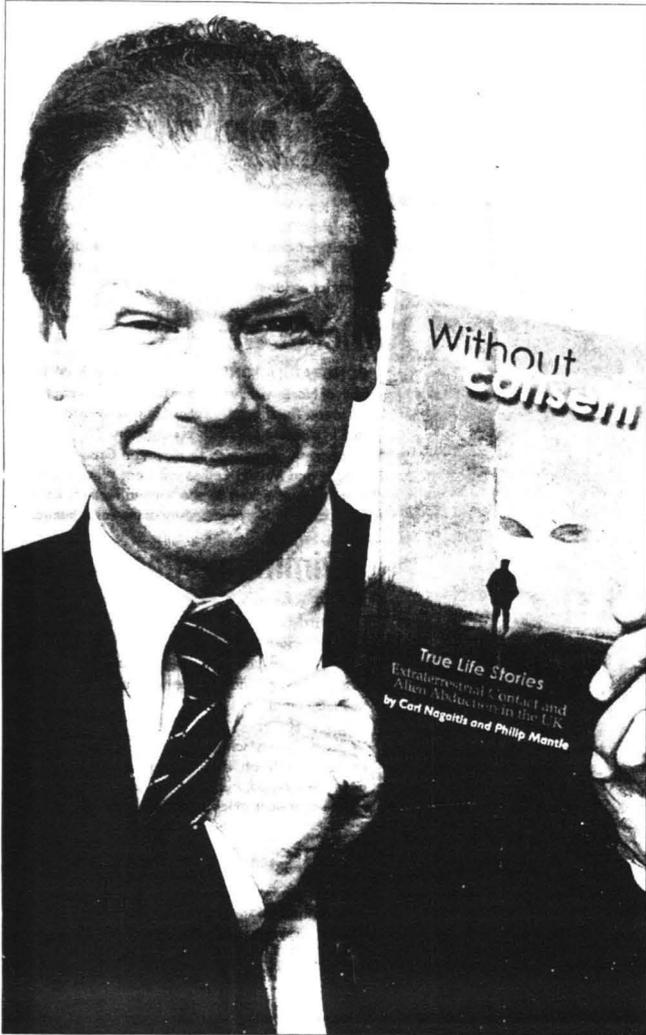
She said: "We never heard any noise from them as you do with aeroplanes. There were no flashing lights as with aircraft.

"They were travelling very fast but looked as if they were floating."

The Wilsons experienced their mysterious sighting at 7pm on Wednesday, November 6, and wondered if anyone else saw the lights.

If you have had a similar experience or seen any weird sights in the sky then tell us about it by dropping us a line or sending an email to newsdesk@bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk

BRIDLINGTON FREE PRESS, Yorkshire, England - Nov. 28, 2002



TRUTH IS OUT THERE: Author Carl Nagaitis with his new book, *Without Consent*. 200212156

Author collaborates with UFO expert to investigate claims Alien abduction: Fact or fiction?

by Paul Brown

THE *X-Files* may have been closed, but a Mid Cheshire author is taking over where Mulder and Scully left off.

Former Fleet Street hack Carl Nagaitis is delving into the mysterious world of alien abduction in his new book, which features the remarkable case-study of a Cheshire woman who claims she gave birth to an alien child.

Without Consent is one of the first comprehensive surveys of alien abductions published in the UK. It is the result of Carl's collaboration with Philip Mantle, a former director of investigations for the British UFO Research Association.

'I thought it would be interesting to combine my cynicism with Philip's passion for the subject,' said Carl, who lives in Swanlow Lane, Winsford, with his partner Helen and his daughter Heidi.

'I went into the subject thinking that I would be talking to a nutter who would be rambling on about little green men - I'm glad to say that wasn't the case!

'I had access to BUFORA's files and was able to dismiss the cases that, in my opinion, had a rational explanation, and went on to investigate those that seemed a little more beguiling.

'I was struck by the fact that I was interviewing people who were plainly not crazy. They had nothing to gain from speaking to me, and I came away from speaking to them convinced that something was going on.'

But what? Is it really aliens?
'I will believe in aliens when Philip takes me into a UFO to meet one - but after talking to some of those featured in the book, I won't rule that out.'

Without Consent is an updated version of Carl and Philip's 1994 book of the same name. He said: 'When we started the interviews for the original book, alien abduction was an unfamiliar term to most people. Then the *X-Files* hit our TV screens which caused many to look at the subject with a new interest.

'We were approached by Beyond Publications to bring the book into the 21st Century, and one of the new cases is that of a Cheshire woman which is being told for the first time.'

That concerns a woman, known as Suzanne Brown (though that is not her real name) who has suffered multiple abductions - and is convinced she was used by her visitors to give birth to an alien offspring.

She claims she was visited by a mysterious visitor she calls Mykro, sometimes as

many as three times a year, over a period of nearly 30 years. Mykro beckoned her on to a mysterious 'craft' on a number of occasions, and after one visit she fell pregnant. She later believes she suffered a miscarriage, but is convinced that the unborn child was taken from her by Mykro.

Rudheath investigator Eric Morris, who interviewed Suzanne, feels that the series of encounters experienced by her, stretching from puberty to the menopause, supports the views of theorists like Budd Hopkins who are convinced that 'genetic harvesting' is going on.

Eric said: 'Happily, her alien visitations have now stopped and the fact that they ceased as she approached the menopause seems to be far more than coincidence. Could it be that her value to the alien visitors plummeted when she reached the end of her childbearing years?'

It is the extraordinary tales like Suzanne's which have caused an explosion in the number of paranormal titles on the market. But why do they share their 'experiences' with us, the readers?

'I think some people come forward as a sort of therapy to come to terms with what has happened,' said Carl.

'Policemen, astronauts and pilots all over the world have filed reports of UFOs. I have talked to pilots who claimed they have seen many UFOs, but are too afraid to report them because it could be the end of their career.

'You have got to bear in mind that people have to go back to their normal lives, so if they want to come forward anonymously, as Suzanne did, then that's fine.'

■ *Without Consent* is out now, published by Beyond Publications, priced £9.99, from all good bookshops. Alternatively, visit www.beyondpublications.com

The following is an extract from *Without Consent*. It tells the extraordinary story of one Cheshire woman, who wished to remain anonymous, and her contacts with a lifeform only known to her as 'Mykro'.

SUZANNE Brown felt Mykro's presence even before she opened her tired and heavy eyes to peer at his slight five feet tall body standing by the side of her bed.

Even after all these years his pure beauty stunned her. Mykro smiled and gazed into Suzanne's eyes. As always he was perfectly groomed, with the flowing long blond hair which framed his slightly overlarge head sweeping down to his shoulders. He wore the same skin-tight, membrane-like grey suit he always had, smooth and spotless.

Mykro's numerous night-time visits had begun when she was just a child of 12. Now a mature woman in her late 30s, with a successful career in a major department store and her own comfortable home, Suzanne still felt a tingle of anticipation. Even before his telepathic words formed in her mind, Suzanne knew that Mykro was taking her out again.

These night-time expeditions now followed a pattern, a routine which had begun years ago when she had followed her strange companion into the countryside and on to a craft.

The sorties into the darkness even continued during the years when Suzanne was married and lived with her husband. Mykro would arrive as always and beckon her to follow him while her husband slept on.

Tonight, though, Suzanne was alone following the failure of her marriage. As she followed Mykro out of her home she pondered on the factors that contributed to their separation.

Of course, their fruitless attempts to conceive a child played a part, but what about her obsession with Mykro?

'What is he going to show me this time?' she whispered to herself as the craft came into view.

As always the pair floated in through the entrance and along the never-ending dark corridor until Mykro stopped at one of the illuminated portals. He looked into her eyes issuing the challenge he always had and Suzanne didn't hesitate.

■ Copyright - Carl Nagaitis, Philip Mantle, 2002.

Mystery sightings multiply in Arctic

DAVID PUGLIESE
OTTAWA CITIZEN
OTTAWA

Leblanc. While he was the top military officer in the Arctic, he tried to warn senior defence leaders in Ottawa that it would be only a matter of time before other nations started to eye Canadian northern territory, which is rich in resources such as diamonds and fresh water.

In particular, the Cumberland Sound sighting was well-documented, he noted. The RCMP officer and several area residents saw an object just below the surface, producing a three-metre bow wave as it moved through the water. Several weeks later, a group of hunters saw the object again.

But two Canadian navy submariners sent to investigate last year's sightings near Pond Inlet suggested that strong currents or the wind could have caused the unusual waves reported by the Inuit.

Navy Cmdr. Mike Considine said all unusual sightings are checked out, and in the case of the Pond Inlet incidents, there was little to suggest foreign boats were operating in the area. "We didn't find any evidence that there were submarines," he added.

Leblanc, however, said the military should not be so dismissive of observations made by those who live full-time in the region.

"One of the great disadvantages of the navy right now is that they have no experience in the north. So when some of the guys who live there on a yearly basis say, 'We've seen something very unusual,' who are they to say different?"

According to the reports, officers from Canadian Forces Northern Area became convinced that as a result of last year's Pond Inlet sightings, some sort of "mechanical object" was operating in the area.

Leblanc suggested that satellites, equipped with heat sensors, could keep an eye on movements of vessels into the Arctic.

As well, a sonar system placed in the water at key locations could also track such movements.

Such a system was planned in the early 1990s but cancelled because of military budget reductions.

Canada's Arctic seems to be competing for place in the *X-Files* with reports of mysterious objects plying its frigid waters, strange footprints detected near shorelines and an unusual absence of marine animals.

Over the past couple of years, there have been at least a dozen sightings of unusual objects moving along or just below the surface of the water in the North, mostly around Baffin Island, according to newly released Canadian Forces records.

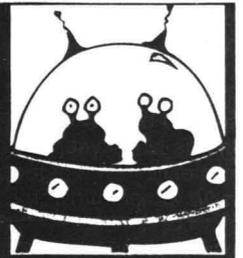
Last September, Inuit hunters and members of the Canadian Rangers, the military's locally recruited force of aboriginal people, reported what they believed was a foreign submarine checking out Canada's Arctic territories.

Most of the sightings took place last August and September near Pond Inlet on Baffin Island, where on 11 occasions witnesses reported seeing large waves and strange objects in the water. Marine animals had largely disappeared from the area.

Another object was seen by an RCMP officer in August 1999 and later by a group of hunters in Cumberland Sound off Baffin Island. Again, there was a noticeable lack of marine animals in the area at the time.

"I'm pretty convinced (foreign submarines) are operating there," says the recently retired commander of Canadian Forces Northern Area, Col. Pierre

Young eyes' view of the UFO debate



HEMEL HEMPSTEAD HERALD EXPRESS, Hertfordshire, England - Nov. 21, 2002

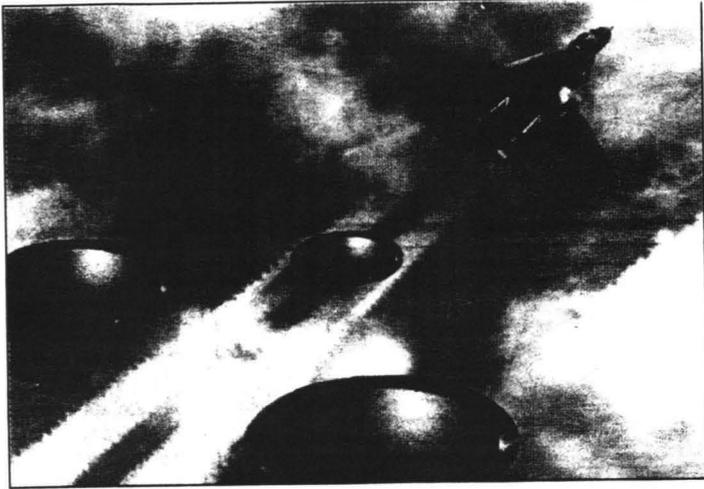
I CANNOT speak for others, but when my dad and I saw a UFO hovering close to an oak tree near our home there was no possibility of it being a kite with lights as was suggested last week in this paper (November 14). It seems insane and incomprehensible to me that theories such as a kite with lights or even fireworks have been suggested. The fact that none of these people saw this UFO does not give them the right to put forward their views as if they are facts.

Other people have said it was a helicopter or a military plane. These ideas have to be ruled out also. Although there is a chance that some UFO's are military planes there would be no reason for them to hover close to trees or in residential areas for over half an hour as there is a high risk, especially in a helicopter, that the blades would go into the trees. I know what I saw; planes and helicopters don't have pulsating red lights and don't interchange their light sequence, going from many lights to just one single bright light.

Another idea is that they are micro-light aircraft. If the people who suggested this actually took the time to read the reports they would know that it could not be a micro-light aircraft as they don't hover.

And as for the caller who suggested that the HeraldExpress get a life, they were probably annoyed that the front page headline was on a UFO sighting when it should be on real news. But surely this is front page news - a sighting of a UFO backed up by dozens of witnesses indicates that there is something strange happening. I can only say that people who can't comprehend UFO sightings and then offer ridiculous ideas on what they didn't see are making baseless assumptions. All witnesses know that what they saw was not identifiable. I encourage the HeraldExpress to carry on reporting UFO sightings as they really are newsworthy material.

Kevin Childs, Lombardy Close, Hemel Hempstead.



MYSTERY OBJECTS ... an explanation is needed from the authorities.

We want answers!

ON Tuesday, November 5, at precisely 3.40 pm, I was on my way to a meeting in South Shields town centre.

I heard the sound of an aircraft flying overhead, the distant roar of jet engines just taking precedence over the traffic snaking its way down Westoe Road.

I looked up, and, at a great height, saw a jet fighter of some description (plane spotting isn't my strong point) leaving a long, woolly vapour trail in its wake.

It was headed south, probably taking part in an exercise of some kind, I mused. Then I noticed something extremely odd.

Behind the jet fighter, following its path exactly, were three smaller craft.

They were flying in formation - a perfect equilateral triangle - but different to the plane in front.

They left no vapour trail and were perfectly circular.

Intrigued, I watched as the fighter and the strange objects following it simply disappeared into the clouds.

What intrigued me more was the fact that my own sighting came less than 24 hours after a flurry of similar reports from across Tyneside.

The first thing I did was to phone Northumbria Police press office.

Had they received any more reports of UFOs?

The press officer promised to ring me back. True to her word she did, only to tell me that no reports of UFOs had been received from other areas.

Similar inquiries regarding the jet fighter and its mysterious entourage also drew a blank.

So what on earth were these mystery objects, and why were they frequenting this area?

It is highly unlikely - nay, impossible - that so many witnesses could be hallucinating or even just mistaken.

And yet, no one can say with any

certainty exactly what is going on. All we know is that these strange craft appear, baffle those who observe them and then disappear again. Curiously, the Ministry of Defence insists that UFOs are 'of no defence significance'. How can they say this with any conviction when they apparently don't even know what UFOs are or indeed where they come from?

If I were either Stephen Hepburn or David Miliband, I'd be directing some very pointed questions towards the political and military figures who are responsible for the defence of the realm.

Do these politicians and generals know what UFOs are, and could this explain why the Government apparently 'knows' they pose no threat?

If 'they' are not here for sinister reasons, then why exactly are they visiting us?

But there's another possibility - that the Government is lying when it claims that UFOs pose no threat.

Maybe they're lying because they don't want people to panic, perhaps because they don't want to appear inept.

Whatever the truth, I'd like to make a personal invitation to our two local MPs. Please write to me, and tell me exactly what the Government knows about UFOs.

Please tell me also how the Ministry of Defence knows that UFOs are 'of no defence significance'.

Then I'll tell Bizarre readers, because they want to know too.

It's time the Government opened up on this issue - and sooner or later, they'll have to do just that.

BIZARRE

Abductees make contact

ALIEN abduction stories are getting stranger and stranger.

That's the opinion of Rudheath investigator Eric Morris, of the British UFO Studies Centre based in Winsford. He says cases of 'high strangeness' are becoming more common thanks to a growing army of amateur investigators willing to offer a sympathetic ear to victims of alien abductions.

Writing in *Without Consent*, he said: 'Abduction reports come in all the time and these days people are more willing to talk about their experiences than when I started my work 20 years ago, when folk were likely to become victims of ridicule.

Thanks to a more open-minded attitude in society as a



WEIRD WORLD: Eric Morris is Mid Cheshire's number one UFO expert. 23HP9521

whole, abductees can now be persuaded to relate the detail of their experiences. However, an investigator must possess a considerable level of social

skills to first put the witness at ease and then win his or her trust.

'Once that trust is established, you can then go forward together to analyse the details of abduction events providing a mass of new material for the cause of ufology and at the same time enabling the abductee to come to terms with his or her experience.'

Eric and his wife Linda have become adept at dealing with people who find themselves in situations of crisis thanks to their careers as nurses. That has enabled them to catalogue hundreds of cases, including many of abductions.

It was Eric who interviewed Suzanne Brown, whose story is featured on this page.

An out of this world response to UFO plea

SCOTTISH UFO investigators have had an "absolutely astonishing response" to an appeal last week for witnesses to a string of alleged close encounters in north-east Fife.

Lee Close, chief investigator with the Anglo Scottish UFO Research Agency (ASUFORA), revealed yesterday that since last Thursday the group had received 11 phone calls and four emails concerning unexplained sightings over the past few years.

As a direct result of the article in *The Courier*, he said ASUFORA had now been asked to take part in a documentary about UFOs and alien abductions in Scotland.

Meanwhile, a number of independent UFO investigators across Scotland have also come forward wanting to collaborate and join the team.

Mr Close said, "There has been an absolutely astonishing response since last week.

"We have had at least 10 sightings reported to us from the Fife area. These include a sighting in Dundee in 1994, one over Ballygry on June 1 this year and RAF Leuchars and Burntisland on November 28 this year.

"There have also been sightings in Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes and several other locations, including Freuchie, as well. We think that at least one of the new people to come forward is a hoax. But with the rest, it is often respectable, responsible, professional people who have come forward - often quite embarrassed - because they have seen something which they genuinely cannot explain."

ASUFORA made its appeal for witnesses last week following a new report of a UFO sighting near Freuchie.

Six years ago two local women made headlines around the world after claiming they encountered aliens at Drummy Wood, Freuchie.

Now UFO enthusiasts are being drawn to the area in renewed numbers following a "sighting" by a retired US army captain and his family during a visit to the area last summer.

Mr Close said it was now his team's job to assess whether the latest reports could be explained by astronomical or aircraft factors, or if something supernatural was at work.

Mr Close said he was still keen to hear any other reports, including photographic and video evidence. And he offered assurances that anyone who did so would be treated with the strictest confidentiality.

He said ASUFORA was also hoping to expand as a professional group and was looking for equipment and financial support.

He added, "We are currently looking for things like electromagnetic field detectors, access to Geiger counters, digital cameras, also night vision field glasses and recording equipment. MP3 players with mics or decent digital recorders, so we can save all our files on CD-ROM."

Anyone with information can phone ASUFORA on 07796 095480. Further information can be found at www.geocities.com/asufora or by Emailing Lee Close on asufora@hotmail.com

Crop circles return

By Sylvia MacBean
Freelance writer

CARNDUFF, Sask. — Crop circles have been found in southeastern Saskatchewan again this summer.

Paul Anderson of the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network said one set of circles, which are also called field art, is located south of Midale, Sask., adjacent to a road. A local pilot reported it to Anderson.

It is the third set of circles found in the Midale area in the past four years.

"There are five circles of varying sizes, and a larger sixth broken ring with large offset circle inside it, which

in turn has a small offset circle of standing crop inside it," Anderson said.

"As well there is a seventh half ring or 'C', which has a short pathway attached to it."

Another set of crop circles was found near the Esterhazy, Sask.

"It is a large circle surrounded by four smaller ones in wheat. The centre circle has a 'burned ring' inside it."

Anderson plans to travel to the Prairies from Vancouver to investigate the circles.

He can be contacted at 604-731-8622.

CR: P. Anderson

UFO alert over triangle of light

MYSTERIOUS objects have been spotted hovering over the rooftops of homes in Leverstock Green.

Adrian Childs and his son Kevin were shocked when they saw a large triangular-shaped light suspended in the air above playing fields near their home in Pancake Lane, Hemel Hempstead.

The pair watched the UFO from their window on Sunday

night for about 45 minutes before it raced out of sight at high speed.

Adrian said: "It looked like a triangle shape and it seemed to be pulsing with light, first red, then white, then blue."

"It was there for a long time so we had a good look at it but when Kevin ran to get a video recorder it disappeared."

The unusual event is the second this month for Adrian,

who believes he saw a similar craft hovering in the same place three weeks ago.

He said: "I'm certain it was the same one. I saw another UFO about 10 years ago and that was in Leverstock Green as well. It seems to be a hot-spot for this kind of thing."

These are the latest in a series of unusual happenings, including a sighting of a mysterious object near Rucklers

Lane, Kings Langley, a couple of months ago.

The strange sightings have left Adrian certain that something out-of-the-ordinary is going on and he is now appealing for other people who may have seen the crafts to come forward.

If you have noticed any extraterrestrial happenings in the area, call the newsdesk on HH 262311.

SOUTHERN DAILY ECHO, Southampton, England Nov. 28, 2002

ET-prof's star prize

TOTTON College psychology tutor and expert on extraterrestrials Craig Roberts has been awarded a top European award for his latest publication on UFOs.

Craig, who researches and teaches UFOlogy, has won the Spanish Cuadernos De Ufologia prize for 2002 for his report in the *European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies*.

Totton College's two-year UFO Studies course, run by Craig, is the only A level-standard programme in the country where students can study ET.

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 19, 2002 — *El Comercial*, Argentina [www.elcomercial.com.ar] — CATTLE MUTILATIONS CONTINUE — Seven mutilated animals in Yatai, totalling 21 in two months — Yesterday morning, livestock producer Luis Fernandez visited Yatai police barracks to report cases similar to those which are occurring with increasing frequency in our province with regard to cattle mutilations. When the case became known at the newsroom, *El Comercial* reported to the scene. We were welcomed by the officer in charge of the local police post, senior subofficer Adolfo Salvador Valdez, who recounted what transpired at the property of Luis Fernandez, who at 11:00 a.m. presented the corresponding claim on the enigmatic deaths of 7 animals, identical to those reported in the media in different parts of the country. The chief of the local office of SENASA at Mision Laishi, veterinarian Ariel Llamas and his aide, followed by provincial coordinator Dr. Alcides Serochi, also accompanied by another doctor and two other persons, reached the site. With the arrival of the Sheriff in charge of the operation, they headed toward the field, 8 km distant from the police post along a rural road and over 60 km from the city of Formosa.

They entered the site crossing an old washed-out road, swamps, mud, bridges and the magnificent scene of a horizon filled with aquatic birds. The entire landscape suggested that they were entering a location of difficult access, and even the 4x4 vehicle had trouble. After more than half an hour, they reached the central area of the ranch owned by Luis Fernandez.

They waited for the arrival of Fernandez's son and several tenant farmers. Once there, both the police delegation and SENASA envoys labored jointly to look into the case. At that time, they had already brought an animal to the central area of the ranch for analysis, since it is impossible to transit the location on foot. They displayed all of the parts of a calf, and the looks of astonishment on the faces of the persons in charge of conducting the research were evident. The same forms of cauterization on the sides of the animal's mouth, perfect incisions and no bleeding, the absence of an eye--it was all remarkable once again, due to the high skill with which "the Chupacabras" had done its work. As a tenant farmer remarked: "you can see that the critter knows a lot about cows."

Dr. Ariel Llamas carried out a detailed examination of the head that the tenant farmers brought over in order that the SENASA technicians could see what had occurred. He explained that they showed the same conditions that he found not long ago at Laishi: cauterization of the wounds, absence of an eye and the tongue, as if the latter had been extracted from the animal's mouth through the underside of the mouth bone, with extreme care and precision.

Over 10 backwoodsmen scoured the fields in search of "something strange" or "that critter" without finding anything, "only the usual" in an immense field covered by washouts and swamps and the animals of the area: constrictor snakes, curiyues, yacares, water fowl, pumas, bears, armadilloes and cows. The field also holds the animals of another person, a friend of Fernandez, totalling approximately 1400 animals on the site. Five of the ones mutilated during the course of this week belong to Roberto Rafael Rango and the remainder to Luis Fernandez. Both stated that "in the past two months, 21 animals died under strange conditions."

After performing several studies, it was noted that the animals' hides presented a total lack of coloration, almost bordering on the transparent. Comparisons were made with other hides and it can be seen that the difference was complete, since the hide of a sacrificed animal is normally opaque and hard. The animals' flesh was brought to the central area of the ranch "to feed the dogs with" and it was an astonishment to all that not even the dogs, who are used to eating "anything they can get," would partake of the meat. It was also remarkable how swiftly [the meat] turned black, and "not even flies" came close to it. The explanation was not even remotely offered by the SENASA technicians on site, nor did they offer details about the event. They merely restricted themselves to corroborating Fernandez's claim, "looking in detail" at the evidence and to pour cold water over everything else.

To the locals, "this is the handiwork of the unknown," since they were disconcerted at not being able to find anything after their exhaustive search. Fernandez made it clear that he had seen many strange things in his life, "but nothing like this ... an animal bled to death in such a way I cannot imagine, nor can I understand why the dogs won't eat the meat. They way the hide looks, the incisions in the mouth and how they took everything out of the animal without it being noticeable at the site, and not even a sign of resistance." — CREDIT: Alicia Rossi

July 21, 2002 — *El Tribuno*, Salta, Argentina — CATTLE MUTILATIONS AT LA TROJA — **Macabre discovery in an almost inaccessible wilderness** — Juan Antonio Abarzua of *El Tribuno* — Provincial Justice and Police initiate activities aimed at determining the causes for the strange deaths of six bovines found in a sector known as El Cajon, inside the La Troja ranch, and in a dense, nearly inaccessible forested wilderness some 75 km east of the Salta capital and bordering the Department of Metan.

The animals' deaths have bewildered researchers and veterinarians who participated in a survey expedition mandated by Judge Carlos M. Aguero Molina. The vets performed autopsies on two of the animals and submitted samples of tissue and organs to the Police Biochemistry Lab and the School of Natural Sciences of the National Univ. of la Salta (UNSA). The initial action is aimed at establishing if there were bacterial or virological agents present capable of triggering the mysterious situation. The request forwarded to the UNSA scientists seeks to find details on some strange coleopteryds ("cascarudos") of large size which were found on some of the animal carcasses. Police investigators Cesar Jimenez and Marcelo Choque want to determine if the insect is carnivorous or not.

The six cows, who were missing eyes, tongue, the flesh covering the lower maxillarios and (in three specimens) the genitalia and udders of the female bovines, died in an area 6 km around, and were almost exactly 1,500 meters from each other. Despite the difficulty (of negotiating the terrain) and the tortuous paths followed by the cows, if an imaginary line were drawn between each one of the carcasses, an almost perfect isocetes triangle could be formed, a matter which could be coincidental but which nonetheless astonished the police expedition, headed by the chief of the 4th Sheriff's Office of the capital area, Miguel Armando Miranda.

A team from *El Tribuno* visited the area--which can only be visited on foot and requires a forced march two hours long--and corroborated the findings. Beyond the peculiarities of the geometric arrangement of the deaths, there are others which are no less disturbing: the bovines were untouched by the usual carrion creatures, did not give off an odor, no traces of blood were found and their flesh did not appear to have entered the process of decomposition although it is

certain that the deaths occurred at least ten days ago.

It is also curious that the animals died simultaneously and suddenly, since they fell as though struck down, without having made the motions characteristic of the struggle for life. Of the six bovines, only one left traces of having made any movement prior to its death: it made a small circumference with one of its front legs. Then it collapsed and remained still.

"I never saw anything like it in my life," said Tito Yurquina, 70, the animals' owner, whose family has been in the area for over four generations, having engaged in cattle ranching over that time. A similar opinion was voiced by Margarita Maidana, 77, the clan's matriarch, who made the report to the Police. In this regard, her daughter, Romualda Sarapura, 38, who claims to "have been born and raised in the area" said succinctly: "I have never seen anything like it. Nor have I heard of anything similar."

Meanwhile, two other family members, Carmen Salva, 15, and Nelly Tarifa, 51, added an item of information which revives the belief that all of this has extraterrene causes: both women swear that in the days preceding the macabre find, "strange and powerful lights were seen in the skies."

"I saw a large circle, like a full moon over the hills. It gave off intermittent beams of different colors," said the teenager, a student at the Sargento Cabral school in the capital, who was helping out with farm tasks during her winter vacation. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

July 21, 2002 — *La Manana*, Argentina — REPRESENTATIVE OF FEDERACION ARGENTINA DE UFOLOGIA (FAO) VISITS 25 DE MAYO — The sighting of a powerful light over an abandoned house in a field of the town of Gobernador Ugarte, similar to an unidentified flying object (UFO), has prompted Luis Burgos, a representative of the Argentine Ufology Federation, to visit 25 de Mayo today, possibly at noon, for a detailed study of the light seen by residents and policemen from Ugarte. He will even make a copy of the images filmed by a local rancher, according to a spokesman for the local cable channel.

On July 15 and last Wednesday, residents and policemen of Ugarte claimed having seen something strange that irradiated a powerful white light from its lower section, making it impossible to see what was above the light source. The strange light was seen by Manuel Gonzalez, Jose Benavides and his wife Rosa Gutierrez, and subsequently reported to the police in order that agents of law enforcement, among them senior officer Rafael Aragonés, could witness the strange event. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

July 21, 2002 — *El Tribuno*, Salta, Argentina — Sighting — **An alleged UFO causes consternation at Campamento Vespucio** — **Vespucio: Phenomenon caused a commotion at oil settlement** — Large UFO Causes Ground Effects — Phone service throughout the region was interrupted and there were failures in several pieces of machinery — Cristina Carrazan, *El Tribuno* — An unidentified flying object (UFO) of large size and intense luminosity was seen on Monday between 20:50 and 21:30 hrs. in the town of Campamento Vespucio, seven kilometers west of General Mosconi and approximately 350 km to the north of the Salta capital. The event caused a sensation in this community, which not long ago was the hydrocarbon-producing capital of the Argentinean northwest and which is half-empty after the privatization of the state-owned Yacimientos Petroliferos Fiscales (YPF) oil company.

The presence of the object--visible to the unaided eye over the forested tropical hills of the San Antonio Range, which acts as the region's natural border--was of the size and shape of a rugby ball.

Residents of Vespucio took to the streets to look at the object, which remained motionless for 40 minutes before vanishing suddenly toward the west at "prodigious" speed, according to witnesses. A housewife who chose to remain anonymous said "it was oddly beautiful. The intensity of the light was enormous although it produced no fear whatsoever."

The same woman added that "we all marvelled at first but got nervous when we realized that along with the phenomenon, the phones stopped working and the electrical systems of several cars were left for dead, making it impossible to start them or turn on their lights."

Residents of the Tablillas area, some 3 km inside the canyon where Campamento Vespucio is located and consequently closer to the UFO, were not surprised by the event, since they said "we are used to seeing these singular luminous events since 1999, and the fact remains that whenever they appear, they cause failures in motor and electrical systems."

Only a few families live in this place, all of them former workers and employees of YPF who chose to remain in the area after privatization, which can be reached along a tortuous dirt road leading to the Pan American oil company operations. The road also leads to other gas and oil wells which currently register no services whatsoever.

The Olima family is among the ones dwelling at Tablillas. Made up by the couple and 13 children--eight of which live in their parents' house and whose ages range between 10 and 24--were privileged witnesses to the event.

Gabriel Olima, 22, a former engineering student who was unable to continue his studies due to economic hardship and who now works alongside his father in a workshop set up inside the house and is also a beekeeper, said "we've seen these UFOs many times since 1999. People didn't believe us for fear or out of skepticism, but the apparitions are so customary that we've been able to determine that they're visible between July and August. Not before, not after."

"On one occasion, two persons from a Buenos Aires TV Channel came and we brought them over to film [the phenomenon]. They did the work but for some reason never exhibited it publicly. While filming, they seemed frightened and one of them told me that the shining 'thing' was nothing known, that it was 'very strange.' They never came back."

On the other hand, Fabian Olima, 24, said that "this or these objects seem to have a timetable, because they always become visible between 20:00 and 21:00 hours. They're there, they stay for 40 minutes and then vanish at high speed."

Gabriel said that on one occasion, when "the thing" appeared behind a distant hill no more than 4 km from his house, he decided to have a closer look. "We wanted to see what it was, what it was all about. We went out with my dad to reach the other hill, running along some trails, but it suddenly built up speed and vanished like a bullet."

"What's changed," Fabian stressed, "is the distance involved. Before we would see it far away, but on Monday night it was closer than ever."

"Maybe they're becoming less shy and will come closer a little each day," joked other members of the Olima family. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

July 23, 2002 — *El Diario de la Republica*, Argentina — COMMOTION OVER UFO SIGHTING IN SOUTHERN CORDOBA — SAN LUIS — Public opinion across the country was startled yesterday following news of a UFO sighting in southern Cordoba on Sunday night.

When consulted by *El Diario de la Republica*, journalist Jorge Almiron of the *El Puntal* newspaper of Rio Cuarto,

who covered the event, confirmed that at least 20 police officers from that Cordoban region saw the strange craft.

One of the officers had the most significant experience, since the squad car in which he traveled and approached the strange object ceased operating as the object drew closer, and the same happened to his cellphone and the police radio. Once the craft moved away, the equipment began operating once more, even some which had been broken.

This policeman was some 10 meters from the craft and said that it had the shape of a triangle measuring approximately 200 meters along the side, with countless portholes through which a light similar to that of spotlights emerged, lighting the entire area. Behind the illuminated spaces, the police officer could see shadows, but which were not clearly visible. Yesterday he told the media that he was stunned by the experience.

Journalist Almiron said that the Cordoba Chief of Police inspected the area yesterday with the purpose of seeing if any physical evidence of the passing of the strange ship could be found. As of yesterday, it was not known if someone had managed to photograph or film the apparition.

Almiron recalled that 20 days ago, the Cordoban police saw another very strange, large light in the same area. — CREDIT: Alicia Rossi

July 27, 2002 — *El Tiempo On-Line*, Azul, Buenos Aires, Argentina — ANOTHER BOVINE MUTILATED, THIS TIME IN PARISH — A farm foreman informed *El Tiempo* last night that while surveying the El Yunque ranch in the locality of Parish, he found a bovine presenting signs of mutilation.

The case, according to the rural worker's description, is similar to others detected in the area and other parts of the country. In this specific case, the animal showed mutilations in the rectal area, tongue, eyes and jaw. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

July 27, 2002 — *El Fuerte*, Chascomus, Argentina — BREAKING NEWS — Seen by several residents — A couple that was driving along last night at around 21:00 hours from the SETIA campground toward the city along the peripheral road, witnessed a large, sky-blue light moving over the lagoon, changing color and size as it did so. Once this newspaper was alerted, a reporter from this newsroom was able to see the light which at the time remained stationary over Mt. Brown, seen from the San Jose Beach Facility. Its color was now red and it gave off flashes.

Minutes later a local resident contacted *El Fuerte* [to say that she had seen] the light descend and lose itself behind the treeline. An hour later, at 22:30, two other witnesses saw the phenomenon on Route 20, near the Aeroclub. The object moved slowly westward.

This sighting can be added to others which have been taking place in our area in recent weeks. — CREDIT: Alicia Rossi

July 28, 2002 — *El Comercial*, Argentina — BETWEEN BARTOLOME DE LAS CASAS AND FONTANA — Five Cows Mutilated — Four mutilated cows were found again some 12 km southwest of Bartolome de las Casas, having the same characteristics as earlier cases. Two were found on Wednesday and two more on Thursday at a field owned by Ariel "Papin" Suarez.

The fifth animal was found yesterday in Estanislao del Campo: the victim was a cow belonging to Victor Andres Roldan in the Ranero Cue pasture field, some 10 km. distant from the town, having all of the characteristics indicated, such as "mutilation," "cauterization" and "millimetric incisions."

Fourteen "unofficial" reports were received in the Fontana and Bartolome de las Casas region; reports include a young horse, a buffalo and 12 bovines. A more extensive report will appear tomorrow. —CREDIT: Alicia Rossi

July 28, 2002 — *El Diario de Balcarce*, Argentina — WATERLESS TANKS AND COWS OUT OF PLACE — The discovery of a mutilated cow in a field of the "Buena Vista" area is surprising in and of itself, but the discovery of waterless tanks and a lemon tree that lost all of its leaves in a single night, and cows suddenly found in another pen have made this event an unexplainable one.

After the commotion over the mutilated cow had subsided, *El Diario* spoke to Gustavo Dimuro, a member of the family who owns the field and who takes care of the farm along with his brother, and to Jorge Latorre, a family friend who was present when the animal was discovered on Monday.

Dimuro remarked that last Sunday afternoon he was touring the field and distributing rolls of hay for the cattle to eat, and did not detect any anomalous activity. Since there was no rain on Monday morning, he made the same tour with Latorre and it was then that they found the dead bovine.

Approaching it, they were able to attest that it had been mutilated in the same manner as in the cases which have appeared in the national media. "We found that its entire palate bone was skinned, its tongue was missing and its anus and genitals had been torn off. It was a three to four year old cow, pregnant and in excellent health," Dimuro remarked, adding that when they found the fetus, it was intact. When INTA representatives opened the cadaver, the flesh was in perfect condition, as though the animal had died only recently.

Unlike other cases that INTA Balcarce had the chance to analyze, on this occasion the death had occurred between Sunday afternoon and Monday morning, which enabled them to make a more exhaustive study and ascertain the cause of the bovine's death.

Latorre explained that the place where the dead animal was found showed no signs of kicking fits before death. "It's as though someone had placed it there. The grass is short and nothing could be seen. It is remarkable that the animal was completely clean."

Although they gave little importance to it at the time, after the discovery, they remembered that only a few days ago the two water tanks in the field had been found completely dry. They refilled them and found that both tanks were still full, showing no signs of leaks anywhere (both tanks have cement floors). Nothing abnormal was detected afterward, causing them to joke that the same was occurring in the mutilated cow cases.

Another notable event occurred between last Sunday and Monday. A lemon tree close to the site where the animal was found was completely leafless. This could have been caused by the wind or a powerful frost, but in both cases they were able to ascertain that the remaining plants were intact.

The strange events didn't end there, since to everyone's surprise, there were animals who had changed pasture fields without any explanation. "In a single pasture field I have 200 animals, and I found 3 cows in one pasture and 2 in another, where the heifers are kept. We looked to see if the barbed wire fence had been broken and we found nothing. We can't explain how this happened."

The strange events in the field remain unexplained and while logical conclusions are being sought, and even if the famous [red-muzzled] mice were involved--something that the men profess not to believe in--the strange events that

parallel the mutilation, such as the missing water, the dropping of leaves from a single plant and the incredible transfer of animals from one pasture field to another constitute a mystery.

Information on the strange animal deaths recorded, which are the product of remarkable mutilations in different parts of the country, was followed by the community of Balcarce through the media. At the time, the SENASA authorities, based on data provided by specialists, indicated that the animal deaths were due to the activities of the so-called red-muzzled mouse.

The cases continued to occur and in the measure that they developed, resistance to the official report by public opinion became evident. A wide variety of conjectures began to circulate, among them the belief that this type of event is caused by beings from other worlds.

And it would seem that the red-muzzled mouse or whatever it is also began to operate in the district of Balcarce. In recent days, this newspaper published an account of how a dead heifer was found on a street near a wilderness area between the 10th and 105th streets, missing an eye and an ear and presenting incisions on its body. When the newspaper reported to the site, the animal had vanished and local residents preferred to remain silent, because they could not say for sure that it had been a mutilated animal. Some versions of the story say that at least three animals were found dead and mutilated throughout the district, but the owners of the premises involved chose to remain quiet, which is why these stories never became known in the media.

During the week, two bovine deaths were recorded in the district, presenting similarities between both regarding the amount of damage caused to the body of the animal by its erstwhile attacker. One of these events took place in the property owned by Gustavo Dimiuro, located in the area of the "Buena Vista" pasture field, some 20 km away. Upon finding the animal, the above-named rancher notified the local subsidiary of the Argentine Agrarian Federation and its director, Roberto Gonzalez, contacted the management of INTA in order to determine the steps to be followed.

Members of the Specialized Diagnostic Veterinary Service reported to the site in order to collect the necessary data. The experts who arrived at the location performed various incisions on the animal's body, and in this regard, it was said that the report would only be delivered to the person responsible for the field and the acting veterinarian. An effort was made to secure this information, but at the close of this edition, no report had been delivered. — CREDIT: Alicia Rossi

July 30, 2002 — *El Independiente*, La Rioja Province, Argentina — Strange Lights, Mutilated Animals Reported Near Ulapes — ULAPES -- Barely 6 km east of this community, more precisely at the small ranch known as Las Raladas, located on Route 33, which links it to San Solano, two mutilated bovines were found showing signs that are identical to the cases depicted on television and which have occurred elsewhere in the country.

The case involved a pair of yearling heifers who were missing ears, part of their jaws, tongue, a single eye, the udders and their reproductive organs.

Ranch owner Ramon Mercedes Acevedo told *El Independiente* --which was able to ascertain the high strangeness of these events--that these are very "strange" cases since after having worked so many years in the field, he has never seen anything quite like it.

The edges [of the incisions] were perfect circles, and the jawbone was completely relieved of flesh or hide, as though the bone had been boiled to remove the flesh. Despite the fact that five days have gone by since the animals died, they were still not decomposed nor did they show signs of rigor mortis, suggestive of a natural death. The cattleman noted that it is his belief that the animals are completely bloodless, since despite the fact that one of them had been eaten by his dogs, foxes and vultures, there was no blood evident, and the muscles were clearly visible, as is the case with animals prepared for human consumption.

The case caused a sensation and many residents reported to the site to form dragnets, combing the area to no avail in search of tracks, caves or marks which could lead to a logical explanation for the subject. The place where the animals fell dead is covered in vegetation, making it impossible to reach by vehicle, but the ground is sufficiently soft so that tracks can be detected, should there be any.

"This just had to happen to me," bemoaned Acevedo, faced with the loss of two female bovines. Local residents remarked that strange lights were seen over the hills of Ulapes during those days, and Jose Nievas said as much last Sunday, when he was in Aguayo and on the way back to Ulapes, saw two large lights moving swiftly over those mountains.

"I don't believe in witches," said another local cattleman. "But they exist, all right." — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

August 1, 2002 — *Pregon on Line*, Argentina — Mutilated Birds in El Fuerte — STUDIES FAIL TO YIELD RESULTS — The Criminalistic Division of Regional Unit II, based in the city of San Pedro, is conducting studies on the remains of several birds which appeared mysteriously mutilated in the vicinity of El Fuerte, Department of Santa Barbara. Police sources informed *Pregon* that for the time being, the studies have failed to yield any results regarding the manner in which the animals died: emptied out through their anal sphincters without any other signs of injury or aggression.

The studies are being conducted by a veterinarian attached to Regional Unit II, reports indicated. Simultaneously, the specifics of the case have been substantiated by the Sheriff's Office at Palma Sola, to whose jurisdiction El Fuerte belongs. The cover sheet reads: "To establish cause of animal death, specifics of prevention" and [the rest of the document] presents a summary of information to the judge of the Court of Instruction, Jorge Samman.

The police report indicates that the mutilated birds belong to Fortunato Morales, a resident of El Fuerte, who claims that eight chickens died under these strange circumstances in the past three months.

The animals have had their entrails extracted through the anal sphincter. The bodies are dry, bloodless and odorless. The means of killing does not correspond to any predator in the area. It was also known that the police officers in charge of the investigation requested the collaboration of the SENASA veterinarian at Palma Sola, Dr. Mario Portal.

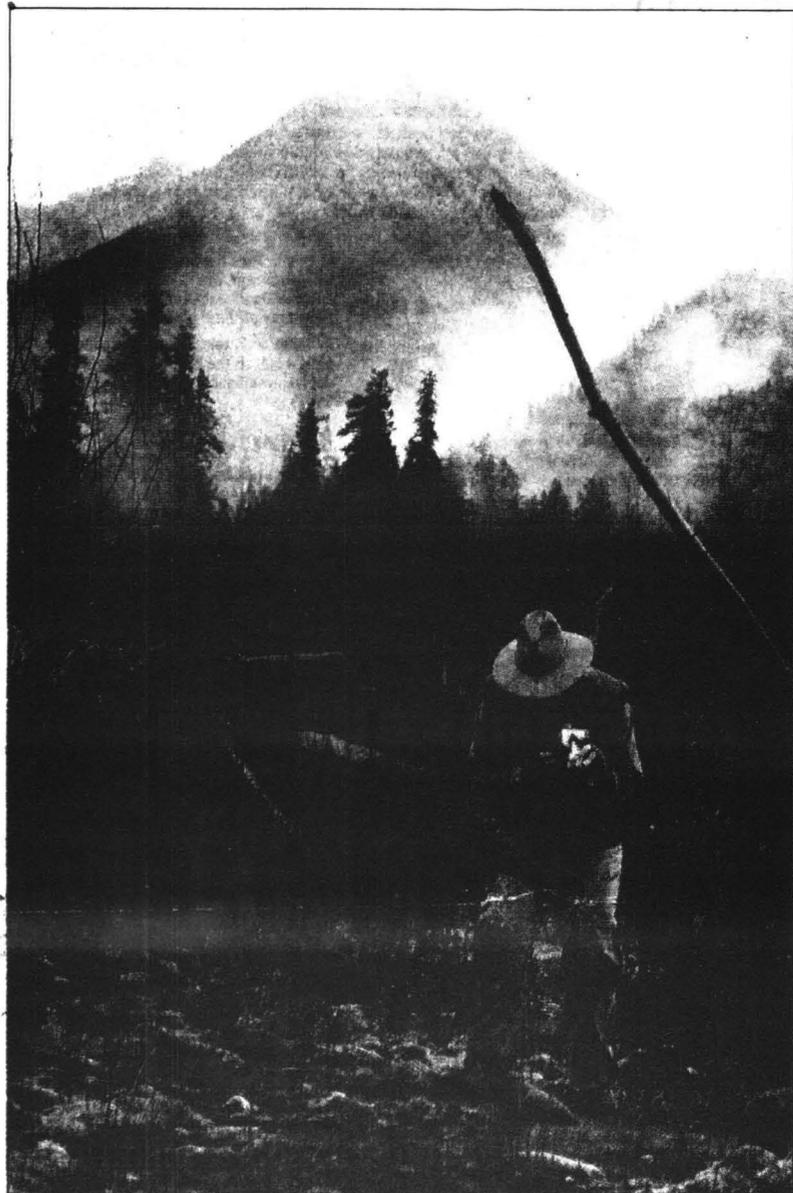
The source consulted by this newspaper also stated that the El Fuerte case is the only one of its kind reported in the province. — CREDIT: Alicia Rossi

August 2, 2002 — *La Nueva Provincia*, Bahia Blanca, Argentina — STRANGE LIGHTS, FIGURES ALLEGEDLY SEEN IN CD. ATLANTIDA — The alleged appearance of strange floating figures and red spheres moving at high speed during the night and in the sand dune area leading toward the Arroyo Pareja municipal beach, facing Corrientes and Libertad streets, wove a mantle of mystery around residents of that section of the city. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi



Bigfoot believers

Legitimate scientific study of legend gains backing of top primate experts



The Denver Post / John Epperson; Illustration: Peter Travers

Bigfoot researcher Richard Noll photographs two footprints in the sand at a site in the North Cascades, northeast of Seattle. The footprints are among evidence that has led leading researchers to call for a serious study into whether Bigfoot exists.

By Theo Stein
Denver Post Environment Writer

EDMONDS, Wash. — After enduring decades of ridicule, Bigfoot researchers are enjoying support from some of the world's most respected scientists in their efforts to prove the hulking creatures of legend are no myth.

The persistence of reported sightings of Bigfoot-type creatures in North America and elsewhere has convinced leading researchers on primates — including Jane Goodall, made famous by her studies of chimpanzees in Tanzania — to call for something never seriously considered before: a legitimate scientific study to determine whether the greatest apes that ever lived persist in the world's moist mountainous regions.

Skeptics, who include those in the scientific mainstream, scoff at such ideas. They say reported Bigfoot encounters, tracks and other evidence are either hoaxes or mistakes, and that people who believe such nonsense are soft-headed.

But dedicated amateurs and a smattering of professionals are trying to change that attitude. Using accepted scientific methods, they believe they can show at least some of the claimed evidence for Bigfoot — footprints, hair, voice recordings and a 400-pound block of plaster known as the Skookum Cast — are authentic traces of a rare giant primate.

Recently they have received support from a handful of the field's top experts.

Daris Swindler, for example, is not the typical Bigfoot believer.

When he retired in 1991 after more than 30 years at the Universi-

ty of Washington, Swindler was an acclaimed expert in the arcane study of fossilized primate teeth.

His book, "An Atlas of Primate Gross Anatomy," went through several printings and was among the standard references in the field.

So it comes as a surprise to some of his peers that Swindler believes that the Skookum Cast, discovered by amateur Bigfoot researchers in 2000, is a genuine record of a hairy giant that sat down by a mudhole to eat some fruit.

"Daris said that?" asked Russell Ciochon, a prominent paleoanthropologist and professor at the University of Iowa. "He's an important figure. But I still don't think Bigfoot exists in any form."

Mythical giant apes lurk in the traditions of nearly every Native American linguistic group and in

Edmonds, Wash.



The Denver Post, KRT

legends handed down through the ages from Europe and Asia. Each year, Bigfoot or similar creatures are reported by hundreds of hunters, hikers, motorists and others from central Asia to the central Rockies. But no one has provided the minimum proof required by science: a type specimen or remains that researchers can pick up, measure and argue over.

Nevertheless, Goodall is intrigued.

"People from very different backgrounds and different parts of the world have described very similar creatures behaving in similar ways and uttering some strikingly similar sounds," she said. "As far as I am concerned, the existence of hominids of this sort is a very real probability."

George Schaller, director of science at the Wildlife Conservation Society, has spent 40 years studying rare animals in remote places, including pioneering studies of Central Africa's mountain gorilla, which Western scientists first discovered in 1903.

Schaller remains troubled by the fact no Bigfoot remains have been produced, nor have any samples of feces whose DNA can be chemically poked and prodded to unlock the identity of their maker. And he is mindful of hoaxing.

But he, too, considers Bigfoot an open question.

"There have been so many sightings over the years," he said. "Even if you throw out 95 percent of them, there ought to be some explanation for the rest. The same goes for some of these tracks."

"I think a hard-eyed look is absolutely essential," he concludes.

Skeptics await evidence

The most common evidence allegedly left by these animals are the footprints: big prints in remote locations, some deeply pressed in sand or gravel firm enough for a grown man to pass without leaving a trace. Some footprints, like those Ray Wallace's family claim he left near Bluff Creek, Calif., in the late 1950s, are hoaxed. Many more are too vague to be conclusive. But a few are so detailed and anatomically accurate that they baffle the experts.

"Either the forgers are spending an awful lot of time on this, or there is reason to give this evidence another look," said primate researcher Esteban Sarmiento of the American Museum of Natural History. "I think a serious scientific inquiry is definitely warranted."

Skeptics argue that large mammals, particularly great apes, simply aren't discovered anymore. Not true, says Russell Mittermeier, vice president of Conservation International, who has co-authored scientific papers describing five new primates.

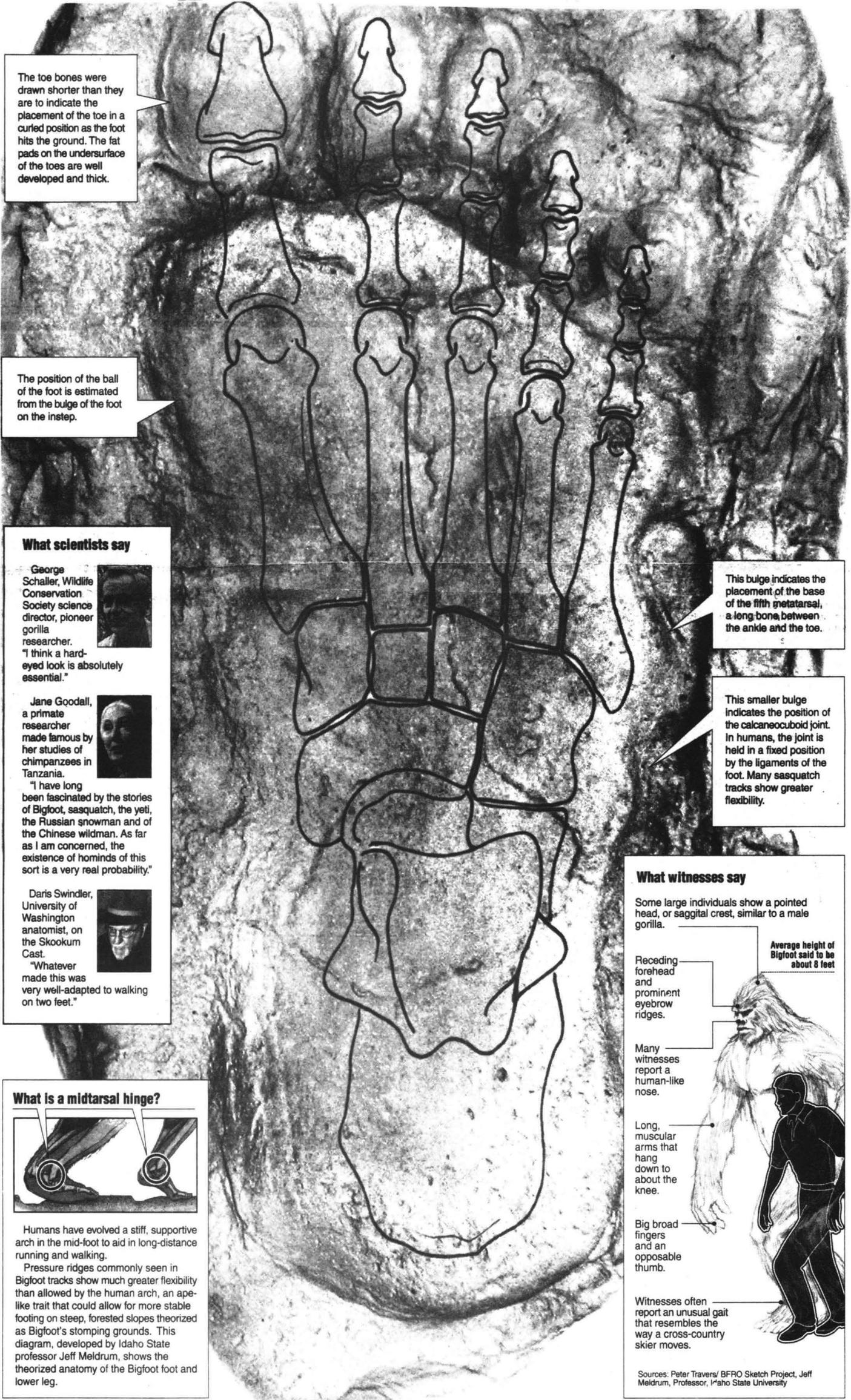
Since the 1990s there have been several spectacular finds, he said, including the antelope-like spindlehorn from Vietnam and a South American peccary thought to have gone extinct thousands of years ago.

"I'm not one to pooh-pooh the potential that these large apes may exist," Mittermeier said. "I guess you could say I'm mildly skeptical but guardedly optimistic. Whoever does find it will have the discovery of the century."

(continued on page 18)

Myth or mammal?

Some of the world's top primate researchers say the persistent sightings of Bigfoot-type creatures have convinced them that legitimate research needs to be done. The most compelling evidence of the creatures' existence consists of footprints, such as the one in this cast of the 'Heryford Track,' discovered in Gray's Harbor County, Wash., in April 1982. Researchers say the print's width, bulges, shape and other features provide clues to the placement of joints and bone lengths. The sketch and analysis were provided by Idaho State professor Jeff Meldrum.



The toe bones were drawn shorter than they are to indicate the placement of the toe in a curled position as the foot hits the ground. The fat pads on the undersurface of the toes are well developed and thick.

The position of the ball of the foot is estimated from the bulge of the foot on the instep.

What scientists say

George Schaller, Wildlife Conservation Society science director, pioneer gorilla researcher. "I think a hard-eyed look is absolutely essential."



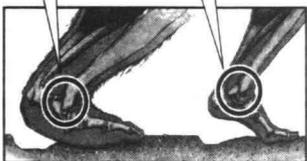
Jane Goodall, a primate researcher made famous by her studies of chimpanzees in Tanzania. "I have long been fascinated by the stories of Bigfoot, sasquatch, the yeti, the Russian snowman and of the Chinese wildman. As far as I am concerned, the existence of hominids of this sort is a very real probability."



Daris Swindler, University of Washington anatomist, on the Skookum Cast. "Whatever made this was very well-adapted to walking on two feet."



What is a midtarsal hinge?



Humans have evolved a stiff, supportive arch in the mid-foot to aid in long-distance running and walking. Pressure ridges commonly seen in Bigfoot tracks show much greater flexibility than allowed by the human arch, an ape-like trait that could allow for more stable footing on steep, forested slopes theorized as Bigfoot's stomping grounds. This diagram, developed by Idaho State professor Jeff Meldrum, shows the theorized anatomy of the Bigfoot foot and lower leg.

This bulge indicates the placement of the base of the fifth metatarsal, a long bone between the ankle and the toe.

This smaller bulge indicates the position of the calcaneocuboid joint. In humans, the joint is held in a fixed position by the ligaments of the foot. Many sasquatch tracks show greater flexibility.

What witnesses say

Some large individuals show a pointed head, or sagittal crest, similar to a male gorilla.

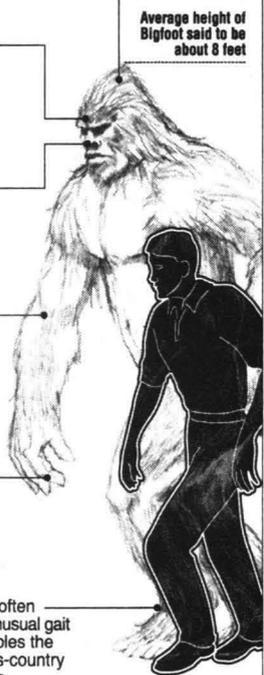
Receding forehead and prominent eyebrow ridges.

Many witnesses report a human-like nose.

Long, muscular arms that hang down to about the knee.

Big broad fingers and an opposable thumb.

Witnesses often report an unusual gait that resembles the way a cross-country skier moves.



Sources: Peter Travers/BFRQ Sketch Project, Jeff Meldrum, Professor, Idaho State University

(continued on page 19)

'If someone finds a skeleton, I'll be there in a nanosecond. But that's what it's going to take to get me to change my mind.'

Russell Ciochon paleoanthropologist and professor at the University of Iowa

'There have been so many sightings. Even if you throw out 95 percent of them, there ought to be some explanation for the rest.'

Words of encouragement like these are music to Bigfoot researchers' ears.

"My whole motivation has not been to convince anybody of the existence of the animal, but to convince them that there's a body of evidence begging for further consideration," said Idaho State University professor Jeff Meldrum, whose expertise in primate locomotion led him to become one of the few academics openly researching

Bigfoot tracks.

"This is immense," said author John Green, who has tracked Bigfoot reports for almost half a century from British Columbia and investigated some of the most famous sightings and track finds. "The possibility that there could be a real animal behind it just didn't occur to scientists 20 years ago."

The flap over recent claims of Bigfoot hoaxing has not deterred Swindler. But the lack of a body plus the acknowledgment of at least some hoaxing adds up to too many questions for Ciochon.

'Giganto' link discounted

Like that of Swindler, Ciochon's work focuses on fossilized primate teeth, but of a very special species: *Gigantopithecus blacki*, the giant Asian ape of the Miocene epoch, which lasted from about 24 million to 5 million years ago.

Most Bigfoot supporters advance *Gigantopithecus*, or Giganto for short, as the likely ancestor of Bigfoot, if not the hairy beast itself. It's a tantalizing but entirely unproven link that drives Ciochon to distraction.

Ciochon thinks his study subject, which co-existed with the human ancestor *Homo erectus* for hundreds of thousands of years, may well be the archetypal inspiration for the "boogeyman" and other nocturnal monsters that populate the traditions of aboriginal cultures from Nepal to North America.

But he vigorously rejects any suggestion that Giganto, which he thinks was a specialized, bamboo-eating vegetarian, could persist today.

And he worries that the hotly contested grants that fund his work overseas may go elsewhere if the stigma of the shambling sasquatch of Native American lore attaches to his study subject.

"My biggest problem is there's no evidence, other than conjectural hair and these footprints, some of which we know are faked," Ciochon said.

"If someone finds a skeleton, I'll be there in a nanosecond," he said. "But that's what it's going to take to get me to change my mind."

"There are so many problems," agrees Swindler, who six years ago told a USA Today reporter to count him among the skeptics.

But as he examines the Skookum Cast on a rainy December afternoon in this Seattle suburb, Swindler points out landmarks in the lumpy landscape: a hairy forearm the size of a small ham, an enormous hairy thigh, an outsized buttock, and a striking impression he feels confident was made by the Achilles tendon and heel of a creature that is not supposed to exist.

"Whatever made this was very well adapted to walking on two feet," he said. "It's not conclusive, but it's consistent with what you'd expect to see if a giant biped sat down in the mud."

Renewed interest

Swindler hopes that his assessment of the Skookum Cast, and a Discovery channel documentary set to air Thursday, will generate support for further research.

The key, Schaller said, will be finding dedicated amateurs willing to spend months or years in the field with cameras. "So far, no one has done that," he said.

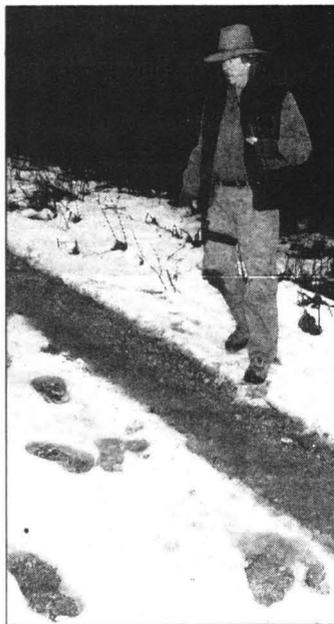
It was a group of dedicated amateurs that discovered the Skookum

George Schaller director of science at the Wildlife Conservation Society



The Denver Post / John Epperson

Richard Noll scours hillsides north of Seattle in search of evidence of Bigfoot. He and Owen Caddy, a former Ugandan park ranger, said they hope to identify the animal's food sources and set out a picket line of infrared camera traps.



Denver Post photos / John Epperson

Daris Swindler, left, a respected University of Washington anthropologist, examines the Skookum Cast. Above, Noll comes across footprints on a snowy mountain road that he measured as a 60-inch step and a 10-foot stride.

Cast. A team of volunteers from the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization had spent two days in Washington state's Gifford Pinchot National Forest, putting out pheromone-basted plastic chips during the day and blasting sasquatch calls at night in an attempt to attract an animal.

On the second night, researchers

heard a powerful reply to their broadcasts, said Richard Noll, an aerospace toolmaker who has spent 30 years researching the mystery. The next morning, Noll was stunned to realize that an unusual impression of a large animal on the edge of a mudhole near their camp could have been left by their elusive quarry.

"An elk will gather their feet under them when they get up," he said. "But there are no elk hoofprints in the center of the cast."

Meldrum and Swindler concur there are only two logical explanations for the cast: Bigfoot and elk. And they have also ruled out elk.

John Mionczynski, a wildlife researcher who has spent 30 sum-

mers studying bighorn herds in Wyoming's Wind River Mountains, has his own reasons for believing in Bigfoot.

On a moonlit summer night in 1972, he backhanded an animal he thought was a bear as it sniffed at a bacon stain in his tent, then watched as the silhouette of a giant, shaggy arm with a broad hand at the end swept toward his tent, collapsing it on him.

"That hand was three times as wide as mine and had an opposed thumb that stuck out as plain as day," Mionczynski said.

He spent the rest of the night huddled by the fire with a revolver in his hand as the creature lobbed pine cones at him from the dark woods behind his tent.

"That pretty much eliminated bears," Mionczynski said.

Mionczynski is working on a contraction of tiny hooks and barbed wire that he intends to place near seasonal foods he thinks sasquatch depend on. He hopes the snare will let him get a DNA sample.

North of Seattle, Noll is collaborating with Owen Caddy, a former Ugandan park ranger who studied chimpanzees in the mid-1990s.

For the last 18 months, they've scoured certain sandbars on a north Cascades river, documenting more than 30 suspected sasquatch footprints they believe were made by a mother and two young. They hope to identify the animals' food sources and travel corridors, then set out a picket line of infrared camera traps.

"I feel the animal is out there, and I don't hedge on that," Caddy said. "I've found physical evidence myself, and I'm confident in my analysis of it."

"Something is making these tracks, and it's not people."

(continued from page 19 - POST, Denver, CO - Jan. 5, 2003)

Camper says she was 12 feet from curious giant

The scientists involved

JANE GOODALL

A world-famous primate researcher and author, she revealed, in studies of chimpanzees in Tanzania's Gombe National Park, surprising behaviors in humanity's closest living relative. Goodall has won numerous international awards for her contributions to conservation, anthropology and animal welfare. Currently affiliated with Cornell University, she serves as the National Geographic Society's explorer-in-residence.

GEORGE SCHALLER

International science director for the Wildlife Conservation Society. His pioneering field studies of mountain gorillas set the research standard later adopted by Goodall and gorilla researcher Dian Fossey. Schaller's 1963 book, "The Year of the Gorilla," debunked popular perceptions of the great ape and reintroduced "King Kong" as a shy, social vegetarian.

Schaller's studies of tigers, lions, snow leopards and pandas also advanced the knowledge of those endangered mammals.

In 1973, he won the National Book Award for "The Seregeti Lion: A Study of Predator-Prey Relations," and in 1980 was awarded the World Wildlife Fund Gold Medal for his contributions to the understanding and conservation of endangered species. During the past decade, he has focused on the little-known wildlife of Mongolia, Laos and the Tibetan Plateau.

RUSSELL MITTERMEIER

A trained primatologist, herpetologist and biological anthropologist, he has discovered five new species of monkey, including two last year. Mittermeier has conducted fieldwork in more than 20 countries around the tropical world, with special emphasis on Brazil, Guyana and Madagascar.

Since 1989, Mittermeier has served as president of Conservation International, which has become one of the most aggressive and effective conservation organizations in the world during the last decade. His publications include 10 books and more than 300 scientific papers and popular articles.

DARIS SWINDLER

Emeritus professor of anthropology at the University of Washington, Swindler is a leading expert on living and fossil primate teeth and one of the top primate anatomists in general. His book, "An Atlas of Primate Gross Anatomy," has become a standard reference in the field. A forensic anthropologist, Swindler worked on the Ted Bundy and Green River murder cases along with hundreds of others.

ESTEBAN SARMIENTO

A functional anatomist affiliated with the American Museum of Natural History, Sarmiento focuses on the skeletons of hominids. In 2001, he participated with George Schaller in a search for Congo's Bili ape, a possible species super-chimp reported by natives but unknown to Western science. Sarmiento has also studied the Cross River gorilla, a critically endangered subspecies on the Nigeria-Cameroon border whose population is thought to be numbered in the hundreds. He has taught in the U.S., South Africa and Uganda.

By Theo Stein
Denver Post Environment Writer

When Julie Davis burst from her tent in a remote part of the San Juan National Forest late on the afternoon of Aug. 5, 2000, the 54-year-old musician expected a confrontation with a hungry bear.

What she got was the surprise of her life.

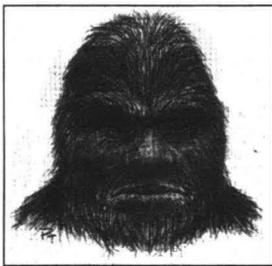
"It was gigantic — it must have been 8 feet tall," said Davis, an experienced backcountry camper from rural Boulder County and a former volunteer with the Great Bear Foundation.

"My first thought was, 'I'm looking at something I've never seen before,'" she said. "I didn't even think Bigfoot. The notion that these animals were out there in Colorado never crossed my mind."

Too afraid to move, the former instructor at the University of Colorado Law School simply stared at the visitor standing 12 feet away.

"It had very, very broad shoulders — huge shoulders," she said. "Its face was almost completely covered in fur but human-like, on the human side of halfway between a human and gorilla."

Medium-chestnut fur "like an Irish setter's" covered the giant, which stared back at her in appar-



Special to The Post / Peter Travers
A sketch based on Julie Davis' witness account.

ent curiosity with big brown eyes.

For five years, Davis volunteered with the Great Bear Foundation in Montana, and gave several presentations one summer seated at the foot of a stuffed grizzly.

"I've had a lot of time to get to know what bears look like up close," she said. "This animal was bigger than any bear."

Davis said the giant uttered a low rumble, and immediately a second animal — slightly smaller and lighter in color — peered at her from behind the big one.

Then they turned, ran back into the forest, and disappeared. She

left the next day.

For two years, Davis kept quiet about her encounter, sharing it with only a handful of friends and the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, a volunteer group that tracks reports of Bigfoot, or sasquatch, across North America.

Hers is one of 54 reports of sasquatch sightings, tracks or vocalizations in Colorado during the past 40 years that are listed by the BFRO on its website.

Like most witnesses, Davis did not want her name published at the time. And she did not add her account to the repertoire of songs and stories that make her a favorite performer on the folk scene.

But a Washington state family's recent claim that their father's crude hoaxes were responsible for the Bigfoot phenomenon spurred Davis to come forward.

"Ray Wallace's family is saying the entire thing's a hoax," Davis said. "He may have hoaxed some things, as people have long suspected he did. I don't disagree that there have been other hoaxes in populated areas."

Wallace's family says their father, who liked practical jokes, created the modern myth of Bigfoot by stomping a track of over-

sized footprints in a Northern California logging camp in 1958, using wood-carved feet. Wallace, 84, died Nov. 26 in a Washington nursing home.

That confession doesn't explain sightings and tracks found in Colorado or elsewhere in the interior West, Davis said. Nor does it account for Native American traditions, which hold that hairy giants have inhabited certain mountain ranges since the beginning of time.

Or what happened to her. Davis had left Spring Creek Pass with a string of four pack goats and two border collies. She'd planned a 10-day trip down the Colorado Trail to Durango.

But after three days on the busy trail, one goat got sick. So Davis left the trail near Jarosa Mesa, hoping to find a secluded area where she could tend the sick animal. She set up camp in a meadow with a spring at the far end. After more than a day tending increasingly nervous animals with her, it reached the point where "I knew they were alarmed, and whatever it was it was right outside the tent."

She yelled at her dogs to stay put, grabbed pepper spray, and rushed out to face the intruder. "In my wildest dreams, I might have expected to see a grizzly from the south San Juans," she said. "There is no question in my mind it was not a bear."

Or a hoax, for that matter. Not a soul knew where she was.

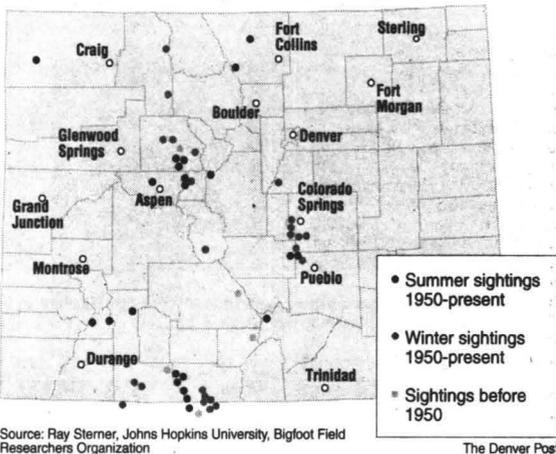
"I know from looking at the expression on its face and from the graceful way it ran off that there was no way it could have been hoaxed," she said. "It was absolutely a beautiful lope. You could see muscles moving under the fur."

Davis knows the Bigfoot hoaxes and her résumé as an entertainer will lead many to scoff at her account.

"I don't care if anybody believes me or not," she said. "I know what it was, and it was real."

"There's nothing more persuasive than staring something straight in the face."

Some reported Bigfoot sightings



NEWS, Stanwood, WA - Oct. 29, 2002

Boom heard and felt, source is mystery

A loud boom heard by several readers in the Cedarhome area of Stanwood Thursday afternoon remains a mystery.

Stanwood Police Department received quite a few calls about the

noticeable rumble, according to office staff, but a cause was not known.

One caller to the NEWS reported a woodpile had fallen and another citizen living on 300th St. NW near

I-5, said their home window had cracked following the boom.

Public affairs officer Kim Martin with Naval Air Station Whidbey said it wasn't due to any aircraft stationed at Whidbey.

"We don't have any aircraft that can beat the sound barrier," said Martin.

In addition, she said, the airspace

is controlled around the Whidbey station so it would be highly unlikely for a visiting aircraft to have been in the area undetected.

"There are no reports of any sonic booms or any aircraft going super sonic speeds in the area on that day, or any day, we just don't do it," said Martin.

HERALD, Calgary, Alberta, Canada - May 30, 2002

Diver may have bumped into Ogopogo

MATT HOEKSTRA
THE PROVINCE
VANCOUVER

Another film crew probing the Ogopogo mystery in Lake Okanagan came close to solving it Monday. Or did it?

"A diver got in the water and thought the other diver was beside him," said Dan Basaraba of Peachland, who is working with the documentary team from France. "He was bumped by something."

When the lone diver spun around, whatever had slithered next to him had vanished.

"I think it exists," said Basaraba, 20. "For the number of sightings I think there's got to be something out there."

Basaraba filmed something in the lake last year during Penticton's Ogopogo contest, which offered \$2 million to anyone who could prove its existence. He describes it as a black, serpent-like creature with eight distinct humps on its back.

The French filmmakers are creating an Ogopogo documentary for the Discovery Channel near Rattlesnake Island, where it's rumoured to live.

The earliest apparent sighting of the Ogopogo, which is sacred to area Natives, happened in the early 1800s, when a settler crossed a shallow part of the lake with his horses. The horses never made it across.

CR: W. Benedict

Ice Meteors

The increase in the number of reported ice meteors, known as megacryometeors, is a symptom of global warming, according to a Spanish scientist. Jesus Martinez-Frias, who has studied the phenomenon of ice chunks falling from the sky, said that the pieces of ice formed from crystallized vapour trails of aircraft. Global warming's effect on different levels of the atmosphere has caused some of the ice clouds to remain suspended longer. They then gather mass as they fall through the atmosphere, according to the scientist. He emphasized that the ice meteors were neither hoaxes nor blocks of ice falling from the bathrooms of passing airplanes, as some have suggested. The huge pieces of ice, which typically weigh more than 10 kg, fall from clear skies and have shattered windshields and ripped holes through the roofs of homes in Spain.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada Oct. 5, 2002

CR: G. Conway