

UFO

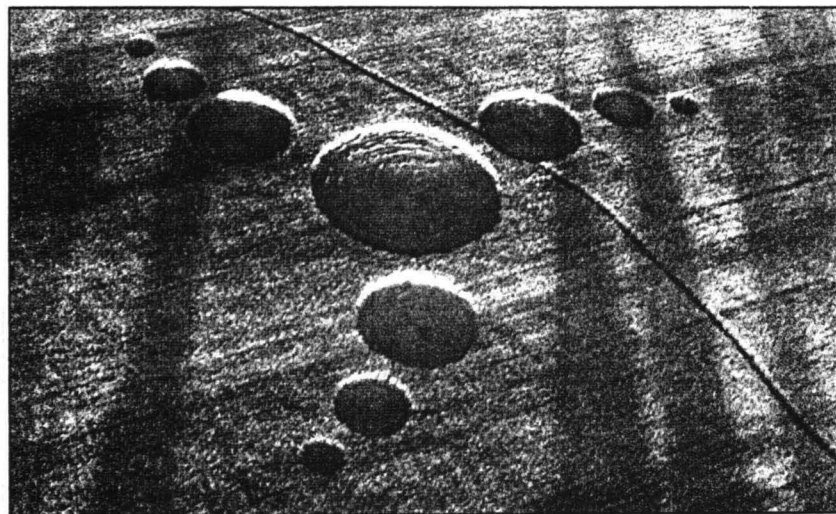
NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

#2 CANEY VALLEY DRIVE • PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 USA

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: LUCIUS FARISH

July 2003
Number 408

CLAY CO. COURIER, Corning, AR - June 12, 2003



Crop circles mystify Knobel farmer

by Fred Martin

It could be something from outer space, a weather phenomenon, or an expensive practical joke in the middle of a wheat

field. Todd Young does not have the answer.

Young, a Knobel farmer, has 10 circles of wheat flattened to the ground on the 82-acre plot he

farms adjacent to Bond Cemetery, Northeast of Knobel.

Young was hesitant in expressing feelings concerning how the

circles got there, but spoke of "a lot of wasted time by whoever may be responsible."

On the other hand, the clockwise direction that each plant had fallen raised a doubt as to how this could have been accomplished.

"If anything odd has to happen, it always happens to me," Young stated. "I really don't know what did it. Why was this place chosen? It's hard to tell if there are trails through the wheat. Animals make trails or paths, but none look like the path we just made coming into the area."

The largest crop circle is approximately 45 feet in diameter, as Young stepped off 15 steps and multiplied by three. Three circles approximately 28 feet in diameter were adjacent to the larger one. Two other circles, one measuring 16 feet and the other eight or nine feet, fanned out in a clockwise direction. They were all in a symmetrical pattern that appeared to be to an exact measurement.

An investigation of the center of a few of the circles indicated no prints and no marks of any kind. Even the wheat stalks at the center were fanned in a clockwise direction.

One reporter, accompanying Young to the field, noted a small bird's nest amid the downed wheat. This nest remained intact, un-crushed, as did the

wheat that was still attached to the stalk.

"This is going to be difficult to harvest," Young added. "If wheat is down in one certain direction, my chances would be better to pick it up, but because it has been pushed in a clockwise circle, it will mean that some will not be harvested."

Young could not estimate how much wheat would be lost because of the incident.

He said he flew over the area late Friday afternoon and did not notice anything unusual.

On Sunday morning, he got word from Bruce Catt, Corning, an ultralight pilot and farmer, that something unusual had occurred in Young's field, just 100 yards East of Bond Cemetery. (Sunday afternoon, Caleigh Catt took the picture of the wheat field that is printed in this edition of The Courier.)

Young related that Bruce Catt had told him that it would have taken someone with a GPS (guidance) system to do the job that had been done.

Monday about noon, Young got his first close-up look of the wheat that was on the ground.

"It is definitely unexplainable," Young added. "I don't know what happened, but by sundown today (Monday), this field will be cut."

There will be no more crop circles in Todd Young's wheat field this year.

TIMES, Waitsburg, WA - April 17, 2003

VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

UFOs here in 1950?

News that a group of believers in the UFO phenomenon had gathered to discuss their experiences recalled that sightings of alien flying objects had occurred here more than 50 years ago.

Actually, I had been rummaging through some old files and found some notes and dates of the sightings. Going the next step was to comb through the microfilmed newspapers at Penrose Library to locate three items about the sightings here of 53 years ago.

Then, came news the other day that a group of UFO believers had met in Pendleton and their leader, Roy Timm, told the audience about his own "close encounter." Out of his meeting with aliens came his belief that the nighttime visitors gave him an implantation of some homing devices when he was eight years old. Now in his '60s, Timm says he has been motivated to tell about his experiences and to get others to tell theirs.

Anyone interested in getting involved in the Timm project should contact him at 541-276-2756. He lives in Pendleton.

The first news story I found in my searching at the Whitman College library was not prominently displayed in that day's U-B. Rather, it was somewhat "buried" in the stock market reports page of the day, July 24, 1950. The head for the story was "Thing" Seen Hovering Here ... Witnesses Insist 'Twas Saucer.

Lead paragraphs from the item:

"At least two Walla Wallans 'saw something' in the Sunday evening sky over the vicinity of the Eddie Copeland wheat lands.

"They said the object, or objects, was not a conventional aircraft since it hovered for a space of 10 or 15 minutes. Neither did they think it was a kite since at approximately 7:30 p.m. it headed in a southwesterly direction, toward Pendleton. They didn't believe it was a helicopter or a cloud since it wasn't shaped like the former and was too well defined to be the latter."

This story was on page 11.

Then, two days later, an even more meager story appeared, this one on page 17 on Thursday, July 27, and

embracing only three short paragraphs. They were:

"The third report of a flying saucer in the past two weeks was reported Wednesday by two persons on Lincoln Street.

"The object, going eastward, was said to be traveling at a high rate of speed and shaped like a silver disc.

"Mrs. Betty Plaquet, 351 Lincoln, and her nephew, Bob Miller, 538 Lincoln, said they observed the object at about 6:15 p.m."

Miller, then a high school student, now makes his home in Waitsburg. Talking to him recently, I was told that he was sitting on his aunt's front porch at the time of the sighting back in the summer of 1950 when they witnessed the saucer-shaped object.

"It came out of the west, suddenly appearing, then streaked to the east," Miller recalled. "The sun was shining right on it ... you couldn't miss it. Then it just plain disappeared."

Miller noted that "... in those days, people just laughed when we mentioned it so we just didn't talk about it."

He agreed that today's attitudes have changed and most of the public has come to believe there is "something to UFOs."

In the two-week span of UFO sightings around Walla Walla in 1950, there might have been other UB stories, but I found only the two cited here. There was however, an editorial which appeared July 26, 1950. Some of the words might have summed up the attitude of most people about the objects in those times.

"We note that events in the Far East (Korean War going on full blast!) have not stopped the Flying Saucer phenomenon. People are still seeing strange objects in the sky; even Walla Walla, which has been fairly free from such reports, observed something of a radically different shape soaring about a few evenings ago. But in spite of the war tensions, we haven't seen any particular hysteria resulting. What we Americans seem to absorbed is a fatalistic attitude of merely watching and waiting to find out what the heck the objects are."

I recall of two other UFO sighting incidents that came at this period in July, 1950. I remember being told of a UFO sighting by guards from one of the towers at the state prison. Another story was related to me by a friend who lived on Wallula Road near its junction with McKinley Road. He and his family reported seeing a UFO touch down momentarily in the field across from their house, then as suddenly swoop back into the sky and disappear.

The gatherings of UFO-interested people might just recall these incidents and more.

Eyes on the Skies



Leo Dworshak holds a copy of his new book, 'UFOs are Among Us - Take My Word.'

IR Photo Martin J. Kidston

Helena man a true believer in UFOs

By MARTIN J. KIDSTON
IR Staff Writer

Leo Dworshak was a boy in 1932, doing what boys do when growing up in Killdeer, N.D.

But unlike most boys, Dworshak stood witness to a peculiar event that would change his life forever.

Dworshak, now 83, spends his days peering from the big bay window on his mobile home in Helena, watching the spring rains turn his green yard green-

er. The bumper stickers adorning his blue Chrysler are a telling lot, "Freedom - Vote Republican," and "65 percent of people in America believe in UFOs - the others are in denial."

Dworshak, to be certain, is a believer.

Dworshak, a World War II veteran, shrugs off the social taboos tied to his otherworldly beliefs. If you ask him, UFOs do exist. After all, he's seen them

several times, the first on that dark North Dakota night more than 70 years ago.

Dworshak detailed his UFO encounter in his new book, "UFOs Are Among Us - Take My Word." Dedicated to his brother, Michael, who died in the Korean War, the new book has perked the interest of UFO believers nationwide.

"The first time we just saw

the ship," Dworshak said on Wednesday. "The second time we entered the UFO and we were in there with the aliens. They showed us the whole ship."

Dworshak still remembers how the spacecraft landed, how odd it looked, and how an invisible force field kept him and his brother at a distance. They watched the strange machine rotate "in a complicated way." The flashing, colored lights formed an outer shell, "like a band or a belt," that circled the vehicle at its widest point.

"The inner shell seemed to be standing still, or perhaps turning the other way," Dworshak said. "It was totally silent and produced no cloud of exhaust fumes or smoke."

The ship returned night after night and eventually the aliens invited the two brothers on board. After being disinfected, Dworshak said, the aliens gave them a tour of the craft. They also showed them the future, one that foretold of the home computer and the rise of Nazi Germany.

Much of our knowledge, Dworshak said, is a gift from an alien race, left behind for us to find, to study, and to contemplate. Still, he remembers what the aliens told him, how humankind would shun his strange experience.

"No one will ever believe you when you tell them about us," he was told.

Joan Byrd, coordinator of the Helena Noetic Sciences Group, has maintained her own interest in UFOs and unexplained phenomena.

"We often deal with these frontier subjects that are not accepted by mainstream society," Byrd said. "When I finally pushed past my beliefs, I started reading accounts and looking at the evidence and I found it overwhelming and really convincing."

Byrd, who holds a doctorate in biology, said the earth shattering implications over the existence of UFOs has kept her interested.

Still, she said, there lies a social taboo that makes it hard for those who have seen UFOs to come forward with their experiences.

In the past year or so, Byrd said, more than 20 people in Helena alone have contacted her to report a UFO sighting.

"I talk to people about UFOs whenever I can," Byrd said. "People are having these experiences and there is all kinds of evidence."

Dworshak said the aliens he met in 1932 don't pose a

LEO DWORSHAK AND JESSE MARCEL, AMONG OTHERS,

will speak at the Helena Noetic Sciences Club on Monday at 7 p.m. The discussion will take place at the St. Paul's Fellowship Hall and is free and open to the public.

danger to the human race. Instead, he said, they are watching us while carrying out their mission to study grasshoppers. Dworshak said he was told that the aliens don't want to interfere with the ways of the world.

"They keep 12 people on earth at all times," Dworshak said "They are right among us. They are from the 12th galaxy and the knowledge we've gotten over the last 3,000 years has come from them. They leave it and we just discover it."

The alien ship was a strange place, Dworshak remembered. The spacecraft's chairs would move to accommodate guests at the pointing of an alien finger. The ship itself had a force-field, allowing it to go invisible when needed. As for the aliens, he said, they looked surprisingly like a human - but with twins.

"One alien looked very much like the next," he said.

Dworshak's 1932 encounter wouldn't be his last. Nor would he stand alone in his experiences. Local legend Udo Wartena's UFO encounter in the Big Belt Mountains in the 1940s drew national attention, and Dr. Jesse Marcel, a Helena physician, has his own story to tell.

Marcel's father was the intelligence officer at the Roswell Army Air Field in New Mexico in 1947. He was on hand when a UFO allegedly crashed nearby and an alien body was recovered. That night, he brought home pieces of the wreckage before taking them to the lab at the Army base.

"The foil was very light," Marcel told the Montana Pioneer in November. "It looked pretty flimsy, but it was more substantial than it looked. I didn't try to bend it or tear it, but my dad tried to bend it with a sledgehammer—he could not bend it."

Marcel said we're not the only ones "out here" in the universe.

"The universe is an awfully big place, our galaxy is an awfully big place," he said.

Reporter Martin Kidston can be reached at 255-0386, or by e-mail at mjkidston@helena.com.

LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS,
Lincolnton, NC - June 25,
2003 CR: G. Fawcett

UFO documents get attention

June 24 was the 56th Anniversary of UFOs in "modern times," based on the 1947 report of more than nine unknown objects, flying over Mount Rainier, Washington that were reported by private pilot Kenneth Arnold at that time.

UFOs were reported worldwide over the past 14 months, as well as from 50 towns and cities (including Lincolnton). North Carolina ranks fourth in UFO reports in the USA.

The Lincoln County Li-

brary has a selection of over 70 books (along with two of mine) both pro and con, along with access to even more form nearby libraries.

On June 23 at 9 p.m. on the SciFi Channel one of the best UFO documentary video films, titled, "It Came From Out of the Blue" was shown.

In the meantime, "Project Disclosure" headed by Dr. Steven Greer (formerly of Asheville) now in Charlottesville, Va. has gathered over 400 military, aerospace, scientific and Washington, DC insiders to waive their previous oaths of secrecy and testify to Congress of the reality of the UFO phenomenon.

John Podesta, Chief of Staff under the Clinton Administration is now leading efforts under the Freedom of Informa-

tion joint coalition in our nation's Capitol to encourage a long needed high level of attention to the scientific community, in Congress and throughout the national news media. These efforts can be found at (www.freedomofinfo.org).

I would encourage Lincoln Times-News readers to inform themselves about the UFOs and their occupants on the global scale and then make up their own minds. Minds are like parachutes, they work best when they're open.

P.S - Four millionaires-Robert Bigelow, Steven Spielberg, Joe Firmage and Laurance Rockefeller are spear-heading current financial efforts to resolve the UFO enigma.

GEORGE D. FAWCETT
Lincolnton

POST, Denver, CO - June 23, 2003 CR: P. Kreck



Dick Kreck

Look, up in the sky

The Mutual UFO Network, headquartered in Denver, looking for a place to display its artifacts, preferably somewhere on this planet.

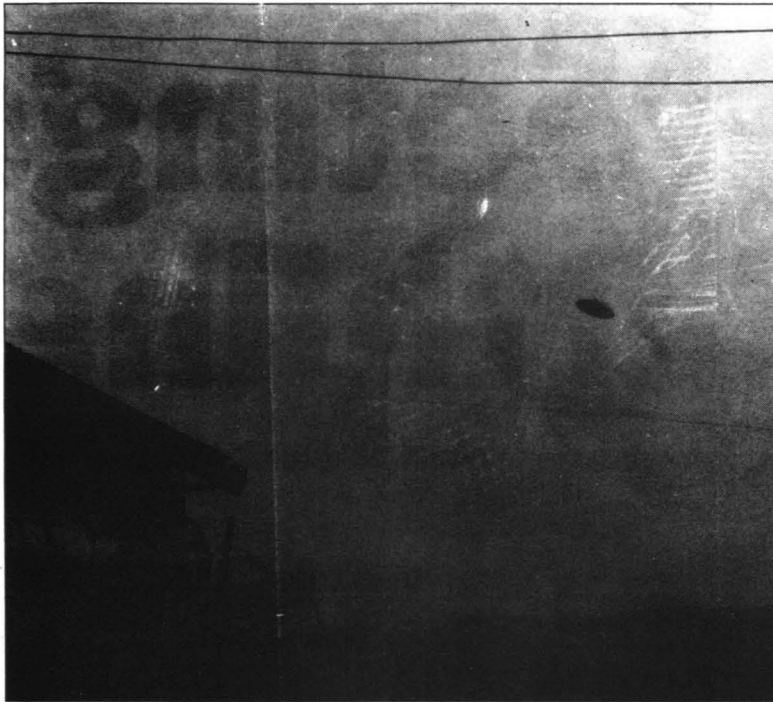
"We are trying to find someone who would be interested in putting up our museum," says MU-FON's Lynn Simpson. It could be a restaurant, bar or storefront.

"They don't need to room to park a spaceship from Roswell, N.M. We wouldn't need a lot of space. We have mostly the stories of people who have had experiences."

The collection of government documents and eyewitness accounts is in Simpson's basement.

Simpson is at 303-766-9426.

Dick Kreck's column appears Monday, Wednesday and Friday. He may be reached at 303-820-1456 or DKreck@denverpost.com



The two photographs taken by Paul Trent on May 11, 1950, on the Trents' farm about 10 miles southwest of McMinnville were published in the June 8, 1950, Telephone Register.

ARGUS, Hillsboro, OR - May 8, 2003

UFO film festival in McMinnville promises to be 'out of this world'

UFO expert touts Trent photos

By MATTHEW D. LAPLANTE
Of the News-Register

Want to know how important the Trent photos are to UFO research? Just go to one of Stan Friedman's lectures.

"I have used them in almost all of my more than 600 college lectures given in all 50 states, nine provinces and 13 other countries since 1967," said Friedman, a noted UFOologist who will be one of the featured presenters at McMinnville's annual UFO Festival.

Friedman noted the detailed scientific analysis done on the photos by Dr. Bruce Maccabee, a career scientist at the Naval Surface Warfare Center who has done numerous analyses of various sightings. "None of the false arguments made by the noisy negativists stand up to Bruce's careful, detailed scientific investigation," he said.

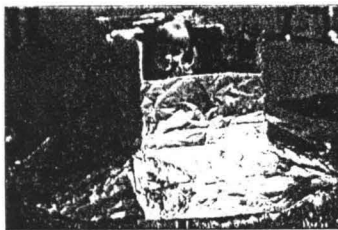
Would the Trent photos make a Top 10 list of alien sightings?

Definitely, Friedman said — although it's hard to say what else would. "It is hard to rank sightings because there are many different types, so one gets into apples and oranges," he said.

The author of "Crash at Corona," a book about the 1947 incident that began the modern UFO era, does believe that sighting should also qualify for just about anyone's Top 10 — and he'll be speaking about it at the festival. The lecture, titled "Critiquing the Roswell Critics," is set for 6:30 p.m. Friday in McMenamins Hotel Oregon.

Other sightings aren't quite as famous, but equally important to the field, Friedman said.

"I am very much impressed by the Japan Air Lines case involving radar and visual observation of an object twice the size of an aircraft carrier flying near a 747," he said. "I am also impressed by civil engineer Martin Jasek's detailed investigation of a mother ship seen in the Yukon. By triangulation it was



News-Register file photos

Space travelers, top, and a novice flying saucer pilot, above right, visit Third Street in 2002. UFOologist Stan Friedman, above left, will speak Friday night at Hotel Oregon.

between 0.6 and 1.2 miles long."

Other good pictures, he said, include those of the UFO reported over Vancouver Island, the UFO reported near Santa Ana, Calif., and a UFO over Salt Lake City, the latter featuring a seven-frame sequence.

That's not to mention the reported abductions, of course.

"I am particularly impressed with the famous Betty and Barney Hill case from New Hampshire," Friedman said.

"The people are special, but the star map even more so," he said, referring to a star map Betty Hill drew while under hypnosis. It was found to be nearly identical to a star system later located by astronomy experts.

The Hills' story was used as the basis for the 1975 TV movie

"The UFO Incident," starring James Earl Jones and Estelle Parsons.

But among all the stories, that of the Trent sightings remains special to Friedman.

"There were two witnesses," he said, noting, "No computer could have been used to make them back in 1950."

The doctor said the photos lend credence to the idea that it doesn't take an expert to change the world.

The witnesses, local farmers of solid reputation, were feeding rabbits in their back yard when they spotted what appeared to them to be a flying saucer and photographed it for posterity.

"Useful data can be obtained by normal people," Friedman said.

McMINNVILLE — Want to know which films are on the must-see list for enthusiasts of UFOs and other unexplained phenomena? Then come to the Mack Film Festival to be held 4 p.m. Saturday, May 10, at the historic Mack Theatre, McMinnville.

Admission to the festival is free.

The festival will feature selected excerpts from six documentaries examining UFO sightings, crop circles, and unexplained phenomena.

According to film festival organizer Randy Haragan, the films were chosen based on their importance to current investigations into the paranormal.

"All five films are recognized by serious investigators as making important contributions to the field," according to Haragan.

"Nearly all have been released within the past year. Some are award winners from other festivals. Others are brand new productions based on the latest images and research."

Films to be shown are "Project RedStar — Proof of Ancient Martian Civilization," "Ultimate Crop Circles — Signs from Space?," "Rods — The DVD," "Out Of The Blue," "UFOs Are Here — the Deyo Files," "Close Encounters — Proof of Alien Contact" and "Crop Circles — Quest for Truth."

The film festival is the kickoff event for the second day of the fourth annual UFO Fest held in McMinnville.

In 1950, McMinnville was the site of the Trent photos, some of the clearest and best-known photos of a UFO in flight.

The UFO Fest combines lighthearted fun with serious inquiry into UFOs and other related phenomena.

The event has grown dramatically since it began, and the Mack Film Festival is planned to become a regular part of the annual UFO Fest.

Films will be shown beginning at 4 p.m. Saturday and will conclude about 5:30 p.m.

Haragan will open the festival and will provide a short introduction on film segments as they are shown.

Haragan is a longtime UFO enthusiast and has served as consultant for radio and television.

He is owner and operator of www.theUFOstore.com.

Believers keep eye on Pine Bush skies

During the cleanup at Ground Zero two years ago, a National Guard reservist took some photographs of the site.

When he got them developed, he noticed dozens of round, blue, semi-opaque spots in the pictures. He showed the photos to his pal, Jim Smith.

"My friend figured there was something wrong with the film," said Smith, a 49-year-old sergeant at Woodbourne Correctional Facility. "But I knew what they were right away."

Smith told his friend that the camera had captured images of orbs — also called Tesla globes. He explained that the orbs are associated with UFO and alien activity on Earth. They can't be seen with the naked eye. They show up only on film.

And he told his friend that he'd never seen so many orbs in one place before.

By Beth Quinn
Times Herald-Record
bquinn@th-record.com

**Photos by
Tony Savino**

"You mean to tell me you've seen these things before?" his friend asked.

"Of course," Smith said. "All the time. After all, I'm from Pine Bush."



For more than two decades, Pine Bush has been considered the UFO capital of the Northeast.

Since the 1980s, local residents and visiting ufologists have reported hundreds of phenomena in the town and surrounding area: photographs of Tesla globes (some of them containing aliens called "grays" sitting in lotus position); sightings of lighted boomerang-shaped spacecraft, called "triangles"; interdimensional gateways; and alien abductions.

In 1994, the now-deceased ufologist Ellen Crystall chronicled her own 11-year investigation into alien activity in Pine Bush in her book, "Silent Invasion." Magazine articles, talk shows and TV documentaries followed.

It's been a while, though. The media attention has died down. Some newcomers might not even know they've moved to an area famous for its alien activity.

So what exactly is going on in Pine Bush? Have the aliens pulled up stakes and gone back to their planet? Or is Pine Bush still a UFO hot spot?

"It's just part of our lives," said Sue Wiand, who lives in nearby Walker Valley. "I hear stories of sightings all the time standing in line at the grocery store."

At the moment, she said, nine out of 10 sightings occur in the portion of Pine Bush that lies in the Town of Shawangunk near Oregon Trail, Indian Springs Road and Galeville Road.

In fact, there's a bridge on Galeville Road that just won't stay painted.

"They have to paint it over and over," Wiand said. "That area is known as a UFO landing area, so maybe the heat from the craft peels the paint off."

Whether you're a believer or not, there is no question that *something* is still going on in Pine Bush.

Just listen to those who've been there when it's happened. They're regular folks with regular lives who happen to be well

You are not alone

If you've ever seen a UFO or had an encounter with an alien, you know how hard it is to get people to take you seriously.

That's why the folks whose stories appear on these pages are members of a support group called the United Friends Observer Society. They get together monthly to share their most recent experiences.

The group, which was founded in 1993, has attracted hundreds of members worldwide. On average, about 30 people regularly attend the meetings. Those interested in learning more about UFOs or talking about a sighting of their own are invited.

The group meets from 7:30 to 10 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month at the Walker Valley Schoolhouse on Route 52, about 4 miles west of Pine Bush.

They will also be holding organized sky watches this summer. Anyone interested in

For more information about the United Friends Observer Society meetings and sky watches, call or e-mail any of the following people:
Sue Mann at 564-0322, smann56@aol.com;
Bill Wiand at 744-3960, billjw1@aol.com;
Tony Stevens at 361-5502, astevens1@hvc.rr.com



United Friends Observers Society members, from left, John Mann, Susan Mann, Sue Wiand, Bill Wiand and Tony "Smoothie" Stevens at County Line Farm. The society, a support group where members can share their most recent experiences, meets monthly and is open to the public.

seeing a UFO is welcome.

But group member John DiTuro offers one word of caution:

"It's fun to go out and look at UFOs," he

said. "But it's kind of scary when they follow you home. Be careful what you look for."

Beth Quinn

acquainted with the others who inhabit Pine Bush. These are their stories, in their own words.

I'm out on the road sky-watching a lot. One night I was out on a little country road near the Jewish cemetery (Congregation Beth Hillel Cemetery on Route 52).

It was a little damp with ground fog coming and going. Then the fog enveloped the

truck. I started seeing silhouettes of people. At one point, a guy on a bike came right at the truck. He should have hit the windshield, but he didn't. He just disappeared.

I sat there for half an hour watching. It was like the truck was parked in an alley between two tall buildings — maybe 6 feet in and facing outward toward a busy street. All kinds of pedestrian traffic was walking past the alley opening through the fog. They were normal human size, but silhouettes. I

couldn't see any faces.

But it was a busy, busy street in some other dimension, right there on a back country road in Pine Bush.

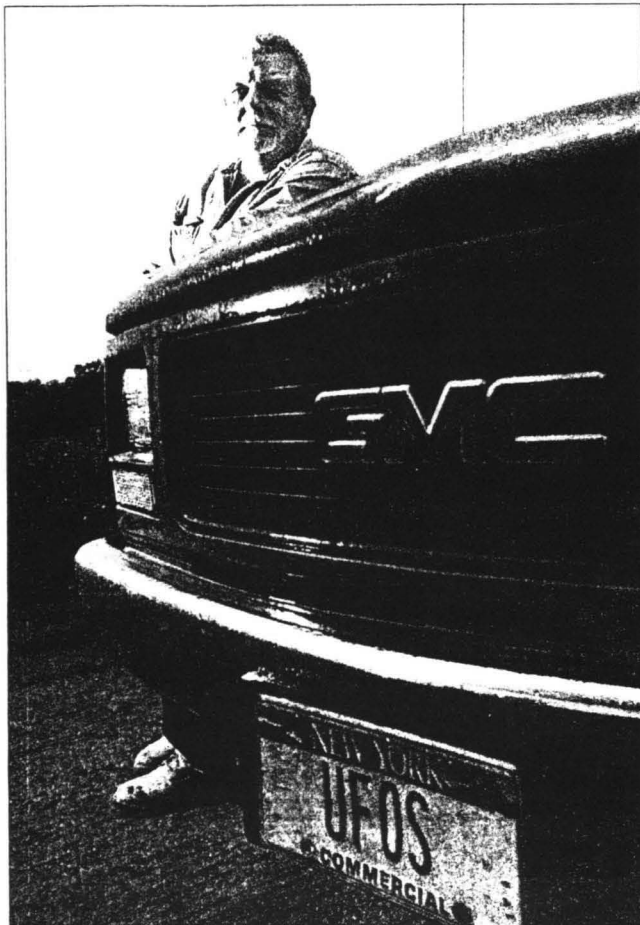
Tony "Smoothie" Stevens, 56,
Pine Bush,
retired lieutenant,
Department of Correctional Services

My husband John doesn't like to be

Continued on page 4



ABOVE LEFT: John and Susan Mann at County Line Farm outside Pine Bush, where they often go to skywatch. "My husband ... doesn't like to talk about his encounters," Susan Mann said.



ABOVE RIGHT: Jim Smith shows off his vanity plate at County Line Farm. "In Pine Bush, you see things you don't expect," Smith said.

about his encounters. They've been happening since he was 3 years old, and they make him very angry, very scared. He's retired from the Rockland County Sheriff's Department, and he doesn't scare easily. But this scares him.

His most recent encounter happened when he was driving home from work. He got out at midnight, so it was late. His whole car was suddenly enveloped in angel hair - stuff that's like white Christmas tree icicles. It's associated with lots of people's encounters.

He knew what was coming, and it made him angry. He grabbed his steering wheel hard, very tight. "Why are you doing this to me again? Why?" he said.

The next thing he recalls was lying on a table with two beings nearby. They were speaking in their own language, but John could understand them.

One said, "He'll be able to do it." The other one said, "No, he's too angry."

And then John was in his car again. The angel hair had dissipated. He could drive again.

Susan Mann, 47,
Town of Newburgh

A lot of people in Pine Bush talk about abduction. That's real common around here.

I was taken when I was 11, but I had been seeing them most of my life.

When I was taken, there were bright lights, a table. They'd get close and I couldn't move away from them. One held up a needle and I could see it glistening. He jabbed it into my head behind my ear. I blacked out.

When they returned me, they put me back in bed wrong. My feet were on the pillow. I guess they didn't know the difference.

I've looked for explanations. I don't know what it was, but I know what it wasn't. It wasn't sleep paralysis.

ysis. It wasn't epilepsy.

There are different kinds, different sizes of beings. The most common are the "grays" - they're small, 3- to 4-foot tall. There are also the "Nordics" - beings with large blue eyes and fine blond hair.

It's not OK for them to be doing this. No one, no matter who, has the right to do this to us.

John DiTuro, 40,
Pine Bush,
computer engineer

I've seen so many of the beings, I know exactly how they move. They're different sizes, different shapes, but when you see them so much, you know they're not of this earth.

Not long ago, I saw this figure - about 6 foot 6 and dressed all in black - standing beneath the traffic light in Pine Bush.

I said to Hilda (my fiancée), "What's that woman doing?"

Hilda said, "Oh my God, I thought I was the only one who saw the thing."

When she moved, it wasn't like walking. It wasn't in frames, either, like most of them move. In frames, they're someplace and then they're suddenly in another place, like time-lapse photography.

But this one moved horizontally.

In Pine Bush, you see things you don't expect. I've seen a cat with no head walking across the floor. It just had a piece of cardboard where the head should be. A lot of people in Pine Bush tell me they've seen that cat.

But not everyone can see the cat or the beings. You have to be open to things like that.

Jim Smith, 49,
Pine Bush,
sergeant,
Woodbourne Correctional Facility

Explanation of sliming still remains hazy

In retrospect, we all referred to it as "the night we got slimed by the aliens" whenever we talked about it.

It happened in Pine Bush, of course, back in the fall of 1994. A spectacular meteor shower was expected to appear in the sky that night, and we figured, where better to watch a meteor shower than in Pine Bush?

"We" were a group of four - my husband, Bob, and I, along with our friends, Lance and Emily. We decided to make an evening of it, beginning with a dinner at the Oriental House, the new Asian restaurant in town.

We didn't drink. The events that followed dinner were no Saki-induced hallucination.

Lance was driving. They'd bought a '95 Chevy Tahoe a week earlier and were in the fussy stage of new-car ownership. Emily had it stocked with Windex, paper towels and other cleaning supplies to keep it pristine.

None of us can recall exactly which back road we were on when the windshield misted over.

Lance was just driving around looking for a field. We figured that was fine. Field owners in Pine Bush are kind of used to strangers showing up to look at the sky.

But the windshield misted over before we found a field to stand in. Lance put on the wipers, figuring it was foggy dew. Nothing happened, though. The windshield stayed misted. He tried squirting the wiper fluid, but that didn't do the trick, either.



Beth Quinn

And our jaws dropped as we realized that the entire truck, top to bottom, wheels and all, was covered with a thin layer of this semi-opaque ... slime.

Since he could no longer see where he was going, he pulled to the side of the road. Then he leaned out the window and tried wiping the windshield with his hand.

It felt smooth to the touch and kind of rubbery. But his hand left the "mist" undisturbed.

Emily handed him the Windex and paper towels. Both Bob and Lance got out and started spraying and rubbing, spraying and rubbing. The stuff wouldn't budge.

They both just kept saying, "What the hell ... ?"

Emily and I got out, too. As I closed the door behind me, I realized that the handle felt wrong. I looked closely at it, then stood back to examine the whole side of the car.

We all did. And our jaws dropped as we realized that the entire truck, top to bottom, wheels and all, was covered with a thin layer of this semi-opaque ... slime.

Alien slime. At least it was alien to us. We'd never seen such a thing. The most striking thing about it was how evenly the truck was covered with it - like we'd gone through a car wash where they used slime instead of car wax.

We gave up on looking for a field. Lance drove us home with his head out the window so he could see. Everyone was pretty much speechless for the ride.

We sat on our deck when we got home that night and watched the sky for long hours. We kept our eyes open for slime-squirting spacecraft but saw nothing more unusual than a couple of shooting stars.

I confess, we *did* have a drink or two out there on the deck.

Lance told us the next day he had to wash the truck several times with a grease-cutting detergent to remove the rubbery slime. It took him five hours.

Listen, I don't know what it was. I'm told that slimings like that are rare in Pine Bush. They happen more often in Oregon. But quite frankly, the alien theory is the only one that makes any sense.

If anyone has a more earthbound explanation, I'd be happy to know about it.

Beth Quinn's column appears Monday. Talk to her at 346-3181 or at bquinn@th-record.com.

KING CO. JOURNAL, Kent, WA - June 5, 2003

one in Kent spotted an unidentified flying object.

It happened around 11 p.m. on May 6.

According to the report, which can be found online at www.ufocenter.com, the person who made the report looked out a window and noticed a "bright craft" approaching in the sky.

At first, the person

thought it was a bright star or planet.

The light drew closer.

"Then I made out a row of bright yellow lights on top with a red light on the bottom right corner and a blue light on the bottom left corner," the person reported.

The craft made a "familiar high-pitched sound almost like a pod in 'Star Wars.'"

according to the report filed with the center.

Just for the record: I've not seen a UFO or encountered a space alien. My grandson assures me they exist (though he's no longer sure about Santa). He could be right. I don't know why we should be the only ones in this universe having all the fun.

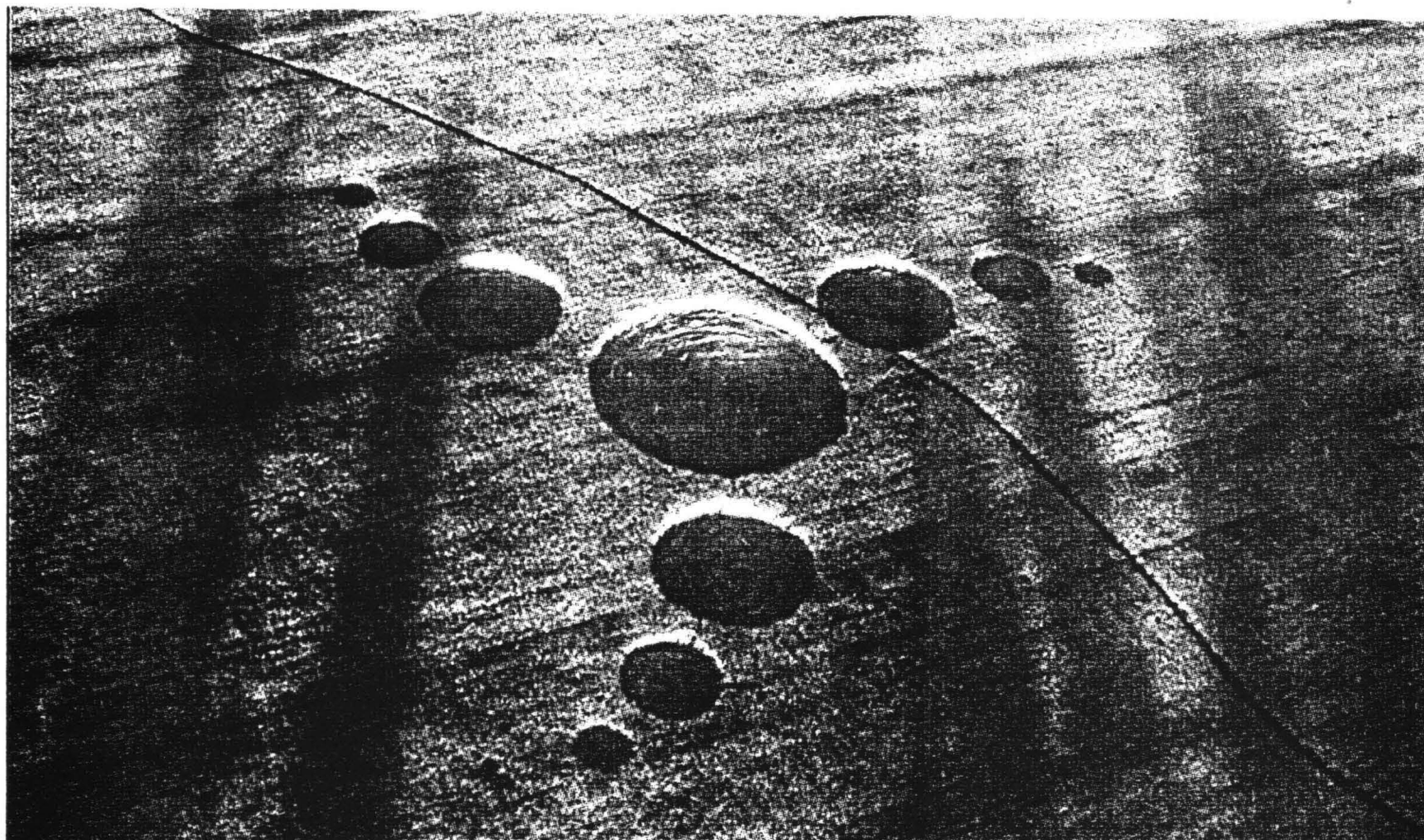


Mary Swift
South County
Scene

■ **A Sighting (Out Of This World)** - It was a sighting. But it wasn't a bumper sticker or a license frame.

It was more like "Look, up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's something-or-other."

In this case, according to a report submitted to the National UFO Reporting Center in early May, some-



Is it art?

Ten perfect circles appear in a wheat field at Knobel in this digital image captured Sunday by Caleigh Catt, 15, daughter of a farmer and pilot who discovered the crop circles over the weekend. The circles ranged from 38 feet in diameter to about eight feet, Catt said. Each was located within 10 feet of another. The circles caused a buzz in Clay County, but Todd Young, who owns the crop, harvested the wheat Tuesday. The shadows in the photo are from trees in a nearby cemetery.

Knobel man finds signs of mischief

Symmetrical circles appear in Clay County wheat field

By Keith Inman

Sun staff writer

KNOBEL — Someone's been messing with Todd Young's wheat field.

Crop circles have appeared in wheat or corn fields across the Midwest, but this is the first time anyone seems to remember seeing the phenomenon in Northeast Arkansas.

"It's kind of eerie, really," Young said of the 10 circles imprinted in his crop, located adjacent to the Williams Cemetery.

"It's real precise. It's real symmetrical," Young said. "Your average idiot couldn't have gone out there and done that, including myself."

There's no hint of who did.

"I think it's somebody with a handheld GPS and too much time on their hands," said Bruce Catt, another farmer, who discovered the circles as he flew his airplane over the

field Saturday evening.

"We just happened to fly over the field. It just sticks out from the air like a sore thumb."

The circles ranged from 38 feet in diameter to about eight feet, Catt said. Each circle was located within 10 feet of another.

"Knobel's pretty small. Looks like it would get out who done it," Catt said. "If somebody used a stake and a string and went around trying to make a perfect circle, they did a good job."

Catt theorized that whoever made the circles walked down a ditch through the field in order to prevent leaving a path.

Young said he was unaware of the circles until Sunday.

"He (Catt) told my wife at church Sunday that we had crop circles," Young said. "I finally found it about noon Monday. And there have been numerous people out here looking at it."

"At one time there were four planes inside this little area, looking at it," Young said.

Young, who rents the field from Dorothy Gibbs of Knobel, said he flew over the field on Friday and saw no indication of circles. Catt said he believes the crop circles were made Friday night.

"A lot of people fly over here, and if it had been there a long time, somebody would have noticed," Catt said by cell phone as he drove his combine in another field Tuesday afternoon.

Clay County's cooperative extension agents are puzzled, too.

"All I can say about it is they had to know what they were doing," said Roger Gibson, Clay County extension staff chairman at Corning.

"We just hope they get all the wheat harvested before they do it again," said Andy Vangilder, the extension staff chairman from Piggott.

They won't get a chance. Young planned to have the field harvested by nightfall Tuesday. He said he can't afford to preserve what someone else left.

"I farm for a living, and that's how I make my living — harvesting my crops," Young said.

On the Net:

Crop Circles Central provides background information on crop circles found throughout the world at: www.paradigmshift.com

Sci Fi Channel puts corporate muscle behind effort to investigate UFOs

By DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — In an unusual step for a television network, the Sci Fi Channel is campaigning to persuade the government to be more forthcoming and aggressive in investigating UFO sightings.

Sci Fi has hired a Washington lobbyist, received support from former Clinton chief of staff John Podesta, sponsored a symposium on interstellar travel and is considering a court effort to declassify docu-

ments related to a 1965 incident in Pennsylvania.

The network will premiere a documentary, "Out of the Blue," Tuesday at 8 p.m. that methodically lays out an argument that there's something out there.

Most TV networks are reluctant to spend money for anything other than self-interest. The few public interest efforts are hardly controversial: Lifetime promoting breast cancer research, for example, or MTV's Rock the

Vote campaign to encourage young people to register.

But by fighting for UFO probes, Sci Fi is wading into an area that invites not only dissent, but also ridicule.

"It's very, very tough for people to take this subject seriously," said Ed Rothschild, a lobbyist for the Washington firm PodestaMattoon. "We thought the only way it was going to be seriously addressed is to have serious people talk about it, scientists."

Rothschild won't even identify the members of Congress he's talked to about leaning on the government for more openness about UFOs. He's afraid they'll never help if their names come out and they're laughed at.

Even believers are reluctant to talk about the issue.

After hearing that former President Carter once saw a UFO, "Out of the Blue" filmmaker James Fox repeatedly, and unsuccessfully, asked Carter's representatives for

an interview. Undaunted, Fox essentially ambushed Carter with a camera one day at a book-signing. Carter confirmed the incident but his brevity and forced smile indicated he wasn't happy to be answering.

Given the "giggle factor" that surrounds UFOs, Sci Fi is taking a chance with its reputation, Fox said.

"I don't think there's a risk because the questions need to be asked," said Thomas Vitale, Sci Fi's senior vice president

of programming. "Even somebody who is the biggest skeptic in the world ... still wants the questions answered. And who better to do it?"

The mission isn't entirely altruistic, of course. The Sci Fi Channel, which is seen in about three-quarters of the nation's TV households, polled viewers on the topic. Evidence of keen interest is also seen in the ratings.

Last November's documentary on the celebrated, suspected 1947 UFO crash in

Roswell, N.M., was the highest-rated special in the network's 11-year history. It was seen by nearly 2.4 million people, or about 2 1/2 times Sci Fi's usual prime-time audience.

"Our main goal is not to find a UFO," Vitale said. "The goal is finding the truth. We're expanding and exploring the blurry line between what is science fiction and what is science fact."

Vitale wouldn't say how much Sci Fi is spending on this. The network sponsored an archaeological excavation at Roswell, will debut a public service announcement Tuesday and has two new UFO specials in the works.

It is backing an effort to get U.S. Air Force records released on a 1965 incident in Kecksburg, Pa., where some witnesses believe a UFO crashed. This may end up in court, Rothschild said.

Fox, a San Francisco-based journalist, never thought much about UFOs until a visit nine years ago to Nevada, when he and his friends watched a saucer-shaped object hover silently in the sky then dart away.

"When I got home, I was met with laughter," he said. "No one believed me, even my family. I thought, if my own family doesn't believe me, who does?"

Intrigued, he began looking into other UFO incidents. He sold a 1998 documentary to the Discovery Channel and shopped "Out of the Blue" to the same network, but said he was told Discovery no longer buys pro-UFO films. (A Discovery spokeswoman denied this.)

So he went to Sci Fi. Fox considers 95 percent of reported UFO incidents bunk, either hoaxes or easily explained conventional phenomena. And don't count him among people who believe aliens already live among us.

But that still leaves a significant number of mysterious cases. "Out of the Blue" outlines several, concentrating on the most reputable of witnesses — former astronauts, military and government officials, topped off by an ex-president.

Fox's storytelling is sober, not sensational. Summing up incidents at the end of the film, Fox gives the official government explanations of what happened, and they're often more ridiculous than the sightings themselves.

"You get to a point where you can no longer dismiss each and every episode," he said.

Fox and Rothschild can think of several reasons why the government doesn't want to talk about UFOs:

- The military doesn't want to spend time or money on something that isn't perceived as a threat.

- Officials may also like the secrecy; it keeps other governments guessing about what kind of new weapon technologies might be in the works.

- It could also be embarrassing, since it can expose what they don't know and the limitations of human technology.

- And who wants to set off a "War of the Worlds"-type incident?

Fox envisions the public announcement that could come with such an event: "We don't know where they come from, we don't know what they're doing. We can't stop them if they become hostile and they can fly rings around all of our aircraft."

"Thank you, and good night."

On the Net:

<http://www.scifi.com>

<http://www.freedomofinfo.org>

EDITOR'S NOTE — David Bauder can be reached at dbauder@ap.org

BAXTER BULLETIN, Mountain Home, AR - June 11, 2003 CR: L. Willett

Crop circles in Arkansas

KNOBEL (AP) — Crop circles have turned up in a wheat field in the state's far northeast corner.

The markings in Todd Young's field represent the first time anyone remembers seeing the phenomenon in northeast Arkansas.

"It's kind of eerie, really," Young said of the 10 circles imprinted in his crop.

"It's real precise," he said. "It's real symmetrical."

Young doesn't know who might have created them.

"I think it's somebody with a handheld GPS and too much time on their hands," said Bruce Catt, another farmer, who discovered the circles as he flew his airplane over the field Saturday

evening.

"We just happened to fly over the field. It just sticks out from the air like a sore thumb," Catt said.

The circles ranged from 38 feet in diameter to about 8 feet, Catt said.

Each circle was located within 10 feet of another.

Young, who rents the field, said he flew over it Friday and saw no indication of circles then.

Clay County cooperative extension agents are also puzzled.

"All I can say about it is they had to know what they were doing," said Roger Gibson, Clay County extension staff chairman at Corning



By Michael Hanlon

THOSE who find it difficult to believe that little green men from outer space visit the Earth on a regular basis have always found it pretty easy to demolish the claims of those who do.

All those photos of flying saucers, portholes around the edge? Painted dustbin lids thrown into the sky.

Stories of alien abductions aboard extra-terrestrial starships? Ramblings.

But, just occasionally, an incident takes place that leaves even the most cynical observers perplexed.

One such event occurred in the depths of Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk, in the early hours of December 27, 1980 – an incident that, in UFO circles, has become known as 'Britain's Roswell' (alluding to the famous incident in New Mexico in which many people still claim a flying saucer crash-landed in the desert).

That foggy night, a number of airmen at the U.S. Air Force base near Rendlesham saw something that was totally unexplained. Totally unexplained, that is, until today.

Now, the true nature of the mystery has been revealed – and it is an explanation which will amuse many and probably anger many more.

But first, it is necessary to recap what exactly it was claimed happened on that dark, cold night, 23 years ago.

Bored and tired, two military policemen, John Burroughs and Bud Steffans, guarding the back gates to the base saw a group of strange, flashing lights in the sky – eerie blues and greens, piercing through the fog.

Accompanying the lights was a terrifying noise, an electronic wailing that cut through the fog.

They radioed the base and soon a group of their colleagues ran out into the woods, thinking that perhaps a plane or a helicopter had come down or was in trouble.

WHAT they saw, it has been claimed, was the best evidence yet that the Earth had indeed been visited by beings from outer space.

The policemen trampled through the woods trying to locate the source of the lights. Eventually, they reported, they stumbled into a clearing and saw something quite amazing.

According to official reports from the base deputy commander, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, the airbase had been visited by some sort of spacecraft.

Under the innocuous title 'Unexplained Lights', Lieutenant Colonel Halt wrote down what his men had seen.

'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 two metres high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light.'

'The object itself had a pulsating red light on top and a bank of blue lights underneath... it was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached, it manoeuvred through the trees and disappeared.'

Amazing enough. But over the following days, more witness reports from the night in question emerged which, if true, would mean that a lonely corner of East Anglia was the site of one of the most extraordinary events in the history of Man.

One witness, another U.S. airman called Jim Penniston, together with John Burroughs and Ed Cabanasag, claimed to have seen a 'metallic craft', complete with 'hieroglyphic markings', descend into the woods.

Today, Mr Penniston, now a human resources manager, maintains that he even managed to touch the craft. 'This was a craft of unknown origin,' he says. 'It was triangular and my assessment was that it was not occupied.'

The night after the first sighting, Lieutenant Colonel Halt saw the

UFO for himself. During an evening function, someone burst into the mess room on the base and screamed, 'Sir, it's back!' He rushed into the woods with some men, and a Geiger counter.

At the site of the alleged landing, they found radiation readings significantly above the background level, together with three mysterious depressions in the ground.

ALL this was written down in a series of official memos, and there was a British Ministry of Defence investigation, which contained all the reports from the U.S. airmen and concluded that whatever it was did not pose any direct threat to the defence of the realm.

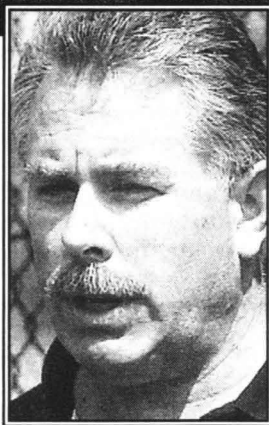
The MoD report acknowledged that an unusual event had happened but drew no conclusions as to the nature of the UFO.

Word soon leaked out about the strange goings-on. Rendlesham became a hive of UFO activity.

Some have concluded that the area was no less than a portal to a parallel dimension, or perhaps the Earthbound terminus of an intergalactic 'stargate'.

Over the years, hundreds claimed to have seen the object that had spooked the U.S. airmen, and there were reports of 'energy disturbances' and 'psychic fields'.

What few could have concluded was that the UFO was not an intergalactic spacecraft capable of travelling across the galaxy at



Confession: Kevin Conde

three times the speed of light (2billion mph), but instead a rather more prosaic vehicle; to be precise, a battered 1979 Plymouth Volare – a standard issue American police car, capable of about 90mph.

The 'alien visitor' was the driver of this car, one Kevin Conde, another military policeman at the base. As bored as his colleagues manning the sentry post at the back gate, he decided to have a bit of fun.

'There was this one guy at the back gate, and he was known as a bit of a problem – he was always seeing things.'

'He had seen lights before and reported them. It always turned

out that it was a star or something. So I decided to play a practical joke.'

'I had no idea what I had started by doing this.'

Mr Conde, now an IT consultant and part-time policeman in his native Sacramento, California, recalls how he turned his police car into a UFO with some stuck-on lenses.

'I drove down the taxiway in my car. I stuck the spotlight on, after sticking red and green lenses on it. I then drove round in circles, in the fog, with the PA loudspeaker going, flashing my lights.'

'It was just a practical joke, we were always playing practical jokes. Then I turned my lights off and drove away.'

Mr Conde, who returned to the U.S. shortly after the incident, says he was unaware of the 'Rendlesham mystery' until recently, when he looked up his old base on a U.S. military website. He was flabbergasted by what he read.

'I was amazed. I had no idea about all this nonsense.'

'Now, logic says that if life has evolved on Earth, it must have evolved elsewhere. But logic also says that if it has, it does not go around in flying saucers and land outside a quiet military base in the English countryside.'

'I hate to be cynical, but when I see people making money out of this I have to ask myself if they are not nuts, what are they?'

The descriptions of 'metallic spacecraft' and 'depressions' are the result of embellishment over the years, Mr Conde said. 'There

was a large helicopter which landed there the previous night – a helicopter with three landing skids.'

As to the radiation, Mr Conde said that as far as he was aware they found nothing above background levels. 'A lot of these stories have been exaggerated over the years.'

OF course, the true believers will not be convinced. Nick Pope, Britain's own Fox Mulder, who investigated UFO sightings for the MoD in the 1990s, said the Rendlesham incident remains a mystery.

'Frankly, there are a lot of people retrospectively trying to write themselves into this story,' he said.

Georgina Bruni, who has written a book, *You Can't Tell The People*, about the mystery, dismissed Mr Conde's story.

'I am amazed. The evidence is all there. All the files have been released by the MoD. Do you really think a colonel from the USAF is going to send a memo to the MoD about this?'

'I even talked to Margaret Thatcher about this, and she said, "You have to have the facts, and you can't tell the people".'

'I also spoke to former Defence Secretary Michael Portillo, who said it was very interesting, and that he knows a lot but can say very little. All these people are not morons.'

UFO-OLED!

For 23 years Britain's 'Roswell incident' has been cited as proof that UFOs landed. Today, a retired U.S. airman claims he was behind the hoax ... using a battered old police car and sticky tape



Is Ponty in the 'twilight zone'?

UFO sightings continue to mystify the world as one of the great unexplained phenomena.

And while X-Files's very own Mulder and Scully continue to fight for the truth (which apparently is "out there") about alien life-forms, stories of UFO sightings are becoming more and more frequent.

But these visions of creatures from another world don't just take place near Roswell's Area 51.

This "twilight zone" could be right here in Pontypridd.

The question is whether this is science fiction or even fact?

Which is why one *Observer* reader wants others to come forward and help him compile an extensive research into UFO sightings in the area.

Michael Hopkins of Pontypridd, explained that he wants people to come forward with any accounts they may have.

Any contributors will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Mr Hopkins said the most important information includes the date and time of the sightings, weather conditions, shape and colour of the object, any sounds and any strange effects such as peacefulness or

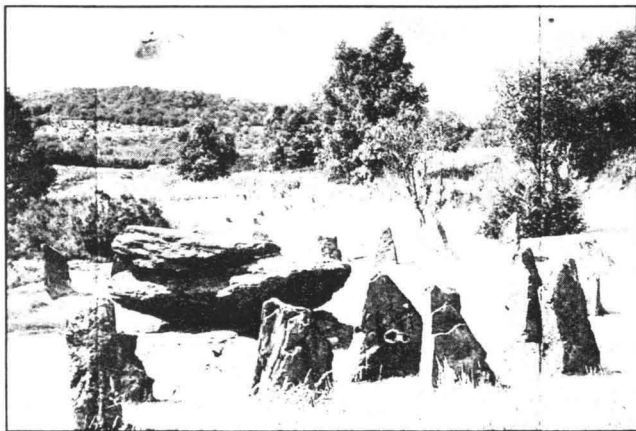
BY DEAN POWELL

unease.

If you have any information, then please

send your letters to the *Observer* and we'll forward them on to Mr Hopkins.

Please send the details to: UFO Sightings, Pontypridd & Llantrisant Observer, 10 Market Street, Pontypridd. CF37 2ST.



IN SIGHT: Do you remember the tales of a flying saucer appearing over the Rocking Stones in Pontypridd?

Common sightings

FASCINATING tales of UFO sightings on Pontypridd's Rocking Stone on the Common, have appeared on an Internet website.

A writer called Gayna Andrews compiled the website and it goes into great depth over an alleged sighting in 1979.

The Druidic rocking stone is named as a possible site which draws UFOs to the area because of its symbolic markings.

It was put there in 1861 by the new Druids, such as Dr. William Price and Myfyr Morganwg.

Many authorities on UFOs consider this area and its stone foundation to have strong connections with UFOs and that the "Sacred Floating Ark", a Druidic emblem there which was the ancient description of a flying saucer.

A UFO was allegedly spotted and photographed over the Common in January 1979 by a Patricia Powell of Rhydyfelin.

She said in a copy of the *Observer* that week, which was published on April Fools Day: "It hovered in the sky for about five minutes then disappeared at great speed toward Tonteg, I had never seen anything like it before."

"I just couldn't believe it, I simply do not believe in flying saucers or things from outer space, but after seeing this I'm not so sceptical."

"It was silver coloured, quite thick looking and was completely silent."

The airbase at St. Athans were contacted and they confirmed that there was something "unaccountable" on their radar on this day.

Doug Roles of Quakers Yard, examined the area and discovered that the one eye of the serpent that surrounds the Rocking Stone has the same symbols said to be on the reported aircraft which crash landed in Roswell, New Mexico.

But the story takes another twist when the old *Observer* copy reveals that a sighting was experienced by our regular *Observer* poet, Harry Hartill.

The retired traffic warden told Mrs Andrews 20 years ago that he was standing on a railway bridge at the end of Tyfica Road and looking towards Cilfynydd when he saw an aircraft billowing with smoke and spiralling to the ground and hit the Common.

He even contacted the police but nothing was found. Can you shed any light on this tale?

Trio in close encounter of the blurred kind.....

THREE footballers captured this amazing picture of what they say is a UFO.

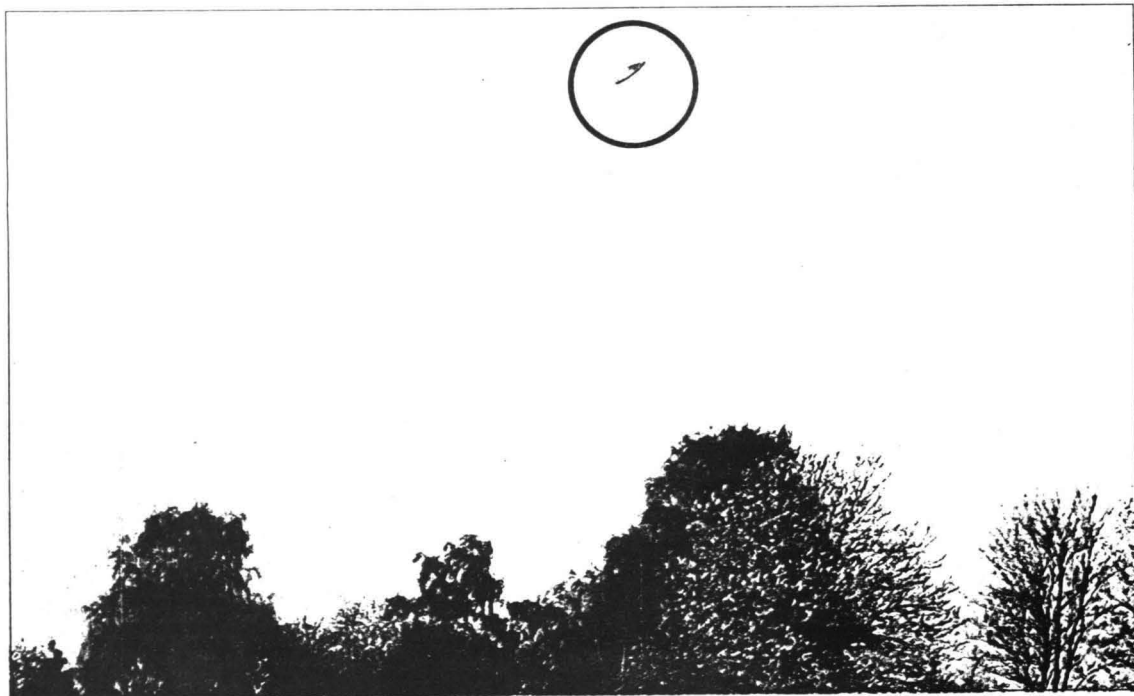
The footballers - who have added to the sense of mystery by declining to give their full names to *The Citizen* - were playing in Randwick Park at 6.15pm on Thursday, April 17, when their strange encounter took place.

In a letter sent to *The Citizen* with a disc containing the images, the footballers write: "A friend of ours was testing out a camera he had recently purchased and was able to capture these extraordinary images, and we were wondering if anyone else witnessed this."

"From the images included, one can clearly see the object change orientation and then disappear into the horizon."

"This process occurred within a few seconds." What made their sighting particularly bizarre was that the UFO made no sound and moved at "an incredible speed."

Did you see the Randwick UFO? Or have you pictures of any other phenomena? Contact The Citizen on 01452 420 621.



CAPTAIN KIRK (HALLAM!) Another UFO sighting?

A UFO over Kirk Hallam has been tracked down...but not to the far recesses of the universe.

It looks as if it came from a densely populated corner of our planet, known to earthlings as Chaddesden.

The brightly-lit craft, looking like two massive crosses, was reported over Kirk Hallam on September 30th.

RETURN

It then headed for West Hallam but was not impressed by the village. Minutes later, it returned over Kirk Hallam

and headed for Nottingham.

Now this is being linked to a second sighting on the same night - by a Coronation Street fan.

During a commercial break in the soap opera, a man looked out of his Chaddesden home and saw the "glowing object."

In a report to an investigators' magazine, he writes: "I noticed what looked like two big crosses of very bright lights very low and heading west."

"It seemed to have appeared from the direction of the Pride Park football stadium.

"I ran outside to get a better look and it turned around slowly and changed its attitude to a horizontal position, making it harder to see."

"It had many bright cream coloured lights and two red lights. The red lights were flickering near the back of the object."

"There was also a strange humming sound coming from it. It seemed to glide slowly by and disappear behind some trees and rooftops."

His wife and two sons stood amazed

and asked: "What was that?"

Now that question is being probed by the Phenomenon Research Association. Officials say the two sightings are "almost certainly" of the same object.

Group leader Omar Fowler said: "It is difficult to imagine any mad-made craft being responsible for the sightings."

"An airship usually makes quite a din with the engine noise being very prominent and audible for many miles."

NO BALLOON

"A hot air balloon would not have been capable of performing the manoeuvres described by witnesses."

"The mystery remains. What was it?" asks Mr Fowler in the latest edition of the group's journal *Omni*.

And there were more witnesses to the bizarre craft - ducks on a pond.

According to the Chaddesden witness, they usually kick up a noise all night. When the UFO came over, they were oddly silent.

Grampians: gateway to UFOs

By JACLYN DENSLEY

NEW photos revealing mysterious lights visible from the Grampians have been released to *The Standard*.

Known as a 'hot spot' for UFO activity over the past two years, the area is attracting 'paranormal' enthusiasts from around the country.

Victorian woman Jacqueline Purtell spent two days in January observing activity over the Grampians ranges and reported seeing multiple moving and stationary objects of varying colours.

She estimated the closest of the spherical shapes to be just 1.5km away.

Victorian UFO Research Society public relations officer Paul Norman has been investigating UFOs since 1954.

He said UFOs had been spotted almost nightly since two flew over the car of a man travelling from Horsham to Halls Gap in June 2001.

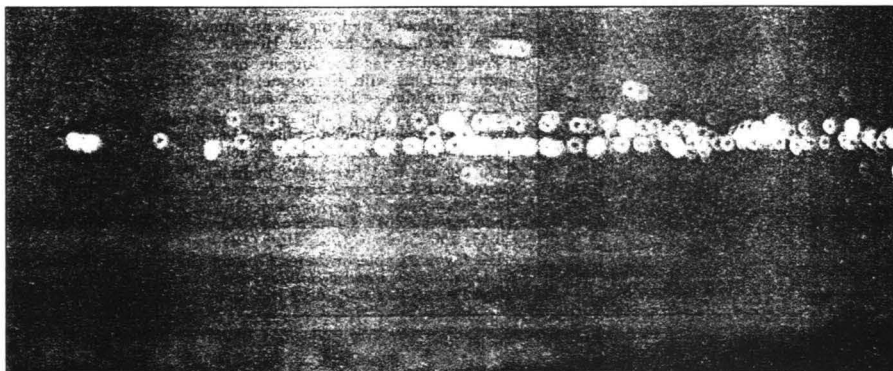
"There's a big one called 'the



Paul Norman

commander' and it operates in concert with smaller ones," Mr Norman said.

Two archeologists and researchers from the University of Melbourne have been investigating the phenomenon.



A photo of what some believe to be UFOs over the Grampians.

Mr Norman said the lights were invariably in a straight-line format and often flashed on and off simultaneously before disappearing from sight.

He said lakes high in the Grampians could have had some influ-

ence on the UFO attraction. Ms Purtell used a camera attached to a telescope to photograph the images and said the lights were being manoeuvred in an unnatural manner.

"Car head-lights cannot to my

knowledge fly over the top of mountain ranges. If they do, please let me know. We might be on to something," she mused on her Victorian UFO Research Society sighting report form.

EXMOUTH JOURNAL, Devon, England - Feb. 13, 2003

Further reports of lights in the sky

Mystery lights - more sightings

THERE have been further reports of mysterious lights in the sky, following the account of Harry Corondis' sighting in last week's *Journal* ("Unexplained nighttime light show baffles resident").

Pensioner Jean Horne, from Clinton Square in Exmouth, says she has seen the phenomenon on two occasions - the first of them at around 9.45pm on the same night as Mr Corondis, and the second last Sunday evening, February 9, at around 7.30pm.

And another local man has come forward to say he saw a similar object over Exmouth - seven years ago.

Mrs Horne says she saw two triangular objects in the sky, both of them very similar to the one described by Mr Corondis.

She said: "The triangles were a vivid, sparkling blue, with a couple of orange marks

on each end.

"There were two of them, quite far apart, over Alexandra Terrace. They didn't make a sound and they didn't seem to move - they just seemed to stay there."

One of the objects then reappeared, in roughly the same position, last Sunday evening.

"It was again over Alexandra Terrace, pointing out to sea," Mrs Horne said.

This week the *Journal* was contacted by another Exmouth resident, Douglas Thompson, who described a similar sighting in the Littleham area in 1996.

Mr Thompson, who was 64 at the time, was on his way to work at around 7.30 in the morning when he saw what appeared to be a pinkish ball hovering above Jarvis Close.

He said: "It was no more than 40 feet in the air. It looked like a balloon, but bigger.

"I stopped walking and watched it, and as I did so it rose in the air. I turned to follow it and it seemed to change shape, becoming a triangle. Outside the triangle was a pinky colour; inside was opaque. I saw it and it disappeared.

"One moment it was very clear, the next it was gone."

Mr Thompson said he told no one about the sighting at the time, apart from his wife.

"I am convinced that Mr Corondis is telling the truth," he said.

A spokesman for Exmouth Coastguard said: "Nothing has been reported to us officially, but we are aware that people are talking about unexplained lights. A couple of people have mentioned them in the office here."

STAMFORD MERCURY, Lincs., England - April 11, 2003

Woman spots UFO hovering over Stamford

By Gareth Roberts

A SPOOKY UFO sighting has been made in the skies over Stamford.

The strange object was seen zig-zagging over town at 4am on Tuesday. Sally Ackerley, of Burghley Lane, Stamford, said: "I just thought what on earth could it be - I just couldn't equate what I was seeing with anything I'd seen before."

Lying awake in bed, 49-year-old Ms Ackerley spotted what she first thought was a star through her window.

She said: "It appeared to be moving though and then disappeared from sight for a few seconds. It was when it reappeared I noticed it seemed to be zig-zagging as it moved across the town. I thought something funny is going on here."

"The hairs on the back of my neck were standing on end."

"It was pulsating, flashing every few seconds, but was not a plane or a helicopter and I could not hear any engine sound."

The single white light then disappeared behind the spires of St Martin's and St Mary's churches and Ms Ackerley returned to bed.

She said: "I couldn't get back to sleep and was wide awake at this stage, then,

as it started to get light, it was back again."

"It was heading over Burghley Park before it finally disappeared and I thought it could just have been something from a local air base."

But Squadron Leader Tony Walsh, of RAF Wittering, could not shed any light on the UFO.

He said: "We had no aircraft flying at that time of the morning and I know RAF Cottesmore currently have no aircraft on the base at all."

● Did you see a strange object over Stamford in the early hours of Tuesday? Or have you seen any other signs of alien life in Mercury Country? Call reporter Gareth Roberts on 01780 762255.

Sally Ackerley, of Burghley Lane, Stamford, points skywards to where she saw an unidentified flying object. Photo: 721-1C by Bernard Hales

LICHFIELD POST, Staffs., England - Feb. 13, 2003

'UFOs are bombers preparing for war'

Multi-million pound Stealth bombers are using the airspace over Lichfield and Rugeley for hi-tech war manoeuvres, witnesses have claimed.

Eagle-eyed aviation buffs told The Post they believed a flood of sightings of triangular-shaped craft over Rugeley and Shenstone were proof US war planes were using the area in preparation for an attack on Iraq.

The increase in unexplained sightings has led to many theories, including UFO groups claiming the area was a hotbed for alien activity.

"I witnessed two triangular-shaped craft fly over me while driving through the Chase, but I don't believe they were UFOs," said military aviation enthusiast Mike Ellis. "I think what I saw were F1-17s. It was a moonless night and they made no sound at all. The shape of the craft resembled a F1-17 and after

by Kevin Edge

they had gone over I heard a loud roar." The 25-year-old Software Engineer believes Stealth bombers are using bases in Britain in the run up to war in the Gulf.

"Before the first Gulf War the bombers used bases in Saudi Arabia," he said. "But this time they have been refused. So they could be using bases here."

Mr Ellis' theory goes against claims from Staffordshire UFO Group, who have long-held the belief that the Chase is a hotspot for alien visitors.

"To the initiated eye they do look a lot like a UFO, so I can see some people confusing them," Mr Ellis said.

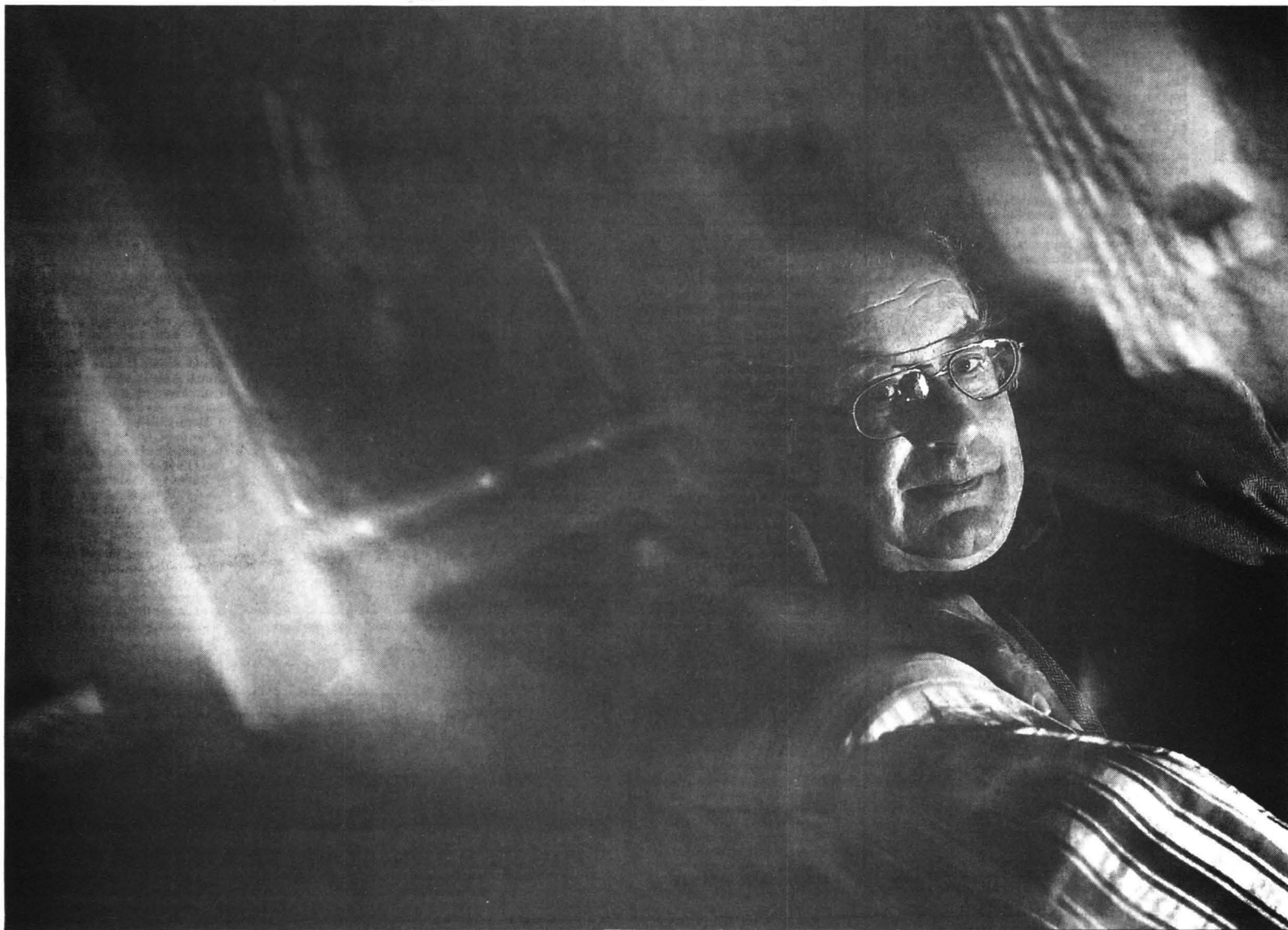
The Ministry of Defence refused to be drawn last week on the subject of hi-tech aircraft over our area.

"I cannot comment on what the US are doing regarding exercises and movements," a spokesperson said.



Mike Ellis





Lord Haddington devotes much of his time to his charity, Save Our Songbirds. He sends out cat collars with bells and has named this Wednesday National Keep Your Cat at Home Day. 'If all domestic cats stayed at home one day a year, we'd save a lot of birds.'

'The only good alien is a dead alien'

Ghosts, poltergeists, crop circles, Lord Haddington has time for them all. But there is one phenomenon he draws the line at, he tells Candida Crewe

The ghosts have been relatively quiet recently," says the Earl of Haddington of his more ethereal fellow residents at Mellerstain, the country house in Berwickshire where he was brought up. "Or, actually, no. We've had one or two amusing incidents. A friend came to stay from Dundee. It was his third stay-over and each time he said he'd heard someone coming into his bedroom and going out of the other door."

"This last time, he heard it again, but it was very late and he couldn't be bothered to sit up and see what it was. Then he heard childish giggling coming from the next room, but he ignored it and went back to sleep."

"The next morning, the false teeth that had been on the bedside table had gone. We turned the whole house upside down but there was no sign of them. End of story. They never turned up again. They're still out there somewhere."

Mellerstain, one of the great houses built by William Adam, is famously haunted. Binning – as Lord Haddington is known to his friends – his wife, Jane, and their three teenage children, live in one wing. Guests sleep in the main house. Some of the late 18th-century bedrooms still have four-poster beds, their original flowery wallpaper, no central heating, and a certain chill in the air.

Binning, 61, has the jovial, shambolic air of a kindly character in a Quentin Blake illustration. He is a great bear of a man and exudes enormous warmth, vivacity and humour. You wouldn't put him down as a fellow who believes in ghosts or crop circles – he might even be the type to say "stuff and nonsense" to all that sort of thing, but appearances are deceptive. He tells ghost stories with utter conviction, and has been a serious student of crop circles since 1986.

"Crop circles," he says, "first started in 1975 or thereabouts – or that's when they first started to be noticed, shall we say. Before that, they were probably only small because if there had been any on the same scale as today, the Victorians would have remarked on them."

"There's been only one incident

recorded in history, the Mowing Devil of 1678. There were no combines or reapers then, but gangs of men with sickles. A Buckinghamshire farmer thought they were charging too much and said: 'I'd rather have the Devil himself do it!' Sure enough, that night, there were great flashes, and in the morning his crop was laid in a circle."

In the Eighties, Binning regularly used to go on nocturnal crop watches in Hampshire and Wiltshire, to contribute to the *Cereologist* (a magazine devoted to the phenomenon), and was, for a while, patron for the Centre for Crop Circle Studies. These days, he says, he's freelance, and studies on a more private basis, but he remains just as serious about his subject. He is not very happy about *Signs*, the recent film starring Mel Gibson.

"I thought it was very bad, he says. "It promotes the idea of fear and terror, and says crop circles are caused by aliens, which is errant nonsense. At the end, there's a shot of an alien holding an unconscious asthmatic boy in his arms. Out of his wrist a needle appears and, from it, a puff of white powder goes up the boy's nose."

"Whether this is a warning to children that aliens come when they're unconscious at night and stuff alien coke up their noses, or whether he was meant to be an alien doctor, I don't know. Certainly it wasn't appreciated by the boy's father, who went for him with a baseball bat and killed him. There was nothing going for that film at all. It was as historically true as Mel Gibson's film about Braveheart."

Binning is sitting at the table in his sunny dining-room. In front of him are a cup of coffee, a glass of white wine, some smoked salmon sandwiches and chocolate biscuits. But there is also an improbable spaghetti heap of red and yellow felt cat collars, complete with bells. As he talks of ghosts and poltergeists (of which he has come across a fair few), and crop circles, he is all the while conscientiously stuffing piles of A4 envelopes with the collars and copies of the bi-annual magazine that he produces, edits and writes almost entirely himself, called *The Bird Table*.

In 1998, Binning set up a charity, about

which he is passionate, called Save Our Songbirds. He did so because, he says, one hundred million small birds are killed each year by the seven million or more domestic cats in this country. He has named this Wednesday National Keep Your Cat at Home Day. He has 300 members, but 500 copies of the magazine, "just in case I get another 200 members", he says, laughing.

"If all domestic cats stayed at home one day a year, theoretically we'd save a lot of birds. I'm sending all the members cat collars that are brightly coloured and have a bell to give the bird a certain amount of warning. They're also a symbolic gesture towards saving the birds. The RSPB has done nothing, or little, to inform people about their predation by cats because it's little old ladies with legacies who fund their organisation, and a lot are probably cat owners."

These days, it is the running of his 8,000-acre estate and SOS that take up most of Binning's time. He doesn't take photographs as much as he used to (in the Sixties, he lived in Beirut and Istanbul and was the photographer for the Lebanese Tourist Office), nor does he frequent Wiltshire hedgerows or go to London as often as he once did.

"I'm no longer let in [to the House of Lords], I've gone into an upper, upper chamber, been elevated to the Turfed-Out Peers Association! I don't miss it, I never was a very good speaker and I found a lot of their work very technical and bureaucratic, and I'm not a bureaucrat. I'd describe myself as a Scot, a countryman, and disillusioned – disillusioned by everything, except my family."

Could he not add to that description, "psychic"?

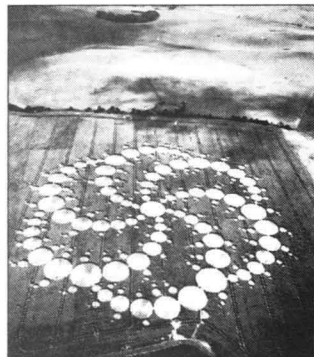
"No more than anyone else. I think it's about being in the right place at the right time. A lot of people will deny what they're experiencing because they don't want to believe it. I'm fascinated and welcome it – to a point."

"I don't like it following me around – I've had that happen to me before, a spirit followed me for six months, every day, till I avenged him."

Isn't he a bit of a hippy?

"In the early Sixties, I went on a motor-cycle down to Stonehenge and spent the night there; no one else bothered in those days, so I suppose I was a bit of a hippy. I just like the music and the whole good joke of that sort of madness."

It is tempting to wonder if Binning ever tried to convince his fellow peers, some of them perhaps less disposed than himself



Crop circles: 'My family don't tease me'

I'm no more psychic than anyone else... but a spirit followed me around for six months, till I avenged him'

to the idea of other-worldly phenomena, of the mysterious allure of crop circles?

"I never talked about crop circles in the

(continued on page 12)

House of Lords because there was never a suitable debate. There was once one on UFOs before I was there, and the transcript of that is in great demand because it's so funny, but that sort of debate will never happen again. The House of Lords has been taken over by pedants, and there are no jokes to be had in it these days.

"Crop circles aren't a joke, though circle-makers try to make it one; there's a conspiracy to make it a tabloid, silly-season thing."

Despite his other commitments, Binning manages to find time for crop circle study. His plans to write a book about ghosts and curious happenings - working title, *Tales from the Shadows* - are on hold because he's too busy.

Binning says his family take his interests seriously: he has taken his 16-year-old son George to see some of the good circles and he was intrigued. "They don't tease me."

Binning says, "because I can demonstrate that there's a distinct possibility that the ones I think are real are real. The actual force involved is entirely mysterious. I don't know what it is, but my guess is that it's something to do with electromagnetic activity of some kind."

"It's definitely nothing to do with aliens; I don't actually believe in aliens. The only good alien is a dead alien. If they're coming here, they're not coming with benign intent."

The explanation for crop circles, according to Binning, depends on your belief system, whether you're a Cropsey or a crop circle-maker, he says.

"Cropseys believe there's anomalous activity; circle-makers think they make everything. From looking at last year's activity, I'd say 100 per cent were hoaxed. The year before, I liked four of the formations out of 80 or so. Cropseys will tell you five per cent are man-made, circle-makers will tell you 100 per cent are. My position varies from year to year as the circles vary."

"I've never seen a circle being made and don't believe anybody has. People who say they have, made it up, and why not? It's a good story. I don't go on watches any more because nothing ever happens. But I did once do a meditation in a barn in Wiltshire with 15 other people and we heard a very fine, bell-like sound in the field and saw tiny red, yellow and green lights flashing on and off in the crop, as well as black, stick-like things jumping up and down. I definitely stayed this side of the fence, but one man went into the field, fell down, staggered back to the fence and made no sense for half an hour."

Binning says he thinks that there's a parallel existence on earth of a spiritual, not physical, nature and that is what causes the lights and the strange sounds that are captured on tape.

"Circles have changed in the past few years. The circle-makers' technology has got a lot more sophisticated, so they can now do perfect geometric things, but they're frankly dull and repetitive and, even if they were made by true phenomena, I'd say they were old hat and please stop it."

"The true ones always have an element of surprise and there are things to look for in the flattening technique that aren't present in the circle-makers' circles - more than that I'm not prepared to say, for obvious reasons. The circle-makers can't reproduce certain aspects of the true phenomena."

So as not to give the mischievous makers any ideas, Binning says he's not going to write anything about crop circles until 2012. He can't say why, but that's the year he predicts that they will finish, so it will no longer matter if he writes about them.

"They could stop for good, but the hoaxers can't stop because they say they're all man-made. If the hoaxers stop, they might be caught out!"

"Something so huge and wonderful might happen and, if people knew they were no longer operating, there'd be a resurgence of belief in paranormal activity."

"This is exactly what they're trying to stop because circle-makers are scientists and if you're a scientist these days, you're not allowed to believe in the paranormal or the existence of God or anything like that. That's why we have such bad science."

So saying, Binning sticks his tongue out to lick another envelope that he has stuffed with a copy of the *Bird Table*, a cat collar and, with a huge laugh and great gusto, adds it to the ever-growing pile.

STAMFORD MERCURY, Lincs., England - May 2, 2003

Another mysterious flying object spotted

By Amy Cameron

ANOTHER UFO has been spotted in the sky above Stamford.

Pat Copson has seen what she calls a spaceship with orange flashing lights twice in recent days.

Her first brush with the unexplained object was last Tuesday around lam.

Pat, who lives in Anne Road, said: "I looked out of the window and saw it just hovering about 200 yards away."

"It had bright orange flashing lights and was about 12 inches wide. I was petrified, but it did not stick around. It just sort of whizzed off."

Then on Thursday night Pat's German shepherd dog Sandy alerted her to the strange visitors again.

She said: "Sandy wanted to go outside at about one in the morning - which she never does. I looked up to see what she was looking at and there it was again."

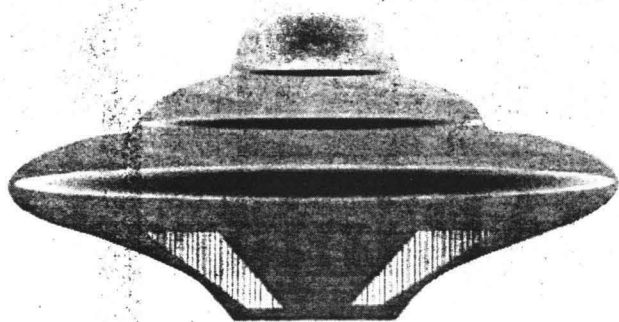
"This time I was very frightened but again it hovered a bit before rushing off."

And this time husband Gordon saw it too.

"I thought I was dreaming because I was in bed," he told the Mercury. "I was sceptical when Pat saw it the first time, but I definitely saw bright orange lights in my sleep - now it seems it was not a dream at all."

The couple described their encounter with the paranormal as extremely scary but Pat wishes she knew what the strange ship wanted.

She added: "Why don't they come and speak to us, then we would know what they want and it would not be so frightening."



Pat and Gordon Copson who spotted the strange mysterious object in the sky. Photo: 04250315



Unexplained mysterious sightings

CLOSE Encounters of the Mercury Kind.

The Spring Contact

Strange sightings and unexplained visions are quite common in Mercury Country, especially at this time of year.

The Copsons sighting is the second UFO spotted in as many weeks.

On April 11, Sally Ackerley, of Burghley Lane, Stamford, saw a strange object zig-zagging across the sky over Burghley Park in the early hours of the morning.

On April 1998 three mysterious orange flashing lights were spotted by five separate witnesses who spoke to the Mercury at the time.

Sightings stretched from Market Deeping to Oakham with 8 further sightings from people too scared to leave their names.

Speaking at the time, UFO expert Justin Stubbs from Stamford said: "From the number of signs I'd think if it can't be explained it's some sort of spaceship."

CHRONICLE, Northwich, England - April 2, 2003



EYES TO THE SKIES: UFO spotter Eric Morris with video footage which he claims shows his mysterious sightings. 2J290222

The truth is up there, says conspiracy theorist Eric

FORGET New Mexico or Arizona, the truth may be closer to home, according to a UFO researcher.

Eric Morris claims his video footage will have visitors flocking to Cheshire - which could become known as the UFO capital of the world.

Eric, who is from Winsford and lives in Northwich, recorded the footage in Dutton, near Runcorn, after hearing reports of strange sightings in the area.

"It is the most unusual thing I have ever seen," said Eric, who has been investigating UFOs since 1978.

"On the video you can see two circular discs joined together - they are dark grey in colour, nearly black."

"We were investigating a series of sightings over a factory near Runcorn."

"When this footage is shown it will send shockwaves through the Ministry of Defence's claim that UFOs present

no violation of British airspace.

"I didn't actually see anything when I was there filming. I only noticed it when I looked at the film at home a few days later."

"I spoke to RAF Fylingdales in Yorkshire and they said they would be getting back in touch with us. This video footage may bring finance to the county as Cheshire could be labelled the UFO capital of the world."

Is this where the truth is...?



■ Shows such as Taken perpetuate alien interest

Pic: Dreamworks

This is the man who first broke the news that a flying saucer had landed on Earth. Walter Haut was 26 and press officer at the Roswell Airforce Base and his official statement to the world followed the finding of crash wreckage and alien bodies on ranchland in the desert 60 miles outside the town.

Flight Lt Haut issued the briefing to the gathering media based on all the reports from the men who had collected space craft debris.

Five hours later he received a call from his commanding officer ordering him to change the story. Officially, there was no flying saucer and no alien creatures - it was just a weather balloon that had crashed.

The incident happened 55 years ago, but now, thanks to many feature films, TV documentaries, books, the X-Files and most recently Steven Spielberg's hit TV series Taken, it is still fresh in everybody's minds.

Roswell today has become a mecca for visitors wanting to find out more about just what did happen in 1947.

If the Truth is anywhere you'll find it at the splendid UFO Research Museum

in the heart of town. The museum was co-founded by Walter Haut, the man who was made to change the story about the flying saucer crash.

Mr Haut, now 81, still comes to the museum most days and is happy to recall the events which have made Roswell alien capital of the world.

First, I asked him why he changed his story about the crash.

"Look, son," he said, "I was a mere lieutenant in the air force and when a colonel gives you an order you obey it - I was following orders."

But he added: "My original report was based on eye witness accounts that came from ordinary guys with no reason to make anything up."

The amazing story began on Tuesday, June 24, 1947, when a search and rescue pilot reported seeing nine crescent shaped objects skipping like saucers across water over the peaks of the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. The term flying saucer was born.

On July 1 radar at Roswell began to track an object that appeared to defy conventional movement.

Then, on the night of July 4, as a violent thunder storm rolled across the desert, locals saw strange lights in the

"Look, son, I was a mere lieutenant in the air force and when a colonel gives you an order you obey it - I was following orders."

Most people love a good UFO mystery... and they don't come any bigger or more intriguing than the famous Roswell Incident of 1947. Travel editor Dave Balow took his X-Files torch and went in search of the Truth in New Mexico



sky and many reported seeing a craft crash to earth.

The next morning rancher Mack Brazel was out checking his land with his young son and a neighbour when he came across a vast debris field.

The material he found was an odd plastic-like substance impervious to damage by heat or bending. He collected some in his pick-up truck and called the sheriff.

In the days that followed the military swarmed all over Mack Brazel's ranch and other ranches nearby.

Truck-loads of debris were driven to the Walker air base at Roswell and local mortician Glenn Dennis was asked if he had a number of child-sized coffins he could bring to a hangar at the base.

When young Mr Dennis, now a co-founder of the UFO museum, went to the base he saw body bags being carried into a hangar and was warned by a terrified nurse, who has since disappeared without trace, that a number of strange creatures had been brought in.

Later, an official photographer was brought in and taken directly to Building 84. A 35mm tripod camera was set up in front of a suspended canvas and the bodies were photographed.

By this time, the American media had all the details and, armed with Walter Haut's official statement, began to descend on Roswell. It was then that the Mount Everest of conspiracies began.

The spacecraft press release was withdrawn and replaced by the cover-up story. The bodies and the debris were removed from the airbase.

Some of the debris was taken to Fort Worth, Texas, and spread out in a general's office. When witnesses returned it had been replaced by bits of weather balloon.

Rancher Mack Brazel was "invited" to Roswell airbase where he was kept as a "guest" for five days and nights. When he left his story had changed... and he drove home in a brand new pick-up truck.

But, to this day, the Roswell Incident is something that just won't go away.

Hundreds of thousands of people visit the museum to get up-dated on the incident.

I was there in January and 12,000 people, many from England, had already been through the doors that month.

In 1997, the 50th anniversary of the incident, thousands descended on Roswell for special celebrations and now, each year, there is a week long Alien Festival beginning on July 4.

Folk living in Roswell are good at seeing the lighter side of the whole thing.

Restaurants serve up alien dishes, street lights have eyes painted on them, souvenir shops abound and some locals, who believe they've been abducted, walk around with tin foil on their heads to make sure they aren't Taken again.

But to the people at the museum and author Donald Schmitt, whose definitive books and world-wide lectures on the subject help keep Roswell in the public gaze, this is no laughing matter.

On the back of the 1947 incident, the museum has become a research centre for all UFO sightings.

Now is an exciting time. A study team from the University of New Mexico has just completed a detailed investigation of the crash site and has come up with startling new evidence which is currently being processed.

After visiting the museum, and following meticulous directions from Donald Schmitt, I drove out to the crash site.

Standing on Mack Brazel's ranchland, now sold and renamed, and looking up at the huge darkening skies, I felt like Fox Mulder and began to believe that if the Truth is out there they'll find it one day soon, here at Roswell...

■ Dave Balow was a guest of the New Mexico Department of Tourism (001-505-827-7400) and flew to America with flight brokers Dial-a-Flight (0870-333-4488) and rented a car with Hertz (08708-484848)



■ The Roswell Alien

UFO investigators to probe strange sights

By David Sudworth

TOP Investigators are set to probe alleged sightings of UFOs at Ashurst Beacon.

The Unknown Phenomena Investigation Association and MARA, based in Merseyside, is looking into claims made by eyewitnesses who say they saw the mysterious object last weekend.

It comes after the Advertiser revealed last week that UFOs had been spotted around the famous Skelmsdale landmark.

Bill Bimson of MARA says he is interested in the sightings, but is

keen not to rule out any rational explanations.

He said: "I have been to Ashurst Beacon myself and seen lots of aircraft flying to and from Manchester Airport, with landing lights on as it is part of the approach. These lights are sometimes mistaken for something anomalous by inexperienced witnesses."

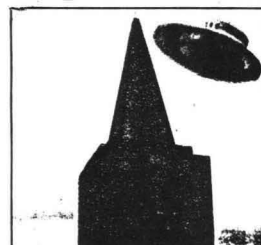
Unknown Phenomena Investigation Association members paid a visit to Ashurst Beacon in mid July, when they found and recorded some interesting activities.

Member Dave Sadler said: "A

deep red ball of light appeared instantly at approximately 7,500ft above and between Orrell and Wigan. Video recorders automatically began taping while photographs and other recordings were made.

"This occurrence lasted for over one minute. The ball, which was the size of a two pence piece at arm's length, split into two."

"All the video footage has been viewed and the images are indeed most impressive. Letters and phone calls have been issued to the relevant sources. We await the results."



● UFOs over Ashurst Beacon? A team is to investigate reported sightings

Close encounters on the Yorkshire Coast



FLYING SAUCERS OVER FILEY: Paul Sinclair, left, and Russell Kellett look for UFOs on the East Coast, which has become a hot spot for unexplained sightings. Picture courtesy of UFO Magazine

DAY-TRIPPERS and holiday-makers are being urged to watch for UFOs over the East Coast this summer - and try to capture them on videotape. The stretch of coast from Whitby to Withernsea has seen a spate of bizarre sightings over recent months. Filey-based UFO Investigator Russ Kellett has now launched a competition for the best UFO footage. He said: "Along with a number of fellow UFO enthusiasts, we believe the East Coast is arguably the number one UFO 'hot spot' in Britain at this present time." Evidence of this, he said, is the "huge" amount of UFO footage which he, and others, have recorded of anomalous aerial objects. He is now hoping that residents, holiday-makers

by Simon Ritchie
simon.ritchie@yep.co.uk

and day-trippers who happen to videotape something similar will get in touch. Their footage will be entered in a competition, which is running until August 7. The unusual contest is being supported by Yorkshire-based UFO Magazine, which carries a five-page feature on the East Coast sightings in this month's edition. Editor Graham Birdsall, said: "We feel sure the competition will generate considerable interest. Given that many thousands of visitors to the region will be bringing their camcorders along with them, there is every chance someone may get to film something out of the ordinary." The competition winner will get to spend three nights in

The 'flying breadstick' and other sightings

ONE of the sightings featured in UFO Magazine was by Paul Sinclair, 40, a joiner from Bridlington. At 4.10pm on January 3, this year, he was travelling in a van at Sledmere, near Bridlington, when he saw an elongated object in the sky which looked like a breadstick. He said: "It was absolutely amazing. We stopped the van to get out and watch. It looked like a glowing breadstick, white and pulsing over a field. "We both looked at it and kept asking each other what it might be, but we hadn't a clue. "It didn't fly away, but just disappeared in front of our eyes."

Other recent sightings on the East Coast include:

- January 23 - a witness saw a streak of light with flames near her home in Bridlington. Three hours later, an object emitting flames was seen over the resort.
- January 28 - A witness reported seeing a triangular-shaped object with white lights in each corner over the coast
- February 3 - two bright balls of light were seen heading west near Fylingthorpe, Whitby.
- February 4 - a witness saw a bright ball of light in the sky from the window of his home in Filey.
- March 23 - three orange balls of light seen over Scarborough.

the Queens Hotel, Leeds, which is hosting the 22nd Leeds International UFO Conference between September 26 and 28, and attend the Grand Gala

Dinner and 2003 UFO Magazine Awards. If you think you have captured a UFO on videotape and wish to enter your clip in the competition,

phone Russell Kellett on 07901 597743. Send your video to UFO Investigations & Research, PO BOX 33, FILEY, YO14 9YE.

Big Brother watching Scots drama group

Aliens spoof becomes case for X-Files

A SMALL Scottish theatre group has been hit by a stage fright of a different kind after its latest production came under intense scrutiny - from the US government and military!

The website of amateur group No Mean Company, who perform at Cumbernauld Theatre, has been the subject of Mulder and Scully-style surveillance after displaying details about their spoof play, which depicts an alien invasion.

By Euan Duguid

The group performed *May The Farce Be With You* last weekend, but were astonished to discover that their home page, www.nomeanco.co.uk, had received more than 500 hits from

American intelligence.

Maximum interest

Company Director Linda Howitt explained, "We decided to do the play last August and to ensure maximum interest we flagged it up on our site and created links to UFO sites.

"The basic narrative centred around aliens who come down to take over the earth, but all the superheroes who would naturally save the day happened to be on a health farm!

"There were a few outrageous characters, including Electro Man, Super Brain and Wizard Woman, who stepped in to rid the Earth of invaders after a brief period of alien domination."

Despite the wacky storyline, Linda, who also runs a greetings card business, described how she was taken aback to discover interest from Uncle Sam.

She said, "On the server that holds our web page you can access statistics of people who have visited and where the visits have come from.

"When we posted information last year there were five hits from the US government in the first few weeks.

"The monitoring seemed to increase when I updated the site and we've now received 53 hits from the US military and 491 from the US government."

Linda could only speculate about why the space parody had become a real-life X-File.

"Cumbernauld is fairly close to Bonnybridge which has had more UFO sightings in recent years than Roswell in New Mexico, the UFO capital of the world," she said.

"However, I suspect it may be the links to the UFO sites that have generated the interest from across the water."

Mark Birdsall, intelligence expert and editor of *Eye Spy* magazine, explained that American intelligence interest in Scotland is not unusual.

Ideal explanation

He explained, "Clearly, with the volume of hits, the Americans are taking this website seriously.

"The thing with UFOs is they are the ideal explanation for governments to conceal operations like rocket tests and unmanned probes. Far better the public think it's a flying saucer rather than a top-secret test.

"The Americans will probably be keeping their eyes on the website for message boards and any new reports of UFO sightings.

"They will want to see how the public react and perceive this information.

"Scotland is of huge interest to the Americans and the US military will be curious about Cumbernauld because of its close proximity to Bonnybridge - they want to get to the bottom of what's going on there."

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 and other Spanish-language newspapers and media sources.]

June 20, 2003 — *El Diario*, La Pampa, Argentina — [Readers of INEXPLICATA will recall that Cuchillo Co was among the most affected areas during the 2002 Argentinean Cattle Mutilation Wave. Activity, it would appear, never ceased altogether or is on the verge of re-starting--SC.] — **NEW CATTLE MUTILATION INCIDENT AT CUCHILLO CO** — **Specialists sent in to analyze cases** — The provincial government, through the Ministry of Production, coordinated the sending of veterinarians to the Cuchillo Co area to examine the bovine found mutilated in recent hours in a rural estate of the Luhuel Calel department. The head of said agency, Nestor Alcalá, became aware of the news item published by *El Diario* yesterday and immediately ordered the Assistant Secretary of Agrarian Affairs, Juan Isequilla, to dispatch a team of specialists to the area to inspect the animal's remains.

"I asked Juan (Isequilla) to conduct an urgent experts' analysis and send people to verify any signs that may be found," explained Alcalá.

The official furthermore stated that he is not opposed to meeting with area ranchers who are demanding a thorough explanation of these events. "I have not received a formal request from them for a hearing, but I would not be opposed to meeting with them." When consulted about the progress in explaining these cases, the minister pointed out that "we were unable to find anything because the previous cases involved animals in a state of decomposition and no observations could be made."

"This case interests me because this rancher speaks of a considerable number of mutilated animals. This is why we want to see them and analyze them," added Alcalá.

The young rancher who filed his complaint with the Cuchillo Co police is the same cattleman who was affected by similar losses last March on twelve separate occasions. "This can't go on. With this one, [the number of] mutilated animals stands at 17 and we haven't found a way of stopping these strange events. I've already gone out to the field with [farmhands] I hired to take all of the animals out of that area," the rancher told *El Diario* in an interview. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 26, 2003 — *La Estrella del Loa*, Chile — **REPORTS NEVER REACHED A CONCLUSION ABOUT CHUPACABRAS** — In May 2002, Carlos Cantero, a senator for the Renovación Nacional party in Chile's 2nd Region, requested a report from Francisco Segovia, governor of El Loa, to find out the information handled by official agencies in regard to the strange phenomenon that caused the deaths of hundreds of animals in the region.

Faced with this request, which was presented even in the form of an official letter, Segovia forwarded Ordinary Official Letter No. 367 to the parliamentarian, dated May 29th, in response to the senator's request. The document clearly stated that the Investigation Police and then sub-prefect of the Criminal Investigations Brigade, Adalberto Rehbein, that, "As per the foregoing, the provincial government is advised that no reliable information was ever secured regarding new animal deaths in this jurisdiction, with the exception of press reports which ascribe the deaths of animals in the area to some strange animal. The presence of such was not detected."

The Civil Police's report also highlighted: "Likewise, our unit has not received reports in regard to strange animal deaths, nor has the order been received from local courts to look into this particular."

However, these replies did not satisfy the senator, who told the local press that the phenomenon was still a matter of social interest and that it was not possible to speculate on what was really going on without verifiable background information, given the lack of scientific bases on which to make a theory on the subject.

Today, three years after the deaths and when the subject remains on the domestic agenda, Senator Carlos Cantero stated that the reports furnished by the authorities of the time do not clarify the matter. "No report ever reached a reasonable conclusion. I am interested in the fact that there is no solid proof to show their conclusions. There is something rotten going on and there never existed an official statement in this regard, to clarify what happened in the community."

The parliamentarian ended by saying that "there is something very strange in all of this. I am a person who believes in what can be scientifically proven. However, the deaths were never explained through the sciences and many unanswered questions still remain." — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 27, 2003 — *OVNI.NET* and *Anyos Luz* — **SPAIN: UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT SEEN ON "ST. JOHN'S NIGHT"** — The www.ovni.net website reported Wednesday that a UFO had been filmed in the city of Gijón, Asturias, in Northern Spain.

The sighting took place within the framework of the traditional celebrations of St. John's Night on June 23, 2003 at 23:55 hours local time. According to the report: "a ball of light crossed the sky, making strange movements. Was it a UFO? No one knows for sure, but the video recording shows that what occurred is well beyond the normal."

According to some eyewitnesses: "the object resembled a star moving in the distance. It was a large thing that flew very swiftly."

The videotape shows that just when the UFO passed over the buildings, small spherical objects can be seen. These have been attributed to the reflection of the UFO as seen through the glass window through which the object was recorded. Another smaller object can be seen moving in the opposite direction. It has been identified as a "stunned pigeon." — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez

June 28, 2003 — *WWW.OVNI.NET* — **VENEZUELA: UFO OR STRANGE CLOUD?** — At 6 pm on June 21st, 2003, hundreds of Venezuelans were treated to the sight of a strange lenticular cloud which appeared to conceal a ring-shaped object within its folds. This sighting took place some 20 km west of Caracas. The author of the enigmatic photographs wishes to remain anonymous. A preliminary analysis of the photographs shows no evidence of trickery and the "cloud-ring" can clearly be seen as lying below the cloud cover. It is still necessary to obtain an meteorologist's expert opinion. The witness stated that the cloud rotated slowly and that the "cloud-ring" was seen in the sky for three days prior to being photographed. The report, along with 5 photographs, which was presented to *OVNI.NET* has been referred to Venezuela's CEINPLA to research the events on site.

This sighting is similar to the one which occurred in 1957 over Fort Belvoir, Virginia USA. At that time a

soldier photographed a ring floating over the base and managed to take a few snapshots of the ring object converting into a lenticular cloud, thus disguising its presence. (see <http://www.rense.com/general3/ring.htm>).

Another report was received from Mexico's CAFE organization which confirms the report received from the anonymous photographer. On June 20th, one day earlier, a young woman witnessed a black ring suspended in the air which became larger and vanished into the clouds, which darkened in turn. This episode occurred in the skies over Caracas at 6:45 p.m. — CREDIT: Lucy Guzman and Guillermo Gimenez

June 28, 2003 — *Noticias Anos Luz* (www.aluz.com) — UFO WAVE OVER BUENOS AIRES? — [The following is an anonymous report which begins 6/23/03--ALERT! The original document is plagued with errors.] — Shortly before the start of June 24th (sic), an "intense luminous sphere was seen over the region of Boedo, Amlagro, Chacabuco (given the nature of the phenomenon it is possible that more people may have seen it). Suddenly, a super-luminous sphere lit up at low elevation, over the city's horizon, until it achieved a considerable brilliance. It then began moving slowly eastward before vanishing a few degrees later. According to my observation, it is neither a satellite or aerolite, much less given its low velocity. Several minutes later, anomalous points of light appeared directly at the zenith of Chacabuco Park; a few minutes later, another sphere lit up all of a sudden and moved eastward, also extinguishing its light a few degrees later. The pertinent video sequences were recorded with a Sony camcorder but unfortunately, problems with the wiring kept the images from being recorded.

At 20:35 hours, however, it was possible to record another sequence showing an unclassified phenomenon. At 20:50 hours, there were further pulses in the heavens. ALERT: There are UFOs over Buenos Aires. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez

July 1, 2003 — *www.ovni.net* (Lucy Guzman) — SPHERICAL OBJECT REPORTED OVER MEXICO CITY — On June 23, 2003 at 13:10 hours, a group of at least four professionals witnessed an object from their office windows at an 80 degree angle of elevation. The dark object--described as being "the size of a pinhead"--remained static until it moved swiftly against the general movement of the clouds. The episode lasted only a few minutes and the object lost itself amid the city's buildings. The incident was reported to *ovni.net* by *www.ufosshop.com* — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez

July 2, 2003 — *El Tribuno*, Salta, Argentina — *** In Cachi: The event occurred on June 24th; Three UFOs Seen and Videotaped*** — TEACHER TELLS IMPRESSIVE STORY OF THE EXCEPTIONAL EVENT — Three unidentified flying objects (UFOs) of great size and brilliance were seen on June 24th in the location of Cachi (Salta), 157 km southeast of the provincial seat and at an elevation of 2210 meters above sea level. The strange bodies were videotaped by Antonio Zuleta, an indefatigable researcher of these mysteries, which are exceptionally recurrent in this part of the province, after receiving a warning from a teacher who phoned him to witness the details of the peculiar celestial airshow.

Curiously enough, June 24th had been declared "World UFO Sightings Day" by the various organizations devoted to the study of these affairs. "The time was 19:30 hours when I saw it," said art instructor Maria del Valle Plaza, who teaches at the Payogasta school and in the "Victorino de la Plaza" school in this community. Married and a mother of three, she said that [the sighting] was "incredible ... fantastic. That's why I immediately got in touch with Mr. Zuleta so that he could videotape them. The UFOs appeared behind the western hills. The first one to emerge was enormous in size.

"It gave off lights of different colors and moved slowly, without making a sound. I was coming back from doing my job, all alone along Route 33 between Payogasta and Cachi, from which I was no more than 3 km distant. I pulled my car over, took out my cell phone and called Zuleta, who came to my observation point and brought his equipment along," said the educator.

"I never thought I'd witness anything like it, despite having been born here," she added. "After receiving higher education, I came back here after many years of absence, and to have the privilege of seeing these fantastic and mysterious lights of which I'd heard so many stories since childhood. After the first UFO appeared, it was followed by another two, which also crossed the skies. They suddenly remained still. Their light was intense and shifting, but it didn't hurt the eyes. They were there as if within hands' reach. Motionless, as though they were looking at us from their interior. I was spellbound and amazed. At no time did I feel any fear. I only wanted to strain my eyes to see into the core of those objects, which suddenly, propelled by a strong and powerful force, vanished at breathtaking speed over the horizon," said Maria de Valle. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi and Mercedes Casas

July 4, 2003 — *Revista TOC* and *Diario La Cuarta* (Chile) — FIFTEEN ANIMALS SLAIN IN MINI-ZOO — TEMUCO — Since Thursday, residents of Pillanlelun, a town some 15 km from this city, have been shutting down henhouses, mangers and pigpens under lock and key and using crosses made of "palqui" after news of the mysterious deaths of 15 animals at the Ty Koyam Mini-Zoo became known.

The victims of this odd event, which remains unexplained, were six sheep imported from Somalia and nine deer, which were found dead with tear marks and bruises on their bodies and bites on their necks. They were scattered throughout the location.

A number of hypotheses were presented at first--everything ranging from the descent of starving pumas [from the Andean highlands] to wild dogs and the Chupacabras--which have been discarded, given that the place is completely shut at night, thus making impossible any entry by animals.

Local residents are concerned and have entrusted themselves to their patron saints. Even those who profess not to believe, think the matter involves Satan.

Alejandro Fuentes, who owns the premises, stated yesterday that the investigation is in the hands of the Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) of the 9th Region as well as the police, since the deaths of these animals represents a loss in excess of four million pesos.

In order to avoid any new attacks, and in view of the fact that llamas, alpacas, iguanas and apes also occupy the premises, Alejandro Fuentes and his assistants have placed traps all around the area. However, as of yesterday, the beast had not attacked again. — CREDIT: Rodrigo Cuadra Salazar, *Revista TOC*



ARKANSAS TIMES, Little Rock, AR - May 30, 2003

Seeing the light

Magnolia student/professor team debunks Arkansas's "spook lights."

BY DAVID KOON

■ Misconceptions can be cleared up. The non-religious can be converted. But legends are a bit harder to kill.

Southern Arkansas University student Brenda Covington and Dr. Carson Davis, an SAU geology professor, probably know that better than anyone in the state. For the past year, they've been using hard science and a little ingenuity to try and put to rest some of Arkansas's most enduring legends: spook-lights, the glowing balls of light that supposedly haunt lonely stretches of railroad track in Gurdon, Crossett and Lewisville.

While their results may do nothing to sway hard-core believers, for them, the answer has more to do with psychology and optical illusion than with anything that goes bump in the night.

The spooklights are more than legend. Strange, diffused lights do flicker and wink in the darkness. In the case of the Gurdon Light, it appears only on clear nights in the fall and winter.

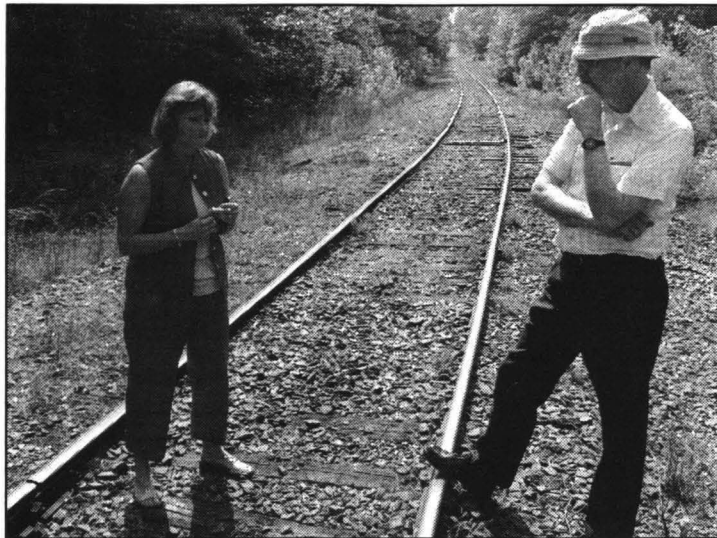
But piled on to the lights' reality, Davis and Covington said, is the weight of legend, which is enough to contort something explainable to something positively supernatural.

Like all good ghost stories, the lights come replete with ghastly backstories: tales of murder, beheading or violent death. In Gurdon, the light is a ghostly engineer named McClain, searching cold nights for his tragically severed head. The light stories "almost always involve a headless man, looking for something," Covington said. "Either vengeance, or his head, or some kind of justification. It has different versions."

Davis' interest in the Gurdon Light began when a former student asked him to tag along to see it. According to the former student, the light was a trickster, disappearing and reappearing, sometimes coming within a few feet of the viewer. "I halfway thought she was setting up a surprise for the old professor," Davis said. "I brought along a can of ether for starting an automobile. In case this was a plasmalike material, you could squirt it with ether to measure if it was hot."

What Davis found instead was the reality of the light, far off and misty, winking feebly in the darkness.

Then, last year, while on a field trip to the Gurdon area with his physical geology class, Davis struck up a conversation with student Brenda Covington about the light, swapping theories about what it might be, and a quest was born.



ENLIGHTENED: Covington (left) and Davis on the tracks near Gurdon.

"I've been hearing about this light all my life," Covington, a grandmother, said, "from people that I would consider credible, and people I consider incredible. So it just kind of piqued my interest. I asked him, 'Would that make a good research project?' and he said 'Yeah,' so we jumped on it."

On a frigid night in Gurdon and with the help of modern technology, they soon came to a conclusion: the Gurdon Light is simply the headlights of trucks passing over the tracks on a viaduct at Interstate 30, around three miles west of the spot the light is rumored to haunt.

Like all good ghost stories, the lights come replete with ghastly backstories: tales of murder, beheading or violent death.

While Davis positioned himself on the tracks at the place where the flickering light could be seen, Covington and her husband, Mickey, stood below the I-30 viaduct. "[Davis] had a cell phone and I had a cell phone," she said, "and every time he would say 'flash,' I'd notice the relationship of the

traffic on the viaduct. After the first three or four times, I could tell you when he was going to say 'flash.'"

"They're always northbound, you see," Davis said, "because then the light is about at a 45-degree angle to this [railroad] track. And on the truck, the lights are high enough that they're over the edge of the baluster there."

It was a hypothesis Davis was able to confirm when he came back with field glasses a few days later. That first night, Davis marked the spot where he could initially see the light by drawing a line on the railbed with spray paint. "Well," he said, "when I came down here in April in the daytime for the first time, within 40 paces of where I'd put my paint line, I could put the old binoculars out there and I could actually see cars crossing on the viaduct out there on the interstate."

The light is only visible on clear nights in the fall and winter, Davis said, because there are no leaves on the trees along the tracks to block the light.

While naysayers often point out that the Gurdon Light predates the interstate, Davis is quick to say that — by sheer coincidence — the old Sticky Road Crossing lies directly beneath the interstate track crossing, and could have provided the light to spark the legend. "They just happened to build the viaduct at the same location," he said, "so the same relationship still holds."

With their Gurdon success under their

belts, Davis and Covington moved on to study the lights in Lewisville and Crossett. In both cases, they ran into a pattern similar to what they had seen in Gurdon: something explainable that had become ghostly through speculation and embellishment. In Lewisville, the spooklight turned out to be a halogen lamp in a lumberyard and the headlights of 18-wheelers on Hwy. 29, which converges with the railroad tracks miles from where local high school kids stake out on lonely nights.

In Crossett, Davis said, the clerk who directed her and her husband to the fabled intersection on Ashley County Road 17 gave her a dire warning: Keep the motor running, because if the light came into their car, it would not start.

"You know why?" Covington asked. "[Because] that would mean that another car had merged with our car."

With topographical maps, Davis is able to show that the Crossett Light is the result of a distant highway, which briefly causes car headlights to be pointed directly at a viewer parked on County Road 17.

While in Crossett, Covington and Davis interviewed an 82-year-old resident who had come to the same conclusion more than 70 years before, only to be shouted down by the mythmakers. "She used to walk a mile to the show down in North Crossett and she would see that light," Covington said, "and she would say, back then, 'That's just traffic' and nobody believed her. ... She was probably the first one to notice that. She noticed that when they had revivals or carnivals in town, you would see it much more often."

Recently, their research turned up another light in the small town of Amy. A quick look at the topographical map had Davis confident about what they would find. "You've got a 10-mile straight stretch of straight track, another road comes in at a 45 degree angle," Davis said, "I'd bet dollars to doughnuts. Same thing."

While Davis and Covington concede that there is a place for legends, they also insist that truth should be held in higher stead. As scientists, they are excited about setting the record straight.

As frequent travelers through south Arkansas, however — where the lights they've debunked so far are located — the fact is not lost on them that they are tinkering with the most precious of things: A small town's claim to fame. Standing on the tracks near Gurdon, Covington can't help but wonder how townsfolk might react when they hear she's trying to take the magic out of their light. "I probably can't afford to get a ticket in this town anymore," she said, smiling.

ARKANSAS TIMES, Little Rock, AR - June 13, 2003

Letters

arktimes@arktimes.com

The lights

Hundreds have seen the Gurdon Light up close on clear nights, cloudy nights, rainy nights, and in the spring, summer, fall and winter.

The claim in your recent article that the Gurdon Light is simply headlights is an old one — usually advanced by the intellectually challenged.

Brent Cater
Clarksville

I can relate to the theory of Brenda Covington and Dr. Carson Davis that the Gurdon Light is not a ghost. I do not believe

in ghosts either. But I can tell you as a resident of Gurdon, I have on numerous times gone out to see the light. The article said it could only be seen on clear nights in the winter and fall. Not so. I and many others have walked the tracks many times in the summer and seen the light. And also it said the light was the car lights from the interstate. Not so again since the light has been seen long before the interstate was built. I am not a scientist or anything but I want to think it is swamp gas.

How could the lights from the cars look as if they were coming down the railroad track one way and then, when you turn around, look as if they were coming from the opposite direction? These people need to do some more research. But forget I-30. That doesn't fit.

Lucille Myers
Gurdon

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

May 29, 2003 CR: G. Conway

ONTARIO

Unidentified metal object crashes through roof

BURLINGTON • An "unidentified falling object" crashed through the roof of a Burlington home, authorities said. A resident of a townhouse complex called police after a small piece of metal hurtled from the sky and into a second-floor bedroom. No one was hurt. Police said the object has a circle in its centre with a stamp reading "USM."

DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, UT - May 16, 2003

Retired wildlife worker to discuss Bigfoot hunt

Rudy Drobnick, a retired Utah Division of Wildlife employee, will be the guest speaker at Saturday's 2 p.m. meeting of the MUFON/Utah UFO Hunters at the Hunter public library, 4100 S. 4800 West, West Valley City.

Drobnick will talk about his search for Bigfoot. He was with the Division of Wildlife for 45 years and has degrees in biology and botany.

For more information, go to www.aliendave.com or e-mail Marlee Spendlove at mspend@yahoo.com.

Retired geologist tries to figure out the mystery of stone faces

By ADAM GORLICK
Associated Press Writer

They've been overlooked as useless oddities for decades — flat-backed stones with sunken eye sockets and gaping mouths carved into them — stowed in bowling ball bags, left in barns or fashioned into candle holders by those who found them in the woods of central Massachusetts.

Now in the hands of retired state geologist Joseph Sinnott, the five stone faces found in Sturbridge and Southbridge are getting the attention of archaeologists and antiquity researchers throughout New England. They are wondering whether the stones were sculpted by American Indians, prehistoric settlers or practical jokesters.

When Sinnott saw the first face, he wasn't too impressed. The 16-pound rock was given to him two years ago by a Southbridge man who said he found it in 1991 near the Quinebaug River. He took the rock in a bowling ball bag to Sinnott's house in Worcester, and said he could take the geologist to the spot where it was first picked up.

The outing turned up no new evidence, and Sinnott shrugged off the stone as a curiosity not worth pursuing.

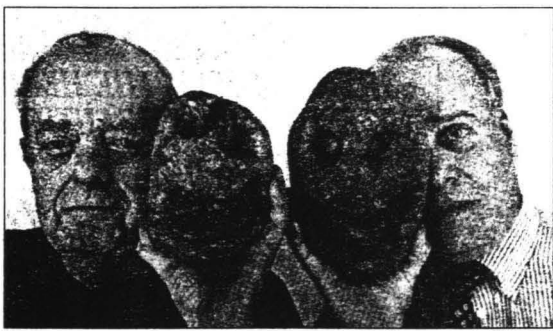
But a year later, Sinnott found himself staring at a second stone face in the custody of another Southbridge man.

Three more stones — all chunks of granite weighing between six and 25 pounds that were found within eight miles of each other — have been turned over to him since stories about the faces appeared in local newspapers. He recently heard about a sixth in nearby Brookfield.

One rock that Sinnott examined had been kept in a family barn for almost 60 years.

Sinnott, who retired as the state's top geologist in 1992 after a 22-year career, argues with those who say the visages are a hoax.

There is no evidence that the wide, smiling mouths and



— Christopher Fitzgerald/AP

MYSTERIOUS STONE FACES: Retired geologist Joseph Sinnott, left, of Worcester, Mass., and Rhode Island geologist and historian Richard Lynch displayed two of the stone faces found in the Sturbridge and Southbridge, Mass., areas.

deep eye sockets are hollowed out with modern metal tools, he said. And the carvings — which can't be dated with certainty — appear to be hundreds of years old because of how they're oxidized, he said.

"These weren't made in a day, maybe not even a month," Sinnott said. "You'd have to spend weeks just picking out the eyes with a stone."

It's Sinnott's guess that whoever carved the stones left

behind tools or some evidence of a homestead. He wants to pinpoint a location this summer for an archaeological dig. There he'll look for more stone faces mingled with the debris of a much older civilization that he could date using traces of carbon.

"Whether they're colonial, Native American or from some lost race, they're just fascinating," said Richard Lynch, a Rhode Island geologist and member of the New England Antiquities Research Association.

Lynch believes the stones might have been used for sacrificial rituals. Their flat backs might mean they were supposed to be positioned to stare at the heavens, and their deeply dented mouths could have held burnt offerings.

But not everyone is so sure there's something mythical or spiritual about the stones.

"My first hypothesis is that these are a hoax," said Ed Hood, an archaeologist and research historian at Old Sturbridge Village. "It may be a 50- to 100-year-old hoax. I'm pleased Joe is pursuing this and I'm maintaining an open mind, but I have a feeling there won't be a conclusive answer for who made them."

Hood, who has examined some of the stones, said he can't tell if metal tools were used for the carvings or if someone tried to mask the marks that would have been left by modern tools.

Although he disagrees that the faces were made by modern-day pranksters, Sinnott is open to any other explanation as to who carved them.

"To say they were done by a cult, Native Americans or a lost civilization could be the answer," he said. "But we have no reason to speculate."

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - May 20, 2003 CR: G. Conway

Sights set on the real 'Caddy'

Oak Bay Tourism is launched a season for sighting creature



This is a replica of a Cadborosaurus, now try to find a real one.

VICTORIA — Scientists have known of its existence for more than 100 years. In the 1930s, frequent newspaper accounts gave evidence of this legendary sea serpent's existence.

Today, Oak Bay Tourism, local scientists, community and business leaders all want to bring Oak Bay's own marine dinosaur — the Cadborosaurus back home.

The first annual search for the legend is set to begin today with the kick-off to the first ever "Caddy Sighting Season."

Canadian author and scientist Dr. Paul LeBlond, professor with the Department of Oceanography at UBC, will be present to answer questions on the Cadborosaurus and to share his knowledge of this zoological mystery. Local cryptozoologists will also be on hand to share their research and reported sightings.

Cryptozoology is a term applied to describe animals yet unclassified by science. The name, when translated from the original Greek, literally means the "study of hidden animals."

"Scientists believe it may be migratory," says Jason Walton, team and field

co-ordinator/vice-president of the B.C. Scientific Cryptozoology Club. "Although it has been seen all along the coast from Oregon to the Queen Charlotte's, Oak Bay seems to be the prime location."

Cadborosaurus sightings have dwindled in the past 20 years but the Oak Bay Tourism Committee believe this Mesozoic relic was a strong part of the community in the past — they are hoping to re-introduce it into the Oak Bay community of present.

"Caddy was first sighted in Oak Bay in 1932, just off Chatham Island," says Brian Hobson, member of the Oak Bay Tourism Committee. "It was such an important part of the community for so many years and is now a big part of our cultural heritage... we want to share him with a new generation."

This event hopes to bring Caddy back into the spotlight, through education, first-person sightings and also by encouraging people to capture this legend on videotape.

The only research tool these scientists are missing is the physical proof. Oak Bay Tourism, Caddy Marine Tours, the Oak Bay Business Improvement Association and the Oak Bay Beach Hotel and Marine Resort, are offering a combined sum of \$10,000 to anyone with three-minute video footage of a live Cadborosaurus in the wild, to be approved by a panel of experts.

Second prize will also be offered for a photograph. See www.oakbay-tourism.com for full contest details.

The first annual Oak Bay Cadborosaurus sighting season runs through Sept. 30.

DAILY TIMES, Trail, B.C., Canada - May 15, 2003 CR: G. Conway

Companies won't lay claim to home's irritating buzzing sound

By Lana Rodlie
Times Staff

Audrey Gerein can't figure out what that noise is.

She and husband Larry Doell, a professional photographer, sought silence, building an incredible New Mexican-style straw-bale house five years ago on seven acres in the pristine wilderness of Rossland.

Power and telephone lines are underground, television is two channels with rabbit ears, they are 450 metres down a dirt road from the nearest street, and their closest neighbour is 10 acres away.

"We don't have a furnace. Its geothermal heat," Gerein said. "It's totally quiet. We should hear nothing but nature."

But the silence was interrupted on March 7 by a cyclic vibration, like electrical voltage, humming through the house.

"It's not a steady sound, it's like a horsefly coming at you. I started sleeping with a Walkman to drown out the buzz."

Since Shaw Cable had hooked up high-speed Internet the same day, she had them disconnect the cable from the house.

But when the sound continued, she called Aquila Networks Ltd. The official who responded also heard the noise. He said an exterior power box on a pole 400 metres from the house had been changed.

So the lines were tested and when all was clear, he said it was Shaw Cable.

"So we had (Shaw) shut off the cable a quarter of a mile from our house."

The buzzing continued.

Then on April 16, the power was off for about an hour while Aquila hooked up another house.

"The entire time, it was totally silent until they connected it up

again," Gerein said.

With neither Shaw nor Aquila wanting to take responsibility, she contacted the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission which put her in touch with Industry Canada. They had Shaw shut the signal off on the entire street above them.

But the sound continued.

In exasperation, Gerein checked to hear the sound in other parts of town. Noting that the same noise emanated from various power poles, she wrote to Rossland city council asking for help.

"(Aquila) could put a conditioner on the power line that helps eliminate noise," she said. "There's one by the ski hill."

Although councillor Kim Lafond confirmed "some blocks are humming pretty bad," council decided to see if it gets any more complaints.

In the meantime, Gerein just

wants to know if this bothers anyone else.

"I don't know how it can just be me," Gerein added.

Mike Bradshaw of Aquila said he wasn't familiar with Gerein's circumstances but it sounded to him like the house was not properly grounded.

"We did power upgrades in Rossland two years ago and had a single-pole configuration with the power, telephone and cable all coming from the same poles," he said. "If (the buzzing) happened after another utility showed up, perhaps it did something to the grounding."

Gettysburg the host of Pa. paranormal conference

■ Seminar to focus on ghostly activity.

By R. SCOTT RAPPOLO
For The Evening Sun

The truth is out there. And maybe it's even in Gettysburg.

In March, ghost hunters, Bigfoot trackers and UFO buffs from across Pennsylvania will come to Gettysburg — a town with a ghostly reputation of its own — for a statewide conference on all things paranormal.

The Pennsylvania Paranormal Conference will be held March 22 at the Holiday Inn Battlefield. The event, organized by Lancaster paranormal investigator and author Rick Fisher, began last year in Lancaster. It will focus on the Keystone State's unique paranormal

makeup and history.

Fisher said he chose Gettysburg partly for its central location in Pennsylvania.

But, he added, "Gettysburg seems to be a hotbed of ghostly activity."

Fisher, founder and director of the Pennsylvania Ghost Hunters Society, said he was the first person to conduct a paranormal investigation of the battlefield.

The trauma of those three days in 1863, he said, left a permanent

imprint on the land. While he has never personally seen a ghost, Fisher said he has made audiotapes that have voices and noises he did not hear while recording them. He said he has also taken pictures that show balls of light and mist that were not visible when he snapped the photos.

Fisher said he hears from many people who have strange encounters on the battlefield.

"It's not uncommon for people to drive by and see a Confederate soldier walking along the road. They think it's a re-enactor, but is it?" he said. "I believe, yes, that people do have encounters in Gettysburg."

Gettysburg's ghosts, which have been the topic of numerous books and documentaries, will only be part of the conference, in a lecture by "Ghosts of Gettysburg" author Mark Nesbitt.

A half-dozen other authors

and experts, aside from Nesbitt and Fisher, will speak at the conference, on topics ranging from psychic phenomena to Pennsylvania's own Roswell-like UFO crash to Bigfoot sightings in the state.

Greensburg resident Stan Gordon, an electronics salesman by day, will be among the speakers.

Gordon has investigated hundreds of purported UFO sightings and extensively researched Pennsylvania's Roswell, a 1965 incident in Kecksburg. Numerous residents witnessed something falling from the sky one night and the military showed up to haul something away. But what it was has never been explained.

The unexplained nature of this and other incidents makes Gordon suspect the skies above Pennsylvania have received extra-terrestrial visitors or experienced some other unknown phenomena. He will discuss these during the conference.

Fisher, who for four years has

been holding "Haunted Workshops" in Lancaster, which attract around 70 people, said last year's conference attracted 20 people. He is advertising this year's more and hopes for a larger turnout.

The event runs from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and includes book signings and a Ghosts of Gettysburg walking tour afterwards.

Other speakers include Eric Altman of the Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society, psychic medium, Kelly Weaver and authors Charlie Adams, Dorothy Fiedel, Ed Okonowicz, Katherine Ramsland and Patty Wilson.

The fee for the conference is \$75.

Fisher said most of the people who attend his events are already ghost hunters, but non-believers are welcome to attend, too.

"Even if you're a skeptic, come and listen," Fisher said. "Is it real? Decide for yourself."

"There's a lot of people that take it seriously."



FISHER

Wolds Beast Update

More sightings of the strange beast

PUBLICITY surrounding the Wolds panther has sparked memories of earlier sightings in Louth and Sutton-on-Sea.

It follows reports that the 'big, black, beast' has been seen in the centre of Louth, Swaby, Grimoldby, Manby, Ludford, Hemingby and even Skegness.

The first sighting in Sutton-on-Sea was by seven-year-old Kieran Dunnington who spotted the panther in his back garden on Alford Road, as it prowled through dykes surrounding the property.

His grandmother Joan Dunnington said: "It was the week before anything came out in the papers about the other sightings. I found out that he had seen it purely by chance when his Mum dropped him off at my house. He ran straight past me up to his room and started rummaging through his animal kingdom zoo of beany toys looking for his panther."

"I asked him what he was doing and he said he'd seen one in the garden. He started crawling around to show me how it was moving. I told him it was probably a cat but he was

By Jayne Elliott

convinced it wasn't."

Mrs Dunnington said her grandson, who goes to Willoughby Primary School, must have seen something.

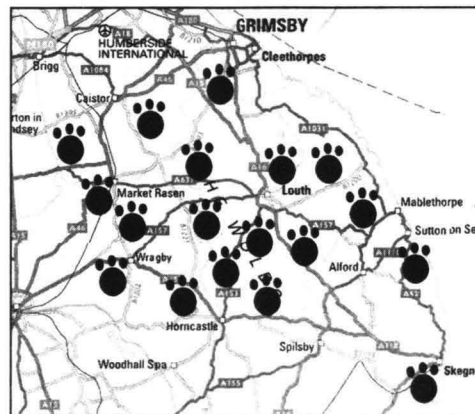
She said: "Kieran doesn't lie or make things up. Plus he can't have read about it in the paper because this was before anything had been printed."

"This makes me think there's some truth in the panther sightings because when a seven-year-old comes out with this it's because they've seen something."

Mum, Alison said: "I feel quite numb and in shock about the fact it has been roaming in our garden. But it's a bit like ghosts - you don't believe in them until you see them. He is now reading about panthers and trying to find out more about them."

Tony Devaney from Champion Way, Mablethorpe, saw the panther in February last year when he and a friend were on their way back from an evening class in Louth.

He said: "As we drove through Maltby-le-Marsh I could



Just some of the locations where the Wolds Beast has been spotted in recent months

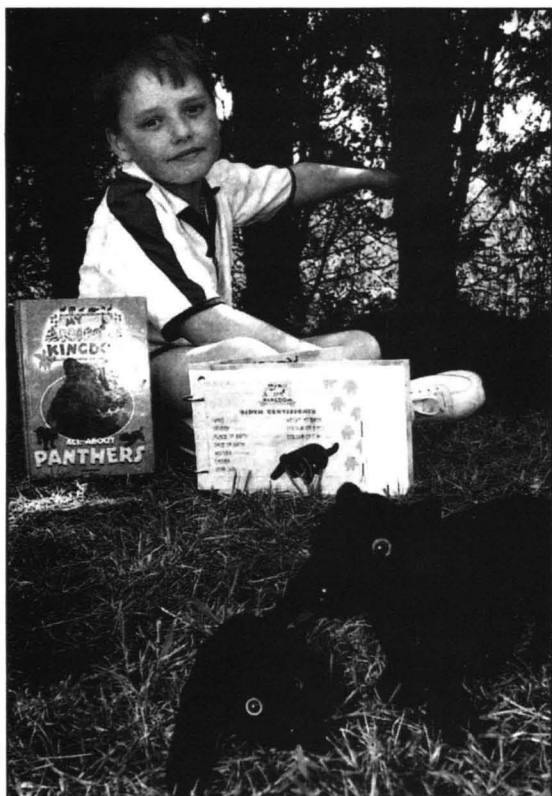
see this big, black and brown thing in the road. At first I thought it was a rotweiler but then I spotted its sharp prick ears and it sprang away. Dogs don't do that."

Mr Devaney said his attitude towards other sightings has

changed since seeing the panther himself.

He said: "I certainly think there is something out there, but what it is I'm not sure."

● If you think you have spotted the Wolds panther, call the newsdesk on 01507 617444.



Seven-year-old Kieran points to the spot where he saw the panther crouching in the dyke. Photo: Ian Holmes.

PCC student and supernatural enthusiast shares ghost story

by Jennifer Blacke
staff writer

The Ghost Hunting Club at Cascade campus draws a variety of folks. PCC student Michelle De Ford is one of them.

"I've always believed in ghosts," she says. And for her, there's a good reason why. "I think it comes from having a close family member die early on." When she was ten years old, De Ford's aunt committed suicide. Since then, she has occasionally had the strange feeling that someone was watching her. "Sometimes I get chills down my spine," she says, adding, "I've always had the assumption that it was her being somewhat of my guardian angel."

On top of the weird feeling she is being spied on, De Ford lives in a haunted house. "It's funny," she reflects, "because we used to rent the house across the street from the one we live in now. There was a very nice older man who lived here and as time went on he got sick and was moved to a retirement home where he later passed on."

The man's descendants sold the house to De Ford's parents, and their family moved in. "Sometimes doors slam, windows shut, things move and the house makes noises at night and sometimes during the day. Every once in a while, in the basement you can hear big band music. It's freaky in a cool way."

Believing in ghosts doesn't interfere with De Ford's spiritual life, although it has caused some problems for her in a religious sense. "My dad gave me a hard time when he found out I was joining this club, because of my religious background," she says. While she attended church for many years and was even baptized, she doesn't consider herself a member of any congregation. "I guess I am a lot more spiritual than I am religious."

She found the Ghost Hunting Club through a friend from high school who was also at Cascade campus. "She said she signed up for it and put my name down as well." They were soon contacted by Jennifer DeLeon, the club president. Says De Ford, "It's been pretty interesting ever since."

As a big fan of ghosts, De Ford has advice for others who want to begin hunting for them. "Taking pictures is good, because most of the time you can justify whether you have seen them or not." She explains, "Ghosts are attracted to electricity."

This assertion was recently validated. As a participant in a field trip by the Ghost Hunting Club to Sunset Finley Hills Cemetery earlier this year, De Ford reports that, "My brand new camera batteries were drained before I even started taking pictures." Making things even more spooky was the fact that this is the cemetery where De Ford's deceased aunt is buried. DeLeon took a picture of De Ford being surrounded by fog. Says De Ford, "I am almost sure it's her — my dead aunt."

On a final note, De Ford wants people to remember one thing. Despite movies like *Casper*, "Most ghosts aren't 'mean' as some people would assume."

If you are interested in joining the Ghost Hunting Club, e-mail president Jennifer DeLeon at daviddeleon@ados.com or call 503-366-9524. There is also a sign-up form in the office of Cascade Campus student government.

\$100,000 if you can fake 'real' Bigfoot prints

\$100,000 is being offered by the Willow Creek - China Flat Museum to anyone who can demonstrate how the Bigfoot tracks that were observed in the Bluff Creek valley in Northern California in 1958 and later could have been made by a human or humans.

The first person or group that can meet the conditions of the offer will receive the money. However, the conditions are not easy, a museum spokesperson said Tuesday.

The offer is a result of recent publicity that has created a perception that the Bluff Creek tracks were a hoax carried out by a practical joker wearing a large pair of carved wooden feet.

The museum in Willow Creek has casts of some of the tracks available for inspection. It also has related photographs and published accounts of what was done and observed in connection with the tracks. There are also people available for consultation who studied the tracks when they were made.

A successful applicant for the \$100,000 prize would have to be able to make flat-footed, human-like tracks with more than twice the area of human feet and longer-than-human strides that do the follow-

ing:

- Traverse a variety of terrains, including climbing, descending, and crossing steep slopes covered with underbrush.

- Show variations of shape and toe position and stride accommodated to the terrain.

- Sink into firm ground to far greater depth than human footprints, specifically as much as an inch deep in hard sand where human prints barely penetrate.

- Leave hard objects in the ground, such as stones, sticking up above the rest of the track.

The applicant will also have to be able to make these tracks under the following conditions, although not all in combination:

- In the dark, in a single night.

- In places where it is impossible to take any vehicle or other machine or any equipment except what humans or animals could carry.

- Without doing anything to attract the notice of people a few hundred yards away.

As soon as the document setting out the requirements to qualify for the award is completed, the museum will announce where applicants may obtain information.

John Green, a Bigfoot investigator, journalist, and author, is rais-

ing the \$100,000.

Willow Creek - China Flat Museum Board President Jo Ann Hereford said the museum has been assisting Bigfoot investigators in trying to get investigative reporters to take a look at the account put forward by the Ray Wallace family. The museum staff and others have pointed out that what has happened so far is that people who weren't there and didn't participate in the supposedly faked footprints are saying it happened.

"Sounds like hearsay to me," Hereford said. "A judge would throw it out of court in a nanosecond. Yet the news media are accepting the story as gos-

pel truth."

The challenge is reminiscent of one made by the old television program "Truth or Consequences." In 1958, the program's producers offered \$1,000 to the first individual to make Bigfoot tracks. There was no shortage of people who tried, but none could make satisfactory tracks.

Hereford, having worked with loggers and road builders for years, said she didn't know many who were so flush with cash that they could afford to pass up this kind of money if they had truly made the original tracks and would be assured of winning.

DAILY COURIER, Grants Pass, OR - June 4, 2003

Man wants to halt Galice timber sale to save Bigfoot

By Patricia Snyder
of the Daily Courier

A Washington man wants to halt a timber sale near Galice because he says it threatens habitat for an endangered species: Bigfoot.

Karl Breheim, who lives in Otis Orchards near Spokane, said in a telephone interview that he and girlfriend Nancy Dean Paulson encountered the legendary biped seven years ago. He didn't go public because he didn't want people to laugh at him or to attract hunters interested in killing Bigfoot, popularly thought of as a myth.

"You talk about Bigfoot, people think you're crazy," he said.

He revisited the area in April as part of ongoing research into an early gold assayer and was surprised to find marked trees.

Now, Breheim is worried that keeping silent will threaten a species that he claims he has the evidence to prove exists.

He said he has pieces of a heavy plastic foam tool box that could yield DNA evidence from a bite, as well as infrared photographs and foot casts from subsequent visits to the area. The public could lose if he doesn't speak out, he said.

"I feel like it's going to be a disaster," he said.

The Bureau of Land Management's Peavine timber sale is scheduled to be offered in September.

Breheim said he and his girlfriend were in the Peavine area seven years ago researching the assayer. He'd hadn't seen anyone else in the area during previous visits.

They went to town for the night and returned the next day.

"The first thing we noticed, the place was all trashed," he said. About 50 small trees were broken off some 8 to 9 feet above the ground. He'd left a tool box made of heavy grade plastic foam, and it had what looked like a round, foot-long bite mark with pieces spit 20 feet, he added.

"When we saw that, we left immediately, it was so terrifying," he said.

They left the tool box pieces, and the forest grew up around them. He retrieved them during his last visit in the hopes that they still shelter DNA evidence from the mouth of Bigfoot. He's since pursued research of the creature, making more visits to the region and bringing back what he believes is evidence to justify at least delaying the sale for an investigation.

Breheim said he doesn't want to halt all timber harvests, as he understands the need for fire suppression and wood products.

"I just want to save the old growth that these things are living in," he said.

He wants to find someone to test for Bigfoot DNA. Breheim, 49, can't afford it because he's living on veteran's disability, he added.

Ashland is home to the U.S. National Forensic Laboratory, the only full-function crime lab in the world devoted to wildlife.

It's work includes DNA study, but it accepts cases only from law enforcement agencies across the United States. Another option might be a university research lab, but so far Breheim hasn't found one willing to bite.

His story sparked sympathy from Southern Oregon Bigfoot Society, formed after a Grants Pass psychologist told his story of encountering a creature while hiking with his family near the Oregon Caves National Monument in 2000.

SOBS collects stories of Bigfoot encounters and places a sitting of a female and juvenile 10 years ago in the same area as Breheim's encounter, said Ray Rosa, the group's vice president. Southern Oregon Bigfoot Society research, concentrated near the Oregon Caves, also seeks to prove Bigfoot exists and secure habitat protection.

If people continue to encroach, the species could die off, Rosa said.

In order to protect the species from extinction, someone must first prove it exists.

BLM works with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor timber sales for protected species, such as spotted owls, said Doug Henry, forest planner for the Grants Pass Resource Area. An environmental assessment for the Peavine thinning sale includes statements on creatures from spotted owls to red tree voles. No one has petitioned to halt the sale because of Bigfoot.

"If it's an identified endangered species, then of course the Fish and Wildlife Service would be involved," he said.

They would have to see real evidence to halt a sale because of Bigfoot, Henry said.

"It's not listed as an endangered species," he said.

□ □ □

Reach reporter Patricia Snyder at 474-3817 or psnyder@thedailycourier.com

The Straight Dope

Flying objections

Sudden, intense explosion remains unsolved in Siberia

BY CECIL ADAMS

QI've just been rereading Rupert Fumaux's 1977 book *The Tungus Event* about the massive explosion that occurred in the Tunguska region of Siberia in 1908. The book does not come to any firm conclusion about the cause, although a meteorite is probably the main suspect. What is the latest thinking on this? I have tried Google but what information there is seems to have been hijacked by the UFO brigade. What caused the explosion?

—Rayne Man, via the Straight Dope Message Board

A Probably a comet or an asteroid, though the question hasn't been definitely settled. This answer disappoints some people, who'd prefer something more in an *X-Files* vein (Tunguska figured in an *X-Files* episode, in fact). My feeling is, we're talking about an extraterrestrial object with a mass of at least 100,000 tons that exploded with a force of 10 to 40 megatons of TNT and devastated 2,000 square kilometers of forest. This isn't cool enough?

The Tunguska whatever-it-was detonated six to eight kilometers above a remote section of the central Siberian plateau on June 30, 1908, at 7:14am local time. Herdsmen and traders 60 kilometers away saw a fireball brighter than the sun, felt fierce heat, then heard a deafening explosion. Thirty kilometers away huts were flattened, and people were flung into the air and knocked unconscious. At ground zero herds of reindeer were incinerated and forest fires burned for weeks.

News of the blast was slow to reach the outside world, but there were widespread signs that something odd had happened. The flash was visible 700 kilometers away and tremors from the explosion were recorded at a seismic station over 5,000 kilometers away in Jena, Germany.

Anomalies in atmospheric pressure were observed by meteorologists in western Europe and North America, and the night skies over Europe glowed with an abnormal light due to a rare phenomenon called noctilucent ("night-shining") clouds.

Initial reports filtering out of Siberia suggested that a meteorite was responsible. But details were so fragmentary, the site so distant and conditions in Russia so unsettled that the event wasn't investigated until 1927, when Soviet scientist Leonid Kulik led an expedition to the blast zone, a vast region of scorched and

flattened trees with their trunks all pointing toward ground zero. Kulik was sure he would find a large meteoric body buried there but never did, despite repeated drilling. He never found an impact crater either. In fact, aside from some dust-size bits of mineral called "spherules," whose presence may or may not be connected to the blast, no one has ever found a piece of the mass that exploded.

In attempting to account for these anomalies, scientists have proposed a number of theories: (1) The blast occurred when the nuclear engine of a Martian spaceship blew up. This idea is crackpot, of course, but when Soviet engineer Aleksander Kazantsev advanced it in a science fiction story published in the aftermath of Hiroshima the nuclear angle provoked some interest. Kazantsev's story

had the added merit of suggesting

that the explosion occurred some distance above the ground, a notion now accepted by virtually everyone. (2) The object was a comet and thus produced minimal debris, since a comet's head is mostly dust and ice. This theory remains popular, although critics argue that comets are too flimsy to plunge deep enough into the earth's atmosphere to create such a blast. (3) It was a stony asteroid that disintegrated

before reaching the ground. Initially proposed by a Russian researcher in 1960, this idea was revived to great fanfare in 1993 by American scientists Christopher Chyba, Paul Thomas and Kevin Zahnle, designers of a computer model that shows that an object 60 meters in diameter moving through the atmosphere at 15 kilometers per second would have produced a Tunguska-like catastrophe. Many in the media pronounced the mystery solved, but other scientists say the case is far from proven. (4) It was a chunk of antimatter, an idea seriously proposed in 1941 and not ruled out until the mid-'60s. (5) It was a black hole. Proposed by two American scientists in 1973, this theory is dismissed by most other investigators as hopelessly naive. (6) It was a laser shot from an extraterrestrial civilization trying to contact us, etc. At this point we get back into the realm of those UFOlogists you mention, about which we will say no more.

Informed lay opinion presently seems to favor an asteroid, while the majority of scientists appear to prefer the comet scenario. A quick conclusion to the debate seems unlikely. But don't despair. More than 150 cosmic impact craters have been identified on the earth's surface. Between 1975 and 1992 military satellites detected 136 objects between 30 and 50 meters in diameter exploding in the upper atmosphere. An asteroid 13 meters in diameter missed us by just 105,000 kilometers in 1994, and there are lots more where that one came from. If you want another blast to compare to Tunguska, just wait.

