

UFO

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EL DEFENSOR CHIEFTAIN, Socorro, NM - July 23, 2003

Socorro's UFO incident still unexplained

By Valerie Kimble
For El Defensor Chieftain

Little did Socorro patrolman Lonnie Zamora know that a single incident recorded almost 40 years ago would change his life, and the city's, forever.

Around 5:45 p.m. on April 24, 1964, Zamora was in his patrol vehicle in hot pursuit of a speeder when he heard something that sounded like an explosion.

The five-year veteran patrolman stopped chasing the fleeing vehicle to investigate what he thought might have been the detonation of a shack of dynamite.

Zamora followed a narrow, gravel road beside a small arroyo, and radioed in that he was going to check on what looked like it might have been an overturned vehicle.

He drove further on the gravel road and then exited his patrol vehicle to get a better look.

What Zamora described next has been chronicled and analyzed by UFO experts around the world. Most reports refer to an egg-shaped object supported by legs, and the presence of two beings described as children or small adults.

A loud roar and the flash of a bluish flame sent Zamora to the ground for cover before he jumped up and ran to the other side of the gravel road.

Zamora heard a whirring sound and watched the object rise out of the arroyo; the "legs" he had seen earlier were no longer in view.

Not long after the object's disappearance, he was joined by State Police Sgt. Sam Chavez who had overheard Zamora's radio dispatch. The two officers began to scour the area for clues.

And thus began an investigation into one of the most widely circulated UFO stories ever, one that propelled tiny Socorro into the center of the unidentified flying object universe.

Dave Treseder, a teen-age disk jockey at local station KSRC-AM, found himself answering telephone queries from people with prestigious-sounding titles.

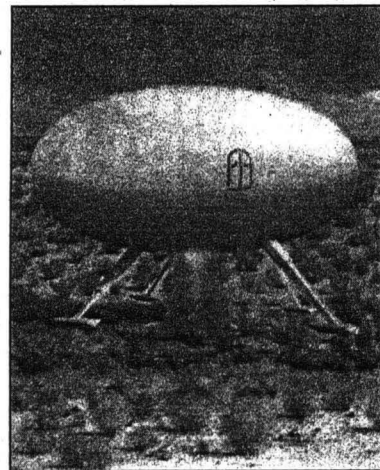
The city itself was inundated with visitors from the military to the merely curious.

Zamora, meanwhile, was at the center of the maelstrom. It would be difficult to find a UFO aficionado who has not heard of him, or tried to get in touch with him, to hear from the eyewitness himself just what he saw in the desert south of Socorro on that April afternoon.

The aftermath

Lonnie Zamora, now long retired from the city, declined an interview with El Defensor Chieftain regarding this article. "I just don't talk about it any more," he said.

That was not the case initially. An article in the Feb. 9, 1965, issue of El Defensor Chieftain reported that "the



An artist's rendition of the UFO.

EAST OREGONIAN,
Pendleton, OR
Aug. 11, 2003

UFO forum scheduled

PENDLETON — A UFO forum is scheduled at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Shari's Restaurant in Pendleton.

Participants will discuss UFOs, Bigfoot and other paranormal information, as well as information from Roy Timm of Pendleton regarding his trip to Silver City, N.M.

The meeting is open to the public, and those attending are invited to share their experiences.

For more information, call Timm at 276-2756.

Socorro part" of a documentary on Unidentified Flying Objects had been completed" with Zamora as one of the principals.

The Chieftain quoted the executive producer of the project as saying that "Zamora's unchanged and straightforward account was similar to 16 other verified UFO sightings in various parts of the world."

The newspaper reported that several other residents had been interviewed for the documentary including Mayor Holm O. Bursum Jr., State Police Sgt. Chavez, City Clerk Raymond L. Senn, Steve Torres Jr., Mrs. Howard Terry and Mrs. Vince Cardinalli. Walter Shrode, then owner of KSRC radio, conducted the interviews.

In its June 29, 1965, issue, the

Chieftain ran an article and editorial announcing the publication of "Anatomy of a Phenomenon: Unidentified Objects in Space — A Scientific Appraisal" by Jacques Valle.

The article included the following quote: "On April 24, 1964, Officer L. Zamora saw a bright object which landed on four legs two miles out of Socorro, New Mexico. It has been argued, and even 'categorically stated' that the Socorro object was not interplanetary, but very probably one of the experimental devices recently developed by the U.S. for the exploration of the moon and planets."

However, Valle went on to say that "a good report is 100 percent unexplained."

No end to the interest

The fascination with the unexplained, and the inexplicable,

continues, as evidenced by the number of web sites detailing the Socorro UFO landing of 1964; one, by Chris Lambright, that bears the words, "Socorro the Zamora Sighting" and a black-and-white image of Zamora in a police officer's uniform.

"Of all the evidence that could be presented to support the contention that what Lonnie Zamora saw was something totally unexplained, perhaps nothing is more compelling than (an article written by Hector Quintanilla Jr., former head of the Air Force's Project Bluebook)."

Lambright quoted from Quintanilla's article, written for a formerly classified CIA publication called "Studies in Intelligence" from the fall of 1966:

"There is no doubt that Lonnie Zamora saw an object which left quite an impression on him. There is

also no question about Zamora's reliability. He is a serious police officer, a pillar of his church, and a man well versed in recognizing airborne vehicles in his area.

"He is puzzled by what he saw, and frankly, so are we. This is the best-documented case on record, and still we have been unable, in spite of thorough investigation, to find the vehicle or other stimulus that scared Zamora to the point of panic."

Not all saucers have caused such controversy. Witness this news account in the Nov. 16, 1980, issue of the Chieftain:

"The U.S. Air Force has a Flying Saucer operating from this base, the public relations office recently revealed. Johnson Base personnel are quite proud of their Flying Saucer. He is T/Sgt. Abner Saucer Jr. of the 13th Bomb Squadron."

UFO network's volunteers scour the skies

By BILL RADFORD
Knight Ridder

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Members of the Mutual UFO Network keep their eyes on the skies.

The Mutual UFO Network Inc., or MUFON, a nonprofit corporation founded in 1969, calls itself the world's largest civilian UFO research organization. The group uses volunteer investigators to gather information on UFO sightings reported by the public, local authorities and media.

The volunteers are trained on interviewing witnesses, collecting physical evidence and other aspects of an inquiry, relying on the 300-plus-page "MUFON Field Investigator's Manual." Reports are sent up the MUFON chain of command and essential factors are entered into a computerized database for analysis.

MUFON, based in Denver, has chapters in all 50 states. The Colorado chapter has 122 members, state director

Leslie Varnicle said.

Ed Burke, assistant state director of Colorado MUFON and a Colorado Springs resident, said sightings in the Pikes Peak region are infrequent. The Black Forest area, though, is known for "some strange stuff: fireballs, balls of light, things like that."

Burke's most recent investigation was that of a family who reported several sightings late last year around Monument, Colo., including a large disc in the sky.

"I think they really saw something," he said.

Burke hasn't spotted a UFO himself. "I've seen a few lights in the sky, but they were probably just airplanes."

Varnicle, though, has witnessed several sightings, including a craft that was no more than 150 feet off the ground. Although she knows of no conclusive proof of alien visits, "the evidence that we have in MUFON makes for a compelling case."

SURFING FOR ALIENS

Type in UFO at www.google.com and you'll get 2 million-plus entries. Here are a few places to start:

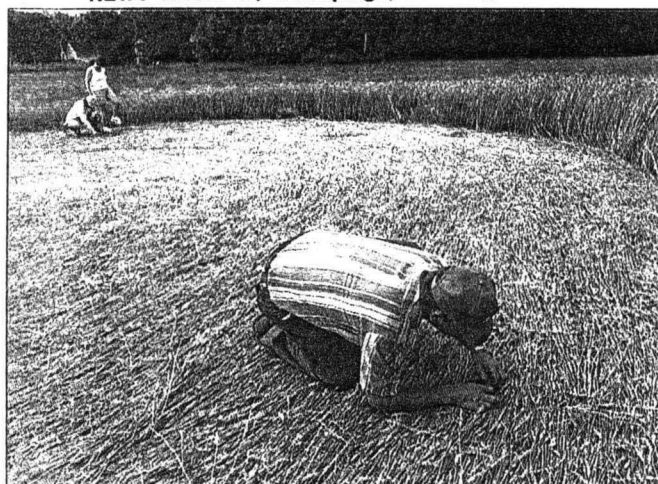
■ www.cufos.org, the Center for UFO Studies. Includes UFO case reports, a review of government UFO documents on the Internet and a list of recommended reading.

■ www.nsa.gov/docs/efoia/released/ufo.html lists UFO information released to the public by the National Security Agency in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

■ ufos.about.com/mbody.htm, maintained by UFO researcher Loy Lawhon. Includes the "ABCs of UFOs."

■ www.nuforc.org, the National UFO Reporting Center. Includes monthly listing of UFO sightings.

NEWS-GAZETTE, Champaign, IL - Aug. 5, 2003



Susan Tusa/AP/Detroit Free Press

Crop circle

Mike Esper, 55, of Howell Township, Mich., looks for wheat stalks with burnt nodules in a crop circle in his wheat field Monday. He has no idea

how it got there. People are flocking to the farm to see three circles. At back are Denise Black, left, and Susan Davis, both of Milford, Mich.

Copycats, or aliens' return? New crop circle found

By Tim Fields
DAILY REPUBLIC

FAIRFIELD — A new design was found this week stamped into a wheat field a half mile south of the Rockville crop circle formation.

The design is a circle, about 15 feet in diameter with an attached 50-foot stem. Compared to the Rockville formation, it looks rather sloppy, with ill-defined edges and a spiraling clumpy carpet of stalks.

Finding new shapes near large formations is common in crop circle

cases, and the reasons why range from people having a good laugh to aliens, said Jon-Erik Beckjord, the former director of the UFO, Bigfoot, Nessie and Crop Circle Museum in San Francisco. While the museum closed in the late 1990s his Web site on crop circles can be found at www.beckjord.com/circles/.

The new formation could be a "grapeshot," which means it's an offshoot from the Rockville formation.

A week ago, local farmer Larry Balestra discovered the Rockville formation crop circles. He found

more than a dozen circles stamped into his 80-acre wheat field on the corner of Rockville and Suisun Valley roads. The shapes cover a distance longer than a football field.

According to crop circle investigators, the Rockville formation is the largest and most complex design ever reported in the United States.

At first, Beckjord didn't believe the Rockville formation was authentic. After seeing photographs from the media, however, and once he

The Rockville formation is the largest and most complex design ever reported in the U.S., according to crop circle investigators.

stepped into the formation on Friday, he began to doubt his doubts, he said.

"The formation is huge and would take a tremendous amount of work to complete," he said.

Despite his high hopes, he said it's nearly impossible to prove 100 percent if any crop circle formation was not made by human hands, unless someone saw something create it, he said.

According to one Fairfield woman, she did.

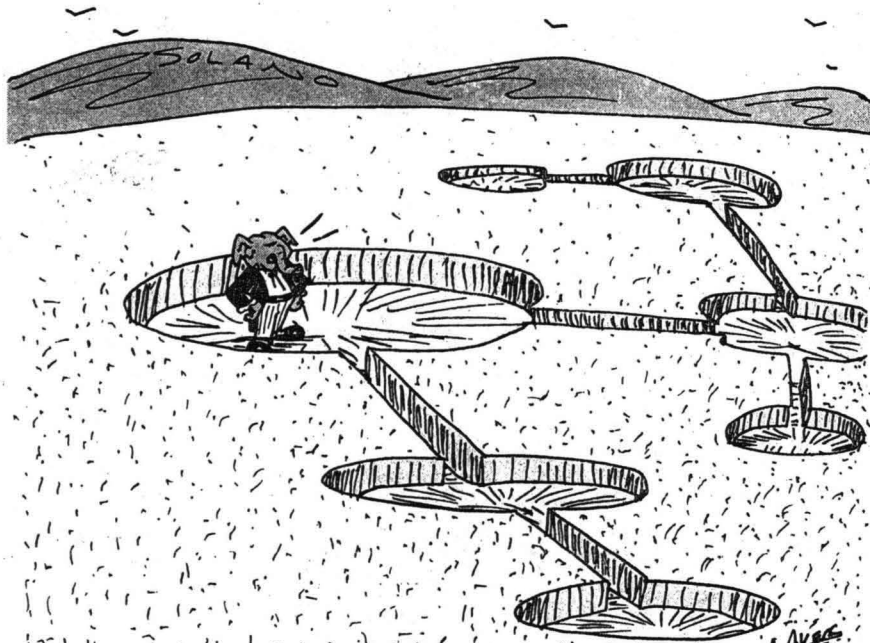
On Saturday morning at 4 a.m., Laciia Langlais, 18, and three of her friends stood in a driveway on East Tennessee Court in Fairfield. They saw three oval shapes in the direction of Rockville Road and when the red and orange shapes descended toward the road, they ran inside, a bit freaked out, she said.

"We didn't know if we were getting bombed, or if it was just Travis Air Force Base doing something," she said.

Tim Fields can be reached at tfields@dailyrepublic.net.

REPORTER, Vacaville, CA - July 17, 2003

EDITORIAL



"SOMEHOW GOVERNOR DAVIS HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS"

Much ado about circles

Budget debacle takes a back seat to wheat field enigma

The mere mention of four teenagers claiming responsibility for the crop circles that appeared recently in a field at Rockville Corners stirred more fuss and furor than the state budget deficit.

It is discouraging to think that a debate over who is responsible for flattened wheat will inspire people more than who should be held accountable for a \$38 billion-plus financial quagmire.

Who cares who did it? The crop circles, not the budget morass, that is.

We should all be up in arms over how California's governor and Legislature, with plenty of warning, let the state's economy slip over the edge. Some things were beyond their control, but they let their re-election get in the way of good governance. They are making difficult choices now. They could have made painful, but less difficult, choices before.

Still, all of that, at least locally, has taken a back seat to the debate over whether four high-schoolers worked through a night to design something that has brought thousands to Solano County. The dispute continues on the editorial

pages of the local newspapers.

There's a bit of one-upsmanship among the media. TV stations jockey for a better story. The metropolitan newspapers sail into town to deliver "the story." And local newspapers battle, as usual, for the latest developments.

“There are too many people taking this way too serious.”

As much as the stories are written with tongue pressed into cheek, at times, there are too many people taking this way too serious.

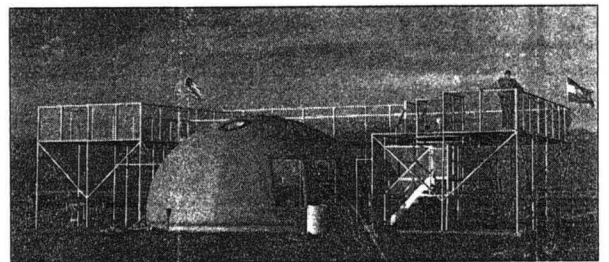
Did the teens do it? It's hard to say, though many portray The Reporter's coverage as proponents of the teens and their

story. A competing newspaper goes out of its way to debunk their story, which was first published elsewhere.

Our report on the teens' claim came with the imperative qualifications, including experts' disbelief that four youths could have done it. As we said in an editor's note with our story about the teens claims, "with crop circle stories and tales of the paranormal, we understand that ultimately, you will believe what you want to believe."

But in the end, who really cares who dunit?

GAZETTE, Colorado Springs, CO - Aug. 4, 2003



THE GAZETTE FILE

ALIEN CHECKPOINT: Hooper's UFO Watchtower is in the heart of the mystical San Luis Valley, an area with no light pollution.

On watch for visitors

UFOs big business

Is Colorado's San Luis Valley a top vacation spot for visitors from other worlds?

The valley has long been a hot spot for the unexplained, from cattle mutilations to whispers of secret bases to lights zig-zagging across the sky. And for three years, it has been home to the UFO Watchtower, which welcomes humans and aliens alike.

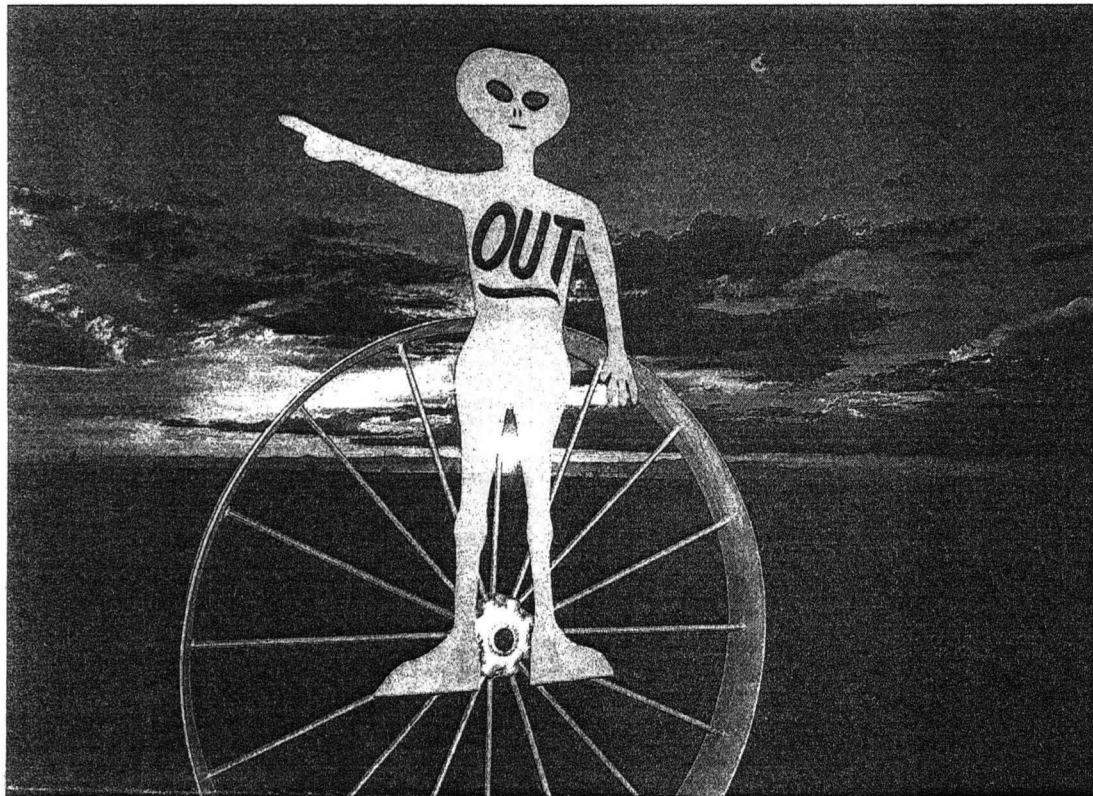
Unable to make a go of her ranch, Judy Messoline opened the UFO Watchtower on Memorial Day 2000. An igloo-shaped, UFO-themed gift shop sits partly under the 10-foot tower.

The site draws UFO buffs as well as the merely curious. "This year, we've had large buses come in, which has been really nice," Messoline says.

There have been about two-dozen sightings from the tower, from a long, narrow object that zipped across the sky to an object that resembled the bottom of a roulette wheel.

"I don't know if they're little green men or not," Messoline says of the sightings, "but they're strange."

The UFO Watchtower is on Colorado Highway 17 just north of the town of Hooper. Hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. — though it stays open later if there's activity in the sky, Messoline says. There used to be a small charge to visit the Watchtower, but now donations are welcomed. For more information, call 1-719-378-2271 or go to www.ufowatchtower.com.



Denver Post photos / Andy Cross

A handcrafted alien points the way on Judy Messoline's ranch in Hooper, home of the UFO Watchtower and campground. About 50 people attended Messoline's second-annual UFO Watch on Saturday to hear speakers and scan the skies for interstellar visitors.

Truth or not, they're out there

Eclectic group on lookout for UFOs at San Luis Valley ranch

By Becca Blond
Special to The Denver Post

HOOPER — With her chin cupped in her tiny hand and the wind gently blowing her bright red hair around, Moi-Ra Dove listened intently as a woman spoke about the day she was abducted by aliens.

For many people, extraterrestrial abductions, flying saucers, bizarre flashing lights and animal mutilations are nothing more than the raw material of a good episode of "The X-Files."

But not for the group of more than 50 gathered at the UFO Watchtower and Campground on Saturday for the second annual UFO Watch.

To these men and women, the paranormal is just a part of life. They say they believe in the often unseen. And some, like Moi-Ra Dove and her partner Ra-Ja Dove, who traveled to Saturday's gathering from California, are convinced they are not from this planet.

Moi-Ra, who stands about 4 feet tall, immigrated to the United States from the Philippines in the 1970s.

But she believes she is actually from Venus. "I'm on an interplanetary mission to bring peace and love to Earth. I come from Venus, a planet that is all about love. I tell people I don't understand any way other than love," she said.

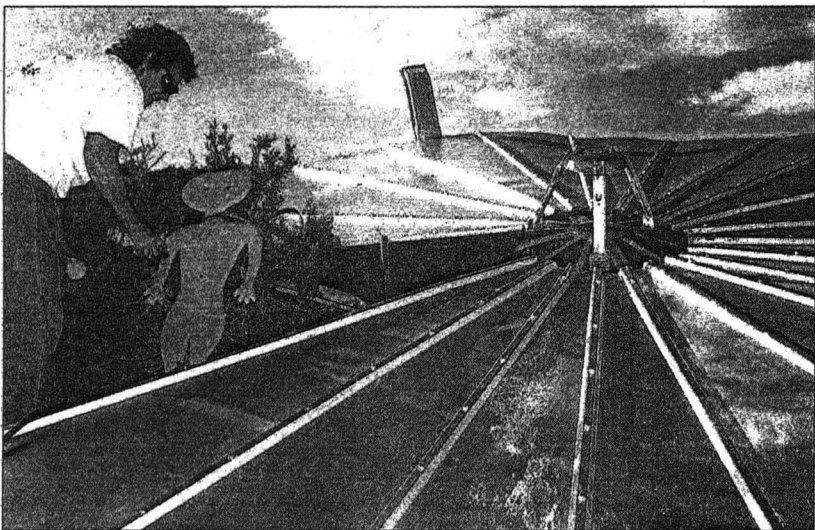
Moi-Ra said she often travels to Venus in a spirit form. "There is nothing materialistic about Venus. No money is ever exchanged," she said. "You float while you are there and the houses we stay in sway."

Their ideas might sound absurd to many, but not to the group gathered at Judy Messoline's campground at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo mountains.

Saturday's UFO Watch is the second one Messoline has thrown since building the watchtower in 2000. She said it's important to have these gatherings.

"People that have had these experiences need to be able to get together with others who've had similar experiences and talk about it without anyone laughing at them," Messoline said.

Messoline said she never expected to get into the UFO business. She moved to Hooper in



Judy Messoline spray-paints an alien figure next to a model of a UFO. After her cattle business failed, Messoline built the watchtower — and says she has sighted 16 UFOs herself since.



Ra-Ja Dove was visiting the UFO watchtower from his home in California, but he also says that he's from Jupiter. This is the second year for the UFO Watch in the San Luis Valley.

1995 to raise cattle. She always joked about building a UFO watchtower, however, because the area is known for its high levels of UFO sightings.

Those who believe in the paranormal say the area is a giant antenna that attracts alien life forms. Indian legend says the area is a window to other worlds. There have been hundreds of unexplained sightings. Some say

they've seen crafts as long as a mile. Others cite dozens of fireballs filling the sky.

For those who believe, UFOs are no joke. Serious scholars say ancient woodcarvings and more recent photographs and videotapes back up their beliefs.

"Do your homework and research because there's enough evidence out there that anyone spending a few days researching

the available evidence will find it is overwhelming," said Tim Edwards, a UFO videographer and researcher who spoke at the gathering.

Messoline said that it wasn't until her cattle business failed that she seriously thought about building the watchtower. "I'd always heard the UFO stories, but I was skeptical. I mean, I have a hard time dealing with the little green men theory," Messoline said.

She planned to charge admission to the tower and run a little business. The admission fee never caught on, so she set out a donation basket instead. People began to pour in from all over the country and the world.

Soon her watchtower had become a magnet for those interested in paranormal activity. And Messoline herself has become a little less skeptical.

"Since we built the tower, we've had 23 sightings. I've seen 16 of them myself," she said. "So I've started to think something is going on. I mean, there are these bizarre lights going at incredible speeds and then just stopping."

"There has to be life outside of this universe," Messoline said. "There just isn't any other explanation."

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH

Aug. 28, 2003 CR: J. Fry

Encounter with Mars nothing new to some folks

For most of us, last night's intimate orbital flirtation between Mars and Earth was the stuff of which celestial "oohs" and "aahs" are made.

For devotees of the Unarius Educational Foundation — some of whom

say they've already visited Mars — the event may have been just another yawn-inspiring, been-there-done-that moment.



MIKE HARDEN

Utah native Ernest Norman launched Unarius in 1954 after claiming to have visited the red planet through astral travel and toured its vast network of under-

ground cities at the behest of his Martian guide, Nur El.

"He transitioned in 1971," Unarius spokeswoman Tracey Kennedy said. In the prosaic language of the earth-bound, Norman kissed the floor (although Kennedy avoided using the word *died*).

"He has evolved," Kennedy said in an interview from La Mesa, Calif., near the El Cajon headquarters of Unarius. "He lives in his celestial body, which is a high-, high-frequency energy body." Norman didn't seem to think there was anything astounding about his professed Mars visit that would prevent other earthlings from doing the same.

He believed that the mind is a fourth-dimension energy device, not unlike a TV broadcasting system.

Getting to Mars was no more complicated than mastering the workings of one's personal energy body.

To assist with this process, Unarius initiated a 22-lesson home-study course: "The Psychology of Consciousness."

Kennedy said each lesson costs \$3 to \$5, making Mars accessible for possibly less than \$100.

"We've lived many lives before on this planet," she explained, "and we will live many more other lives on other planets and in other dimensions."

In other words, to borrow from the broadcast-station analogy, a person's being, his energy body, is like a cable network that keeps churning out sitcoms. Each sitcom is a life and — like a sitcom — a person sometimes gets canceled (or transitioned) after only a short run.

One life could have been *I Love Lucy*. Another might have been more like *My Mother the Car*.

One of the late Norman's lives was apparently *Star Trek*, for he visited Mars and learned:

- Martians immigrated to their current habitat from a dying planet more than 1 million years ago. They considered Earth and even started a colony but didn't care for our planet.

- All Martian cities lie underground, linked by long metal tubes that, Norman contended, earthbound astronomers have mistaken for canals.

- "There are no public schools." Unarius literature explains of Mars. "The child is taught to a large extent in his sleep (similar to American middle schoolers after a Johnny Marzetti lunch)."

- "A Z-ray device . . . imparts the lessons or knowledge directly into his subconscious mind. Usually a child will have the equivalent (of) a college education by the time he or she has reached the age of 10."

"It's not hocus-pocus," Kennedy defended. "It's not mysticism."

Instead of watching Mars through telescopes, we could be there.

It's as easy as www.unarius.com.

Say hello to Ernest.

Mike Harden is a Dispatch columnist.
mharden@dispatch.com

Close encounters of the Merle kind

Hag to host UFO fest in Roswell

By Chrissie Dickinson
Special to the Tribune

Listen up, Fox Mulder. Merle Haggard is throwing his hat into the extraterrestrial ring.

On July 5, the country legend will debut Merle Haggard's 1st Annual UFO Music Fest at the Eastern New Mexico State Fair Rodeo Arena in Roswell, N.M. The concert — which also includes country stars Marty Stuart and Pam Tillis on the bill — is part of the 2003 Roswell UFO Festival, which runs Thursday through Saturday.

The appearance is not just another stop on the concert trail for the iconic road warrior. For the Hag, it's the fruition of a long-held personal interest in the infamous Roswell Incident.

"I believe the Roswell Incident happened," says Haggard, calling from his home in California. "The Roswell thing happens to be something I believe occurred, and they can put me in whatever category they want to there."

Haggard is among the legion of believers who cite that event as evidence of alien existence. In a nutshell: The Roswell Incident occurred in July 1947, when a sheep herder named W.W. "Mac" Brazel discovered unusual debris on a crash site in a field northwest of Roswell.

Subject of debate

What followed in the wake of Brazel's discovery has been five decades of debate: Was the debris simply the remnants of a crashed weather balloon, as Army Air Force officials claimed, or was it the detritus of a crashed alien spaceship? Among some skeptics of the official government version, there has even been speculation that alien bodies were retrieved at the site.

Does Haggard believe that it was the debris of an alien spacecraft?

"I do. I think our technology that we have now came from that," he says. "I think all the technology that we have today — at least laser beam technology, all of this computer knowledge that we have — all came from what came out of those ships. Prior to that, we had nothing; our technology was a 100,000 years behind that. All of a sudden America had all this knowledge. Even Russia realized it. They're not afraid of us because we've created this great armed forces. They're afraid of us because of what we have, our technology. And they know we have something, and I think we got it out there."

Besides Haggard's concert, the overall UFO festival includes the Plateau Wireless UFO Electric Light Parade, the Classic Sci-Fi Film Festival, the Alien Costume Contest and the 10K Alien Chase Fun Run. More information on the festival can be obtained at www.UFORoswell.com.

Organizers of the UFO festival, now in its ninth year, didn't need to entice Haggard to participate.

"Merle brought Merle," says Carl Lucas, executive director of the festival. "Merle is coming to Roswell. Merle wants this, and this is Merle's baby. They contacted us, he rented the venue, he's securing all the marketing for it, and he's putting together his portion of the festival, and he's doing it 100 percent his way."

Doing it his way has always been an apt description of Haggard. A member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, Haggard reigns in the annals of country music as a genuine titan. As a singer, songwriter and ban-

dleader, the 66-year-old Hag boasts one of the richest canons in the genre. His massive body of work includes such classics as "Mama Tried," "Okie From Muskogee" and "Workin' Man Blues."

Country music coincidence

So why is Haggard now dedicated to starting his own annual UFO music fest? Partly, there's a historical country music coincidence involved. One of Haggard's own musical heroes, the late country star Lefty Frizzell, was living in Roswell in 1947. At the time of the July crash, the 19-year-old Frizzell was making a local name for himself on radio and stage. But an incident with an underage girl soon wreaked havoc for the young singer.

In August, Frizzell was sentenced on a statutory rape charge and began a six-month sentence in the Chaves County Jail in Roswell. In September, while sitting in his cell, Frizzell penned his classic "I Love You a Thousand Ways." An expression of enduring love, the song was a mea culpa to his wife, Alice. In 1950, Frizzell recorded and released the song.

"I Love You a Thousand Ways" was one side of Lefty's double-sided debut hit record," says Daniel Cooper, author of "Lefty Frizzell: The Honky-Tonk Life of Country Music's Greatest Singer." "The other side was 'If You've Got the Money I've Got the Time.' Both sides were smash hits and completely launched his career."

For Haggard, "I Love You a Thousand Ways" carried enormous artistic impact.

"Lefty was so young to be singing that song," he says. "He couldn't have been nothing but a kid, but he was just singing his ass off. All the kids identified with him. ... The song just had such an interesting concept to it for a guy his age. It all made sense, and I wondered where he was that he couldn't be with her. Then it came through the grapevine that, yes, Lefty had been in jail, he'd written that song in jail. ... But he became a role model because he'd been to jail, and came out of jail and gotten good. I wanted to be like Lefty in that respect, more than anything else."

Haggard and Frizzell became close friends in later years. Although Haggard as a young man had spent nearly three years in San Quentin for a botched burglary, he says the two never discussed their incarcerations.

"Lefty Frizzell and I never, ever mentioned it, that we'd been in jail," Haggard says. "It's kind of like talking about the war. Things that go on in prison are not things you talk to your mother about."

It's this collision of historical events in 1947 — a supposed alien spacecraft crash coupled with Frizzell's presence in Roswell — that has inspired Haggard to fuse these two interests into an annual concert at the UFO festival.

"It's sort of a kooky idea of mine that there might be a lot of people that like country music that also have suspicions about what went on in Roswell," he explains. "I thought it might be interesting to bring a couple of events together."

Varied audience

Lucas says the festival attracts the merely curious to full-blown UFO-ologists. The parade that kicks off the festival has included everything from light-draped teenage skateboarders to participants pushing a plastic facsimile of an alien autopsy around on a gurney. From such lighthearted fun at the parade to

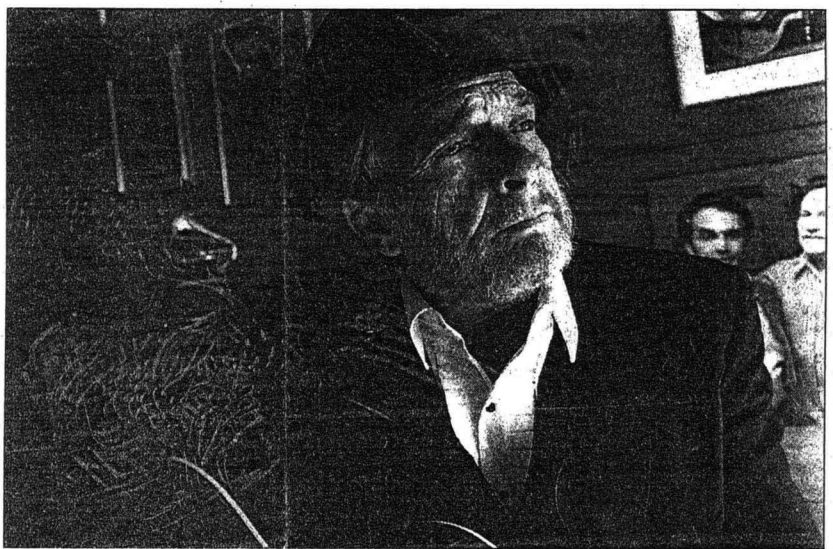
serious panel discussions at the International UFO Museum and Research Center, the festival welcomes all comers.

"My whole feeling on the whole Roswell mystery is exactly that — it's a mystery," Lucas says. "That's the allure of Roswell. People aren't coming here to find aliens and UFOs. People are coming here because something happened here. And they're connecting with that, whether it be a government conspiracy, or whether it be overblown paranoia. Whatever it is, people are connecting with that."

Not everyone in town is happy about this.

"There are people in Roswell who don't want Roswell to be known for the UFO Capital of the World," Lucas says. "They're embarrassed by that fact. They go, 'Oh, we've got so much else; we've got a cheese factory that makes all the mozzarella in the United States.' It's true, we do. But that's not what we're known for — we're not known as the Wisconsin of the Desert. We're known as the UFO Capital of the World. So, with the UFO festival, we're going to get between 20,000 and 30,000 visitors over one weekend. What are you going to do? Are you going to lock up your doors, or are you going to open up your merchant shops and put up a sign that says 'Alien Sale'? It's a chance for the local economy to take advantage of a worldwide phenomenon."

Lucas is thrilled that Haggard is participating. "We're crazy about it because it's going to add a whole other level of credibility to our festival."



Merle Haggard says the New Mexico festival is the fruition of his interest in the Roswell Incident. Tribune file photo

SUN, Jonesboro, AR - July 12, 2003

Scientists say crop circles were no prank

By Keith Inman

A series of 10 circles discovered June 7 in a wheat field at Knobel was no prank, a group of scientists who study crop circles around the world has concluded. However, because the wheat was harvested before scientists could arrive, they said they could not be certain.

The discovery generated interest and rumors, not only in Northeast Arkansas, but from BLT Research Team Inc., of Cambridge, Mass., which has studied crop circles in the U.S., Canada and Europe for approximately a decade.

JoAnne Scarpellini, a BLT field investigator, visited the site adjacent to Williams Cemetery on June 16 and June 25, conducting interviews with witnesses and taking soil samples from the site, according to a report by Nancy Talbott, one of BLT's founders.

Todd Young harvested his wheat crop on June 11. He remains uncertain about the source of the crop circles. "I know something happened, but I don't know," Young said. "I'm trying to put all that crap behind me."

Young said he had lost interest in the phenomenon. "I'm more interested in making a living instead of making myself famous," he said.

Based on photographs of the site, Talbott described it as a "mini-triple Julia formation." The center circle was around 51 feet in diameter, with three circles in each "arm" of decreasing sizes down to eight feet in diameter. Circles in arms spaced approximately 10 feet apart had a slight curvature clockwise, according to the research. Crop lay was reported to have been clockwise in all circles.

On June 25 Scarpellini returned to the site, after Young had already disked the field and planted soybeans. She took soil samples from the location where the formations were found and control samples some 500 feet away from the site.

"These samples yielded the highest concentration of magnetic material ever reported by the BLT Team in a crop circle," Talbott reported. While normal

soils seldom exceed 0.4 milligrams of magnetic material per gram of soil, the soil at Knobel measured 30.29 mg, the report stated.

The BLT report indicated that the high magnetic concentrations found at the Arkansas site are similar to trends found in a large number of crop formations worldwide.

"The fact that under the microscope we can see both spherical and partially ablated particles here, the fact that there were no magnetic particles found in the control soils, and the fact that the concentration in the circle samples was so great, all indicate that this formation was not mechanically flattened," Talbott reported.

She said a paper published by William C. Levengood, a biophysicist from Michigan, and John Burke, a New York businessman, may shed some light on what happened. Levengood and Burke, who are co-founders of BLT Research, hypothesized that microscopic particles of meteoric iron which are entering the earth's atmosphere constantly as meteors burn up in the upper atmosphere. Those particles get drawn into a descending plasma vortex system.

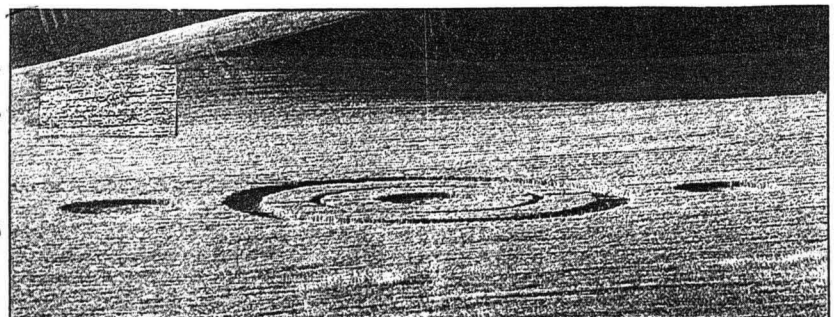
"The idea is that the meteoric debris is both drawn into the descending plasma vortex by its strong magnetic field and then heated to a molten state by the microwaves emitted by the spiraling plasma," Talbott wrote in the report. "The molten, and now magnetized, particles then form spheres and particles with partially rounded surfaces as they cool on the way down to the earth's surface and are left in the soil in the crop circle area as the plasma vortex impacts the field."

"This theory is the most reasonable yet offered to explain the presence of these magnetic particles in so many crop circle soils, all over the world."

Talbott also noted that interviews with witnesses revealed that energy was emanating upwards to at least 800 feet above the formation.

On the Net: www.blresearch.com

TIMES, Waitsburg, WA - July 31, 2003



What causes crop circles? Some believe they are hoaxes; other think they come from supernatural or extraterrestrial sources — visitors from other galaxies. We don't know but we were curious about these crop circles found in a Walla Walla County wheat field last week. The field belongs to Kent Farms near Prescott and was harvested after this photo was taken. In checking the Internet for information, we

couldn't discern whether crop circles have highly mysterious or highly suspicious origins; seems there's at least those two schools of thought and probably more.

— Times photo by Morgan Baker

Watching for aliens

Local man tracks down UFO reports

By SYLVIA SCHON
Daily Star Staff Writer

ALBANY — Scott Arnett looks, talks and acts as normal as anybody. He is disarmingly down to earth, considering his avocation.

Arnett, 49, is a state section director and field investigator for Mutual UFO Network, Inc., an international organization dedicated to compiling, analyzing and publishing reports of unidentified flying objects.

Is he nuts?
"I'm not going to deny that I'm crazy. Nuts? No. I think I approach this with a pretty logical outlook. Like I said, you have to go down the middle of the road," Arnett said.

Crazy or not, he has lots of company. Average, everyday people, radar technicians, nuclear scientists, physicists, anthropologists, chemists, medical doctors, psychologists, ham radio operators, and many other professionals and non-professionals have joined MUFON or have at least contacted members to report an unusual experience.

Arnett is a retired paramedic from the New Orleans area and is working on a two-year degree from Southeastern Louisiana University in occupational safety and health.

His interest in UFO reports began as an interest in astronomy while he was in his teens. After reading one of Frank Edwards' books on UFO reports, Arnett's own interest in the topic took hold.

The book was a series of straightforward reports on sightings by witnesses who appeared to be credible, he said.

Straightforward and credible remain the keywords in his work as an investigator.

"Ninety-six to 98 percent of the reports are explainable as normal aircraft, swamp gas or even the planet Venus which can be very bright," Arnett said.

"It's that other 2 or 3 percent I wonder about. When you are questioning a witness, you can't be judgmental. You can't let that interfere. You have to keep an open mind that this could be as much bull as fact."

"What makes an investigation

hard is if you've got somebody who is so UFO pro that everything in the sky is a UFO.

"On the other hand, you have the debunkers that there is no way and everything has to be Venus or swamp gas. They will always find a reason why. So you've got to come to the middle and you've got to use good judgment and have an open mind."

Arnett said he has personally never seen a UFO, but after years of talking to witnesses and reading other accounts, he does have a general point of view.

"I think something's going on, but I couldn't tell you what," he said. "I have talked to some very credible witnesses in the past who have seen things and were very frightened. They were cautious about reporting it, too, but it was just so frightening to them that they had to tell somebody."

One of those occurred in 1976, when he went out on his first case as an investigator.

Hunters had reported an object hovering and at times moving erratically over the swamp about two miles from the Michoud facility in

glowed and changed colors as they watched.

Four days later Arnett was part of a team that accompanied one of the hunters back to the site.

They found a 14-foot wide pattern of reeds twisted and smashed in a circular pattern. The trees above had been scorched. Some of the branches had actually burned and fallen to the ground. The reeds on the ground were not burned, however.

"I noticed right away that our feet were muddy and the ground was very soft. I could see no track of any vehicles," Arnett said.

A geologist with the team took samples of the soil and reeds back to a New Orleans lab for testing. No radiation was found, and there was also no trace of any known fuel.

The hunter who accompanied them was very calm and soft-spoken, Arnett recalled.

"He wanted to be believed and he wanted to help," Arnett said.

That is often the case with people who call in reports to MUFON who might not otherwise report it to local authorities.

"MUFON is where they can vent this incredible thing that has happened to them without worrying about whether their names will wind up all over the newspaper or police blotter of whatever," Arnett said. "We will only publish names with their permission. It is protected. We guarantee it."

A pair of Pascagoula shipyard workers went public with their own encounter in 1973, causing a great commotion nationwide.

The two reported seeing a bluish glowing object moving along the river where they sat fishing on a dock.

The object silently appeared behind them, and one of the men claimed he was taken into the "ship" by a pair of the ship's occupants and later released.

Calvin Parker, who was 19 at the time, agreed to a followup interview with Arnett years later. Parker told Arnett of seeing two tall creatures emerge and take his friend before he passed out.

Arnett said after talking to him, he believed Parker's account, which was dramatic but less so than the man who claimed he was abducted.

"He just did not seem the kind of person to seem to be shaken easily," Arnett recalled.

Generally, however, Arnett is not impressed with the vast majority of abduction claims.

"I get off the boat with a lot of people on this subject. I notice that the abduction phenomena with your typical 'gray' with the big black eyes and large head, things like that, have only started after the movie 'Close Encounters' came out," Arnett said.

He suspects many of those reports to be someone craving attention, having nightmares or mental problems.

He also questions a Yale researcher's claim that one in four people have been abducted.

"Give me a break," Arnett said.

"The largest majority of people that report abductions have to undergo these very invasive probes. On our level, our technology is such that we can scrape a cell off somebody's arm and know everything. So you are telling me these 'people' are so advanced, they can do these amazing things in the sky, come from thousands or billions of light years away and have to stick probes up our wazzoos? Once they got a hold of one of us, they would know everything. They would just need a skin sample, so I just don't see it."

This area was "hot" in the 1970s and 1980s for UFO reports, but it has been quiet in the area for a number of years, Arnett said.

The current "hot" areas are South America and the northeast where there have been "flaps" of reports of triangular-shaped craft.

"They have some very good multiple witnesses on that one," Arnett said.

Multiple witness are the best kinds of reports. About 60 percent of reports occur during night events and about 40 percent during the day, he said.

One of those occurred in Slidell several years ago when someone called the police to report an object hovering over his house. Deputies arrived and saw the object and also recorded static radio interference every time the object moved, Arnett said.

The most common shapes of crafts are the saucer shape, similar to two bowls put together, the "cigar" shape and an egg or round shape. But there have also been reports of triangular, diamond and other shaped craft.

The "saucer" name came from the news media in the 1940s when a airplane pilot flying around some mountains reported seeing what appeared to be alien craft.

Arnett noted that pilots and radar operators are probably more reluctant than most to report UFO sightings.

W.L. "Barney" Garner, the former Louisiana MUFON director, was a radar operator who became interested in UFOs after an incident where he and the pilot he was monitoring were watching things "that cannot be" from their own particular spots — the pilot in the air and Garner on the ground in front of a radar.

Arnett also noted that Dr. J. Allen Hynek founded the forerunner of MUFON right after the U.S. Air Force ended its famed "Blue Book Project." Hynek, now deceased, was in charge of that project.

"He wanted to let the public know what is really going on with these sightings. He couldn't say there were little green men. He didn't know. But he could say what the witnesses were telling them," Arnett said.

Arnett and his wife, Joann, live in Albany with their children. He said his wife is tolerant of his interest in the topic.

To find out more visit MUFON's Web site at mufon.com or call Arnett at (225) 567-6315.

CHIEFTAIN, Pueblo, CO - Aug. 11, 2003

Hybrids, believers gather

The annual gathering at the UFO Watchtower near Hooper attracts some who are out of this world.

By ERIN SMITH
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

HOOPER — Dozens of believers and the just plain curious came to the UFO Watch 2003 over the weekend to hear "hybrids" and alien abductees talk about their experiences.

Saturday and Sunday's UFO Watch was the second to be held at Judy Messoline's UFO Watchtower, about three miles north of Hooper on Colorado 17.

Messoline built the watchtower several years ago after she often woke up mornings to find watchers of the unexplained camping out on her property. Although a skeptic, she thought establishing a campground and gift shop would be a practical way to make a buck at her cattle operation.

Today, she is not so skeptical, having witnessed some pretty strange stuff herself since erecting the tower.

Messoline does not charge admission to her watchtower, but does accept donations, which funded the weekend conference. It gave believers in the unexplained a time to congregate and compare experiences.

One with experiences to compare was Raja Merk Dove, who claims Mount Shasta, Calif., as his residence. Dove said he is really from Jupiter. He is a "star seed," the hybrid offspring of an earthling and a star person, he said.

"We're all actually hybrids," he insisted.

Joe Fex, attending the conference from New Mexico, agreed. "Humans are not from here. We share DNA and genes from animals, but not links," he said.



Gloria Hawker poses with her book, 'Morning Glory: Diary of an Alien Abductee,' at the gift shop at the UFO Watchtower, north of Hooper. Behind Hawker stands Hooper resident Brian Ash.

But for experiences, few could top Gloria Hawker, who lives in Albuquerque, and who claims to have been used for the past 15 years as an incubator for hybrid children.

Hawker says she never believed in phenomena like what was being discussed at the watchtower until after the summer of 1988, when she felt like she was pushed down some stairs while working at the Bernillo County, N.M., Hospital. She said she later learned that one of "The Grays," extraterrestrials about 4 feet tall from the constellation Orion, had pushed her. The fall broke several bones and landed her in the hospital.

While bedridden, she claimed, "The Grays" began to use her for everything from medical tests to impregnation to carry hybrid children, which she said aliens would remove from her womb.

She also claims the aliens have abducted her youngest daughter, something she did not know for years.

Hawker said she was told "The Grays" did the experiments "to study human emotions because they had lost their own emotions because of what they had done in the Orion grouping."

She has included her experiences in a book, "Morning Glory: Diary of An Alien Abductee," which is available from Amazon.com.

Aside from hybrids and alien abductees, the conference also featured speakers who claim to have seen and photographed alien ships.

One of the most prominent speakers was Tim Edwards, of Salida, who showed his videotape of the famous Salida UFO incident taken several years ago. Edwards told the more than 40 people at his talk Saturday afternoon that there have been UFO sightings in Salida since 1897. One especially famous sighting was in 1917 about the time of the Miracle at Fatima in Portugal when the Virgin Mary appeared to several Portuguese

children and made several revelations.

Edwards said reports from Salida in 1917 were of a "wheel within a wheel," or a sphere surrounded by Saturn-like rings.

Since the Salida incident, Edwards said he has witnessed "two bright headlights in the sky" on Sept. 10, 2001, the day before 9/11, and watched a hovering object for about 40 miles while driving back home from Colorado Springs in November.



CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/JOSHUA BUCK

Paola Harris talks after her presentation about UFOs at the second annual UFO Conference of Pueblo in the Forino Ballroom at Pueblo Community College Friday.

Are they out there?

UFO conference gathers believers

By **JUSTIN MORENZ**
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Pueblo UFO investigator Bill Winkler once again has shined a spotlight on the vast and enigmatic world that encompasses extraterrestrials and "UFO-ology."

Winkler's second annual UFO Conference of Pueblo drew a crowd of about 30 people in the Fortino Ballroom at Pueblo Community College campus Saturday. Accompanying him were various vendors displaying wares ranging from crystals, dowsing rods, photographers who snap images of human auras and craftsmen who construct metallic objects into complex geometric shapes.

Winkler has been an a staunch advocate for revealing the existence of intelligent alien life and hopes this conference will assist in unveiling their actions.

"The purpose of the conference is to educate the public as to the inevitable first contact with extraterrestrials. In doing so, the public will be better prepared spiritually, psychically and religious-wise to accept that we are truly not alone in the universe."

Three guest speakers highlighted the conference.

The first was Paola Harris, an Italian-born journalist and author of the book, "Connecting the Dots," which details the UFO phenomenon. Harris

admits never witnessing any UFO-related activity firsthand, but has interviewed numerous eyewitnesses.

Her work sidesteps civilian reports and focuses mainly on testimonials by former U.S. military personnel who have participated in retrieving unidentified crashed ships along with their occupants. She believes that the public is being prepared for extraterrestrial contact now that the military is allowing more discussion of these events.

"The future generation can handle the truth. The current generation has been raised on a science fiction background which is based on science fact," Harris said.

The second speaker, Rev. John Gee of Colorado Springs, said he has had numerous encounters with UFOs.

In his book, "I Remember Heaven," he describes his relationship with a mysterious man named "Mr. H." Gee believes "Mr. H" is a spirit of alien origin that had gained possession of a human body as well as unusual powers.

"Through a number of strange incantations and movements, 'Mr. H' invoked a huge ball of golden light over Garden of the Gods," Gee said.

Gee believes that once we surpass our ego and raise our awareness, we will achieve a level of enlightenment that will allow us to interact more freely with those of alien origin, those

more like "Mr. H."

"You are not a body. You're not male, or female. You are not a persona. We are what unawareness is," he said.

Native American speaker Standing Elk/Golden Eagle of the Kakota Ihunktowan Band of South Dakota Band started and ended his performance with traditional native dance and song. He also spoke of how symbols recovered from the downed spacecraft at Roswell, N.M., were identical to those found throughout his ancestral heritage.

He termed these symbols "Laws of the Star People" — universal truths that can help mankind better their lives and improve the earth. He believes there is an ancient connection between humans and extraterrestrials.

"I don't call them UFOs or ETs, because those are negative terms. They are our brothers and sisters. If you honor them, they will visit you," he said.

Winkler closed the ceremony with a brief question-and-answer session and then commended the speakers for their efforts.

"I describe them as being very brave," he said.

For more information you can attend Bill Winkler's monthly UFO meetings at 7 p.m. every third Thursday at the Lamb Branch Library, 2525 S. Pueblo Blvd.

Sheriff says circle seekers must respect property

By Tim Fields
DAILY REPUBLIC

FAIRFIELD — While crop circles may bring with them a sense of mystery, they also bring thousands of sightseers that trample and take from the fields.

With a third crop circle discovered in a Vacaville corn field this week, armed deputies could be dispatched to clear out the curious, Solano County Sheriff Gary Stanton said Wednesday.

"It's up to the farmers when they've had enough," he said. "Once it becomes an annoyance we'll go in and get everyone out."

Stanton's advice to property owners is to call law enforcement early because it's easier to get 30 people out of a field than 300, he said.

Almost two weeks ago, local farmer Larry Balestra found the largest crop circle formation ever reported in the United States stamped into his 30-acre wheat field.

Since then, hordes of people trying to see the formation have transformed the field into a jigsaw of pathways and trails. Balestra has lost hundreds of dollars in wheat and loses more every day as people take handfuls of his wheat home.

Balestra has allowed people to mill about his field and has held off on harvesting the wheat.

However, Stanton received several



Steve and Gene Windham/COURTESY PHOTO

Crop circles resembling a caterpillar were discovered Monday in a corn field at Pleasant Valley and Fry roads in Vacaville.

complaints from people living in the area saying sightseers trying to find a place to park had blocked their driveways.

Also neighboring property owners

complained to deputies that people were cutting through their fields to get to the formation.

People should remember trespassing and vandalism are crimes

whether one is creating circles, trampling crops to see the circles or taking crops from the field, he said.

Depending on how much damage one causes, the penalty can be thou-

sands of dollars in fines and time spent in jail or state prison, he said.

So far three crop circle formations have been discovered.

A second, small formation, was found near Solano Community College about a half mile south of the Rockville site. A third was discovered on Sunday on Pleasant Valley and Fry roads in Vacaville.

The new site resembles a caterpillar and is about 846 feet long with six circles, said Steve Mereno, the director of PsiApplications, a local nonprofit paranormal research organization.

Mereno and several others are collecting evidence for the BLT Research Team Inc. based out of Cambridge, Mass., which investigates crop circle sites for authenticity worldwide.

Mereno was in the buggish formation Wednesday and he said the circles were cut out of the corn field instead of being bent down. Most of the cut down 8-foot stalks were gone.

"I'd say 60 percent of the mass is gone, we're talking incineration here," he said. "Nobody packed that stuff out because it's difficult to get out there in the first place."

Mereno said he's researched all three formations and said he has a mountain of data, yet hasn't had the time to study it in detail.

Tim Fields can be reached at tfields@dailyrepublic.net.

UFO fans to alight near Hooper

Classic saucer footage, out of this world speakers visiting watchtower near Hooper Saturday.

By ERIN SMITH
THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

HOOPER — When Judy Messoline went to Saguache County Commissioners almost four years ago with an unusual request, it was mostly out of frustration.

Messoline lives in an area where strange things are seen in the heavens — or at least there are people claiming that. She would wake up finding people camped in her front yard looking for UFOs and alien beings.

She decided to do something about it so she asked the commissioners to allow her to build a UFO Watchtower and campground on her property about 2 miles north of Hooper along Colorado 17. That way she could exact payment from people who otherwise would be camping on her land.

Since opening the UFO Watchtower in May 2000, Messoline has become a celebrity. She has been interviewed by reporters from all over the world.

Last year she decided to hold a UFO conference — or whatever one calls such events — at her establishment. This year, she noted, she has more to offer conference attendees. She has added a rock garden celebrating three vortexes that several psychics say are in her front yard.

UFO fanatics and the just plain curious can sit in her yard, look at the rocks and distant Sangre de Cristos, where so much is said to happen, and sip soda.



Judy Messoline and her little alien friend are inviting citizens of the universe to attend a gathering on Unidentified Flying Objects to be next weekend near Hooper in the San Luis Valley.

The conference, to be held Saturday and Aug. 10, will be from noon to whenever. And it's free.

At noon Saturday, Messoline will welcome her guests and tell them the history of the UFO Watchtower.

At 1 p.m. a woman named Tammy who says she was whisked aboard a UFO will tell

her story. The speaker at 2 p.m. is hypnotherapist Gloria Hawker.

Salida resident Tim Edwards, who took what is regarded as some of the most amazing videotape of a UFO flying over Colorado's mountains, will speak next. Edwards and his video have appeared on a host of television shows. The

footage shows a spinning, brightly colored disc photographed from a side angle.

At 4 p.m., paranormal investigator Joe Fex will talk.

There will be a dinner break from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. followed by a talk by nationally known alien abductee Jane Smith, Messoline said.

Chuck Zukowski and Debbie Zieglemeyer, who are involved in the 2003 Roswell dig, will speak at 8:30 p.m.

At 10 p.m. the "Watch" for the unexplained will begin, Messoline said.

Although the event is free, Messoline thinks it would be nice if people visited her gift shop where she stocks such UFO-alien related items as the friend giving her a hug in a recent photo. And she will have donation jars available to help pay the speakers' expenses.

For anyone who wants to arrive between 9 a.m. and noon Saturday, Hooper postmaster Ron Lucero will be on hand to cancel letters and postcards with a special 2003 UFO Watch collector's stamp.

On Aug. 10, the Tower Gift Shop will open at 9 a.m. Coffee and doughnuts will be served while attendees visit and discuss their experiences but there won't be any planned programs.

Participants should bring their own chairs. Camping is available at \$10 a night.

For information, call Messoline at (719) 378-2296 or visit www.ufowatchtower.com on the Internet.

2002 was active year for UFO sightings and strange encounters across the state

2002 was a very active year for alleged sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO's) and various other mysterious events, as reported by residents from across Pennsylvania.

Reports of strange incidents originating from 45 counties in the commonwealth came to the attention of researcher Stan Gordon of Greensburg during the last year. Close observations of strange flying objects, reported encounters with mysterious creatures such as Bigfoot and giant birds, strange footprints and sounds, and odd ground markings, were some of the oddities reported.

Gordon has been researching mysterious encounters since 1959. During the years since then, he has been involved with the investigation of thousands of mysterious incidents from across the Keystone State. The researcher has been taking calls from the public concerning such matters since 1969.

Gordon continues to actively investigate current events, and he maintains contact with many resources that keep him updated on the latest ongoing events. Gordon also maintains a high-tech electronics communications center which keeps him informed on a daily basis about mysterious happenings from around the world.

During the 43 years that Gordon has been researching various phenomena, it is his conclusion that most UFO sightings and many other mysterious events, when properly investigated, are determined to be natural or manmade in origin, and are indeed explainable. Some UFO cases investigated in 2002 were determined to be bright meteors, automated searchlight displays, and even the northern lights.

There remain, however, many UFO observations and other strange incidents which have been reported over the years from various locations in the state that appear to remain unexplained.

While Gordon has an interest in all types of mys-

terious encounters, his primary focus concerns the UFO phenomena and cryptozoology, which is the study of hidden or unknown animals. Pennsylvania has a long history of observations of strange animals including Bigfoot, the thunderbird (a giant bird), the eastern cougar, and the black panther. Alleged sightings of huge hair-covered, generally man-like creatures continue to be reported in the state.

Gordon is probably best known for his years of investigation into the Dec. 9, 1965, UFO crash incident which reportedly took place near the rural village of Kecksburg. That event involved multitudes of witnesses who observed a fiery object moving across the sky over a widespread area. The object is said to have fallen slowly from the sky into a wooded area near Kecksburg. The military arrived on the scene, and reportedly removed the object from the crash site. Despite numerous eyewitness accounts, the official word is that nothing fell into the woods that day, and nothing was recovered.

Gordon's investigation of the Kecksburg incident continues. The case is once again creating national interest since the Coalition for Freedom of Information (CFI) backed by the Sci-Fi channel, is now conducting a detailed investigation of the occurrence as well.

Some of the interesting strange events reported in Pennsylvania include:

February 2002, Waynesboro (Adams County) — Rick Fisher of the Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society (PBS), investigates a series of large, odd-shaped footprints which were about 16 inches long, and eight inches wide, and covered an area of about 1,000 feet around a reservoir.

April 15, 2002, Clarksburg (Indiana County) — Two people traveling on Rt. 286 observe an elongated object about the size of passenger bus hovering at tree top level. The silent object's body

appeared to be extremely wide, and it had a very bright light at the front.

June 26, 2002, rural area of Wyoming County — A witness observed two huge dark birds land at the top of a tree. The branches looked as though they were going to break from the weight. The wingspan of the birds were estimated at around 12 feet based on the size of the branches. Historically, this area of the state has reported numerous sightings of giant birds with huge wingspans that have become known as Thunderbirds. Sightings of these huge flying creatures have been on the increase around the state in recent years.

July 24, 2002, North Huntingdon Township (Westmoreland County) — At about 10 p.m., three people standing in a shopping complex parking lot observed a round and shiny solid object about the size of a tennis ball floating past them at a distance of about 10 feet, and traveling on a straight path. The odd sphere, which was only about 6 feet off the ground, kept moving down the road until it was out of sight.

September 2002, Derry Twp. (Westmoreland County) — Members of a family report observing a Bigfoot creature on two different occasions in a heavily wooded area. The most interesting event occurred on the afternoon of Sept. 27 as the driver was traveling along a back road. After hearing a noise from the woods, the driver then stopped the vehicle, thinking that some deer were approaching. At a distance of about 145 feet, the witness observed a tall man-like creature covered with long brown hair and arms that hung down to the knees. The creature was estimated to be about eight feet tall, and took long steps as it crossed a field. The driver watched as the creature crossed over a barbed wire fence with no hesitation or break in stride. Gordon measured the top of the fence as 44 inches off the ground.

If you want to report a UFO or Bigfoot sighting or any strange encounter, or have information about the Kecksburg incident, you can contact Stan Gordon at: P.O. Box 936, Greensburg, PA 15601. Phone the PA UFO Hotline (724-838-7768) 24 hours. E-mail Gordon at: paufu@westol.com. You can also check out Stan Gordon's UFO Anomalies website at www.westol.com/~paufu.



FOREIGN NEWS

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

UFO SPOTTING

Look! Up in the sky!

By Christine Boyd
Weekly Editor

A diamond-shaped UFO covered with flashing lights may have been responsible for the collapse of the McKim Theatre roof in Kimberley two weeks ago.

That's the rumour setting the ski town a-buzz after at least five witnesses reported seeing strange lights drifting slowly above the Bavarian City around midnight Mar. 5.

Fuelling speculation were reports of an unearthly "light show" spotted directly over the theatre roof just a few hours before it's as-yet unexplained collapse.

Flashing lights above McKim

The first sighting of the UFO — and that's "unidentified flying object," not necessarily "spaceship," all those interviewed were quick to point out — seems to have been made between 10 p.m. and midnight Mar. 5.

Home care worker Gail Shay had just returned from work to her apartment in the Pioneer Lodge on Church Street. As she prepared to retire, she noticed unusually bright lights dancing above the roof of the theatre a few blocks away.

At first, the 46-year-old assumed that the beams were part of a McKim Theatre Society-sponsored light show.

A second glance sent shivers up her spine.

"It was like nothing I've ever seen before," said Shay.

"At first, it seemed like there was a crisscrossing spotlight going up into the sky from the roof of the school. It was glimmering, like the northern lights. There were all these colours.

"Then the light spread out like a mushroom cloud, exactly on the same spot as where the roof is gone."

Aware that she might be in for some ribbing after going on the record about her experience, Shay quickly added that she hadn't been drinking and isn't a spaceship buff. Although she considers herself somewhat unconventional and open to esoteric ideas, she was overwhelmed by the experience.

After reeling through a list of possi-



... The light spread out like a mushroom cloud, exactly on the same spot as where the roof is gone.

ble explanations, Shay said she decided that she must be hallucinating and crawled quickly into bed.

"I just kept thinking, 'Well, it's some unexplained natural phenomenon'... I can accept lots, but this was too much!" she said.

"I just couldn't keep looking because my mind couldn't explain what I was seeing. I witnessed something, but I don't know what it was."

Shaking knees in Townsite

Approximately an hour later, 68-year-old Ted Zawaski was shaken out of a deep sleep by a phone call.

On the other end of the line was a friend in Chapman Camp, incoherently insisting that Zawaski take a look at the sky.

After a few minutes, Zawaski says he was able to make sense of the friend's words — a diamond-shaped object covered with flashing lights was drifting slowly over the trees

A diamond-shaped spacecraft. Unearthly flashing lights.

Shooting white beams. Five people aren't sure exactly what they saw hovering over Kimberley Mar. 5, but they agree on one thing — the experience was out of this world!

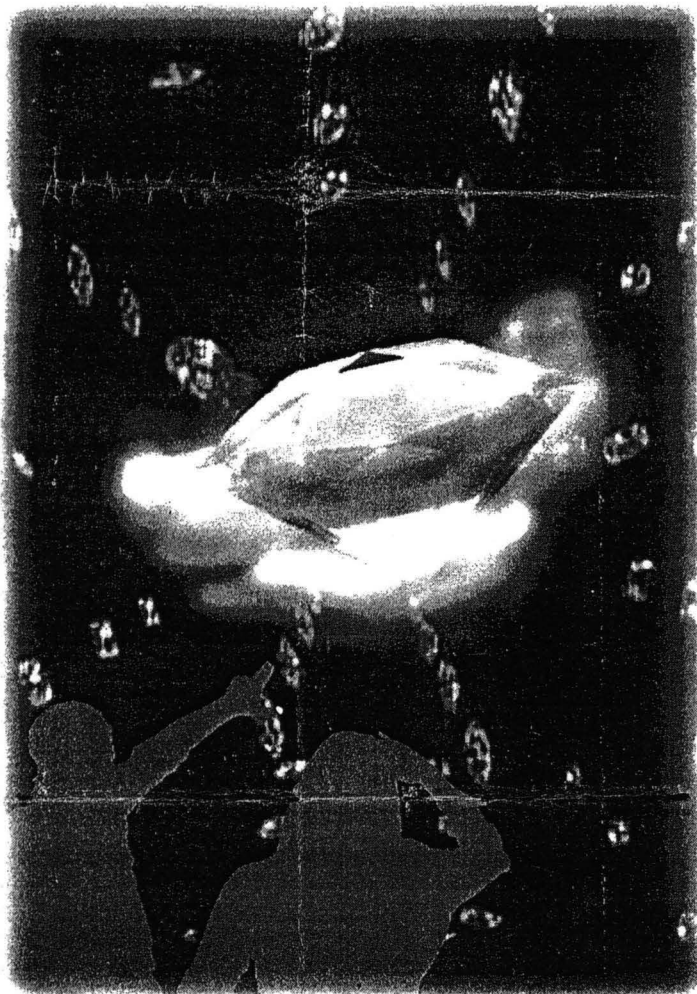


Photo illustration

DIAMOND IN THE SKY: The only witness able to examine the strange floating phenomena with binoculars reported viewing a diamond shape surrounded by brightly flashing coloured lights.

west of the town.

Grabbing their coats, Zawaski and his wife ran outside.

"The minute I saw it, I almost panicked, because it was like nothing I've seen on this earth," said Zawaski, who lives in Townsite.

Excitedly swapping details with the friends in Chapman Camp, the Zawaskis watched the object from 12:15 to 12:40 a.m. when it drifted out of sight behind the trees.

"What do I think it is? I don't know. I can tell you what I don't think it was..." he said.

The quartet ruled out every conventional explanation they could think of for the phenomena — it was moving too slowly and too low to the ground to be a plane or helicopter and had too many extremely bright flashing lights to be a hot air balloon, said Zawaski.

Zawaski admitted to being a bit of a UFO aficionado himself, and has spotted four over the past 30 years — in Austria, Norway, near Calgary and Kimberley. However, the other three witnesses claimed that they had never seen one before and weren't looking.



Man-made, not spacemen!

In fact, his two friends from Chapman Camp only agreed to comment if they could remain anonymous, due to fear of public ridicule.

"You're kind of laughing at the whole thing yourself," said Mrs. "X." "People make these little comments like, 'Well, were you drinking last night?'"

In fact, Mrs. X was stone sober and doing a last tour of the house before retiring for the night when she, like Shay, noticed a bright light illuminating the house from outside. Expecting to see a bright star, she glanced outside and then stood petrified.

"It was large and round like a car light, so I thought it was a plane that was going to be landing," she said.

As she observed with dawning amazement, the "plane" hovered unmoving for five minutes, bright



The minute I saw it, I almost panicked because it was like nothing I've seen on this earth.

white rays of light shooting to each side. Then the lights changed.

"It was throwing out quite a few different lights, rotating around it. There were definitely four colours that I recall and maybe two others ones," she recalled.

"Then, of course, I ran in and called

my husband — 'Hey! You've got to see this!'"

Armed with a pair of binoculars, Mr. X was the only witness to perceive more details on the object. He reported seeing a faceted shape like a diamond in a ring, with an inverted cone underneath. Lights played constantly about its surface, but they shimmered like lights in a fog, not with the concentrated energy of a bulb, he said.

"It definitely wasn't a star," he said. "Stars twinkle — they don't give off dazzling light like that. It was too brilliant and big for a star."

Mr. X believes it was probably a man-made object, but is at a loss to explain it.

"I don't believe in flying saucers and little green men, space men, and all that stuff, I don't believe in it," he said. "I was the first to 'fooh-fooh!' all that stuff when other people talked about seeing UFOs. I think there's a logical explanation."

Back in Townsite, Zawaski shook with excitement, too awed to take his



If it had been any closer, I would have had a heart attack. When I hear reports of other people experiencing these things from 20 metres away — I don't think I'd survive.

eyes off the object — which he now regrets not photographing. He had to take a tranquilizer to fall asleep after and couldn't help constantly glancing over his shoulder the next morning while skiing at the Kimberley Nordic Track.

"It wasn't anything I've ever seen anywhere," said Zawaski, adding that the experience cured him of any desire to see UFOs in the future.

"I don't ever want to see another one: it's too devastating."

"If it had been any closer, I would have had a heart attack. When I hear reports of other people experiencing these things from 20 metres away — I don't think I'd survive."



Spaceship not ruled out

While Cranbrook Regional Airport doesn't have radar, nothing unusual was reported that night by staff or incoming pilots, according to its flight services station.

However, Kimberley RCMP received several telephone calls that night about the phenomena, although they were unable to verify the sighting.

The rumour was even raised among members of School District No. 6 at an emergency meeting called to discuss the collapsed theatre roof, which is attached to McKim Middle School.

"We're not about to speculate on the cause of the collapse, but we've heard all kinds of ideas, including UFO sightings on Friday night," said George Watson, school district director.

He did admit last week, with tongue firmly planted in cheek, that the work crew had not yet found anything in the wreckage to rule out alien spacecraft as a cause.

"We haven't yet, but maybe when we get inside that building, we'll find something; we could find anything!"

Bizarre crop circles could be the cryptic answer to question beamed into space

Is this final proof that aliens exist?

By Michelle Stanistreet

THIS elaborate formation of crop circles in a wheatfield is being put forward as evidence that there is life on other worlds.

Expert Eric Beckjord spent hours painstakingly painting a message in binary numbers on a plastic sheet next to a field near prehistoric burial grounds.

He says it asked: "What do you want from us?" Within a day, an answer arrived in the form of a stunning sculpture in the field next to the message.

No ordinary crop circle, the incredible pattern at Adams Grove in Wiltshire resembles swallows flying in formation.

The appearance of the circles has thrilled Beckjord, an American, and his assistants and they are now avidly trying to decipher the cryptic response.

"I believe that if there is anyone out there they will speak to us in parables, analogies and symbols - not directly to us," said Beckjord.

"This is the fifth message I have laid down. The other four were cut into wheat and not written on to a plastic sheet like this was.

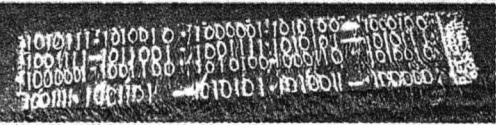
"I was staggered the crop circle formation appeared so quickly after I put down my message."

Theories abound regarding the overnight appearance of crop circles.

Most people agree they are the work of nocturnal hoaxers but many believe they have an extra-terrestrial or spiritual origin.

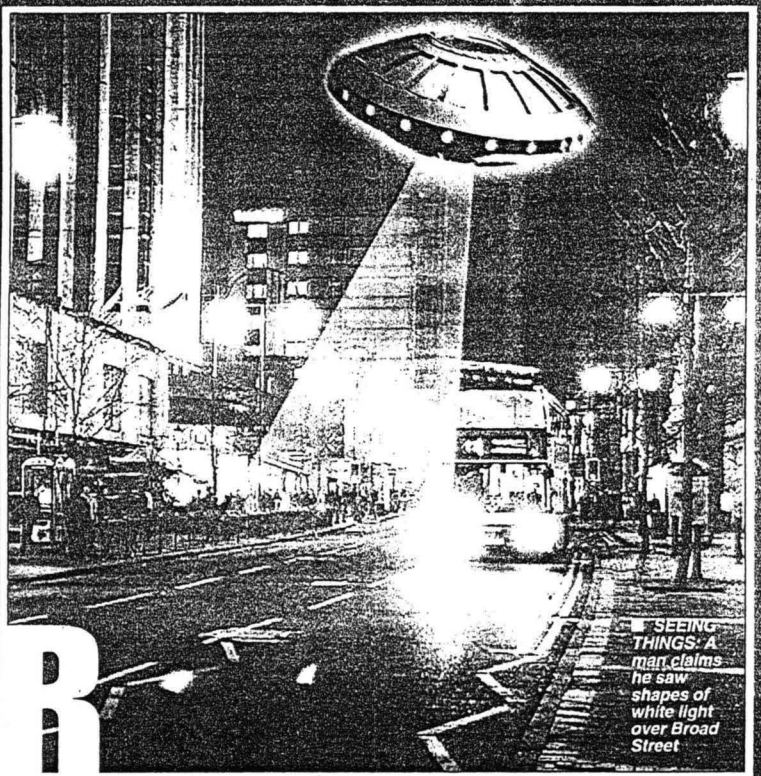


STUNNED: Mr Beckjord with the crop circles and the binary message he painted



EVENING MAIL, Birmingham, England - June 5, 2003

TAKE ME TO YOUR BOOZER



SEEING THINGS: A man claims he saw shapes of white light over Broad Street

Experts investigate Broad Street UFO claims

UFO experts are investigating reports of strange lights seen in the sky over the city centre.

The respected investigators Contact International UFO Research (CIUFOR) are looking into the sightings over Broad Street last Saturday night.

A man in his 30s phoned

BY STEVE SWINGLER

the organisation after he was left 'disconcerted' by what he saw at around 11.20pm.

CIUFOR spokesman Michael Soper said: "The eye witness told us he saw two triangular shapes of white, bluish light moving from north east to south

west. He was surprised because there was no noise. They were moving completely silently. A third object joined them and together moved in a set square shape before one of the objects shot off vertically. The remaining lights then disappeared leaving a clear sky. The sighting lasted for a couple of minutes in total."

Mr Soper said the organisation was now investigating the sighting and checking with air traffic control to see if it could be accounted for by aircraft activity.

He said CIUFOR investigates around three or four UFO sightings a year in the West Midlands. UFO hotspots include the Malvern Hills and Clee Hills.

CIUFOR was founded in 1967 by the eighth Lord Clancarty, Brinsley le Poer Trench, author of several UFO books. Up to 50 overseas branches were set up in the 1970s with a total membership of 11,000 enthusiasts.

CIUFOR now limits its activities to collecting and disseminating data.

Mr Soper added: "We would be very interested to hear from anyone else who saw these strange lights last Saturday."

steve.swingler@mrn.co.uk

● The group can be written to at CIUFOR, Box 23, Wheatley, Oxon, OX33 1FL or by phoning 01865 726908.

TERRACE'S reputation as B.C.'s UFO capital is creating a new kind of tourism boom in the region.

Curious travellers from across North America are inquiring about the tourism facilities in communities across Highway 16, including Terrace, says a UFO researcher based in Houston, B.C.

"You would be surprised just how many emails I get over the months requesting information for our areas," says Brian Vike, editor of *Canadian Communicator*, a magazine specializing in the paranormal, and director of HBCC-UFO Research.

Earlier this year, Terrace cracked the top 10 in a national UFO survey, earning third place, just ahead of Houston, where Vike operates a toll-free UFO hotline so he can collect and investigate eye-witness reports.

Terrace recorded the third highest number of UFO sightings in the country last year, bringing national and international attention to the region, Vike says.

The resulting publicity means the northwest is rapidly emerging as one of the best places to see UFOs in Canada.

Savvy tourists know they're more likely to see a flying saucer than the elusive Kermode bear, the white form of a black bear that is the city's official symbol.

Vike says he's often contacted by UFO buffs and the just plain curious who want to know about the region's tourist attractions and accommodations.

"Many have never been up this way," Vike says. "So I give them the lowdown on what our communities have."

He tells them about camp sites in the area, the excellent hiking, fishing and boating opportunities here, the beautiful scenery and the range of wildlife.

"As a matter of fact, I receive so many emails, I was going to put up a page on my website which would give information to tourists on what we have."

Vike says 2003 is shaping up to be another record year for UFO sightings in the skies over Terrace, where 25 sightings were recorded last year, suggesting more national and international attention could be on its way.

"Right now Terrace has darn near caught up to last year's total count for sightings," he says.

UFO-related tourism is a growing market in the rest of the world.

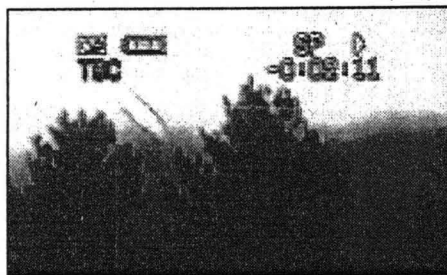
Vulcan, a town of 1,700 in southern Alberta that's home to a replica starship and a tourist information centre built to look like a space station, isn't the only place cashing in on its Sci Fi cachet.

St. Paul, Alberta was out of the gate back in 1967, when it built the world's first UFO landing pad, ensuring that future space travel

The sky's the limit

We're a Canadian hotspot for UFO sightings. Could that help drum up close encounters of the tourist kind?

A special report by Jennifer Lang



THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL highway is located in Nevada, part of the region's UFO-related tourism draw. At right, an object captured on video was witnessed by Houston residents.

would be safe for all intergalactic beings.

"All visitors from earth or otherwise are welcome to this territory and to the Town of St. Paul," reads an inscription beside the 12-metre-diameter concrete pad.

The tiny U.S. town of Rachel, Nevada, meanwhile, has capitalized on its proximity to the mys-

UFO-related tourism is a growing market in the rest of the world.

terious Area 51, thought to be a secret U.S. military base.

Rachel's tourism industry began to take off in the late 1980s, thanks to its reputation as a reliable location for sightings, drawing ever larger numbers of "UFO tourists".

Nearby Nevada State Highway 375 was officially renamed the "Extraterrestrial Highway" to reflect the large number of sightings along this stretch of road.

Enterprising community leaders in other countries have boarded the UFO tourism spaceship, too.

Last year, a Chilean mayor took the bold move of designating the region near his town as an of-

ficial UFO tourism zone because so many sightings have taken place in the Andes mountains there.

That's the kind of notoriety places like Terrace, Houston, and other Highway 16 towns could easily take advantage of.

While Terrace may presently lack an officially-sanctioned UFO tourism strategy, Vike is functioning as an unofficial intergalactic ambassador, sharing the region's latest eye-witness reports and his own pet theories with a curious world.

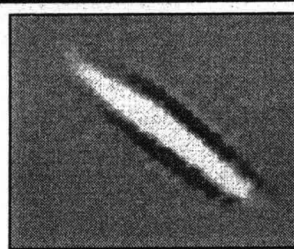
From Houston headquarters, he keeps busy doing interviews with newspapers, TV shows and radio talk shows all over North America.

Canada's Life network shot 18 hours of footage with Vike in Houston, Smithers and Telkwa in February. A documentary will air this fall season or early in the new year.

"All of this is great for tourism," he says, reminding northwest residents to keep their eyes to the skies this summer.

Vike has noticed a new pattern in the most recent reports: more eyewitnesses in the northwest are reporting objects in the sky, instead of just unexplained, or oddly-moving lights.

One sighting reported by multi-



ple witnesses across a wide geographic area involved gigantic triangles.

Others have reported seeing crescent or ring-shaped objects in the sky.

Vike adds a number of eyewitnesses reported seeing a large, saucer-shaped disk travelling from Mill Bay on Vancouver Island to Kitimat past the Alcan Smelter and on towards Prince Rupert and Terrace.

Vike, a former forestry industry worker, tries to uncover likely explanations for what eyewitnesses have seen.

The planet Venus is sometimes mistaken for a UFO. Other sightings are later found to be aircraft, meteors, satellites, stars or even blimps, says Vike, who once belonged to the Royal Astronomical Society and volunteered at the planetarium in Vancouver.

Vike's got a toll-free number: 1-866-262-1989, and a website: www3.telus.net/public/wilbur8/hbcc_ufo_research.htm

PRESS & JOURNAL, Aberdeen, Scotland - July 5, 2003

Scotland's UFO capital inspires alien stories

A LOCAL politician dubbed "Martian-lover" by colleagues has penned a series of children's books about little green men.

Independent councillor Billy Buchanan, who sparked controversy by trying to get a UFO centre built in his ward, has turned his talents to writing.

The Falkirk Council representative has campaigned for Bonnybridge to be officially recognised as the world's extra-terrestrial capital.

The town, rated Scotland's UFO hotspot by sky-watchers, first hit the headlines in the late 1970s.

Since then, residents and visitors have reported thousands of

sightings of possible alien craft in the skies.

Now Mr Buchanan has dreamed up the series of 12 extra-terrestrial tales.

In the books, a little green monster called Zal lands in the town, kidnaps the councillor, and takes off on a string of adventures in a space bubble.

The UFO enthusiast, who began writing 18 months ago, reckons his out-of-this-world tales could rival those of JK Rowling.

He said: "This could be Scotland's answer to Harry Potter. I'm sure kids will go for it and it will help keep Bonnybridge on the map."

The short stories, called My Pal Zal, are illustrated by newspaper cartoonist Jim Barker and have already attracted interest from many publishers. Mr Buchanan, who claims to have seen a "craft as big as a battleship" hovering in the skies above Grangemouth, said the town should embrace its reputation.

He added: "We still want to build a visitors' centre for UFO enthusiasts here in the town."

"The plans are at an advanced stage and we are almost ready to present them to the council. We're confident we will get the go-ahead."

"A lot of people may mock

the idea but anything that brings trade to the town, which has high unemployment, has to be welcomed."

Last year, he jetted off to the US to meet the mayor of Roswell in a bid to get Bonnybridge twinned with the New Mexico town, widely known as the site of the first UFO landing in 1947.

Research by VisitScotland has shown Scotland is top of the league of Europe's UFO hotspots.

The results revealed there were 300 reported sightings a year in Scotland - four times as many per square kilometre as France and Italy.

KIDDERMINSTER TIMES, Worcester, England - June 26, 2003

Reports of two UFO sightings

TWO Wyre Forest "UFOs" have been reported to research officials in the space of a fortnight.

The first incident was reported to Contact International UFO Research in Oxfordshire by a man walking his dog in Lichfield Street, Stourport, who saw six strange lights flying silently across the sky on Saturday, May 31.

The second was earlier this month when two people say they saw a pearl-shaped object flying over Coventry Street, Kidderminster, as they were driving home.

Strange events in Lancashire's spooky past

GHOSTLY goings on, fairy folklore and everything from aliens to witchcraft are explored in a new compendium of otherworldly happenings in the Red Rose county.

Supernatural Lancashire tackles material that suggests there is far more to our world than that we can put a finger on, with author Peter Hough visiting many locations in our vicinity.

At Anderton Hall he investigates sightings of a monk ... perhaps the clergyman hiding valuables during the Dissolution of the Monasteries who entered a tunnel and was never seen alive again.

Peter also recalls the glistening white shape seen at nearby Rivington Castle and 1980s sightings of triangular-shaped UFOs on Winter Hill, one believed to have landed in a quarry.

Many likened the craft to the futuristic looking stealth bombers, but with an added ability to hover,

By Malcolm Wyatt

remain silent and accelerate at tremendous speed.

We also read of paranormal activity at Heskin Hall, perhaps linked to a religious murder during the Reformation, spotted as a luminous mass in the kitchen and the Scarlet Room.

While at the hall the author also heard tales of florists' designs being moved overnight and knocking sounds, while down the road he tells of 'strange and inexplicable noises' at Park Hall.

That Charnock Richard location has many subterranean passages to outside locations, and many witnesses reported a White Lady rising from the lake in the late 1960s then disintegrating, a spectre linked with a tale of unrequited love involving a maiden and a monk.

The author also recounts the story of a bus driver who stopped in Croston in 1957, certain he had run a

woman over, at a site close to where a stone cross had just been moved by the owner.

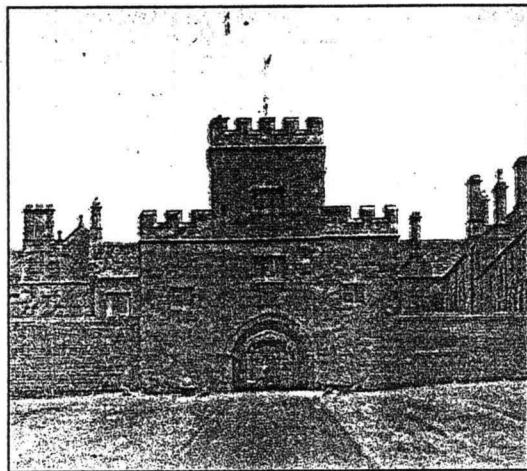
No body was found, but in the same location there were also reports of showers of stones and activity in a barn in the mid-1970s.

And Hoghton Tower also features, maybe linked to a civil war explosion, with reports of loud laughter, a woman in green velvet, sounds of a rustling dress and pets acting eccentrically.

Supernatural Lancashire, by Peter Hough, is published by Robert Hale and priced £17.99.

■ **PUB Strolls in Lancashire**, by Bolton-based Nick Burton, is published by Countryside Books at £6.95, and contains 30 circular walks between one and five miles based around fine hostellers.

The walks are chosen with all age groups in mind, put together by a former national park footpaths officer who writes weekly newspaper rambles.



Hoghton Tower: Reports of loud laughter, a woman in green velvet, sounds of a rustling dress and pets acting eccentrically, and below, Supernatural Lancashire

Among the walks featured are ones centred on the Belmont Bull, Croston's Lord Nelson, the Farmer's Arms in Heskin Green and the Cavendish Arms in Brindle.

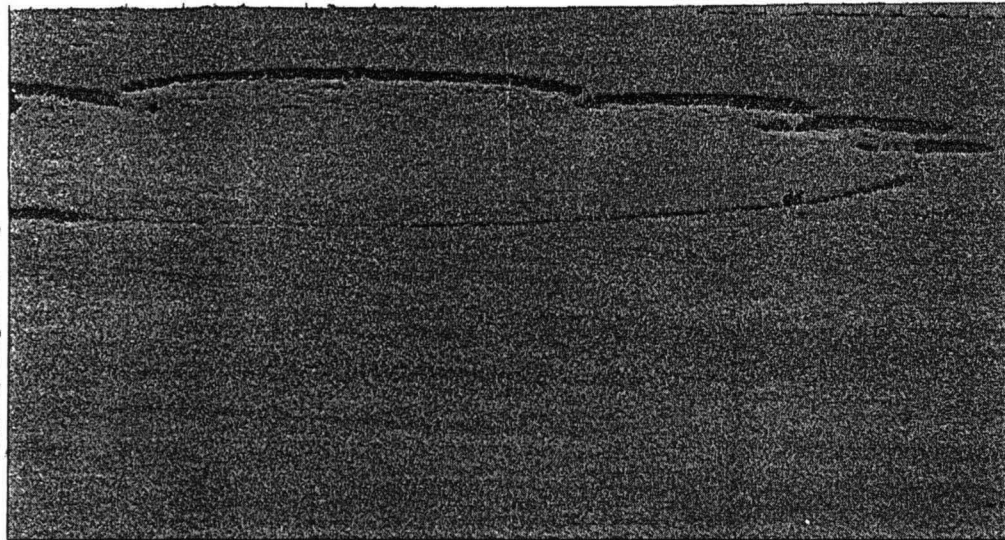
■ **THE Ancient Art of Freemasonry** by Frederick Pitt, published by Pegasus at £15.99, is described as a comprehensive study of the secretive society, including guides to its codes and practices.

It follows painstaking research from ancient times to the present day, and among its subject matter is the 1826 US murder of William Morgan as he tried to publish his own freemasonry guide.

Supernatural Lancashire

Peter Hough

ARGUS, Brighton, England - May 27, 2003



IT'S A MYSTERY: Crop circle enthusiasts are adamant the latest patterns on fields by the Falmer Road are not man-made

Latest round of crop circles is baffling onlookers

CROP circles have mysteriously appeared in a field of oil seed rape, giving rise to speculation that unexplained powers are at work.

Experts say the patterns on a hill

between Falmer and Rottingdean, just off the Falmer Road, are some of most exciting seen in Sussex.

There are now two formations on the north-west facing slope which can be seen

when travelling south on the road linking Woodingdean with the Brighton bypass.

One is a circle with a ring around it and five smaller circles below. Over the weekend, a bigger circle appeared

with two large arcs with at least seven smaller circles.

Dan Vidler, a Brighton based crop circle enthusiast said: "These are genuine circles. "There is no explanation as to why

they have suddenly appeared."

Crop circles remain one of the 21st Century's most bizarre mysteries.

Some people believe they are caused by UFOs. Others blame pranksters.

SOUTH WALES EVENING POST, Swansea, Wales - May 26, 2003

So do you know UFO?

I'M a retired CID officer from the West Midlands, who has spent the past eight years writing up a journal of UFO activity which has taken place over the United Kingdom, embracing the period 1943-1982, after police colleagues were directed to a report of a huge UFO seen hovering over a suburb in Birmingham January 19, 1995.

It has always been my policy to attempt to track down the witnesses from yesterday.

I came across an account published in the South Wales Evening Post, August 23, 1963.

Mr W D Evans, a retired RAF officer living near Langland, Swansea, saw an amazing object - described as being as large as a double-decker bus and shaped like a jellyfish or shuttlecock with a red orange pulsating glow - moving over Swansea heading towards the direction of Mumbles lighthouse.

Apparently, he wasn't the only one to witness the passage of this object across the night sky just after midnight.

His next door neighbour a Mr King also confirmed the sighting.

If anybody can help me, please write to the address below or email me at john@recardo76.fsnet.co.uk

John Hanson
1 Bunbury Gardens,
Kings Norton,
Birmingham
B30 1BA

FILEY & HUNMANBY MERCURY, Scarborough, England - May 17, 2003

Capture a UFO - on film

SKY-WATCHERS are being urged to get out their camcorders and start shooting in a competition being organised by a local UFO enthusiast.

Russ Kellett, of Filey, wants to find the best film footage of what goes on in the skies over Scarborough - which he believes is becoming the UFO capital of Britain.

The best video will win a three-night stay in Leeds to attend the 22nd International UFO Conference in September.

Mr Kellett said: "Some of the things people are seeing are quite spectacular - like explosions in the sky, and I know from my contacts that people are seeing them up and down the coast."

"Sometimes the sightings are astronomical objects, aircraft and weather balloons - but when we've got objects that defy science, that disappear and appear somewhere else, we try to find out what could be the cause."

Mr Kellett said he had already seen some impressive footage taken by people living on in the area, and was building up a unique collection.

He said: "Anything can be a UFO - there's no typical phenomenon. I once heard of a ball following someone home on the road from Whitby. It's just a one-off chance, and you could be filming it."

Scrutinising the entries will be Graham Bairstow of UFO magazine, while the best entries will be watched by a panel of judges headed by Filey mayor Eddie Holden.

To enter, simply send your video to: UFO Investigations and Research, c/o R Kellett, PO Box 33, Filey YO14 9YE. The closing date for entries is July 7, and the winner will receive three nights' accommodation at the Queens Hotel, tickets to the conference and entry to the grand gala dinner.

BERROW'S WORCESTER JOURNAL,
Worcester, England - June 13, 2003

Did you see the lights?

PEOPLE are being urged to contact a UFO research centre if they see any unusual sights in the sky.

A man walking his dog near Lichfield Street, Stourport-on-Severn, saw six strange lights flying silently across the sky towards the south-west.

The man rang Contact International UFO Research, in Wheatley, Oxfordshire, to tell them of his unusual sighting.

"His friends said he'd been drinking when he told them, but he hadn't," said Michael Soper, spokesman for Contact International.

"He saw five lights with one light trailing behind. They were whitish lights and very noticeable."

"He said they were making their way across the sky silently towards the

south-west and they were not navigation lights on a plane."

"He said they looked very dramatic then suddenly disappeared, like someone had just flicked off a switch," he added.

The man saw the unexplained sight at 11.45pm on Saturday, May 31.

Twenty-six people have so far called Contact International claiming to have seen three triangular objects with bright lights moving south-west over Birmingham the same night.

Mr Soper believes the lights could have been seen near Malvern at around 12.10am on Sunday, June 1.

Anyone who has spotted the strange sighting in the Worcestershire area should contact Mr Soper on 01865 726908.

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.]

August 15, 2003 — *www.lun.com/noticias*, Nicaragua — THE CHUPACABRAS REAPPEARS — MANAGUA — Frightened peasants from a town in northeastern Nicaragua reported the sudden deaths of a number of sheep, apparently attacked by a strange animal known as "Chupacabras", according to Managua-based press sources.

According to residents of Tolapa, province of Leon, some 100 km from the capital city, this is "the return of the Chupacabras" -- a strange creature first reported in 1995 in Mexico and Puerto Rico and which was also reported in Nicaragua three years ago. "We found 12 dead female sheep [under the same circumstances] as those we lost three years ago. They had two holes in the neck," said farmer Alicia Icabalceta to *El Nuevo Diario*.

Albertina Brenes, a resident of Tolapa -- the site where the first Nicaraguan chupacabras was reported -- claimed to have lost five sheep attacked by the mysterious animal. "One of my nephews heard lots of noise and the sheep were restless. When we woke up in the morning we found five dead sheep," said her son, Teodoro Rojas.

Farmers who claim having seen the "Chupacabras" describe it as a mix of dog and kangaroo, with hind legs larger than the front ones and "very shiny eyes", according to the newspaper.

The story captured the attention of the press in August 2000 when a farmer from Tolapa, Jorge Luis Talavera, claimed having shot the "Chupacabras". Upon examining its remains, veterinarians of the University of Leon ruled it was a dog. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

August 15, 2003 — *El Nuevo Diario*, Managua, Nicaragua — THE RETURN OF THE CHUPACABRAS — ***Kills 19 sheep in Malpaisillo*** — ***Same killing method: two punctures in the neck through which blood is sucked*** — ***Some countries believe it is an alien accidentally deposited on Earth*** — by Marianela Flores Vergara (Malpaisillo, Leon) — The Chupacabras strikes again. At least that's what residents of Calle Real de Tolapa say, following the sudden deaths of 19 sheep in this region in recent months.

Tolapa was in the domestic and international news in August 2000, when people began describing a strange animal that sucked the blood of helpless animals, leaving them dead.

The mysterious assailant known as "Chupacabras" was allegedly shot by one of the affected parties and found two days later near the San Lorenzo farm. Its body was sent to a university, where they said--despite the hunter's protests--that it was a dog.

The "Chupacabras" is a creature of modern myth whose first apparitions occurred in 1995 in Puerto Rico and Mexico, where it slaughtered sheep with abandon.

Rather than being dismissed as a common cur -- the fate suffered by the Tolapa skeleton -- this unknown creature is held in awe in other countries, where it is even believed that it is a space alien which accidentally reached Earth and while away its time killing sheep in a most peculiar fashion, and feeding on them.

TOWN BELIEVES IT RETURNED

It needn't be said that the population of Tolapa, in Malpaisillo, was not content with the official ruling, and although the fatal blood extractions stopped with the alleged culprit's death, the enigmatic animal appears to be on the prowl once more.

"Two months ago, we found 12 dead sheep, slain in the same manner as the ones we lost three years ago. They had twin perforations in the neck, but we didn't wish to alarm anyone," said Alicia Icabalceta, mother of Jorge Luis Talavera, the farmer who gave the Chupacabras its death wound in 2000.

The attack continued against three goats which also perished. Local dwellers claim that the chupacabras has attacked again. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

August 17, 2003 — *La Prensa*, Managua, Nicaragua — TERRIFIED OF THE CHUPACABRAS — *Ranchers believe that it has reappeared in Malpaisillo, Leon, and that it has slain more than 55 goats and sheep — * Believe that the strange creature behind the attacks — Residents of the rural communities of El Barro, Calle Real de Tolapa and Las Marias in the Malpaisillo municipality (Dept. of Leon) are frightened of being stalked by the alleged "Chupacabras" to whom they ascribe the deaths of 55 goats and sheep, causing financial losses to local farmers.

"Goats and sheep are harmless animals that are turning up dead in the pens and groves of private properties; their bodies do not exhibit any signs of struggle, except for two deep holes in the neck area and the legs, where the so-called "Chupacabras" bites to stun its victims and later sucks their blood," explained Jorge Luis Talavera, a rancher from Calle Real de Solapa.

He explained that as a rule, the "Chupacabras" attacks female animals and helpless newborns under cover of darkness. He added that he has lost 22 animals to the unnatural creature in less than 8 days. Faced with the predations of the "Chupacabras", local peasants have taken steps to adequately fence their animal pens. According to Talavera, it was necessary to protect his 40 sheep and one "peligüey" because he wishes to avoid any further economic losses, since the "peligüey" has a value of US\$75.

Moreover, Mrs. Felix Albertina Brenes, a peasant from the El Barro community in Malpaisillo, stated that two months ago, at night, the "Chupacabras" visited her property for the first time: "It killed five of the seven sheep I had in the yard; we only heard the racket and running of the frightened sheep--they were trying to defend themselves, banging into the wire fence and the house walls." Although they could hear the commotion, they were too scared to go out at that time of night, and at sunrise found five of the seven sheep "dead and completely bloodless, with holes in their throats," mourned the humble peasant woman. There are more persons affected by the "Chupacabras" in Malpaisillo, such as Mrs. Pilar Ocon, who lost six "peligüey" sheep. Jeronimo Blanco lost eight and Marfa Carcamo lost 12.

Jorge Luis Talavera recalls that the "Chupacabras" prowled this same sector in the year 2000 and killed over 70 animals, but on that occasion one specimen was caught and delivered to the authorities of the Leon Hospital where physicians and specialists ruled it was merely a wild dog. Talavera says he hopes to hunt another "Chupacabras," but states that this time he will not turn it over to any Sanitary authority as he did in 2000, since he resents the fact that "the UNAN-Leon returned to me the carcass of a stray dog, with its four legs and ribcage complete. However, what I gave them was an animal in decomposition and incomplete." — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

August 18, 2003 — *Cronica*, Concepcion, Chile — CHUPACABRAS BARES ITS FANGS YET AGAIN — ***Strange prints, dead birds and weird creature seen in Lota*** — by Enrique Pefla — There was a blackout that night. It was a Wednesday and the labor union had called for a national workers' strike. The protests were violent in Lota, but all was calm at Poblacion Idahue. Suddenly there was a noise: it was around midnight and someone was prowling around the house of Samuel Bustos.

This announcer for Radio El Carbon looked out his rear door. His 10 year old son shined a flashlight. They took some steps and the boy focused the beam on a white duck, which was frightened by his presence. Bustos' wife Alicia raised six of these animals.

"Maluco," the neighbors' dog, was excited and barked ceaselessly; Samuel and his son went into the house and fell asleep. But at 3 in the morning there was another commotion: there was no doubt that a prowler lurked outside in the backyard. Curiously, the ducks did not make any noise. "At around 11 in the morning I went out to feed them and I found them dead," recalls little Samuel Antonio. The boy saw three of them. Another two were in a hard-to-reach corner. A third was agonizing in the bushes along the Idahue creek, which crosses the backyard of Samuel Bustos' house.

"They had two small perforations marked on their throats. I'm sure that this was not the work of a dog, much less that of a human," said Bustos. Prints resembling those of a dog were found in the mud, but it is clearly evident that these are larger. Samuel Bustos' neighbor approached him to say that early last Tuesday, they found four of her ducks dead. The birds showed the same wounds.

Esteban Hidalgo, one of Samuel's neighbors, claims having seen from his window a black creature, one meter tall, crouching among the plants.

Mystery increased when Jorge Bello, who lives in front of the Federico Schwager Stadium in Coronel, phoned Bustos to tell him that Friday afternoon he and his wife had seen an odd "bird" flying over the houses. It looked like a bat, but was much larger.

No one claims it's the Chupacabras, but no one dismisses the possibility either. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

August 19, 2003 — *Diario Austral*, Valdivia, Chile — MYSTERIOUS BEAST SLAYS 50 HENS, 9 GEESE, 1 PIG — A strange animal left a trail of blood and death at the Los Lagos commune of the Quinchilca sector.

Fear gripped a humble peasant woman after she learned of the savage death of some fifty birds and a pig at the claws of a mysterious beast which few hesitated to identify as the Chupacabras.

The hideous scene of bloodletting was discovered early in the morning by Edith Mora, owner of the Los Colihues smallhold, located some 4 km from Los Lagos, where she has lived for over 25 years.

The strong winds and rain felt early Monday morning kept locals from discovering the sinister fact, which took the lives of 50 hens and nine geese through strange perforations on their necks, as well as the death of a large pig, who presented extensive and deep injuries on both sides and on its head.

The violence of the attack was made manifest by the numerous scratches on the stable doors, one of which was completely destroyed, as well as the numerous prints resembling those of a puma and which were evident all over the henhouse.

Oddly enough, the three watchdogs on the premises never noticed the strange animal's presence and it is assumed that they did not hesitate to hide in order to avoid the same fate as the other victims.

Remains of animal blood, flesh and feathers were evident everywhere, mute testimony of the violent assault, which probably took only a few minutes.

"All of my birds were dead and scattered, and the henhouse door was shredded to ribbons. I was sad to see my little animals dead," said the sorrowful woman, who is even contemplating the sale of the property and moving far away. "Some say it was a lion, although others do not dismiss the fact that it could have been the Chupacabras. Whatever it is, my birds are dead and there's nothing to be done."

This is the second time that Edith Mora has lost her birds in a strange and cruel event. In 2002, a mysterious beast also killed all the poultry and wounded her dogs, which miraculously saved their lives. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

August 19, 2003 — *El Lider*, San Antonio, Chile — CHUPACABRAS ATTACK REPORTED — The animals presented perforations near the neck and extensive featherless areas. — "Damn you, Chupacabras, you killed all of my hens," were the resigned and angry words of Ana Luisa Morales Inostroza, when she discovered at 7 a.m. yesterday, as is her custom, the macabre spectacle as she went to feed her farm animals. Seven chickens in one of her two henhouses were dead, scattered all over the dirt floor. Another small bird was agonizing. Pale and almost dry, the dead birds had lost most of their plumage and presented two-centimeter puncture marks on their necks. The dry flesh and the animal's interior could be seen through the puncture, as though a strange object had been introduced into the dead poultry's bodies to draw their blood.

The affected party reported the event to the Carabineros (state police) barracks at Las Cruces, noting that the "Chupacabras" was responsible.

Two dogs guard the home of Ana Luisa Morales and on an adjacent property, two mastiffs reinforce the sector's safety. "The dogs have never attacked the birds and when cats do it, they shred the chickens and the hens alike. But my chickens are whole but for the feathers and the hole in their bodies. These birds have no blood, you can see it by how pale they are. There's no doubt that it is the Chupacabras, whom they say was in Santiago, but has appeared in Las Cruces," mourned the woman, who claimed not having heard noises nor the presence of strangers on the property, something that is made even harder by the presence of the watchdogs. "I believe it is the Chupacabras who came in at 4 in the morning, because at that time everything's asleep, even the animals."

The news spread like wildfire in the community and numerous residents visited Ana Luisa Morales to show solidarity and while they were at it, to take a look at the deceased poultry.

The economic losses were considerable, as well as the effort taken to raise the poultry. Right next to the affected henhouse there is another, but it has a metal structure on its roof, which kept the attacker from continuing with its fatal assault of the remaining birds, hens in this case.

From now on, Ana Luis Morales must redouble her efforts to protect her remaining birds and scare off the mysterious Chupacabras that prowls Las Cruces, according to the locals. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

August 20, 2003 — Argentina — An eyewitness report of a cattle mutilation? — [TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: The following letter was forwarded by an anonymous subscriber to the Imprimatur list on Yahoogroups, retelling the experiences of an Internet user named "Cobra Rex". There is NO CORROBORATION for this account. Inexplicata/IHU therefore makes no claims as to its legitimacy.]

From: Cobra Rex <cobrarex@... >

Date: August 20, 2003

Subject: CATTLE MUTILATION up close and personal?????

Greetings to all members of the list. I am a new member and would like to share some information with you. What I am about to tell you occurred to a friend of mine who works at the Swift Foods refrigeration plant. He has asked me not to disclose his identity for obvious reasons. It would appear that my friend witnessed a Cattle Mutilation up close and personal.

It goes like this: A few months ago (he doesn't exactly remember when) at around 5:00 a.m., as he worked in the packing plant, he saw a white van come into the main gate followed by a blue car—he's not sure as to the model—and the vehicles approached the cattle pen area where the cows are ready for processing. Three men and one woman, dressed in white lab coats like the ones used in packing plants, got out of the cars and the plant manager went down with them (sic). They went straightaway to the pen and one of the "vets" pointed out 4 cows selected at random to the plant manager. In turn, the manager ordered one of the men in charge of the pens to bring out the first of the animals. One of the "men in white" pulled out a dart gun and the animal fell to the ground in a matter of seconds. He then took out an enormous syringe and injected the cow's neck while a third "man in white" brought out a rather large medical bag from the van and began to prepare things; the woman brought out trays and some sort of tinfoil. The man with the medical bag took out a strange instrument measuring approximately 50 cm. long which emitted a thin flame like a blowtorch, but with a much narrower flame. They then started to cut the animal with this tool, extracting its tongue, jaw, udders, anus and removing an eye. Then they introduced another tool, apparently to draw a small sample of its brain. Meanwhile, the woman placed the selected pieces on the trays and wrapped them in what seemed to be bags made of tinfoil or something similar. They did the same with the three remaining cows. The entire process took place without spilling a drop of blood.

While the procedure took place, these men were neither silent nor mysterious. On the contrary, they spoke among themselves and even made jokes. When my friend approached one of them and remarked that the animals were not bleeding, the man told him that with this instrument, which he called "TERMO" (??), [Translator's note: reference is being made to "termocauterio" or thermal cauterizer] not a drop of blood was spilled, adding jokingly: "Something that the red muzzled mouse doesn't do."

Well, that's the end of the story, since my friend didn't probe too much, being that he isn't interested in the subject and doesn't believe in cattle mutilations; he only told me this after I made a remark. Now all that's left is speculation: who were they? what were they after? why did they do it?

My friend speculates that they could be testing for outbreaks of rabies, since (and this was never made known) bovines suffering from this disease have frequently been found in this same packing plant (Swift).

Well, that's all for now, but I hope to continue delving into the subject and find out if something similar has occurred in other meat packing plants in the area, such as Paladini, Sugarosa, Litoral, etc. — CREDIT: "RataKing"

August 28, 2003 — *www.ovnivision.net*, Chile — CONGRESS ACKNOWLEDGES IMPORTANCE OF UFO RESEARCH — Chilean parliamentarians have acknowledged the importance of UFO Research. Members of the Defense Committee of the Chamber of Deputies analyze the UFO problem for the first time in history — VALPARAISO, Aug. 27 - Members of the Defense Committee of the Chilean Chamber of Deputies analyzed for the first time ever information concerning the UFO phenomenon. During its session yesterday, they heard from representatives of the Comité de Estudio de Fenómenos Aéreos Anómalos (CEFAA) and the director of the OVNIVISION Chile research organization.

The session was held on the third floor of the national congress building and started after 18:30 hours with a presentation by Cristian Riffo, director of OVNIVISION, whose opening words were that "UFO" is not synonymous with "alien." "I wish to make clear that UFO is not synonymous with aliens, Martians, or little green men from Mars. UFO is an unknown phenomenon that cannot be explained in conventional terms. Whether or not UFOs are alien in origin has not been ascertained. But that is a subject for another discussion."

Later on, Riffo made known a series of cases involving pilots and air traffic controllers. All of these cases involve eyewitness reports. Events occurring at the Chacalluta, Tepual, Pichoy, Tobalaba, Arturo Martínez Benítez, Cerro Moreno and El Loa areas were discussed. Riffo handed the deputies a 15-page dossier containing the details of these events.

Ultimately, OVNIVISION's director asked parliamentarians to create a multidisciplinary committee to study the phenomenon. "We believe that it is necessary to create a Civilian Research Committee of the UFO phenomenon, made up of an interdisciplinary team of researchers. Its goal would be to perform a serious and detailed study of unknown phenomena in the skies and seas of Chile."

Deputy Arturo Cardemil, chairman of the Defense Committee, told the media that the UFO phenomenon must be studied and that it has sometimes disrupted the normal operation of air traffic operations. "We must place ourselves at the level of the developed nations which have established commissions to deal with this subject. We are not prepared to deal with a contingency related to this subject," he said.

The remaining parliamentarians were very interested in hearing further details regarding the phenomenon and requested OVNIVISION's director to submit information regularly. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

August 29, 2003 — *Cronica*, Concepcion, Chile — CONGRESSMEN LEFT SPEECHLESS WITH UFO TALES — **In the defense committee** — **Committeeman Jorge Ulloa related part of the eyewitness accounts received, and assured listeners that the phenomenon jeopardizes the safety of any flight** — by Isabel Plaza V. — "I haven't taken this as a joke and this is what makes me give it the level of seriousness it merits," said the congressman for Talcahuano, Jorge Ulloa, who forms part of the Lower Chamber Defense Committee and who on Tuesday, along with other delegates, listened to part of the testimony gathered regarding anomalous aerial phenomena. The session created great interest, because it was the first time that an official agency took time to listen to reports of this kind, experienced by Chileans.

The parliamentarian recounted that the session began with the presentation by a representative from Ovnivision, an independent agency devoted to the subject. However, he acknowledged that the matter acquired a different tone when retired general Hernan Henriquez, director of the FACH (Chilean Air Force) Aeronautical School and former air traffic controller Gustavo Rodriguez of the CEFAA (Centro de Estudios de Fenómenos Aéreos Anómalos) entered the stage. This is a team formed only by experts and specialists in the subject, having no budget whatsoever and in which all work for love of the subject since 1997.

"The general made it clear from the start that he didn't believe in space aliens, but that he did believe in phenomena having an explanation, others which are somewhat explainable and others which are outright inexplicable. After that he left us with a former air traffic controller who not only said that he believed, but brought with him a recording made in 1988," explained the parliamentarian.

From that moment onward, one could hear a pin drop and the passing of time was disregarded. The tape

contained the dialogue between a commercial airliner pilot and the control tower of the Tepual Airport at Puerto Montt. In the recording, the pilot advises the tower that "air traffic is approaching on a collision course," to which he is told that while the radars are not picking up any air traffic, the controller himself can see--from the control tower--a light approaching the plane.

While the conversation increases in intensity and nervousness, the pilot repeats that he must get out of the collision course, and finally makes a detour which even keeps him from making a landing. What is interesting is that the light not only made a sudden course change, but passed alongside the aircraft and was seen by all passengers.

"What concerns me is that Chile lacks an office earnestly devoted to the subject and that isn't good for a nation that ranks among the five with the greatest number of sightings," explained Ulloa. He added that there would be information suggesting that several air tragedies had been caused by similar situations, which implies a risk factor for aviation in this country. Therefore, he added, a second session will be held and scientific explanations will be sought to cover the creation of an agency designed to safeguarding flights. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

August 30, 2003 — *La Prensa*, Managua, Nicaragua — CHUPACABRAS ALLEGEDLY APPEARED IN QUETE QUETE — CURICO — Without any apparent explanation, the owners of 50 hens were startled to find their animals dead inside and outside a henhouse in the Quete Quete sector on the road to Rauco. Scattered over a broad space, the hens were joined by a turkey and a rooster that shared a small coop which was also fenced.

The owners cannot explain how the creature--which was initially said to be the legendary Chupacabras--could have entered the pen and then the henhouse, leaving in its wake 50 hens in very poor conditions, some of them torn to shreds, although without the characteristic marks found on animals attacked by the "Chupacabras."

The owner of each bird could not explain how the events occurred. Only when they arose in the morning did they realize that 50 hens were dead and that a scant few remained alive, without them or their watchdogs ever becoming aware of a disturbance.

"I have no idea as to what happened here. When I woke up in the morning I found them dead, nothing more. About 50 hens died; there are roosters and turkeys. We heard nothing. There were some 60 hens here and about 10 were left. This is the first time it's happened. I heard nothing, the dogs didn't bark, and my wife didn't hear any noises. The hens were scattered all over and I gathered them here ... there were a few around here and the turkey was over there," said Sergio Gonzalez Nunez, owner of the farm birds. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

August 31, 2003 — *El Tribuno*, Salta, Argentina — ROSARIO DE LA FRONTERA: TWO ATHLETES CLAIM SEEING STRANGE BIPED — Two people training for the biathlon last Saturday along the forested trails of Cerro Termal, and a gaucho [cowboy] passing through the area on horseback, six kilometers east of Rosario de la Frontera, claim having seen the strange hairy beast, which has been the cause of 20 reports since cattleman Rogelio Martinez made a detailed and fantastic report to the authorities in 2001.

The creature is thought to be a Mapinguary, a kind of South American Bigfoot, usually seen in the rain forests of Brazil and Bolivia. However, for the past six months, the biped, sometimes called the Ucumar, has been sighted around the small city of Rosario de la Frontera, which is located 150 kilometers south of Salta and about 650 kilometers northwest of Buenos Aires, the national capital.

According to the established facts, the gaucho, surnamed Posadas, in charge of a farm owned by agribusinessman Oscar Farez, was crossing the section--high and densely forested--in the early hours when he ran into a strange being standing over 2 meters tall, covered in hair from head to foot, long arms ending in sharp claws, an oval-shaped head, and an enormous mouth with menacing fangs.

Posadas did not wish to make any statement to *El Tribuno*, but the parties to whom he retold his experience said that the man, impressed by the giant, got off his mount and reached for the shotgun on the saddle, but the hominid had vanished by the time he looked up again.

However, biathlete Humberto Sosa, 52, who has won over 100 trophies in national, regional and provincial competitions, did not hesitate to make known his extraordinary experience.

Sosa was training with Susana Romano, 32. "At around 1700 hours, upon rounding a curve," he said, "we felt the crashing of bushes from the hill. We stopped to see what it could be, and, amid the foliage, we saw it briefly. It was a large animal, some kind of ape, moving with great agility.

"Susana and I exchanged glances as though to confirm what we had just seen was a product of our imaginations or real. We remained still with our eyes riveted toward the place where we'd seen it jump and become lost in the vegetation. We tried to listen, but everything remained silent. Suddenly, all of the birds flew away from something. And once again, with the same speed as before, it jumped.

"It was like a great ape. We were scared and decided to run as quickly as possible towards the unforested area. However, that 'thing' seemed to follow us, running parallel to us some 10 meters down the slope, through the wilderness, which is impossible for a human to do given the thickness of the vegetation. Through the leaves and branches we could see an enormous silhouette, and every so often we could hear timber being violently shattered, which led us to believe that the creature's weight was tremendous.

"I had heard and read people's stories about the beast. I would laugh and I'll admit to not believing anything that was said. What's more, I ascribed all these tales to some sort of collective hysteria or psychosis. However, now I have no doubt that what people said was true, since I experienced this terror in person."

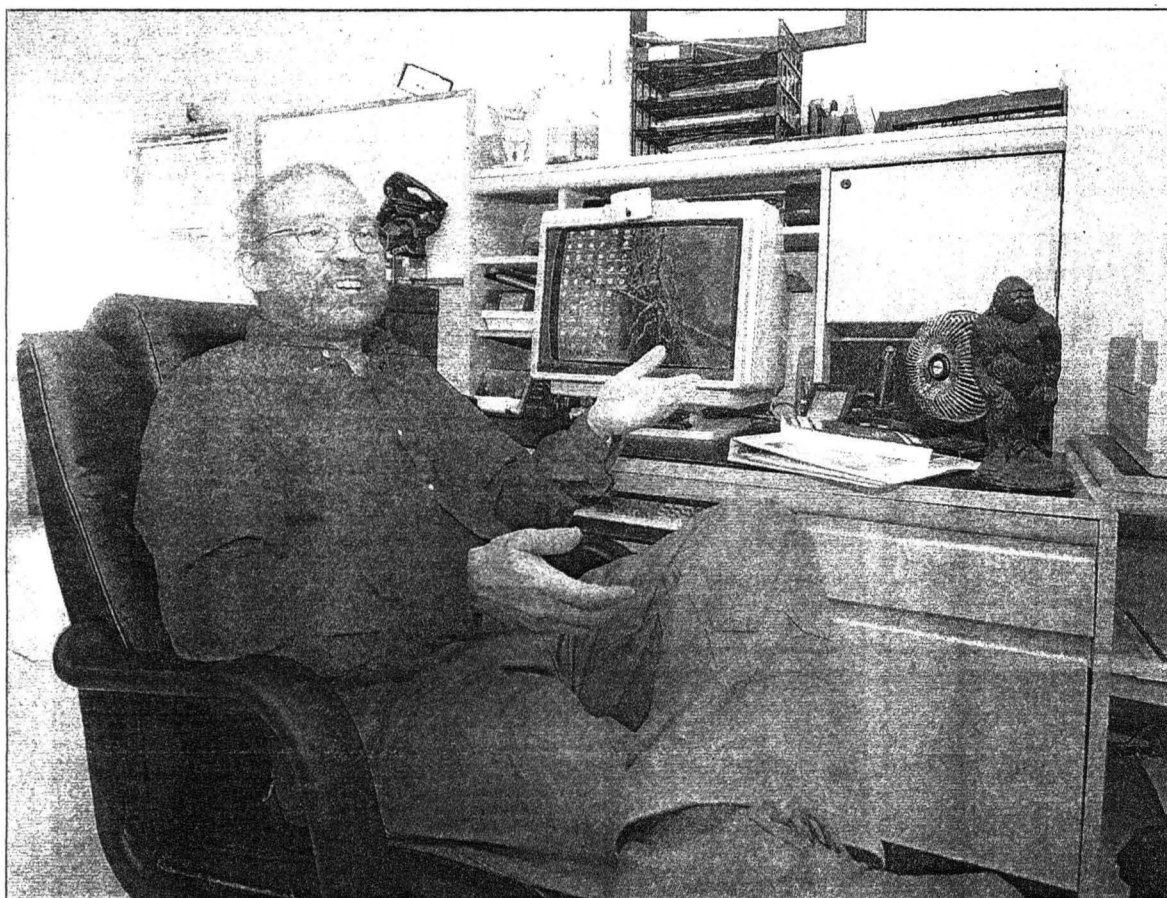
Sosa continued, "It was evident that the creature was following us, and I therefore feared it would attack us. I felt fear for my companion and asked her to run as fast as she could. I told myself that if the situation reached the brink, I'd give my life for her. We ran and ran, always feeling that the animal was moving beside us among the dense underbrush. In a given area where the vegetation isn't quite so dense and the possibility of observing was greater, we stopped to look around us. But the noise stopped and the jumping shadow that had followed us had vanished. In the distance, we could see birds flocked together and frightened by something."

Sosa added that he customarily trains at Cerro Termal in the company of a group of sportsmen. "This time we were only two, and it was our turn to undergo a traumatic experience. In over 30 years of covering these trails, I've never seen anything like it." — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi



Seeking the undiscovered

Dallas Tanner hunts for 'hidden' creatures by exploring through the Internet



GEORGE GARDNER / Staff

Seeker: Dallas Tanner writes under the watchful gaze of Bigfoot and Abominable Snowman figures. On Oct. 14 at 9 p.m., he will be interviewed on the Internet radio show, www.artistfirst.com



Novel: With last year's publication of his novel, "Shadow of the Thunderbird," above, and upcoming books on Bigfoot and the Altamaha River, Dallas Tanner is on the cutting edge of a new genre called "cryptofiction."

By Deb Richardson-Moore
STAFF WRITER
dmoore@greenvillenews.com

Dallas Tanner looks the part of a Bigfoot hunter — grizzled, tanned, ruggedly dressed. But he doesn't hunt anything that involves going outside, he cheerfully admits.

His hunting is done over the Internet, his glee over sightings of Bigfoot, a Thunderbird or lake monsters celebrated in the comfort of his home office in Greer's Silverleaf subdivision, witnessed only by his cat, Samwise, companionably draped over his computer monitor.

Tanner's preference for the indoors hasn't hampered his plunge into cryptozoology, the study of "hidden" or undiscovered ani-

WANT TO GO?

What: South Carolina Cryptozoology Conference
When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nov. 8

Where: University Transfer Building, Greenville Technical College
Tickets: \$20 in advance (available at www.dltanner.com or Greenville Tech bookstore); \$30 at door

On the Net:
www.dltanner.com
www.monsterinthelake.com
www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/1171/irmo019
www.gabooks.com

mals. It's not a recognized, degree-granting field of study, such as its respectable relatives zoology, an-

thropology or paleontology. Indeed, dabbling in it can wreck a career, Tanner said.

That's because the tame part of it — such as discovering the long-thought-extinct coelacanth fish off the coast of South Africa — is overshadowed by the far-out part of it — searching for the Loch Ness Monster.

But cryptozoology, at least for now, isn't Tanner's livelihood. It's his hobby.

And with last year's publication of his novel, "Shadow of the Thunderbird," and upcoming books on Bigfoot and the Altamaha-ha in Georgia's Altamaha River, he is on the cutting edge of a new genre called "cryptofiction."

Greenville Technical College, which was searching for an adventure story with-

out obscenity or graphic sex, selected "Thunderbird" for its critical reading classes to study this year alongside "Death on the Nile" by Agatha Christie.

"We wanted something to appeal to the younger generation, like sci-fi, mystery and intrigue," said Phyllis Beveliaque, Tech's reading instructor, who learned of the book when she met Tanner's wife at a wedding. "Once I got it and read it, I thought, 'this is a really good book.'"

The bonus: She got Tanner as a guest lecturer.

Computer specialist

Tanner, an affable, 46-year-old Mormon, does most of his research and writing late at night, when

his wife and five children are asleep. By day, his job is just about as rare as his hobby: He's an electronic commerce specialist who sets up computer language systems for companies dealing internationally. He has worked for BMW and IBM, and is currently an independent contractor for BMW supplier ZF Lemforder.

Serendipitously, his mastery of computers has aided him greatly in his more recent interest in the creatures of folklore.

"There are basically three areas of what you would consider the paranormal," he explained: UFOs, the supernatural, and cryptozoology.

"I guess I never felt comfortable with the notion of flying saucers or ghosts, because as Christians, we look at it with the question, 'Where is God in all this?' But I can appreciate the fact that he had some animals on the ark we haven't seen in some time."

Tanner isn't sure whether creatures such as the Thunderbird — or for that matter, nearby "Messie" in Lake Murray or "Normie" in Lake Norman — exist. But he is intrigued when sightings run through different generations and cultures.

For instance, there are at least two dozen names among American Indians for Thunderbird — a 6-foot-tall bird with a 20-to-25-foot wingspan.

Because the tribes "lived in so many different places and spoke so many different dialects, how did they come up with the same stories for these giant birds?" he asked. "And so, what I did, in putting cryptozoology together with fiction ... is say, 'OK, if these Native American legends have some basis in reality, what bird would explain the sightings?'"

His fictional answer: *Argentavis magnificens*, a dinosaur-era flying creature with a 25-foot wingspan whose remains were discovered in Argentina in 1980.

It's not that Tanner believes that such animals have survived ... exactly.

"I enjoy the possibility that these things are out there," he said. "It makes the world less mundane."

"But as far as mounting an expedition or traveling on one, I am literally like Ian McQuade (his fictional hero). I don't like sleeping on the ground. I don't want to be the one out there hearing strange noises or having to run three-quarters of a mile back to my car."

After Ian's adventures in "Thunderbird," published by Booklocker Inc. of Bangor, Maine, he will reappear in "Track of the Bigfoot" then "Wake of the Lake Monster."

In "Lake Monster," he will pursue the Altamaha-ha in neighboring Georgia.

"This thing has been reported for over 200 years," Tanner said. "It supposedly swims from the ocean, up the Altamaha River to Smith Lake. There are dozens of sightings a year."

(continued on page 18)

Lake Murray

Like his more hands-on monster-hunting colleagues, Tanner can't make a living at cryptozoology yet.

But he's expanding his reach.

He recently founded the South Carolina Cryptozoological Society, an organization of folks interested in investigating sightings and swapping information about undiscovered creatures.

One of the group's first projects, Tanner hopes, will be to launch a one-day, no-camping-involved boat trip to perform depth soundings to find "Messie," Lake Murray's answer to Scotland's "Nessie."

"Again, it's not a question of saying, 'We want to go and find something,'" Tanner said. "We just want to have that less-mundane experience of spending the day together out on the lake for no other reason than we might happen to find something."

He's also planned a daylong conference Nov. 8 with well-known speakers in the field, including anthropologist Loren Coleman, perhaps the most prolific cryptozoological lecturer and investigator.

The public is invited to hear the likes of Joshua Warren, founder of a paranormal investigations team that has tackled the Pink Lady of Asheville's Grove Park Inn, and Mike McCurry, who will bring three-dimensional models inspired by Bigfootprints.

For Tanner, it will be a chance to meet fans who've discovered him on the Internet — such as the Pennsylvania motorist who reported a massive bird stepping into the road near Valley Forge. The Philadelphia Zoo, the University of Pennsylvania and local television stations couldn't provide the man with an explanation.

Tanner was happy to give him ... a possibility.

■ Deb Richardson-Moore may be reached at 298-4127.

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - July 7, 2003 CR: J. Fry
OHIO MILEPOSTS | JULY 7, 1817

Sailors sight 'monster' in Lake Erie

By Gerald Tebben
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The "monster" in Lake Erie is at least 16 feet long or maybe 40 or 60. It's black or brown or copper, and it has glowing eyes.

Sometimes, its whole body glows. The beast is either smooth or covered with silver-dollar-size scales.

The creature, nicknamed "Bessie" of late, has been terrorizing sailors and amusing imbibers from Toledo to Buffalo and Cleveland to Point Pelee for more than two centuries.

Lake Erie has been home to monsters since at least 1793, when the captain of the Felicity reportedly was chased on Middle Bass Island by a snake more than 16 feet long.

On July 7, 1817, the crew of a schooner reported seeing a black serpent 30 to 40 feet long and a foot in diameter 5 miles



off shore. Some accounts place the event on July 3, 1817, 2 miles closer to shore. All agree the creature was enormous.

In 1887, two fishermen stumbled upon a 30- to 40-foot-long glowing sea monster writhing in agony on the shore near Toledo. When they returned with ropes to secure the body, it had disappeared into the lake.

Modern reports center on popular summer spots in northwestern Ohio. For several years in the 1990s, a group of Huron businessmen offered a \$150,000 reward for Bessie's capture, "live and unharmed."

While there were many sightings, no one claimed the reward.

Sources: Columbus Dispatch; Akron Beacon Journal; The Great Sea-Serpent, by A. C. Oudemans; www.monstertracker.com; gtebben@dispatch.com

There's no irrefutable proof of the existence of man/beasts, writes Fenton Roskelley.

Monsters good for tall tales

The Spokesman-Review

There's something in the human psyche that enables some people to believe the unbelievable.

Nearly all practical-minded persons reject the possibility that a big man/beast is roaming the Northwest's wilderness. But a few, some of them exceptionally intelligent, still believe Big Foot — Sasquatch to Indians — lives despite the fact no such creature could exist without encountering people periodically and without leaving evidence of its life in the forests.

Big Foot is not the only man/beast reportedly living near people. Some Nepalese and others are convinced one they call Yeti wanders around the Himalayas.

My son John has climbed peaks in the Himalayas for more than 30 years, but all he's seen are snow leopards, bears and wolves, and no one he's encountered has seen Yeti.

He's always looking for wildlife while climbing. For example, while riding in a bus with the team that is attempting to climb Mt. Everest, he spotted a large, gray Tibetan wolf.

"I motioned to the driver to stop," he writes on the team's Web site. "The wolf stood broadside to us. I grabbed my camera, opened the door and quickly took several telephoto shots of him walking and then running. He had seemed just as curious about us as we were about him. We soon spotted his mate waiting for him."

John takes pictures of animals and birds while he's on a climb. He even has many pictures of ravens stealing climbers' food near the tops of high peaks.

John believes people who think there's a Yeti living among the high peaks assume that tracks made by leopards or bears are the tracks of Yeti. Tracks of the large feet of leopards and bears widen when the snow melts, leading to the belief.

Many Europeans believe there's a monster creature living in Loch Ness in Scotland. They call it the "Loch Ness Monster."

Despite efforts to find the creature by Scottish authorities and wealthy individuals, no one has come up with irrefutable proof such a monster is living in the 24-mile-long, 1-mile-wide lake. Belief in its existence didn't get started in recent years. Scots first started telling tales of a monster back in the 1200s.

Merchants who conduct profitable lake tours, sell souvenirs and rent rooms to tourists have been making a



Fenton Roskelley

living from people who believe there's a "Loch Ness Monster" for years and they aren't eager for anyone to come up with proof there's no monster in the lake.

Most Northwest residents long have been skeptical that such a man/beast as Big Foot is living somewhere in the Washington or Oregon forests. They've ridiculed Paul Freeman and Grover Kranz for years.

Freeman, who claimed to have seen Big Foot more than 20 years ago, spent much of his adult life trying to convince friends and others a hairy man/ape was living in the woods. He didn't convert skeptics, who accused him of photographing a man in an ape suit. He was still trying to convince people that he saw the man/beast when he died recently in Spokane.

Kranz, a Washington State University anthropology professor, was still trying to gather evidence of the existence of Big Foot when he died a year ago.

To most who spend a lot of time in the forests, so-called sightings of Big Foot are by persons with overactive imaginations. Some, they believe, see what they want to see.

Hunters afflicted by "buck fever" see what they expect to see. When they see something that looks like a buck deer or a bull elk, their hearts pump as adrenalin floods their brain, and they shoot at it. Some are horrified to learn they've shot their hunting partner or a stranger. Others learn quickly they've shot a doe deer or a cow elk.

Buck fever can be a terrible affliction, but most who become agitated and lose control of themselves do no harm. I was with a friend when three or four whitetail doe jumped up in front of us. He knew he could legally shoot one of them, but got buck fever. Instead of firing, he pumped unspent shells one after another out of his rifle, then ran after the deer. When he returned, he could hardly believe it when I told him there were five shells on the ground where we saw the deer.

Thousands of hunters, hikers, mountain climbers, berry pickers and others are in the forests every spring, summer and fall. Many hunters spend hours peering through binoculars at the land around them. If there was a Big Foot out there, someone would have seen it or would have found places where the beast lived.

If there's a man/beast in the forests, there would be or would have been others. After all, not even a Big Foot could live for centuries without detection.

No one has ever found campsites of a man/beast and no one has found bones of a creature that lived near people despite the fact thousands of hunters and other recreationists have tread nearly every acre of Northwest forests.

SUN, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

July 16, 2003 CR: G. Duplantier

China's 'Nessie' reappears

BEIJING (Reuters) — China's legendary "Lake Tianchi Monster" has resurfaced, with local officials reporting sightings of up to 20 of the mysterious creatures in a lake near North Korea.

The creatures, similar to Scotland's Loch Ness monster, appeared only as white or black spots in the distance. But from the ripples in the water, it was determined they were "living beings," the Beijing Youth Daily said.

COLUMBIAN, Vancouver,

WA - July 1, 2003

Bigfoot reported: Emergency dispatchers in Skamania County had reports of a sasquatch sighting on Saturday. Two vanloads of people took to the 90 and 25 roads with cameras in hopes of recording the legend, a dispatcher said.

Kings Mountain man seeks origin of rock found lodged in roof

By CASEY CHILDERS
Special to The Gazette

KINGS MOUNTAIN — A mystery exists at Bill Phillips' home, his roof to be exact.

A rock mysteriously lodged in Phillips' roof. It wasn't thrown, it's not a meteor and no one has blasted rock in the area.

Bill Phillips, who lives on Wright Road, northwest of Kings Mountain, noticed the rock last Tuesday. The irregularly shaped object was lodged near the top of his roof.

"I thought 'My goodness, how did the rock get up there like that?'" he said.

Phillips has no idea when the rock struck his roof.

He thought it might be a meteor, so he had the rock analyzed at the Schiele Museum of Natural History and Lynn Planetarium in Gastonia. The

rock is composed of minerals in the area including mica, which gives the rock a shiny appearance. The brown and gray rock is a foot in circumference but weighs only about 2 pounds, Phillips said.

Since the rock is so light and impacted the roof, it is unlikely it was thrown. The distance from where the rock lodged and the ground is 25 to 30 feet, Phillips said.

Bill McCarter, director of planning and zoning for Cleveland County, said no blasting or construction is under way in the area. There is construction on N.C. 161, but the distance — about 10 miles from Wright Road — makes it improbable that a rock was blown from the site to Phillips' house.

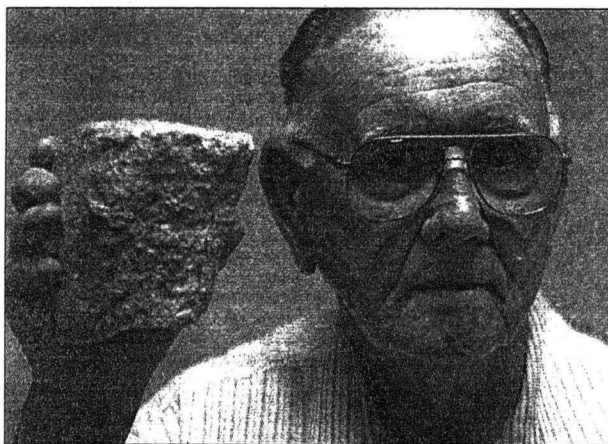
Distance also makes it impossible for any rock quarry blasting to be responsible for

the rock, said Doug Miller with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. There are rock quarries in Kings Mountain and Shelby, but Miller said it is highly unlikely any quarry blasting is to blame for the rock.

"I've seen rocks being propelled a few hundred feet, but not several miles," Miller said.

Someone could be blasting in the area, such as a farmer blasting stumps, Miller said. Phillips said he wasn't aware of any blasting or construction in the area.

Another possibility is that the rock was flung during a lightning strike. Phillips reported many lightning strikes in the area during the recent violent storms.



Special to The Gazette.

Bill Phillips holds up a rock he found lodged near the top of the roof of his home on Wright Road, northwest of Kings Mountain.

Jonathan Lamb with the National Weather Service at the

Greenville-Spartanburg, S.C., airport believes the lightning strike theory is a stretch, but it could happen.

"I've never heard of that happening ... it's not very likely. I guess anything's possible with a lightning strike," Lamb said.

Phillips hasn't heard an estimate from the roofer he hired to fix the hole, but he doesn't foresee a huge bill.

Saddam's wizard tells of a man obsessed with magic

HEET, Iraq (AP) — The wrinkled old man sprays perfume around the sparse, dingy room, then holds out his hands and feet and instructs one of his visitors to tie him up, knot the cloth three times and blow on it.

The lights die and small red flashes go off beneath the black cloak that covers a bowl of magic powders and water. The visitors feel pokes and jabs and things fluttering over their heads in the darkness — “birds,” the wizard says. Water splashes from the bowl.

The genies have arrived, and the questions begin.

Will Saddam be found? A genie answers in the old man's voice: “Yes.”

Dead or alive? “Dead.”

And the \$25 million question: Where is he? “Dhuluaiah,” he says. Dhuluaiah is a village 55 miles north of Baghdad.

Thousands of magicians, fortune-tellers and faith healers make up a huge world of Iraqi spirituality that thrives despite being considered by many Muslims to be sinful.

But this man is different. He was Saddam's own sorcerer, and therefore, for Iraqis his visions of the dictator's demise carry special weight.

The sorcerer asks that he not be identified, and won't even pronounce the name of the man he once served.

“That man is still alive, so I'm afraid,” he says. “I helped him, his sons, his ministers, his wife, his cousins, but I can't mention names. When he is dead I can talk about him.”

According to the magician and several others interviewed in Baghdad, Saddam was a firm believer in magic, and even applied himself, with modest success, to “studying the sands” and summoning genies.

He consulted frequently with two magicians from Iraq, one

from Turkey, one from India, a French Arab and a beautiful Jewish witch from Morocco, the wizard says.

Saddam is still protected, he says, by a pair of magic-infused golden statues. The deposed president speaks daily with the king and queen of genies — the same ones who provided the information on his whereabouts.

Other magicians also talk about Saddam, some describing fleeting meetings in which the president measured them up. Several said he has a powerful stone — or the bone of a parrot — implanted under the skin of his right arm to protect him against bullets and to make people love him.

Maher al-Kadhami, a Baghdad faith healer, repeated a story often told in post-war Iraq: Some years ago, a fortuneteller told Saddam he would fall on April 9, 2003. Saddam flew into a rage, killed the fortuneteller and launched a violent campaign against all those dealing in the occult.

And lo and behold, April 9 turned out to be the day the world saw Saddam's statue topple in Baghdad. Tales such as these abound in Iraq and are firmly believed, Islam's abhorrence of witchcraft notwithstanding. Saddam's oppressive rule actually made the magicians stronger, academics say.

“When you are weak, when you are oppressed, where can you go? You can't go outside. You go inside yourself,” says al-Haareth Hassan al-Asadi, who studies parapsychology at Baghdad University. “You stimulate the superstitious part of your psyche, which is there innately.”

It was Saddam himself who ordered the parapsychology department set up to help him wage psychological warfare during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war and later to mind-read U.N. inspectors searching for weapons of



Khalifa Ahmed al-Duleimi, 53, yells Quranic verses recently into the ear of Wisaam Saleh al-Ambaqi, 27, in Baghdad, Iraq. Al-Ambaqi's wife left him after one month of marriage, and al-Duleimi says he can make her return.

mass destruction in Iraq, according to former Iraqi officials.

Al-Asadi reckons more than half of Iraq's 24 million people use some sort of magic, and a tour of magicians in Baghdad bears out his words.

Unannounced storefronts across Iraq boast a rich array of psychics, fortune-tellers, healers and spellmasters, most of whom invoke the Islamic, Christian and even Jewish holy books in their bids to control the genies, or spirits, that many Iraqis believe rule their lives.

In his dingy Baghdad house, Sayed Sadoun Hamid el-Moussaoui al-Refai, 56, squats on cushions wearing a traditional Iraqi robe and skullcap.

To demonstrate his prowess, he pushes a kebab skewer through his cheek and wipes

away the blood.

His 7-year-old son, Hassan, is his medium. Recently, he says, a family came asking about their son, who disappeared during the war. Hassan entered into a trance and looked into a mirror.

“I saw him tied up, surrounded by Americans,” the boy says. “He was in Basra, but I knew he would be released soon.”

Indeed, al-Refai claims, the young man returned home days later, having been a prisoner of the Americans in the southern city of Basra.

“We use the genies or the angels,” the magician says. “But we prefer the angels, because the genies lie 75 percent of the time.”

Khalifa Ahmed al-Duleimi, 53, combines spiritual healing and diatribes against the Jews, who he says have sent Israel-educated

genies to control President Bush.

Abbas Abdullah, 42, walks in to complain that after 1½ years of marriage, his wife, Zeyneb Fadel, 31, doesn't like him anymore. Abdullah pushes her onto a chair and tells al-Duleimi to exorcise the genie — a Jew, of course — that is competing for her affection.

Al-Duleimi screams Quranic verses into Fadel's ear, converses with the genie inside and beats her with a rubber hose. Abdullah, clearly thrilled, yells at the genie inside his wife: “Get out or I'll pour boiling water over you!”

Zeyneb, her face swollen from tears and pain, confesses quietly to a journalist: “I don't like my husband.”

Saddam's wizard is in a different category. He has been studying magic since he was 10, learning from his aunt's husband. Now

62, he is one of the most revered magicians in Iraq.

He shows visitors a guest book of other powerful clients: a Saudi prince who paid 20,000 riyals, or about \$75,000, for a spell to make a woman love him; a Jordanian businessman who wanted his daughter to divorce her abusive husband; a Syrian singer who wanted more success.

For Saddam's family, he dealt mostly with issues of love, faithfulness and sexual prowess. He says he was once imprisoned for six months when Saddam suspected his wife of having the magician throw a spell that made his leg hurt. The magician was pardoned.

He occasionally dabbled in politics as well. But his last attempt to advise Saddam on strategy, just before the war, met with failure.

“I told him through (his son) Qusai's assistant that he faced great dangers in the war,” he says. “I told him that for a Rolls-Royce and 100 million dinars (\$59,000) I would give him the specifics. I would show it to them on the wall before it happened, but they just laughed. Qusai said the old man had gone crazy.”

“I only wanted 100 million dinars,” the wizard says, then begins to sway his hips in a clumsy rendition of a sexy dance. “That's what they gave their belly dancers.”

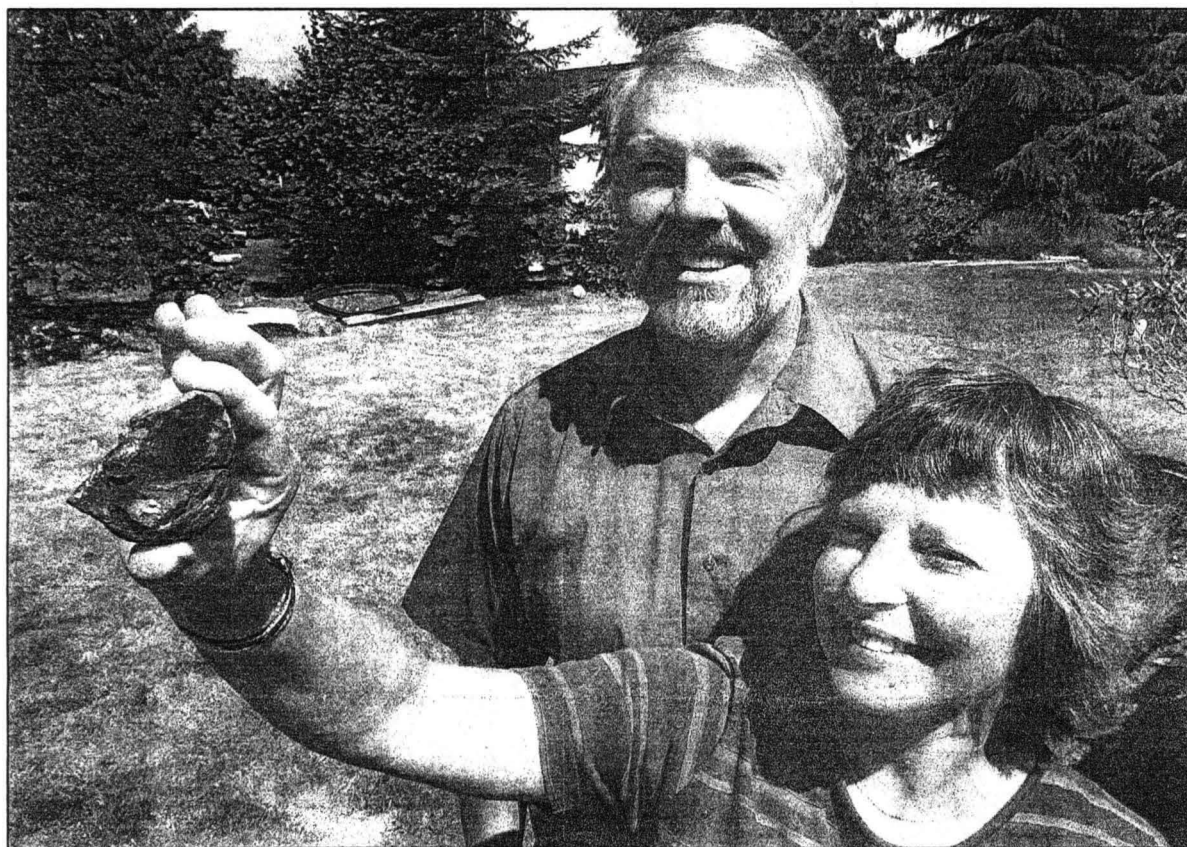
As for the magician's information about Saddam's whereabouts, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the coalition commander in Iraq, laughs when told about it. But he notes the name of the town and says he'll order a raid.

He means it, says his spokesman, Col. Guy Shields.

“We know it's about a one in a thousand chance, but we do check stuff out,” Shields says. “When the boss says ‘Check it out,’ we check it out.”

Stone of interest

Rock that landed in Mount Vernon couple's yard may be a meteorite



Frank Varga / Skagit Valley Herald

Mark and Gail Fredlund show off a rock they saw fall from the sky into their back yard in May. If the mystery rock is a meteorite, the Fredlunds might make geological history as the first Washingtonians in recorded history to have seen one hit the Earth.

UW scientists want to study object

By KASIA PIERZGA
Staff Writer

A Mount Vernon couple might make state history if the rock they saw fall from the sky a few months ago turns out to be a meteorite.

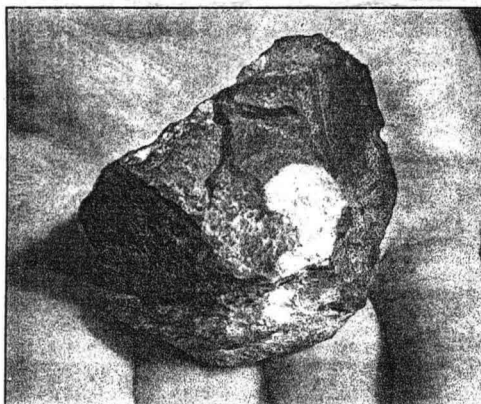
In May, Gail and Mark Fredlund were in the back yard of their home northeast of Mount Vernon watching hummingbirds zipping around a feeder on a sunny afternoon when an unusually loud, whistling buzz caught their attention.

They looked up in time to watch as a rock whacked into a

coil of plastic yard edging at the border of the yard, kicking up a puff of dust before it bounced back about four feet onto the grass.

"It came right over our house," said Mark Fredlund. "It was going so fast, I think if it hit the roof it would have gone right through it."

According to University of Washington astronomy expert Toby Smith, there's a good chance Fredlund's flying rock really is a meteorite, because



The rock that landed in the Fredlund's back yard is about the size of a goose egg. They plan to take the rock to University of Washington astronomy experts later this month to determine if it is a meteorite.

the rock appears to have magnetic properties.

Finding meteorites is unusual in Washington, Smith said. Most of them just look like plain old rocks, so it would be hard to spot one in the Northwest's rocky landscape.

People often stop by the astronomy department with rocks they think might be meteorites. But in Smith's 10 years of teaching and doing research at UW, not one sample has turned out to be anything more than just a plain old rock.

So if it turns out that the object is a meteorite, the Fredlunds may have made history as the first Washingtonians ever to see one hit the Earth.

"If this really is the first time a meteor has been seen to fall, that would be unique," Smith said.

No one would be more surprised to make Washington geological history than the Fredlunds. After all, they had a hard time believing their own eyes when they saw the rock hit the ground about 3:30 p.m. on May 1.

At first, they suspected mischievous neighborhood kids had thrown the rock, but they looked around and saw no one.

Mark Fredlund picked up the rock — it was cool to the touch — and looked at it more closely. It didn't look like anything unusual, just a rough, irregularly shaped rock about the size of a goose egg. Some of its surface had a reddish tint, like iron ore. A black seam ran down the middle of the rock, and part of it had a brownish crust.

The Fredlunds took the rock into the house and searched the Internet for Web sites offering information about astronomy. They found a site that listed several ways to tell if an object is likely to be a meteorite, including testing to see if it will attract a magnet. They found a magnet, hung it from a string, held it near the rock — and sure enough, the magnet pulled towards it.

With evidence mounting, the Fredlunds called UW to ask if an expert there might be able to take a look at the rock. They hope to meet Smith and several other astronomy researchers later this month.

Aside from a few friends, no one else might ever have learned about the suspected meteorite if not for a curious neighbor's phone call to the newspaper this week.

According to Smith, if the rock really is a meteorite, it likely came from the asteroid belt that stretches between Mars and Jupiter, or possibly even from the moon or Mars.

If it's actually a chunk from another planet, the specimen could turn out to be more than just big news — it also could mean big money. While asteroid pieces sell on Ebay for \$95 per pound, rocks that fall to the Earth from another planet can sell for as much as \$60,000.

Until they make the trip to visit the university's astronomy experts, the mystery rock is tucked away for safekeeping — except for when friends stop by for a visit.

"Everybody wants to see the space rock," Gail Fredlund said.

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - Aug. 15, 2003 CR: J. Fry

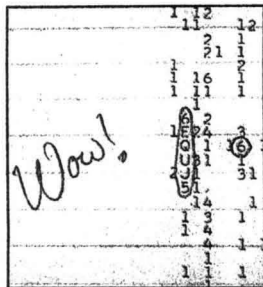
OHIO MILEPOSTS | AUG. 15, 1977

Extraterrestrial phones Ohio?

By Gerald Tebben
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

E.T. might have tried to phone Ohio on Aug. 15, 1977. But nobody was listening at 11:16 p.m., and scientists in the years since haven't been able to figure out what, if anything, the extraterrestrial was saying.

A radio telescope dubbed "Big Ear" and operated by Ohio State University was scanning space from Delaware County when a booming 70-second burst was received



FILE PHOTO

Jerry Ehman notes his surprise at the odd transmission.

from a point in the sky that tracked from the middle of the Milky Way. It had all the earmarks of an intelligent transmission.

A monitoring computer captured the transmission's frequencies, strength and location, and reported it as the code, "6EQUJ5." Volunteer Jerry Ehman was checking the print-out days later when he came across the remarkable sequence. "It was stronger than anything I had seen in the past, so — without thinking — I wrote *Wow!* in the margin," he later recalled.

The odd transmission, never repeated or explained, became known as the "Wow!" signal. UFO buffs point to it as proof of life beyond the planet. Scientists regard it mostly as an interesting curiosity.

Big Ear, the size of three football fields, was a pioneering radio telescope famed for its ability to detect quasars. Between 1965 and '72, the Ohio Sky Survey scanned 70 percent of the sky and reported nearly 20,000 radio sources. The telescope, near Perkins Observatory, was demolished in 1998.

Sources: The Dispatch,
www.bigeat.org, Ohio historical
marker
gtebben@dispatch.com