

# UFO

# NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

#2 CANEY VALLEY DRIVE • PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 USA

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: LUCIUS FARISH

December 2003  
Number 413

NEWS SENTINEL, Knoxville, TN - Nov. 17, 2003 CR: M. McCormack

# Search for UFOs

Ufologists at Texas A&M dive into notes from Condon report field investigator

BY LIANNE HART  
Los Angeles Times

**COLLEGE STATION, Texas** — In 1967, as unmanned orbiters landed on the moon and Dr. Christiaan Barnard performed the world's first successful heart transplant, a \$500,000 federally funded investigation of UFOs was well under way at the University of Colorado.

Led by prominent physicist Edward U. Condon, a team of scientists attempted to determine once and for all if UFOs existed.

Eight boxes of raw data collected during the study were made public by Texas A&M University this fall, providing a behind-the-scenes look at what is arguably one of the most curious government investigations ever.

"We had quite an organization set up to look into reports of UFOs. It was all taken pretty seriously," said Roy Craig, the chief field investigator for the project, who donated his records to the university. "I went into the project hoping that I could find some actual, physical evidence that would pass muster."

To Craig's disappointment, he said, most sightings of alien spaceships could be explained by science.

Among his file folders stuffed with meticulous, hand-written notes are artifacts such as a silvery material said to be taken from an alien spacecraft. It turned out to be a hunk of magnesium. A rusty muffler that flew off a lawn mower had some believing they'd seen a tiny spaceship with a tail of fire.

"Guys like Roy did what they could to come up with a result they could hang their hat on," said Hal Hall, curator of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Research Collection at Texas A&M.

"Anybody can come in and look at the appointment books, memos and field notes, real background of what went into the report. They'll see the enormous amount of work that took place as they applied scientific principles to the evidence."

The project results, which came to be known as the Condon report, were an outgrowth of classified Air Force investigations that came under fire as UFO sightings increased in the 1960s.

"Some of the congressmen got convinced there were flying saucers out there and the government was

## UFO SIGHTINGS, STATE BY STATE

The National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Wash., has posted unconfirmed reports of UFO sightings from across the world on its Web site since 1995. The center receives reports through its hot line at 206-722-3000 and its Web site at [www.ufocenter.com](http://www.ufocenter.com).

Below are the 10 states with the most reports of UFO sightings. Tennessee ranks 20th among the 50 states in number of reported sightings.

Location	Reports
1. California	2,849
2. Washington	1,665
3. Texas	1,014
4. Florida	921
5. New York	871
6. Arizona	835
7. Oregon	676
8. Illinois	664
9. Ohio	658
10. Pennsylvania	604
20. Tennessee	327

Source: National UFO Reporting Center

keeping secrets from their constituents. They wanted to know whether it was anything they should be concerned with for national security," Craig said.

In 1966, more than 30 Condon commission staffers — including university professors, psychologists and scientists from private laboratories — began sifting through thousands of UFO reports, then went on field trips to collect evidence and interview witnesses.

Experts in radar and meteorology were drafted to help explain mysterious flashing lights. Elaborate laboratory tests were conducted on puzzling materials and photos of elliptical objects in the sky.

In September 1968, Craig wrote himself a note and put it in a file folder.

"The existence of either alien flying vehicles or unknown natural phenomena is not indicated by evidence as we have examined. We are left with no artifact of alien cultures, no direct or indirect physical evidence of anything extraordinary, few (if any) pictures that cannot be shown to be fake ...

and many examples of impressive reports which lost their strangeness as their claims were investigated."

This view was reflected in the 1,000-page Condon Report released in January 1969, which the Air Force used to close its own investigation of UFOs.

The report was denounced by UFO believers, who called it a sham meant to calm a jittery public.

A former project member criticized Condon, who died in 1974, for taking an anti-UFO stand from the start and wrote a book called "UFOs: YES! Where the Condon Committee Went Wrong."

Thirty-five years later, the Condon report still rankles those who study UFOs.

"It's clear to many of us in the field that the government is trying to get the minds of the American people off the UFO phenomenon. It would not be surprising if the Condon report was sort of a red herring," said Peter Davenport, director of the Seattle-based National UFO Reporting Center, which has posted 23,000 sightings on its Web site since 1995.

"When one looks at the cases that the Condon commission settled on for investigation to the exclusion of other more dramatic cases, a reasonable person would come to the conclusion that these people did not want to get to the bottom of the phenomenon."

Still, Davenport said, he and other UFO authorities — who call themselves ufologists — can't wait to read the notes and materials donated by Craig.

"It's a treasure trove for someone like me," he said. "Going through the pages line by line, comparing it with what we know, it's like gold mining. Every once in awhile you come up with a gold nugget."

Craig, now 79 and raising llamas on a ranch in Colorado, said that he relished his time as a government-contracted ufologist.

"Dr. Condon was sorry he had any part of it, but I had fun," Craig said. "It's a historic study that will never get outdated. I don't think anything is ever going to happen during most people's lifetimes that will change the conclusions of the study."

Skeptics can think what they may, Craig said, but "we gave it an honest try."

Reports from East Tennessee posted by the National UFO Reporting Center

## KINGSFORD, OCT. 18, 2003

At first we thought it was a hot air balloon but it moved too quickly for that and changed shapes too much for that. It was too big to be some kind of glider or kite or something. It looked like a 50-yard tarp blowing around in the clouds. I said that it looked like a dragon flying around.

## KNOXVILLE, NOV. 17, 2002

I was walking home from the bar, and I looked up into the sky. I am not really sure what kind of light I saw but it was really bright. Within the next second, I thought I saw this ball of fire coming down into the earth, like a meteoroid. I ran home and got my mother, my youngest daughter, my wife and my girlfriend. They were all watching as the light was moving across the sky. So I knew I was not seeing things.

## BRISTOL, TENN., AUG. 14, 2002

At 3 o'clock, I heard a loud aircraft and looked skyward to the east. I did not see the plane, but saw a strange, boomerang shape, silvery and distant. The clouds were broken at around 8,000-10,000 feet, moving east, and this object was moving opposite the clouds, to the west, in and out of the clouds erratically ...

## BRISTOL, TENN., AUG. 2, 2003

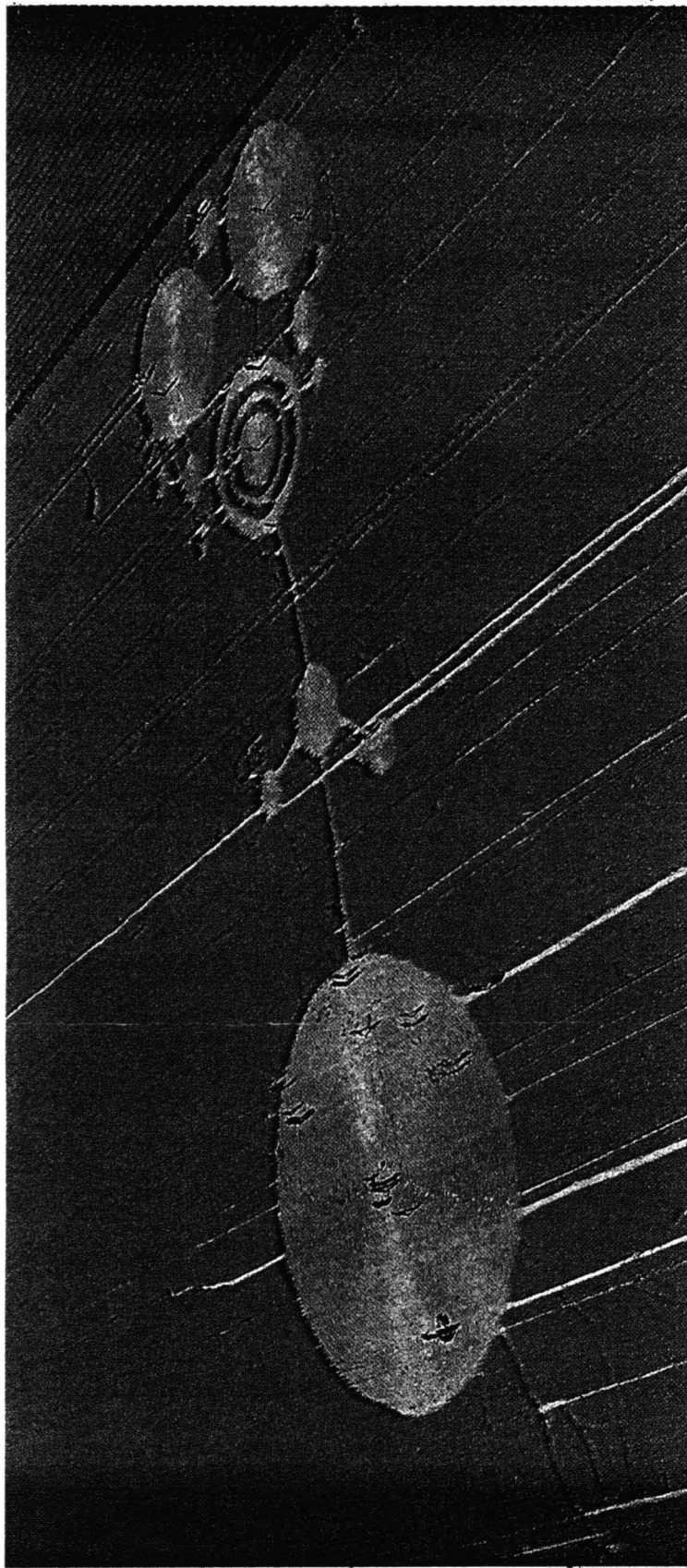
At first I thought it to be a balloon and called my wife to bring the binoculars. This object, through the binoculars, was flattened, perfectly disc-shaped and was wobbling and rolling side to side and up and down. It did grow a little closer to us and it reflected sunlight as it turned. Positively metallic, smooth and disc-shaped...

## DANDRIDGE, JUNE 5, 2003

I was going to the eye doctor in Dandridge and I saw object that was silver and an oval shape flying along the trees. It lasted about 20 seconds. I could tell it wasn't an airplane or helicopter because it didn't have wings or propellers. It disappeared along the trees. I heard no sound from the object.

## OAK RIDGE, JULY 5, 2002

I was taking my usual brisk walk along the hilly perimeter of my neighborhood ... but on this particular evening I spotted a small dark object that seemed to be floating above the city about 1.5 miles away. I had seen this object or one like it, near where I worked in Rio Rancho, N.M., two years earlier...



The crop circles discovered June 28, 2003 off of Suisun Valley Road near Rockville have lost some of their original sharpness because of the foot traffic by the curious, as seen in this aerial view.

## Circles lure hordes to nearby businesses

### Heavy foot traffic taking toll on formation, farmers crop

By Tim Fields  
DAILY REPUBLIC

ROCKVILLE — Carra Button had always wanted a lemonade stand but the foot traffic wasn't there.

Until now.

With hundreds of people streaming into the Rockville crop circle formation off Suisun Valley and Rockville roads, 9-year-old Button of Napa County got her mom's permission and opened a roadside business. She loaded down her red wagon with bottled water and her brand of alien lemonade and sold it for 50 cents a cup.

It's been eight days since the crop circles turned up and business is booming in Rockville.

A week ago, local farmer Larry Balestra found the largest crop circle formation ever reported in the United States stamped into his 80-acre wheat field. Since then, hordes of people trying to see the formation have transformed the quiet, rural area into a bustling tourist hub packed with cars, families and news crews.

The interest has taken a toll on the formation as the curious have cut new path ways to and between circles. Balestra has already lost hundreds of dollars of wheat and loses more every day as people take handfuls of the brittle stalks home as souvenirs.

Others had souvenirs on their minds, too. Not to keep, but to sell.

A few days ago, someone showed up at the wheat field with commemorative T-shirts.

Another took photographs of the formation, developed them, and came back trying to sell them to those leaving the wheat field, said Christie O'Hara, one of Balestra's employees.

A cafe and coffee house across the wheat field are also seeing more customers.

"We are really busy and on Friday we went from a usual \$900 day to a \$2,000 day," said Jessica Godoy, an employee of Valley Cafe. "We are seeing people we've never seen before and people we haven't seen in a long time."

The cafe's cooks were thinking of featuring an alien omelet, she said.

Across the street at La Barista Espresso orders for

cool drinks and snacks have jumped, said Christine Sovitsky, an employee behind the counter.

The coffee house has a lot of regular customers, but this week, new faces are coming in for a cool drink to escape the hot afternoons, she said.

Outside, two women sat on the coffee house porch, watching the people mill about the formation.

"I leave here for five years and I come back to aliens," said Melissa Smith, of Stockton and formerly from Fairfield. "I hope it has a positive influence out here. (Businesses) have had a rough year."

If the formations bring more business out to the area, then that's a good thing, Kelly Esters added.

Even Balestra said he's seeing new faces at his produce stand farther down Suisun Valley Road.

"A few people have come in saying they didn't know we existed," he said.

The story of the Rockville formation has been reported internationally and more sightseers might be on their way, said Ricardo Navarro of Cordelia.

He said TV stations across Mexico reported the story and people would travel many miles to see this, he said.

Navarro is one of Balestra's regular customers and was driving his daughter to the stand when he saw the crowds in the field. He pulled off the road so he and 12-year-old Bianca Navarro could explore the mystery together.

To Mila Zinkova of San Francisco, the human reaction to the formation is fascinating, she said as she stepped out of the wheat field Saturday.

Zinkova doesn't believe in aliens but says the formation is affecting a lot of people, in a lot of different ways, and to see that is amazing, she said. One woman picked up pieces of wheat in the circles to eat them, while another checked the harmonics in the circles with tuning forks.

"I mentioned that I had a pain in my elbow and someone said to rub it on the wheat," Zinkova said. "I did, but it still feels the same."

Tim Fields can be reached at [tfields@dailyrepublic.net](mailto:tfields@dailyrepublic.net).

## UFO sighting reported south of Pleasant Hill

A Pleasant Hill woman and her boyfriend reportedly sighted a UFO in the sky while they were driving along Christmas Tree Lane south of town at approximately 9:45 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6.

UFO enthusiast Brian Adams of Springfield said the couple told him that they first saw the 30-foot object with six very bright amber lights in the air when they drove over a hill.

They said the UFO hovered silently above the trees for a mo-

ment before all of the lights went off simultaneously and it disappeared.

Adams said this was the same kind of UFO reportedly seen by several other witnesses near Clinton on September 6 and near Windsor on September 11 and 12. Other UFO sightings were reported over northwest Arkansas on September 22 and over Cuba, Missouri, on September 23.

The sightings are posted on the National UFO Reporting Center web site at [UFOcenter.com](http://UFOcenter.com).



Above, hundreds of people continue to pour into Solano County to view the mysteriously appearing crop circles for themselves.

(continued on page 3)



# Exclusive

## San Antonio Natives Tell 1945 UFO Tale

By Ben Moffett  
Mountain Mail  
benmoffett@att.net

SAN ANTONIO — Flying saucers, anyone?

The UFO phenomenon that occurred across the country, but mostly across central New Mexico from the mid-1940s to the mid-1960s, is still with us as evidenced by late night radio talk shows, dozens of Internet sites, career ufologists, as they are now called, and tourism promotional efforts in places like Roswell.

Even the Albuquerque Journal had a piece in its travel section recently featuring four hot flying saucer stops, including Socorro, and a picture of Sally Haigler, the Socorro Chamber of Commerce volunteer who said she saw the same UFO that city police sergeant Lonnie Zamora, then 31, saw on April 24, 1964, just south of Socorro.

Although he doesn't like the spotlight, Zamora is now one of Socorro County's most famous citizens. If you type in name and hometown on the Google search engine, only Conrad Hilton of San Antonio (22,500) and State Rep. Don Tripp (571) had more references in a brief search done by the Mountain Mail.

Zamora has 496. Another famous Socorro and Catron County law enforcement officer, Elfege Baca, has 386. Of course Zamora's total zoomed to 915 if you combine his name with "UFO" instead of "Socorro."

Zamora never liked the attention and has refused talk about it for years. So in recent years, ufologists, have been reviewing the same tired material.

No more.

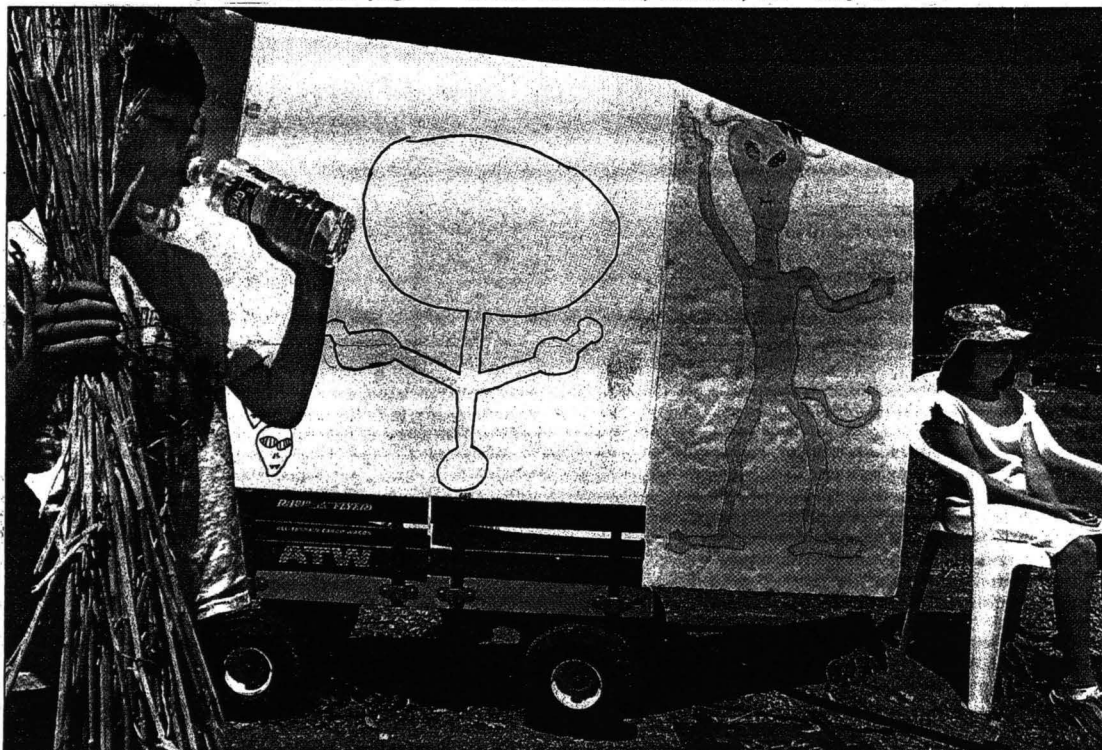
Starting next Thursday, the Mountain Mail will begin a two-part series on a previously unreported UFO crash complete with non-human life forms and subsequent recovery by the military right here in Socorro County. We'll be naming eyewitnesses, showing a piece of the craft and hopefully raise some goose bumps on readers during the Halloween season.

We know there are a lot of people out there who are believers because they've actually seen flying saucers. Haigler told us when she attended a lecture by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the government flying saucer debunker turned semi-believer when he investigated the Zamora report. She told him she had seen Zamora's UFO between her home on Lopez Road and the 'M' Mountain.

Hynek responded that she was not alone. He said about 400 others had also seen the same phenomenon along the mountain.

One of them may have seen a UFO that day was the speeder that Zamora was chasing when his attention was diverted by that flying machine south of Socorro. The statute of limitations has run out on the speeding citation. We invite him or her to come forward and tell us about it at mtnmail@socorroisp.com.

(continued from page 2 - DAILY REPUBLIC, Fairfield, CA - July 6, 2003)



Gary Goldsmith/DAILY REPUBLIC PHOTO

A Napa resident holding wheat gathered from the crop circles enjoys bottled water from 9-year-old entrepreneur Carra Button, right.

Mila Zinkova doesn't believe in aliens but says the formation is affecting a lot of people in a lot of different ways, and to see that is amazing, she said.

Right, Savannah Rice of Vacaville listens to the tones of her tuning fork inside the large crop circle on Sulsun Valley Road. Rice said the forks produced different tones in each of the circles.



### TIMES, Pleasant Hill, MO - Oct. 1, 2003 UFO sighted on Route 13

CLINTON—During a full moon on the evening of September 9, a brightly lit UFO was seen hovering over 13 Highway by several motorists about 12 miles south of Warrensburg near the intersection with 2 Highway.

The strangely lit UFO was observed for several minutes by commuters who pulled off of the highway bewildered by a parallel set of six bright amber lights that arched over about 100 feet in the air.

A witness who reported the sighting to *UFOMIG.com*—the Missouri UFO investigators' group—said that up to 20 cars were parked on the sides of the road.

They watched the UFO continue to hover silently over a vacant building for several minutes. The witness said that the lights were quite large, but it disappeared when all the lights went off simultaneously.

Oddly enough, all of the commuters drove away without getting together to talk about what they had just witnessed.

—The Clinton Daily Democrat, September 24, 2003

OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC - Nov. 23, 2003 CR: G. Fawcett

## The Scoop

WHAT WE PULLED OFF THE GRAPEVINE

### That's passion: 1,130 books read on one subject

LINCOLNTON — The Scoop has learned that Lincolnton UFO expert George Fawcett just finished reading his 1,130th book on a subject once referred to as "flying saucers."

During decades as a UFO investigator, researcher, writer, teacher and lecturer, Fawcett has carved out a reputation as a true expert on "unidentified flying objects."

His travels have taken him around the United States and England. Fawcett figures the UFO hobby has cost him more than \$125,000.

In 1998, he donated thousands of items from his lifelong collection to the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, N.M.

At age 74, Fawcett said his interest in UFOs is stronger than ever. He'll talk about his passion for the subject Dec. 7 at the Gaston County Public Library on East Garrison Boulevard in Gastonia. The program starts at 3 p.m.

In past lectures at the library, he has shown slides, but this time he'll just talk about what he calls "my 60-year UFO trip."

"It's been hectic for sure," said Fawcett, who has investigated 3,500 UFO cases.

When he first started the hobby, some people considered him a nut. "Now, I'm accepted," Fawcett said. "UFOs are still out there." Meanwhile, he's already started book No. 1,131.

"And I've got seven backlogged." —JOE DEPRIEST

## UFOS; Sightings in Salmon-Challis area

**SALMON** — The truth is out there, according to two longtime Salmon residents who say that unexplained lights have periodically flashed across the sky over the vast and remote Salmon-Challis National Forest.

UFO lore has hovered on Salmon's horizon for decades, with the majority of sightings occurring in the unpopulated backcountry.

Chester Rackham, 79, who manned half a dozen fire lookouts in the Salmon-Challis for more than three decades, recalls seeing what he described as "fuzzy blue lights." He never received a plausible explanation.

During the 10 years beginning in 1975 that he stood watch at Long Tom Lookout, some 35 miles northwest of Salmon, Rackham sometimes spotted the lights flying from the night sky into the forest.

"I didn't know what they were," said Rackham.

"I saw things from different lookouts over the years but I never paid much attention. Up at Long Tom, I could see these bluish lights, but they weren't very clear."

The vast majority of UFO sightings—tens of thousands around the world over the past 40 years—can be accounted for by natural phenomena, such as meteor showers, according to the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago.

Ted Roe, head of the nonprofit National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena in Vallejo, Calif., said only 1 percent of the thousands of UFO sightings each year are of real interest, because they provide traces rather than merely anecdotal evidence.

But that statistic doesn't put a damper on the faithful.

Eva Miles, who lived adjacent to the forest about 12 miles south of Salmon from the early '70s to the early '90s, said she routinely saw bright lights traveling at warp speed across the sky.

"I was alone by the river out there and it wasn't heavily populated at that time," said Miles, 89. "I can't exactly say it was a UFO, but I saw bright lights that moved and traveled about the sky."

"I had a beautiful view of the sky from my deck, and no big trees to block my view. On a clear night, I would sit out on the deck and would sometimes see them. They would usually cross from one side of the sky to the other in a complete track. They moved rather rapidly, from one side of the horizon to the other."

Miles, who has since moved into town, said she considered the bright, white lights evidence of "the wonderful, mysterious things that happen on this Earth."

Both white and blue lights feature prominently in tales collected by UFO-ologists, according to literature from the Center for UFO Studies.

The same literature uses the term "nocturnal lights" to describe "small spots of light that move in strange patterns across the night sky," adding that these are the most commonly reported type of UFO.

Roe of The National Aviation Reporting Center said blue lights have been featured in sightings since at least 1944, when a blue ball of fire reportedly chased aircraft over Munich.

But for every believer, there is a skeptic. Veteran backcountry guide Bill Guth, with Flying Resort Ranches in Salmon, said he has spent countless nights in the

forest without encountering anything odd.

"I haven't heard or seen anything in the backcountry that I couldn't explain," he said.

The U.S. Forest Service's Kenny Rodgers, who can claim decades of experience in the mountainous terrain surrounding Salmon, said people tend to believe that unfamiliar sights and sounds in the wilderness are otherworldly when, in fact, they are likely from down-to-Earth sources.

In remote areas, small noises become objects of curiosity or even fear among the uninitiated, said Rodgers, adding, "It might be a mouse or a grouse; it could be a bear."

"You might see something in the sky and not know what it is, so you call it a UFO."

Still, a rational explanation cannot explain the timeless reportings of mysterious cosmic phenomena.

Robert McCarl, professor of anthropology at Boise State University, said two themes in mythology surface in the tales of UFOs in the Salmon-Challis.

"What you find is that the forest, particularly a forest contiguous to travel routes, which is true for the Salmon forest, is an area of anxiety and concern," he said.

"You have people being lost there and animals that may attack you. Thus the forest becomes a locus for mysterious and unsettling events."

In contemporary times, people were reporting UFOs long before ET was trying to phone home and Fox Mulder wanted to believe.

Roe, for one, believes that science eventually will solve the debate about UFOs.

In the meantime, he said, people who buy into the phenomenon will continue to be subject to ridicule, and their stories will continue to be seen as weird.

That doesn't faze Rackham, the retired Salmon-Challis lookout.

"I've heard different stories off and on," he said.

"I never got a very good idea of what it was I was seeing. I'd just look and then go about my business."

GASTON GAZETTE, Gastonia, NC - Nov. 30, 2003 CR: G. Fawcett

## Explore UFOs as author talks at library Dec. 7



**CAROL  
REINHARDT**  
At the Library

feet in diameter...The thing zigzagged, then settled down in a straight course and moved off toward the west."

Unfortunately for his credibility, Fawcett was alone at the time, with no witnesses to the sighting.

Fawcett, a big man on campus — three-letter sportsman, head of the intramural program, a member of numerous campus organizations, and a fixture on the school newspaper — tried to convince his fellow students that he had actually seen a UFO, which resulted in the expected ribbing.

The sighting, however, moved his life in an unexpected direction.

Since that time, Fawcett has

read more than 1,000 books on the subject — many of which ended up in his own private collection — spoken before more than 600 groups, written more than 100 research articles for popular and professional publications, and investigated nearly 2,000 UFO sightings, most of them in the Carolinas, with a few in Virginia.

He has also served as a consultant to study groups and scientific boards of inquiry, as a film consultant for several productions on UFOs, and as a guest on dozens of radio and TV programs on extraterrestrial sightings across the country. He has also been instrumental in establishing UFO organizations and publications throughout the southeastern United States.

During his investigations of UFO phenomenon, Fawcett collected thousands of audio-visual slides, posters, drawings, magazines and journals, and other UFO-related materials in addition to a large library of UFO publications. Recently he donated most of his collection to the UFO Research Center and museum at Roswell, New

Mexico — a location at which he has addressed audiences on several occasions.

A former newspaper journalist, sports-center director, and textile industry employee, Fawcett has dedicated a large part of his life to researching UFOs. Does Fawcett personally believe that UFOs exist?

He has been quoted in the "UFO Journal" as believing that "UFOs are real...UFOs are not natural phenomena...UFOs are not conventional objects...UFOs are unconventional objects with a high degree of technology..."

After nearly 60 years of chasing UFOs, Fawcett is convinced they do exist.

Following Fawcett's presentation on his research and experiences, copies of the author's publications will be available for personal purchase and author autograph.

For more information about "UFO: Personal Encounters" with George Fawcett, call (704) 868-2164 during regular library hours.

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

MOUNTAIN MAIL, Socorro, NM - Oct. 30, 2003

(Reprinted with permission of author and copyright holder)

## Aliens Among Us?

Copyright by the Mountain Mail, Socorro, N.M., and Ben Moffett.

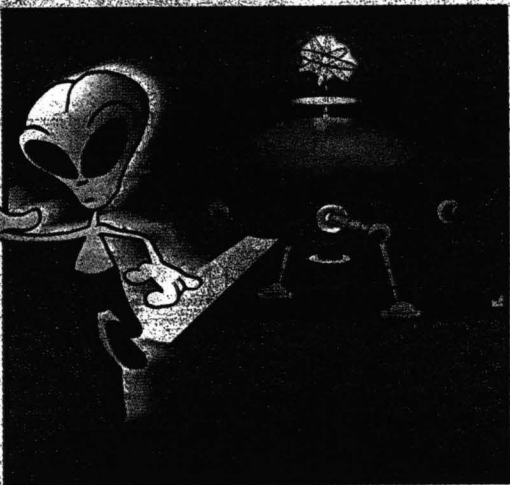
Just before dawn on July 16, 1945, scientists detonated the world's first atomic bomb at the Trinity Site, some 20 miles southeast of San Antonio, N.M. Three weeks later, on August 6 and 9, the United States brought World War II to a dramatic end by using the bomb to destroy the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

On August 6, the world first learned that the Trinity event, which had frightened San Antonians witless, was not "an ammunition magazine containing high explosives and pyrotechnics" as the military had reported. It was an atomic bomb, "death, the destroyer of worlds," in the words of project physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer.

It was in this crucible of suspicion and disinterest bred by familiarity that a small contingent of the U.S. Army passed almost unnoticed through San Antonio in mid-to-late August 1945 on a secret assignment.

Little or nothing has been printed about the mission, shrouded in the "hush-hush" atmosphere of the time. But the military detail apparently came from White Sands Proving Grounds to the east where the bomb was exploded. It was a recovery operation destined for the mesquite and greasewood desert west of Old U.S. 85, at what is now Milepost 139, the San Antonio exit of Interstate 25.

Over the course of several days, soldiers in Army fatigues



loaded the shattered remains of a flying apparatus onto a huge flatbed truck and hauled it away.

That such an operation took place between about Aug. 20 and Aug. 25, 1945, there is no doubt, insist two former San Antonians, Remigio Baca and Jose Padilla, eyewitnesses to the event.

Padilla, then age 9, and Baca, then 7, secretly watched much of the soldiers' recovery work from a nearby ridge. Their keen interest stemmed from being the first to reach the crash site.

What they saw was a long, wide gash in the earth, with a manufactured object lying cockeyed and partially buried at the end of it, surrounded by a large field of debris. They believed then, and believe today, that the object was occupied by distinctly non-human life forms which were

alive and moving about on their arrival minutes after the crash.

They reported their findings to Jose's father, Faustino Padilla, on whose ranch the craft had crashed. Shortly thereafter, Faustino received a military visitor asking for permission to remove it.

During their school years, Jose and Remigio, best friends, would sometimes whisper about the events of that August, which occurred before any of the other mysterious UFO incidents in New Mexico, but they didn't talk to others about it on the advice of their parents and a state policeman friend.

The significance of what they saw, however, grew in their eyes over time as tales of UFOs and flying saucers multiplied across the country, especially in a band

(continued on page 5)



across central New Mexico.

Among the most prominent was Socorro police officer Lonnie Zamora's April 24, 1964, on-duty report of a "manned" UFO just south of Socorro, less than 10 miles north of the heretofore unnoticed 1945 Padilla Ranch crash.

Jose and Remigio were long gone from the area by the time UFOs and flying saucers became news, and although both kept up with Socorro County events, they lost contact and never discussed the emerging phenomenon with each other.

Reme moved to Tacoma, Wash., while still in high school and Jose to Rowland Heights, Calif. Then, two years ago, after more than four decades apart, they met by chance on the Internet while tracking their ancestry. It was then their interest in the most intriguing event of their childhood was rekindled.

During one of the conversations, Remigio and Jose decided to tell their story to veteran news reporter Ben Moffett, a classmate at San Antonio Grade School who they knew shared their understanding of the culture and ambience of San Antonio in the 1940s and 50s, and who was familiar with the terrain, place names and people. This is their story as told to Moffett.

**By Ben Moffett**  
Mountain Mail  
benmoffett@att.net

**SAN ANTONIO** — The pungent but pleasing aroma of greasewood was in the air as Jose Padilla, age 9, and friend, Remigio Baca, 7, set out on horseback one August morning in 1945 to find a cow that had wandered off to calf.

The scent of the greasewood, more often called creosote bush today, caught their attention as they moved away from this tiny settlement on their horses, Bolé and Dusty. The creosote scent is evident only during moist weather, and its presence on the wind meant rain somewhere nearby.

So as they worked the draws on the Padilla Ranch, they were mindful of flash flooding which might occur in Walnut Creek, or side arroyos, if there were a major thunderstorm upstream. Gully-washers are not uncommon in late summer in the northern stretches of the Chihuahuan Desert of central New Mexico, especially along the foothills of the Magdalena Mountains looming to the west.

Despite minor perils associated with being away from adults, it was a routine outing for Jose and Reme. It was not odd to see youngsters roam far afield doing chores during the war years.

"I could ride before I could walk," said Jose in a recent interview. "We were expected to do our share of the work. Hunting down a cow for my dad wasn't a bad job, even in the August heat."

At length, they moved into terrain that seemed too rough for the horses hooves, and Jose decided to tether them, minus bridles, allowing them to graze. He had spotted a mesquite thicket, a likely place for a wayward cow to give birth, and they set off across a field of jagged rocks and cholla cactus to take a look. As they moved along, grumbling about the thorns, the building thunderheads decided to let go. They took refuge under a ledge above the floodplain, protected somewhat from the lightning strikes that suddenly peppered the area.

The storm quickly passed and as they again moved out, another brilliant light, accompanied by a crunching sound shook the ground around them. It was not at all like thunder. Another experiment at White Sands? No, it seemed too close.

"We thought it came from the next canyon, adjacent to Walnut Creek, and as we moved in that direction, we hear a cow in a clump of mesquites," Reme said. Sure enough, it was the Padilla cow, licking a white face calf.

A quick check revealed the calf to be healthy and nursing, and the boys decided to reward themselves with a small lunch Jose had sacked, a tortilla each, washed down

with a few swigs from a canteen, and an apple.

As they munched, Jose noticed smoke coming from a draw adjacent to Walnut Creek, a main tributary from the mountains to the Rio Grande.

Ignoring their task at hand, the two boys headed toward it, and what they saw as they topped a rise "stopped us dead in our tracks," Reme remembers. "There was a gouge in the earth as long as a football field, and a circular object at the end of it." It was "barely visible," he said, through a field of smoke. "It was the color of the old pot my mother was always trying to shine up, a dull metallic color."

They moved closer and found the heat from the wreckage and burning greasewood to be intense. "You could feel it through the soles of your shoes," Reme said. "It was still humid from the rain, stifling, and it was hard to get close."

They retreated briefly to talk things over, cool off, sip from the canteen and collect their nerve, worried there might be casualties in the wreckage.

Then they headed back toward the site. That's when things really got eerie. Waiting for the heat to diminish, they began examining the remnants at the periphery of a huge litter field. Reme picked up a piece of thin, shiny material that he says reminded him of "the tin foil in the old olive green Phillip Morris cigarette packs."

"It was folded up and lodged underneath a rock, apparently pinned there during the collision," said Reme. "When I freed it, it unfolded all by itself. I refolded it, and it spread itself out again." Reme put it in his pocket.

Finally they were able to work their way to within yards of the wreckage, fearing the worst and not quite ready for it.

"I had my hand over my face, peeking through my fingers," Reme recalled. "Jose, being older, seemed to be able to handle it better."

As they approached they saw ... thought they saw ... yes, definitely DID see ... movement in the main part of the craft.

"Strange looking creatures were moving around inside," said Reme. "They looked under stress. They moved fast, as if they were able to will themselves from one position to another in an instant. They were shadowy and expressionless, but definitely living beings."

Reme wanted no part of whoever, whatever was inside.

"Jose wasn't afraid of much, but I told him we should get out of there. I remember we felt concern for the creatures. They seemed like us — children, not dangerous. But we were scared and exhausted. Besides it was getting late."

The boys backtracked, ignoring the cow and calf. It was a little after dusk when they climbed on their horses, and dark when they reached the Padilla home.

Faustino Padilla asked about the cow, and got a quick report.

"And we found something else," Jose said, and the story poured out, quickly and almost incoherently. "It's kind of hard to explain, but it was long and round, and there was a big gouge in the dirt and there were these hombrechicos (little guys)."

Their tale unfolded as Jose's father listened patiently.

"They were running back and forth, looking desperate. They were like children. They didn't have hair," Jose said.

"We'll check it out in a day or two," Faustino said, unalarmed and apparently not worried in the least about survivors or medical emergencies. "It must be something the military lost and we shouldn't disturb it. Leave your horse here, Reme, and Jose and I will drive you home, since it's so late."

Two days later at about noon, state policeman Eddie Apodaca, a family friend who had been summoned by Faustino, arrived at the Padilla home. Jose and Reme directed Apodaca and Jose's dad toward the crash site in two vehicles, a pick-up and a state police car. When they could drive no further, they parked and hiked to the hillside where the boys had initially spotted the wreckage.

As they topped the ridge, they noted the cow and calf had moved on, probably headed for home pasture, then they walked the short distance to the overlook. For a second time, Jose and Reme are dumbfounded.

The wreckage was nowhere to be seen. "What could have happened to it?"

Reme asked.

"Somebody must have taken it," Jose responded defensively.

Apodaca and Faustino stared intently but unaccusingly at Jose and Reme, trying to understand. They headed down the canyon nonetheless, and suddenly, "as if by magic," in Reme's words, the object reappeared.

"From the top of the hill, it blended into the surroundings," Reme explained recently. "The sun was at a different angle, and the object had dirt and debris over it," which he speculated may have been put there by someone after the crash.

Apodaca and Faustino led the way to the craft, then climbed inside while Jose and Reme were ordered to stay a short distance away. "I can't see the hombrechicos," Reme offered.

"No," replied Jose. "But look at these marks on the ground, like when you drag a rake over it."

"The huge field of litter had been cleaned up," Reme recalled. "Who did it, and when, I have no idea. Was it the military? Using a helicopter? Or the occupants?"

The main body of the craft, however, remained in place with odd pieces dangling everywhere.

Now it was time for the adults to lecture Reme and Jose, Reme remembered.

"Listen carefully. Don't tell anyone about this," Reme quoted Faustino as saying. "Reme, your dad just started working for the government. He doesn't need to know anything about it. It might cause him trouble."

Faustino also worked for the government at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and the ranch itself was on leased federal land. Faustino was a patriotic man and honest to a fault in his dealing with the federal government, according to Jose.

"The government calls them weather balloons," the state policeman chipped in. "I'm here to help Faustino work out the recovery with the government. They'll want this thing back."

"But this isn't like the weather balloons we've seen before," said Reme. "They were little, almost like a kite."

"You're right, Reme. Este es un monstruo, que no Eddie?" Faustino said.

"Yeah, it's big for sure," the state policeman acknowledged.

"And the hombrechicos?" Reme persisted.

"Maybe you just thought you saw them," said Faustino. "Or maybe somebody took them, or they just took off."

Then they headed home. The cow and calf also grazed their way back in a day or two.

*Next week: The story continues with the military's removal of the wreckage, while Jose and Reme, equipped with binoculars, spy on their every move, including the soldiers slipping off to the Owl Bar for a little diversion.*

*Jose and Reme also look back at the incident from the perspective of time. Was the object that required a flatbed truck and an "L" extension a weather balloon, or an alien craft from space or from another dimension?*

*The two men, now in their mid-to late-60s still have a piece of the craft and know where other parts were buried by the military.*

*Reme also speculates about how the 1945 incident fits in with the many sightings that were later reported in a ban across central New Mexico and elsewhere, giving rise to a UFO and "flying saucer" phenomenon that is still debated today.*

## Where Are They Now?

### Remigio 'Reme' Baca

Remigio Baca of Gig Harbor, Wash., was born in San Antonio in October 1938 to Evanista Serna and Alejandro Baca.

He attended San Antonio Grade School and Socorro High until he transferred to Stadium High in Tacoma, Wash., in his freshman year.

Reme served in the U.S. Marines for six years during the Vietnam War, worked as a tax compliance officer for the Washington

Department of Revenue, and was involved in Washington politics. A meeting with Vernon Jordan, national chairman of the Urban League, encouraged him to get into politics, which he did with enthusiasm.

Reme was instrumental in the election of the famous scientist and Nixon administration politician Dr. Ray Lee to the governorship of Washington as a Democrat, and served on Ray's executive staff.

In that role, he helped get qualified Latinos in administrative positions in government. When Ray was defeated, Reme became an insurance agent in Tacoma, moved to California for awhile as an independent insurance broker in Oxnard, Santa Paula and Santa Barbara, and retired in Gig Harbor, a suburb of Tacoma.

He has been married for years to Virginia Tonan, a classical pianist and teacher.

He has been back to San Antonio many times, and has relatives in Socorro County.



Reme Baca as a youth in San Antonio



Reme Baca today

### Jose Padilla

Jose Padilla was born in San Antonio in November 1936 to Faustino and Maria Padilla, attended first San Antonio Grade School and then San Antonio Grade School when

San Antonio's school burned down. He also attended the Luis Lopez Grade School for a time. He made first communion with Reme Baca at the San Antonio Church.

While at Socorro High he left to join the National Guard at age 13, when very young children were allowed to sign up because of the World War II death toll in the New Mexico Guard. After leaving San Antonio, Jose continued guard duty in Van Nuys, Calif., Air National Guard, and when the unit was activated, spent time in Korea.

He married his wife, Olga, and served with the California Highway Patrol for 32 years as a safety inspector. The Padillas have three boys, including a son, Sam, who lives in Contreras, near La Joya, and he has numerous relatives in Socorro and vicinity.



Jose Padilla

# Witnesses Still Wonder About Crash Operation

Copyright, the Mountain Mail, Socorro, N.M., and Ben Moffett.

The second of a two-part series on a flying object that crashed just west of San Antonio, N.M., in August, 1945.

By Ben Moffett  
Mountain Mail  
benmoffett@att.net

In mid August 1945, before the term "flying saucer" was coined, Remigio Baca, age 7, and Jose Padilla, 9, were first on the scene of the crash of a strange object on the Padilla Ranch west of San Antonio.

Both Remigio, or "Reme" as his friends called him, and Jose, believe they saw "shadowy, child-like creatures" in the demolished, oblong, circular craft when they arrived at the scene, well before anyone else.

The U.S. Army told the public nothing about it, and told the Padilla family it was a "weather balloon," according to Reme and Jose, now in their mid-60s. And the two men insist the Army went to great lengths to keep the operation under wraps, even concocting a cover story to mask their mission on the ranch.

The recovery operation actually started two days after Reme, Jose, Jose's father, Faustino, and state police Eddie Apodaca, a family friend, visited the site on August 18. It was then that a Latino sergeant named Avila arrived at the Padilla home in San Antonio, a tiny southern extension of San Antonio.

After some small talk, Sgt. Avila got down to business. According to Reme's and Jose's recollection, and what they learned subsequently from Faustino, the conversation went something like this:

"As you may know, there's a weather balloon down on your property," Avila said. "We need to install a metal gate and grade a road to the site to recover it. We'll have to tear down a part of the fence adjoining the cattle guard."

"Why can't you just go through the gate like everybody else?" asked Faustino.

"Well, the problem is that your cattle guard is about 10 feet wide, and our tractor trailer can't begin to get through there," said the sergeant. "We'll compensate you, of course."

The sergeant also asked for a key to the gate until the military

## San Antonio Natives Used Strange Metal On Ranch

could install its own. He also wanted help with security.

"Can you make sure nobody goes to the site unless they are authorized and don't tell anyone why we're here."

"What should I tell them?" Faustino asked.

"You can tell them the equipment is here because the government needs to work a manganese mine west of here," the sergeant said.

"That was to justify the presence of road-building equipment," said Reme in a recent interview. "It wasn't until decades later, on the Internet, that I learned the Army told a lot of fibs along about that time. I found another manganese mine story was used to cover a UFO incident on the west side of the Magdalenas near Datil in 1947, about the time of the Roswell UFO incident."

"I know for sure that the cover story was at least the second piece of misinformation they gave out in a month," noted Reme, a former Marine, chuckling and referencing the acknowledged false press release used to cover the Trinity atom bomb explosion as the first.

It wasn't long after the sergeant's departure that the Army was on the scene with road building equipment. Long before the road was graded, however, soldiers were at the site, carrying scraps of the mangled airship to smaller vehicles that were able to immediately get close to the scene.

Although they were warned by their father to stay away from the area, Jose, sometimes with Reme, and sharing a pair of binoculars, watched from hiding as the military graded a road and soldiers prepared for the flatbed's arrival. Jose actually made off with a piece, which is still in his possession.

"The work detail wasn't too efficient," said Reme, who noted from his experience in the Marines that military parts had numbers and were carefully catalogued.

"The soldiers threw some of the pieces down a crevice, so they wouldn't have to carry them," he said. "Then they would kick dirt and rocks and brush over them to cover them up."

According to Jose, four soldiers were stationed at the wreckage at all times, with shift changes every 12 hours.

"One stayed at a tent as a guard and listened to the radio. I could hear the music. They'd work

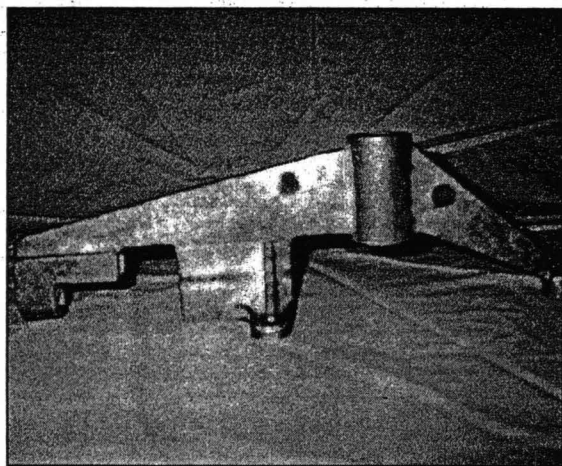
for an hour and then lock the gate, climb in their pick-ups and go to the Owl Café, where they'd look for girls. I know because one of my (female) cousins who was there told me."

Once the flatbed was in place, the soldiers used wrenches to hoist the intact portion of the wreckage in place.

"They had to build an L-shaped frame and tilt it to get it to fit into the tractor-trailer, because it

They were nothing but silky material, aluminum and wood, nothing like what we found in that arroyo in 1945."

"Those weather balloons were not much more than big box kites," Reme said. "They sure couldn't gouge a hole in the ground. Remember, in 1945, despite the bomb, we weren't all that sophisticated. The Trinity Site bomb, Fat Man, was transported on a railroad car to the site. Radar was



Courtesy Photo

This piece of metal -- which has not yet been tested in a laboratory -- was kept from the 1945 crash of an unidentified object near San Antonio.

bulged out over one side," Jose said. "They finally cut a hole in the fence at the gate that was 26 feet long to get it out."

Off it went, shrouded under tarps, through San Antonio and presumably to Stallion Site on what is today White Sands Missile Range, where, according to Reme, it still may be today.

\*\*\*\*

Was this clandestine operation undertaken to recover a weather balloon? Or, as Jose and Reme contend, was it something far more mysterious?

"I think the term 'weather balloon' was a euphemism, a catch-all for anything and everything that the government couldn't explain," Reme said.

Reme and Jose knew about legitimate weather balloons.

"My father and I found about seven of them before and after the 1945 crash," Jose remembers. "We always gathered them up and gave them back to the military."

primitive or non-existent in some places. Maybe the military knew what they had, maybe they didn't, maybe they couldn't say."

Reme and Jose are convinced, and they say Faustino soon joined them in their belief, that the object on the ranch was no mere weather balloon, but an object of mystery. Faustino, however, had no interest in challenging the status quo, nor did state policeman Apodaca, whatever his beliefs were.

And why would a mere sergeant be sent to negotiate with Faustino Padilla on a mission that involved something more than a routine weather balloon flight. "He wore sergeant stripes," Reme said. "That doesn't necessarily mean he was a sergeant. And he was Latino. He could communicate with the locals."

Finally, why would the military allow such cavalier treatment of the wreckage, if it were a foreign or alien craft with scientific value?

"I don't know if they knew what they had," Reme said. "It was a

fairly crude craft with no parts numbers on it, and the piece we have, we were told is not remarkably machined even for 1945. But there's nothing that says aliens have to travel in remarkable spaceships."

"Given what we know about distances in the universe, space travel seems far-fetched, I'll grant you. Perhaps they got here by some method we can't fathom and they manufactured a crude object here to get around in this atmosphere. We hear about other dimensions, and parallel universes."

"I don't know much about those things. But I do know what I saw, which was some unlikely looking 'hombrecitos' at the crash site. I know that later other people in the area reported similar things. And I know the government was interested in keeping it quiet."

Reme has studied the UFO phenomenon in his spare time over the years, especially as it pertained to New Mexico.

"The military opened the door at Roswell, and then they closed it," he said, referring to a July 1947 report by the Roswell Air Force Base information office about the crash and recovery of a "flying disc" that they reported had been bouncing around the sky. Then the base retreated by reporting it was merely a "radar tracking balloon" that had been recovered.

Details of the Roswell event can be found in a 19-page Freedom of Information Act request by the late New Mexico Congressman Steve Schiff and released by the General Accounting Office July 28, 1995. It can be found on the Internet at [www.conspire.com/ds/gao2.html](http://www.conspire.com/ds/gao2.html).

The Roswell crash, which along with the sighting of a UFO south of Socorro by city policeman Lonnie Zamora in 1964 are the two most famous of a string of UFO reports over central New Mexico.

From 1946 through 1949, 25 UFO sightings that "may have contained extra-terrestrial life" were reported worldwide by the Center for the Study of Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence, and seven of those were in New Mexico, including one near Magdalena (1946), Socorro (1947), Roswell (actually near Corona - July 4, 1947), Plains of San Agustin (Catron County - July 5, 1947), Aztec (1948), White Sands (1949) and Roswell again (1949). Another was in the pattern, too, on the

"tin foil in a cigarette pack," is gone. "I used it to stop a leak in a brass pipe under a windmill at our house in San Antonio in the early 50s," he said. "I used it to fill the stripped threads on two pieces of pipe."

Reme said he regrets using it now, but it was handy.

"I kept in for years in an old Prince Albert (tobacco) can in the pump house, and it was the nearest thing available," Reme said the foil stopped the leak in the pipe for years. The windmill is now gone and the property is no longer owned by the family. Finally, Jose and Reme were asked why they decided to tell the tale today, after nearly 60 years.

"It's something you can never get out of your head," said Reme. "When we saw it, we had never heard the term UFO, and 'flying saucers' didn't become a part of the language until June of 1947 when a pilot named Kenneth Arnold reported nine objects in a formation in the area of Mount Rainier."

"We didn't invent this phenomenon," said Reme. "We experienced it. Others have apparently had similar experiences. I believe Jose and I have an obligation to add our story to the mix."

Hopi Reservation of Arizona in 1947.

"There was a pattern of sightings and incidents in a band across New Mexico. Socorro and San Antonio are right at the center," notes Reme. "Our 1945 sighting just adds to that base of information. It's intriguing to say the least. If you were an eyewitness it becomes even more intriguing."

Reme and Jose are excited enough to tell their story after more than 55 years, even knowing the problems that plagued Lonnie Zamora after his spotting a UFO near Socorro. The two men would like to see an excavation of the crevice where a few odds and ends from their "alien craft" were tossed. The crevice was recently covered up by a bulldozer doing flood control work, he said.

And they'd like to have the part they have from the wreckage examined more closely. They are not eager to surrender it to anyone, however.

"I've heard from others that if you give it up to the government, you stand a good chance of not getting it back," he said.

A second piece, which Reme likened to the





## FOREIGN NEWS

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

EXPRESS, Burnley, England - Sept. 5, 2003

# UFO IS SPOTTED OVER BURNLEY!

By SUE MADIGAN

**WAS it a bird, was it a plane – or was it really a UFO?**

Burnley cabbie Mr Steve Haworth and a passenger watched a mysterious flying object suddenly appear, perform a series of mind-boggling manoeuvres and then simply disappear without trace above the town, early on Saturday morning.

"I thought it was an aircraft at first," said Mr Haworth, of Burton Street. "Then, when I weighed up all the pros and cons, I decided it couldn't possibly be."

The part-time taxi driver was taking a customer from his Huffling Lane home to work in Waterfoot. They were travelling along Bacup Road when they turned a corner and first saw the object in the sky.

"It was only 7-45 in the morning, but there wasn't a cloud in the sky. It was beautiful and clear," he said. "I immediately thought the object was a plane, but it wasn't small, it wasn't high up and it was moving slowly."

The silver cigar-shaped object with a small pulsating light in the middle, stopped and hovered. Then it changed shape as it started going forwards and backwards in a perfectly straight line.

It did this twice before vanishing into thin air.

"There was no noise and no vapour trail," added Mr Haworth. "If it had been an aircraft we would have heard it from where we were. It did not take-off, it just simply disappeared."

This is not the first time an unidentified flying object has been spotted in the sky above Burnley. Sightings date back to 1869 and have been reported at regular intervals throughout the decades since.

Descriptions have varied from a round, glowing disc and a line of bright lights, to a pulsating cigar-shaped object – just like Mr Haworth described.

He added: "The whole experience only lasted three minutes. I remember looking at the clock in the car, it was 7-45 a.m. and by the time the object had disappeared it was 7-48 a.m."

"I'm so glad I had someone with me who saw what I did, otherwise I would have been doubting my sanity. I'm just curious to know what it was. I have considered and dismissed all the sensible options, a UFO is the only logical explanation I can think of."

**Did any other Express readers see the mysterious object last Saturday? If you did, then call the newsdesk on 01282 426161.**



**BAFFLED:** Taxi driver Steve Haworth points at an artist's impression of the unidentified flying object at the spot where he made the sighting. B030903/15

EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES, Ipswich, England - Sept. 8, 2003

# UFO prank theory attacked

Researcher dismisses latest claims on famous sighting in forest

By Richard Smith

A RESEARCHER has dismissed a theory that the world famous Rendlesham UFO was nothing more than a prank played by an American serviceman.

The latest theory about the cause of the UFO allegedly seen in Rendlesham Forest, close to Woodbridge airfield, after Christmas 1980 concerns a bored young man driving on the runway with flashing lights on his patrol car.

But Georgina Bruni, author of a 440-page book on the UFO, has claimed there were inconsistencies in his account.

Kevin Conde, who retired as a technical sergeant, stated he wanted to

play a prank on one of his colleagues. He apparently drove a battered 1979 Plymouth Volare standard issue American police car down the runway, where he stuck red and green lenses on the spotlights, switched on his loudspeaker and drove around in circles on the runway in the fog while flashing his car lights.

His story was recently featured in a BBC television documentary *Inside Out*.

Mr Conde is unsure exactly when the prank took place, and therefore is not sure if he was inadvertently responsible for the so-called UFO incident.

But Ms Bruni, who spent three years investigating the UFO, and

interviewed hundreds of people, is concerned that this theory could detract people from pursuing the definitive cause of the mysterious sighting.

She said: "Mr Conde claims he

**'The incident did not take place on the runway, but inside the forest'**

played the prank on the taxiway (runway). The incident did not take place on or near the runway, but inside the forest."

Ms Bruni said Mr Conde was unsure of the date, but said it was foggy on the night and he had played his loudspeaker. But, said Ms Bruni, there had not been any fog reported on the runway or surrounding Woodbridge air base and the UFOs were completely silent.

She added it was strange that the American air force allowed security police to use a battered car and why was the one-year old car in such a state of disrepair?

Mr Conde, a part-time police officer in Sacramento, has been unavailable for comment. But he has told an internet newsletter: "For reasons that are hard to explain, it is my impression that I pulled my stunt during an exercise."

"We would not have had an exercise during the Christmas holiday. That is a strong indication that my stunt is not the source of this specific incident."

The UFO mystery relates to an account from two American patrolmen who told Colonel Halt, the United States deputy commander at Bentwaters air base, they had seen a metallic triangular object in 1980 hovering or on legs with a pulsing red light on top and a bank of blue lights underneath.

It disappeared through the forest and animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy.

richard.smith@eadt.co.uk

EXPRESS, Wakefield, England - Aug. 15, 2003

## The proof is out there?

LITTLE green men could be planning an alien invasion according to a Horbury couple who claim they saw a spaceship while on holiday in Paris.

The UFO that "whizzed past in under a second" was caught on David Harrison's camcorder when he and his partner Janet Brown took a trip France.

Mr Harrison, 56, of Manor Place, was filming a hot-air balloon from the Arc de Triomphe when a black and silver disc shot into his view beside the Eiffel Tower.

He said: "It was so quick, if you'd blinked you would have missed it. I was really confused as to what it was, but then another one appeared."

"It was a clear day so we could see it well. One of them just appeared in the view of the Eiffel tower, then looked as if it flew straight through it. There was no noise."

It was only when the couple returned home and replayed the footage they began to think the truth is out there after all.

Mr Harrison, a security guard at the White Rose shopping centre in Leeds,



**THE truth is out there for David Harrison and Janet Brown: w0401a333 Picture: JOHN CLIFTON**

said: "The image looked broken on, because it was too fast for the camcorder film."

"We took it to a specialist on a UFO magazine who said they couldn't be sure what it was confirmed it for me."





HAVE aliens been hovering over Accrington? Judge for yourself from Arnold Fenton's picture

# UFO spotted over Rists site

IT SEEMS the aliens won't take no for an answer.

Over 300 readers may have voted against the idea of placing a UFO sculpture on top of the Coppice - but our friends from outer space put in a special appearance of their own last weekend.

Engineer Arnold Fenton snapped this strange object (circled) buzzing over the former Rists factory in Charter Street, Accrington.

Arnold, 31, of Exchange Street, Accrington, has been taking pictures of the site while it is undergoing a major transformation into a new housing development.

He didn't see the object in the sky when he took the picture, but says his dad Robert spotted it at around teatime last Saturday.

He said "My dad was sitting down to have his tea and

he saw it come down from a cloud and then zoom back up again. He said: 'What's that in the sky?'"

Arnold said the object didn't appear on any other photos and he is convinced it's not a bird, plane or helicopter.

He added: "I bought a computer and have just been pottering around with my digital camera. We have been trying to highlight problems in the area, taking pictures of bin bags and rubbish and putting them on a new website."

"My neighbour asked if I would take some pictures of the factory being torn down."

Arnold added: "I think with all this talk about a UFO being put on top of the Coppice, something or someone has come along to check it out."

## EYES ON THE SKIES

# Coming in the air tonight

By CAROLYN GRANT

KIMBERLEY— Did anyone in the Wycliffe - St. Mary Lake area see something strange in the sky late Saturday night, early Sunday morning? Rhonda Brass of Cranbrook would like to know, because she saw something she can only describe as an unidentified flying object.

Rhonda and her family were camping at St. Mary Lake over the weekend. At about 12:45 a.m. on Sunday, she and her husband took a walk on the road near the old cabins.

"The kids were sleeping and we wanted to take a few minutes to admire the stars," Rhonda said. "We saw a bright, white light coming over top of Bootleg Mountain, about 1,000 feet above it. It came across the lake heading south east."

What struck Rhonda and her husband was that there was no sound at all; no engine noise.

"We thought it was a plane at first. It appeared to be flying at about 4,000 to 5,000 feet. But then we realized that there was no noise and the light was really bright and much bigger than the light on an airplane."

Rhonda says the light travelled across the lake and seemed to vary speed.

"It would go fast, then slow and it was zigzagging a bit, almost like a wobble. I know it wasn't a satellite, it was far lower down and it definitely wasn't a shooting star."

"All you could see was the light. It was like when you see Venus at night, just as bright, only 10 times bigger."

Rather than being unnerved by the sight, Rhonda said that she used her big flashlight to try and signal whatever it was.

"It was really neat. It didn't scare me. I was quite impressed. I would have loved to meet whoever it was. After it was out of sight I said to my husband, 'I think we've just seen our first UFO'."

Rhonda called the Cranbrook Airport to see if any planes were in the area at that time. There were none.

Cpl. Rod Carbonneau of the Kimberley RCMP said the Detachment received no calls. "Usually that type of thing draws a lot of attention," he said.

Rhonda Brass would be very interested to know if any one else saw it. "Both my husband and I saw it. We weren't drinking. I would really like to know what it was."

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England - July 17, 2003

# Reports of UFOs flood into group

By John Corser

A Black Country UFO research group has had a big increase in reports of unexplained lights in the sky since the start of the hot spell. Stourbridge-based Uform says it is getting reports every day of sightings of unexplainable lights and objects in the sky.

Group member Yvonne South said there appeared to be increasing activity in the "Himley Triangle" around the epicentre of the Dudley earthquake in September last year. And two unusual events were reported in Dudley on Monday and Brierley Hill on Tuesday night.

"An unexplainable silver spinning ball was seen briefly between Dudley Castle and the Black Country Museum on Monday around 1pm. It remained in the sky for seconds before disappearing."

"On Tuesday night an object was seen in the Brierley Hill area at approximately 11.45pm which travelled in the direction of Pensnett turned very sharply then disappeared instantly."

## Sightings

"These sightings are from credible witnesses who know the difference between, aircraft, balloons, satellites and the rising stars. There are probably even more sightings that we are totally unaware of," she said.

"It is well documented that UFO's are seen before an earthquake occurs and

also when volcanos erupt. Uform is watching the skies with an open mind," she added.

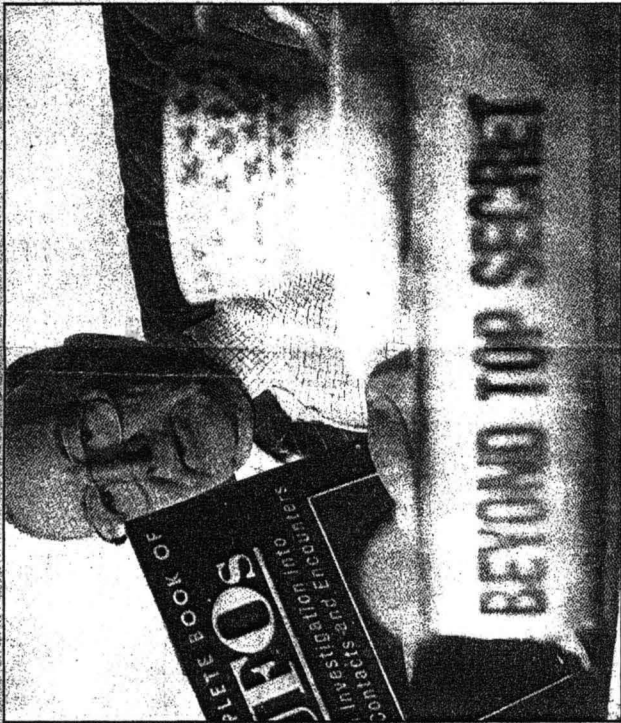
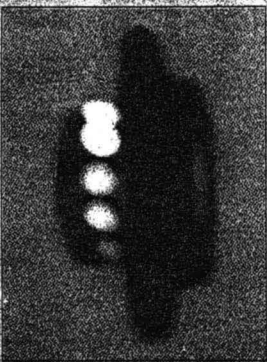
The group also has video footage of an unexplainable object which was seen in the Gornal/Himley area at about 1pm on June 29 and also last month had reports of sightings from Stourport, Kidderminster and Worcester. "One of our own Uform members witnessed an unexplainable orange ball of light on July 8 near Hartlebury Common."

She appealed for anyone with information about the Black Country sightings or other unexplainable objects in the sky to contact Uform on 07941 833842.



# THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE

As the British Flying Saucer Bureau marks its 50th anniversary, Joni Mann talks to founder and local resident Denis Plunkett



...ment sightings attracted the attention of sinister forces closer to home.

American organisations like the International Flying Saucer Bureau were closed down - reportedly by real-life Men in Black - leaving the British branch to take up the mantle of monitoring UFO activity from 1953 onwards.

Now 80 years on, the world's oldest UFO organisation, the British Flying Saucer Bureau, is run from a quiet street in Wintbourne.

Founder Denis Plunkett is recognised as the authority on the subject of UFOlogy across the world and is as convinced today as he was when that life exists outside planet Earth.

The retired civil servant has lived in Bristol all his life and began his research after the mysterious death of his

cousin, whose plane disappeared over South America in 1947, following reports of UFOs by astronomers based in the region.

Mr Plunkett, 70, carries out his work from the house he shares with his wife of 44 years, where one room is crammed with the books, videos, tapes and files he has collected over half a century.

He says his interest has spread to many friends and taken him around the world, but has inevitably caused a few trouble books.

"Some people do believe you might be a crackpot imagining you see UFOs all the time," he said.

"In the early days of the Bureau it wasn't really the done thing to

cardboard Mr Spock ears to try and put me off," he said.

"I play skittles, drink beer, do the garden, visit friends and spend time with my family - all the usual things."

"The adults in the family are tolerant, the

children are enthusiastic and send me toy UFOs and things."

Far from seeing alien activity everywhere, Mr Plunkett says he has only seen UFOs once, from his bedroom window in Wintbourne.

"It was a velvety black night in 1966 and

I had gone to close the curtains at the window. I spotted nine objects to the east of us, which seemed to be moving around."

"My wife and I watched them for an hour, baffled because we had exhausted every possible earthly solu-

tion. The next day there were similar reports from people near Warmley and Wick."

Only five per cent of reported sightings have been accepted as genuine by Mr Plunkett and his colleagues at the bureau.



Testimonies by trained pilots and army servicemen about the unearthly manoeuvrability of objects seen in the sky - backed up by radar - are the basis of much of the bureau's research.

But Mr Plunkett says fears of an alien invasion are unfounded and has a different perspective on beings that may have been visiting Earth for a very long time.

"Maybe we are proprietary," he suggests. "We feel we are in control of our own destinies but perhaps something is keeping an eye on us."

"I don't feel it's sinister, just the opposite. The more the world is in a perilous position, for example threatened with international conflict or the spectre of atomic weapons, the more they seem to be overseeing without getting involved."

"If push came to shove we might get an intervention."

"Ancient religions all talk of visitors from above that they have named Gods. It does make you question your beliefs and the perception of our place in the universe."

It was incredible, I was being called around the clock from all over the world," he said.

"People were begging us not to give up, saying it was not the end of UFOs."

The news broke as a conference opened in the US where extraterrestrial evidence about UFO sightings

This, he said, led to the decision two years ago to stop holding regular meetings of the

bureau, leading to false reports in the national press the organisation had shut down.

The news was related around the world in minutes via the internet.

"It was incredible, I was being called around the clock from all over the world," he said.

"People were begging us not to give up, saying it was not the end of UFOs."

The news broke as a conference opened in the US where extraterrestrial evidence about UFO sightings

This, he said, led to the decision two years ago to stop holding regular meetings of the

finished - it certainly took attention away from the conferences."

Far from wanting to give up, the members of the bureau believe their work is as relevant as ever in the face of changing attitudes.

"There will always be sceptics but people changed after 1969 when man landed on the moon," Mr Plunkett said.

"We all saw pictures of Earth from space and realised how insignificant and tiny we are."

"It made life on another planet seem not just a possibility but a probability."

The bureau will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a talk on the history of UFOs and the bureau itself.

The talk will be held at Monks Park School on November 6 from 7.30pm. Admission will be £3.

DORSET ECHO, Weymouth, England - Sept. 15, 2003



## THE VIEW FROM HERE

Peter Crowter

### Latest idea on crop circles is revolutionary

I EXPECT most of us have seen more photographs of yet another crop circle in the newspapers recently. One had the heading "Is this the final proof that aliens exist?"

An expert on crop circles painted a message in binary numbers (presumably that is an inter-galactic language) on a black plastic sheet: "What do you want from us?" Well, it seems they want our swallows, because their reply was a 'circle' depicting a formation of them.

I have to say I believe crop circle experts are the people who go out at night and create these amazing designs rather than those who study them but if I was a Wiltshire farmer I might call them something else.

When I looked up the subject on the internet I soon discovered that there must be millions of words written by folk desperate to prove that crop circles are created by non-human artists.

I like to think I keep an open mind on all sorts of things, from ghosts to life on other planets. Like most people I would love to see irrefutable proof of the existence of ghosts, UFOs, aliens or anything supernatural, but the 'experts' never quite get there, do they?

Believers in such phenomena consider they have sufficient proof but never quite manage to nail the thing down and convince the majority.

Most of the strange happenings in this country seem to take place in Wiltshire. The finding of crop circles seems to have taken over from sighting of UFOs that seemed to visit that county on a regular basis.

Of course 'arable artists' are at work elsewhere, notably America, but this information is hardly helpful to those who wish to prove unearthing intervention. America is a hotbed for societies with strange beliefs and many folk over there are begging to be hoodwinked by hoaxers.

Strange balls of light are alleged to be sometimes seen over the fields where the crop circles appear. So maybe UFOs are still involved. Dogs are said to bark all night when something is going on in the wheat fields and animals straying onto the circles are said to vomit.

Someone is supposed to have made a 15 second film of something snaking through a cornfield forming a pattern of a question mark. The film was handed over to the BBC and it 'disappeared'. Not lost, you understand, it 'disappeared'.

The implication here is that it was whisked away by the government because they know what is going on 'out there' and they want to keep it from the general public. If the intelligence services have trouble keeping tabs on Sadaam Hussein I find it hard to believe they are up to date with alien activity.

The very first crop circles were indeed circular, and in the photographs I have seen the corn was not flattened completely to the ground, so I believe that these were caused by whirlwinds, or vortexes.

Next came neater circles - man-made copies I would guess. The really complicated ones started appearing about the same time that farmers started tramlining their cereal fields.

Tramlines are as straight as the farmer can get them, parallel to each other and at precise widths to match the length of his sprayer boom and the spread of his fertiliser distributor.

These lines do, of course, provide untraceable access into the crop for anyone treading carefully, and also excellent guidelines for intricate patterns.

# WE'VE SEEN 84 UFOs SAY COPS

by TONY LEONARD

**FLYING saucer fans were given an out-of-this-world boost last night when police released official reports into 84 UFO cases.**

Experts say their dossier lends added weight to the case for extra-terrestrial visitors - as all the sightings were made by serving or retired officers.

In one incident more than 16 bobbies watched in awe as a craft hovered over Stanmore, Middx, while firing balls of light at the ground.

## Secret

Det Con Gary Heseltine, who set up a database of reports, revealed that 212 policemen and policewomen had come forward to share experiences dating back to the 1950s.

In a special report for UFO Magazine he lifted the lid on the previously secret files into some of the UK's most baffling cases. Among the



**BOBBY DAZZLER:** Saucer

reports are close encounters at power stations, oil terminals and even military bases.

But Det Con Heseltine, who works for the British Transport Police, stressed: "Let me say right away that not every case on the database is proof of extra-terrestrial visitation. That would be a ludicrous claim."

He added: "However, in the specialist categories of police witnesses I do believe that about 50 per cent of the cases on the database lean heavily towards that view." In one case from

1978, three bobbies watched a UFO the size of a football field cruise across the countryside at Long Crendon, Bucks.

On another occasion, four officers in Halifax, West Yorks, watched a saucer hover over their town for 20 minutes.

## Hovering

The incident was reported and several officers had visits from investigators at the Ministry of Defence.

In another case an officer walked out of his police station at 5.30am to investigate radio interference and saw a cigar-shaped UFO hovering 250ft overhead.

Then it suddenly soared upwards at incredible speed in total silence.

Det Con Heseltine thinks that ETs could have been monitoring our defence capabilities.

His report concluded: "The officers provide excellent witness testimony promoting the nuts and bolts evidence that supports the extra-terrestrial hypothesis."

# Is there anybody there... county in grip of UFO flap

A TRIANGULAR object with a shining trail behind it has been sighted across the Worcester skies.

A man in St John's claims he saw the strange triangular shape with six lights on its left-hand side and six lights on its right-hand side, on Tuesday, June 3 at around 1am.

It was moving towards the Malvern area with a shining trail behind it.

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

On Saturday, May 31, a man and wife, also from St John's, say they spotted a white light above Worcester Cathedral.

"The light suddenly shot off silently towards the Birmingham direction," said Michael Soper, spokesman for Contact International.

And in Kidderminster, on Wednesday night, two people say they saw a pearl-shaped object flying over Coventry Street as they

were driving home.

"It was hovering in the sky then it darted out of sight," said Mr Soper.

"We can't speculate what any of these objects are."

Mr Soper said he received the phone calls after the *Evening News* reported how a man walking his dog near Lichfield Street, Stourport-on-Severn, saw six strange lights flying silently across the sky in a south-west direction over Stourport-on-Severn on Saturday, May 31.

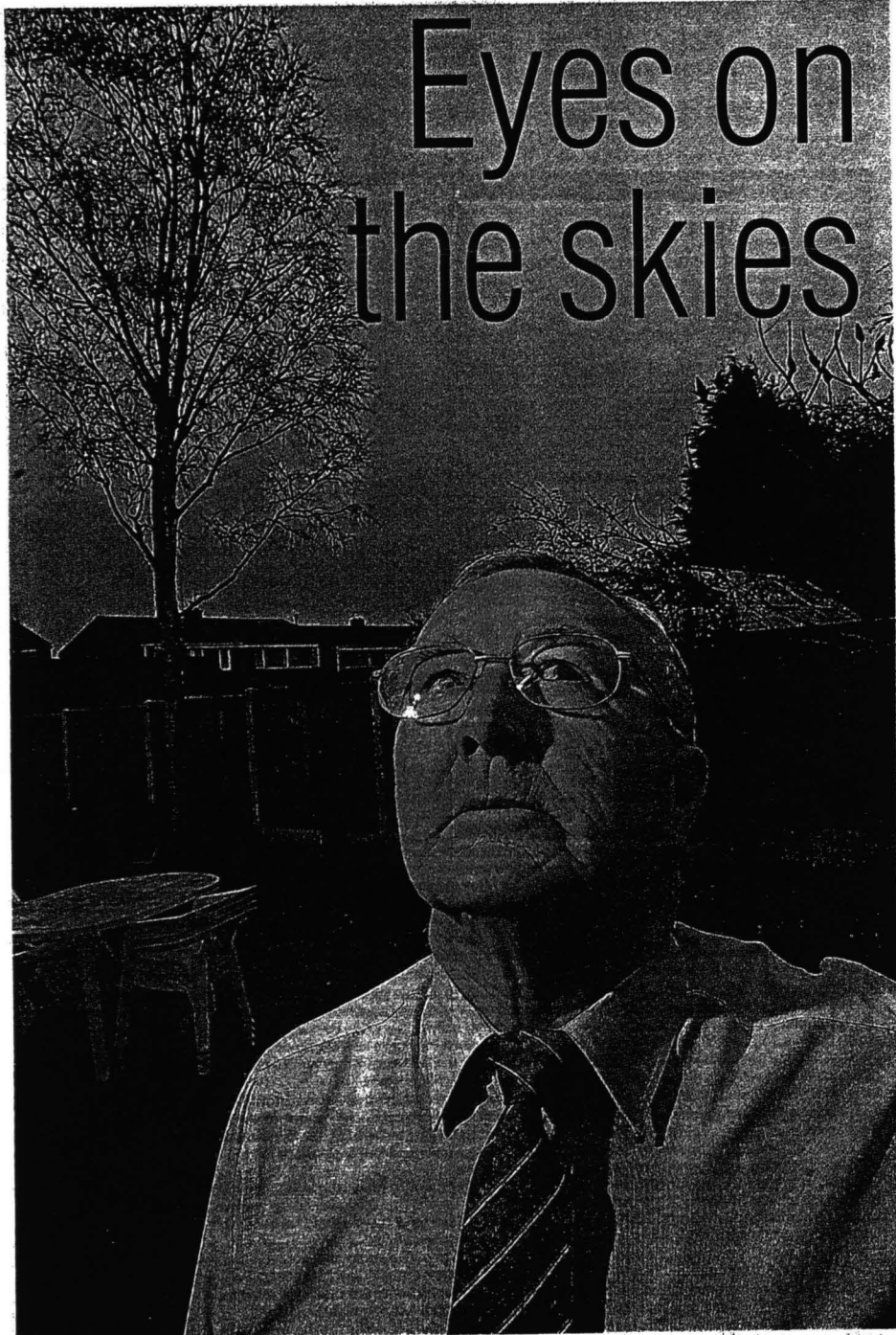
## Triangular

The *Evening News* told people in the Malvern area to look out for unexplained objects after three triangular objects with bright lights were seen moving south-west over Birmingham on the same night.

Anyone who spots strange objects in the Worcestershire skies should contact Mr Soper on 01865 726908.

# Eyes on the skies

As the British UFO Research Organisation celebrates its 50th birthday, Tom Henry talks to a founder about lights in the sky, Foo fighters and the real 'men in black'



Denis Plunkett has spent half a century pursuing his hobby of watching for Unidentified Flying Objects

**D**ENIS Plunkett was dead. He disappeared while on National Service with the RAF in the early 1950s; "Claimed by the air force" was the phrase his father used to describe his son's absence from the list of members belonging to the quaintly-named British Flying Saucer Bureau.

And so for the next 20 years, UFOlogists consistently reported Denis's demise. Even as late as 1976, the journal of the British UFO Research Association said he had been "unfortunately killed during National Service".

It wasn't quite true, of course. A bit of unfortunate phrasing on the part of his father had prompted the Chinese whisper which grew into near-fact, but it was apt for those times.

After all, it was the Cold War and UFOs were being sighted all over the place. No-one was quite sure whether it was the men from Mars or the men from Moscow at the controls and, in the absence of hard fact, speculation ran wild.

Fifty years on, sitting in his neat home in Winterbourne, the sun shining on his well-tended garden, Mr Plunkett doesn't look at all dead.

In fact, he's a very sprightly 72-year-old, and his mind is as actively curious as it was half a century ago about all matters extra-terrestrial. The shelves of his study are lined with books, videos, newspaper cuttings, magazines and a variety of novelty aliens - presents from relatives and friends amused and bemused by Denis's hobby.

This year marks the 50th year of existence of the BFSB. On November 4, 1953, a group of men gathered in the Prince of Wales pub in Old Market for the first of the Bureau's many meetings. The BFSB was initially started as a UK branch of the International Flying Saucer Bureau, set up a year earlier in the United States by a man named Albert K Bender.

Mr Bender's activities coincided with a huge upsurge of interest in UFOs following the World War II. During the conflict, airmen reported seeing strange objects trailing them as they flew to bomb Germany and Japan. The objects became known as "Foo Fighters", and it was reading about these which first sparked Denis's interest.

However, an incident in 1947 sealed his lifelong belief in forces unknown. His cousin, an airline radar operator, was



part of a crew which disappeared when their plane went missing over Chile. A mysterious code word - "STENDEC" - was sent out just before the plane was lost, and Denis is firmly convinced that there was UFO involvement in the disappearance.

"In the two months before the aircraft went missing there was a lot of UFO activity reported over Chile," he said. "I'm not saying that UFOs downed the aircraft but it might be the case that a UFO affected the plane's navigation system."

Whatever the cause, the aircraft became the longest reported missing plane in history until three years ago, when wreckage was found in the Andes. Denis says the final message was sent four minutes before the plane was due to land, presumably having cleared the mountains, and still finds it odd that the aircraft appeared to have diverted wildly off-course and hit a mountain.

The mystery was enough to convince Mr Plunkett and his father to find out more about the whole subject, and share their discoveries with like-minded souls. The one person who wouldn't be contributing, however, was Albert K Bender.

"He was visited by three men in black," he said, "and after that visit he closed down the International Flying Saucer Bureau within 48 hours. He took up an interest in classical music and never bothered with UFOs again. But that was what was happening at the time - a lot of people were either visited, threatened or just died."

After Albert K Bender's sudden departure from the flying saucer scene, Denis and his father decided to set up the British branch as a separate entity.

I asked Denis if the renowned "Men in Black" ever visited the founders of the British Flying Saucer Bureau at this point. "Well, I was away in the air force at the time but my mother said she had been visited by two men she took to be Russians. I only heard about this many months later."

"At first, the FBI, the CIA and MI5 said they weren't interested in the subject of flying saucers, but when people started looking at records years later under the Freedom of Information Act, it was clear that they were actually very interested in the subject indeed."

"Even so, when I went into the air force, someone else in the bureau who had links with MI5 asked if we could continue our activities and they said there was no reason not to continue 'at the moment'. So we did."

"Peaks and troughs" is how Denis describes levels of UFO activity in the years since the founding of the Bureau.

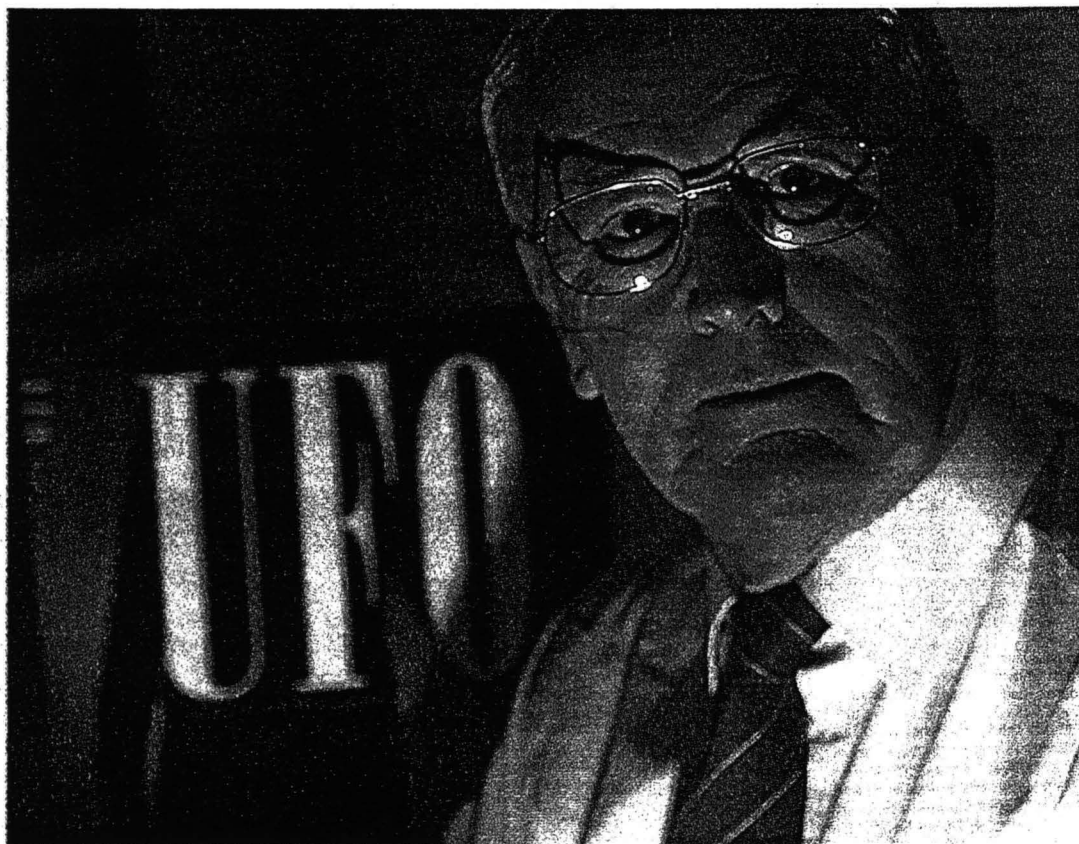
He believes that whoever was manning the flying saucers was undertaking a huge survey of the earth, prompted, perhaps, by the great firestorms caused by Allied and Nazi bombing, and the eventual atomic bombing of Japan, which had the potential to be seen from space.

As the Bureau got off the ground and reports of flying saucers were coming in from all over the world, membership increased to well over 1,000 people, many of them international members.

A variety of well-known speakers included Lord Dowding who, as Air Chief Marshal Hugh Dowding, had saved the nation from the Nazis through his brilliant handling of the Battle of Britain air campaign. Dowding was a firm believer in spiritualism, and was also interested in what may or may not have been visiting us from outer space.

But not everyone believed in flying saucers. A rash of films and TV shows set in space and a largely cynical and mick-taking media somehow diverted popular imagination away from serious study.

"It is a subject which caused great division," said Denis. "I used to work at Rolls-Royce and then I worked in the civil service for 18 years. I



**I remember clashing with a man from the Bristol Astronomical Society at one of our meetings. He sat in the front row, and he was wearing a pair of cardboard ears on the top of his head**

never made any secret of my interest in UFOs and nothing was ever said to me about it, but in 18 years I never moved up the ladder at all. I didn't conform, and perhaps that did my career some harm.

"They maybe saw me as different, or an oddball, but it's interesting to see that the same people who derided the subject back then are now in the minority. In 1947, a poll showed that 11 per cent of the population believed in flying saucers. By 1997, the end of the century, the figure was 89 per cent of the population. So it went from one in 10 people, to nine out of 10 people."

"I remember clashing with a man from the Bristol Astronomical Society at one of our meetings. He sat in the front row, and he was wearing a pair of cardboard ears on the top of his head."

"He was staring at me all the time, and when the lights dimmed and the slide show started someone started throwing things around at people in the audience."

"After the show he apologised for the ears, but he said he remained a total sceptic. Six months later he sent me a duplicate of a report from the Bristol Astronomical Society at Failand. He had seen what he thought was a UFO. He said it looked like a cloud except it was illuminated by flashing lights and it was cigar-shaped."

Of course, Denis has had his own experience of flying saucers. Several, in fact,

to the point where he wondered if he was being "followed" by them. His most illuminating encounter came in the summer of 1966.

"It was a summer's night," he recalled, "and I was in the bedroom at the back. We have a long window in there, about 12ft long, which means you can see 180 degrees around. It was about 11pm, and I was just about to draw the curtains when I saw an object in the sky over towards Bath."

"There were nine lights up there on the horizon and they moved so fast you couldn't actually see them move between two points. My wife and I watched them for about an hour. It was absolutely unbelievable."

"Eventually the lights disappeared. We woke up the next day, and we were still talking about it when the Western Daily Press was delivered and we read a report that lights had been seen in the Warmley and Wick areas, so it wasn't just us!"

Surely this would have been the moment for Denis to get out his camera and get the definitive picture of a UFO over the skies of Britain?

"It's strange," he said, "but I felt a real affinity between myself and the lights. Although I had a camera and binoculars near to hand, I didn't want to turn away from the window in case they disappeared and I didn't see them any more."

And it was not only UFOs which were disappearing from the picture - so were

members of the BFSB. An upsurge in internet usage and a lull in UFO activity caused a drop in membership to an all-time low. In 2001, the decision was taken to suspend meetings until further notice, and the news of the group's apparent demise went all around the world - much to Denis's annoyance.

"The papers said the Bureau was closing down," he said, "and it wasn't true. I was getting e-mails from all over the place asking what was going on."

And so, in 2003, the group is celebrating its 50th year of existence with an anniversary meeting at Monks Park School, Filton, on Thursday November 6. And while we have yet to have definitive proof of the existence of UFOs, Denis is correct in his assessment that people are generally more open minded about the subject than they used to be.

"They definitely exist," he states, "but I wouldn't like to hazard a guess at where they're from. All I can say is that they seem to appear in times of real trouble, but they don't seem to interfere, they just observe."

"It's almost as if they are conducting an overview of how we are progressing. Are they controlling us in some way?"

"I have to say that I don't feel as though I have total free will. HG Wells wondered if we were just property here on earth, and I wonder that too."

"It's a fascinating subject, and it continues to fascinate me. It's a mystery with no end."

## UFO expert Graham dies at the age of 49

BY HOWARD WILLIAMSON

GRAHAM Birdsall, pictured, a world authority on UFOs, has died after a brain haemorrhage.

He was 49 and leaves a widow Christine and three daughters.

The editor of the *UFO Magazine*, produced in south Leeds, had been taken ill at his home in Colton, east Leeds. He underwent a seven-hour operation at St James's Hospital.

His son-in-law Russel Callaghan, who helped to produce the magazine, said: "We were hoping for a steady recovery but his condition deteriorated last Friday and he died on Saturday morning. He was a great guy and was a workaholic. His interest in UFOs started in 1967 when he was a boy and he saw something strange from his garden."

"He then devoted his life to the UFO phenomenon to

find out the truth. He'd just finished making a video called *The Journey* which looks at a series of events which have the experts puzzled."

"He had been asked to go to India for the launch of the Stephen Spielberg alien series *Taken* and was due to sail on the final voyage of the QE2 in November when he was going to lecture on UFOs to the passengers."

"His work will go on and we shall continue to produce the magazine which is the world's best-selling UFO publication."

"He and his brother Mark started it about 20 years ago."

Mr Birdsall's funeral service will be held at St Mary's Parish Church, Whitkirk, at 1pm on Tuesday, September 30, directly after which the family will hold an event to celebrate his life at the Hilton Hotel, Garforth.



CENTRAL SOMERSET GAZETTE, Wells, England - July 24, 2003

## Symposium on circles and UFOs

By Ken Edmonds

The 13th Glastonbury Symposium: Investigating Crop Circles and Signs Of Our Times, is coming to the town hall this weekend.

Running from tomorrow (Friday) until Sunday (July 27), the symposium will feature speakers from around the world on a variety of mystical subjects. Crop circles, UFOs' history, crop circle photography and alien abduction are just some of the subjects that will be covered during the weekend.

Tomorrow (Friday) the speakers will include Chet Snow, who will use his knowledge of Native American prophecies and ancient wisdoms to explore crop

circles, and Peter Chin, who aims to show the healing links between tai chi and crop circles.

With lectures throughout the day on Saturday, the evening proceedings will begin with a performance by the Avalonian Free State Choir.

Maurice Cotterell, author of such books as *Astrogenetics* and *The Mayan Prophecies*, will turn his attention to the Chinese Terracotta Army and what he believes their true meaning to be.

On Sunday, as part of a series of lectures on many subjects, Karen Ralls will be exploring the spiritual elements to Celtic

music, complete with practical demonstrations.

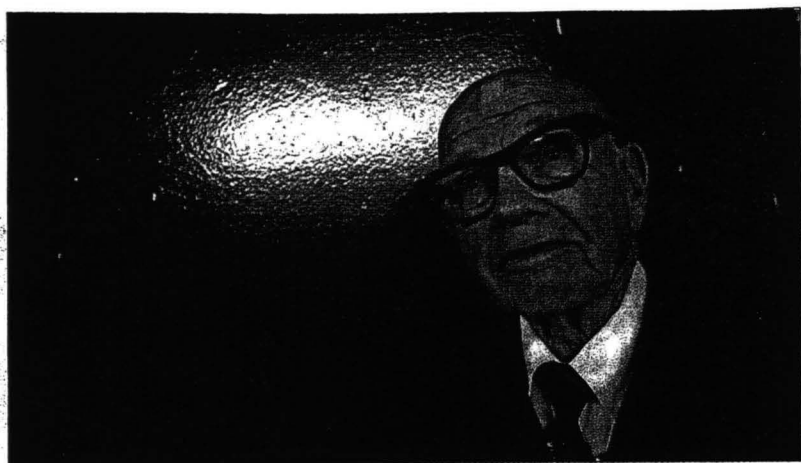
In the evening a special event has been planned with Budd Hopkins. Budd has investigated more than 700 alien abductions.

He will be speaking about his findings and their implications for mankind.

Organiser Sheila Martin said: "There will be a trading room open in the small hall throughout the conference."

"There will be displays of photos of this season's crop formations and people are welcome to drop in and have a look."

For more information or booking contact Sheila on (01458) 834576.



Paul Norman says UFOs are not to be scoffed at.

Picture: CHRIS EASTMAN, N21MS205

## Group shines a light on UFO sightings

By Dennis Bertoldo

TO MEMBERS of the Victorian UFO Research Society, UFO sightings are no cause for paranoia, alarm or scepticism.

For this group, based at Moorabbin airport, sightings of bright lights in the skies are treated with utter seriousness.

The society's publicity officer Paul Norman has been on the UFO case since the 1950s.

He said the realm of UFOs continued to fascinate him, even after more than four decades.

In June this year, the former trainee pilot headed up to the Gramplans to check out repeated claims of UFO sightings.

It was not the appearance of the

strange lights that interested him, it was their sudden disappearance.

Mr Norman said people had observed bright glowing lights over the hills, but since two jet aircraft had been heard in the area, the sightings had stopped.

He wrote in *The Australian UFO Bulletin* of September this year: "I visited the site, and for the first time in two years, I did not see any UFO activity."

"To date, there have been no reports of UFO activity received from other witnesses since the time of the jet overflight."

Mr Norman said it was hard to know if the military would send aircraft over the Gramplans to investigate the lights.

"They won't admit it - they don't report sightings to us," he said.

"Probably because they don't have the answers themselves."

Mr Norman says the 1978 disappearance of pilot Frederick Valentich, who had flown out of Moorabbin Airport, was "the greatest mystery in Australian aviation history".

Like so many other reports, Valentich reported seeing several bright lights and interference with his instrument panel.

After radioing the control tower with his strange encounter, Valentich's radio went dead and he and his Cessna 182 have not been seen since.

Mr Norman, the research society's investigation officer at the time, said the Valentich case sparked off a big interest in UFOs in Australia and many reports flowed in afterwards.

NEWS SHOPPER, Bromley, England - Aug. 27, 2003

PETTS WOOD: Cylindrical object resembled two rolls of carpet

## Aviation fan spots 'UFO' in our skies

by RICHARD SIMCOX

rsimcox@london.newsquest.co.uk

A RETIRED aviation enthusiast says he has never seen anything like an unidentified object which flew over his back garden.

Douglas Wragg has been watching the skies for more than 50 years and knows everything there is to know about aircraft and weather balloons.

But on a clear day in Petts Wood, he says he witnessed a cylinder-shaped flying object which was "nothing to do with aviation".

Mr Wragg, 71, asked his wife, Pamela, to verify he was not hallucinating after tracking the object through his binoculars.

Describing it as like "two rolls of carpet covered in black plastic", one on top of the other, he initially thought it was a kite but ruled that out

when it climbed to about 20,000ft.

He said: "I know a lot about aircraft but I've never seen anything like this."

He contacted Biggin Hill airport to warn them because it appeared to be in the flight path.

Biggin Hill air traffic control did not spot the flying object and it did not appear on its radar system, which only operates for a limited radius around the airfield.

Mr Wragg has worked for several major firms such as American Airlines and Alitalia, and started his career at British European Airways in 1955.

● If you can explain the sighting at 2pm on Tuesday, August 12, call our newsdesk on 01689 885703 or text the Editor on 07781 482502 (standard network rates apply).



● PUZZLED: Aviation enthusiast Douglas Wragg has been scanning the sky for answers MM1557/2

## No earthly reasons

WITH reports of mysterious happenings in the sky, News Shopper contacted Biggin Hill Airport to see if there could be an earthly explanation.

Airport director Peter Lonergan said: "We don't often get calls about UFOs, although we did have one on Saturday night. A lady left a message saying she had seen a bright light in the sky which was not moving but that is the first for a very long time."

"Quite often people mistake the police helicopter for a UFO because they hover with their lights on but not all queries can be solved so easily and I don't have any answers for this lady's sighting."

RHONDDA LEADER, Cardiff, Wales - Aug. 28, 2003

Group spots 'alien craft'

## Sighting of 'disco lights in the sky'

ALIENS may be looking for a welcome in the hillside after Penrhys folk spotted an unidentified flying object on Tuesday, August 12.

About 20 people were having a barbecue at a garden in Heol-y-Waun, Penrhys, while watching a meteor shower.

At around 9pm, they noticed an object with green-and-red flashing lights, which hovered noiselessly over the area, very high in the sky, for the rest of the night.

David Drew, aged 30, said it was "like disco lights in the sky".

Residents insisted they had not been drinking on the "lovely, starry clear evening".

Tina Davies, aged 26, said: "It's not normal but we've no idea what it could have been."

Elizabeth Davies, aged 29, said they tried to film the experience on a video camera but the object would not appear on screen despite the camera working fine and being able to focus on other objects, such as the moon.

Six-year-old Kurt Ellis said: "We thought it was the aliens and we were really excited."

Caitlin Drew, aged five, thought the "lights looked pretty in the sky".

### Radar

Worried residents contacted Cardiff International Airport, which said there was no aircraft on their radar at that time.

Martin Griffiths, senior lecturer in earth and space science at the University of Glamorgan, said this was a typical UFO scenario.

"It could have been anything, it doesn't mean it was a flying object from another planet," he said.

"There have been some very low

BY BEN GLAZE

flights over the Rhondda in the last month."

Nick Pope used to investigate UFO sightings for the Ministry of Defence and said there were many possible explanations for the aircraft.

"There are a huge number of variables to be considered when looking at UFO sightings."

### Investigated

"When we investigated sightings at the MOD, we got about 200 to 300 reports each year and 95 per cent could be explained," he said.

The red-and-green lights spotted by residents were probably the standard anti-collision lights on aircraft, said Mr Pope.

"I'm by no means debunking the whole phenomenon and I'm not writing off the individual sighting but, on the balance of probabilities, it's likely that there may have been some misidentification."

But Mr Pope added that, during his time at the MOD, he came across several cases which "made me think there may be something more exotic".

He said: "I'm not a fully paid-up believer but neither am I prepared to dismiss the whole thing."

He said, in his experience, there was "evidence but not proof".

A police spokeswoman said the force helicopter was not operating in the area at the time but added that police received a report of a man shining a torch into the sky on top of Treorchy mountain at around the same time. Perhaps he was trying to guide in the spaceship for landing.

● If you have spotted anything unusual in the Rhondda sky, give Laura Evans a ring on (01443) 665153.

EXPRESS, Burnley, England - Sept. 9, 2003

## More UFOs spotted by readers

TWO eagle-eyed Burnley residents have come forward having spotted UFOs. Last week part-time taxi driver Mr Steve Haworth told the Burnley Express that he saw a cigar-shaped object with a small pulsating light in the middle in the sky over Bacup Road.

Donna Green, of Rossendale Road, Burnley, rang in to say that she saw an unidentified flying object at 6-30 a.m. on June 10th and thought it could have been a cloud.

And Simon Hardman believes that he has seen a UFO over Pendle Hill.

Another resident, who lives in the Bacup Road area, claimed that she saw it and believed that it was a grey hot air balloon with a yellow dot in the middle.

Mr Haworth, of Burton Street, spotted the object, which changed shape and went backwards and forwards in a straight line before vanishing, at 7-45 a.m. on Saturday, August 30th.



# 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.]

October 30, 2003 — *Circulo Ovnologico Riocuartense*, Argentina — NEW CATTLE MUTILATIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF CORDOBA — [A report from the Circulo Ovnologico Riocuartense] — We would like to inform you that this organization was present at the "La Ranchada" field near "El Naranjo" in the department of Rio Cuarto at the request of its owner, since the death and mutilation of a bovine had taken place. The following are the particulars of the case:

## VISUAL REPORT

At the field known as "La Ranchada" near "El Naranjo," latitude 32° 49' South and longitude 64° 50' west; being leased by Ms. Viviana Olivares, the date being the 28th day of October of 2003 and the time being 17:00 hours, the undersigned met in representation of the Circulo Ovnologico Riocuartense in order to carry out a survey and investigation arising from the discovery of a dead and mutilated bovine. The site is an extensive canyon with an estimated depth of 25 meters from the level of the local road that winds its way eastward, and which naturally serves as a channel for runoff [...] The canyon's width is of 9.30 meters on average and its surface is very damp as one progresses toward the indicated watercourse. Almost halfway along said canyon, which measures approximately 300 meters from south to north, there lay a female bovine some 5 to 6 years old, mixed breed, black in color, lying on its right side (seen from the rear) and showing the initial signs of putrefaction and the presence of abundant maggots and foul smell. Said maggots were found on the chest, udders, anus, under the left eyelid and the presence of serum ejaculate is also present. The absence of the left eye is evident, as well as the tongue, the ear, all of the head tissue, particularly that of the jawbone. Looking inside its mouth, the cavity was empty and the bones that constitute the head were completely free of tissue. The tail, anus, vagina and udders are in their places and there is no sign of missing organs nor orifices on the animal's carcass. The bovine's head is pointed eastward and its hind legs toward the west. No signs of violence in the body nor signs of agony prior to death, such as kicking or rolling on the ground, were evident. There is no sign of any type of blood outflow, nor visible wounds on the bovine's body. To judge by the maggots, small pieces of hide have fallen off, upon contact these patches turn to dust and give off a strong smell of putrefaction. A more or less circular hole is evident where the left ear was located; its edges are smooth and no tooth marks were in evidence. Another element reported is that aerial predators avoid the body and neither the other bovines nor the few dogs to be found in the area have approached it either. Measurements and photographs were taken and renderings of the site were made. Without further to report, the survey was concluded at 18:30 on the day cited above. The participants set their signatures hereunder.

Mario Luis Bracamonte  
Dante Guerrero Merhi

## AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. BERARDO

At the site, the acting researchers held a dialogue at 18:30 hours of October 28th, 2003 with Carlos Elias Berardo, an Argentine national, 17, rural employee who was asked about how he had come across the animal. He replied: "I was returning on horseback from Las Albahacas along with Mr. Ramon Olivares, when we saw a fallen animal near the "El Naranjo." Upon approaching, we could see that it was a mixed breed cow some 6 years in age."

Upon closer inspection, they ascertained that it was missing its tongue, left eye and ear. He was asked if some other particulars had been noticed: "Nothing aside from what's been said."

When asked about the animal's position, he replied that its head was pointed east and its hind legs west, and that the body was soft upon being touched, leading them to believe that it had been dead for a short time. Viviana Olivares, leasee of the property, stated: "I didn't want to call the folks from the University of Rio Cuarto anymore, since they were adamant that these events are linked to rodents (mice)." Given that Ms. Olivares is convinced (or so it seems) that these events are not the result of rodent action, since she has worked for four years as a veterinarian's assistant in the province of Mendoza and professes to know details which lead her to believe that other factors are at work which elude logic. This she said during the dialogue held in her home. The incisions that she has witnessed in two other incidents on her field are clean and no tooth marks were observed that could suggest the presence of rodents, dogs or predators. — CREDIT: Mario Luis Bracamonte

November 3, 2003 — *Diario Pregon*, San Salvador de Jujuy, Argentina — UFO PRESENCE SEEN AND RECORDED — A journalistic team of the Canal America 2 "Informe Central" program saw and recorded several UFOs at a location near Maimara and the images are being shown on the Sunday edition of said program.

The experience was made known to *Pregon* by Alfonso Bidondo, who guided the team to the site at which the contact event took place, only scant kilometers away from Maimara and on the side of National Hwy. 9. Bidondo, who has been devoted to UFO research for some years, claims being able to establish telepathic contact with the crews allegedly aboard these objects. "The folks from Canal America asked me to take them to see UFOs in order to film them and see if this subject is real. I told them that indeed, my telepathic contact with the vehicles led me to that spot in the early morning hours. We were at the site and while they interviewed me, the vehicles told me that they were about to appear behind me. We turned around and one of the vessels was up above. They were very startled and managed to record it," claims Bidondo.

The team--he detailed--was formed by producer Marcelo Peralta, host Martin Ciccoli and cameraman Alfredo Ghilanda.

## A Very Large Light

When consulted about the characteristics of the objects seen, Bidondo described them as "a very big light that passed slowly above us and then vanished. It must have remained for some 15 seconds and then disappeared. Then other lights appeared. Then the sky clouded and we headed back."

Showing the videotaped images of the experience in La Quebrada, he explained that some members of the news crew "still couldn't believe it. It was the first time they had seen UFOs and it seemed an impossibility. But then they became witnesses and were totally amazed."

"Jujuy," explained Bidondo, "is in one of the most important places on the planet as regards the UFO phenomenon because we are in a magnetic 'tube' through which craft transit [...]. The atmosphere and electromagnetic field in which northern Argentina is submerged is also an influence." Despite this, he adds, "the UFO subject is taboo in Jujuy."

Bidondo revealed that at the end of the month, a camera crew from the INFINITO TV network will visit the area to produce a segment on the experiences which have occurred here and regretted that residents of Jujuy do not grant the phenomenon the importance it merits.

"When they hear these subjects mentioned, people laugh because they don't have information," he noted, adding that "very serious treatment is given to the subject" in developed countries like the U.S. and the European Union. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

---

November 7, 2003 — *El Nacional*, Santiago, Dominican Republic — **ALLEGED CRASH OF TWO OBJECTS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** — Chunks of iron and other metal from the primeval universe fall constantly to earth. Upon making contact, they give off a bright light whose flames dissipate immediately. For this reason, eyewitness commentary in this part of the country does not dismiss the possibility.

The object was seen from Santiago by cameraman Noendi Valerio of Channel 25, who claims having recorded the beam of light from his home in this city's Los Reyes sector.

In Navarrete, several residents claimed having seen the column of smoke given off by the alleged spaceship, which has still not been found in the impenetrable mountainous area of the communities of Fundacion, Paradero and Arroyo Blanco. However, the Civil Aeronautics Accident Investigation Board is continuing the search at the site where the accident supposedly occurred.

They believe it could have been an agricultural aircraft. However, no rice grower has reported an accident--something they always do to collect the insurance on their crop dusters.

This morning, an aircraft from the Dominican Air Force (FAD) flew over the area, but had reported nothing as of midday.

Participating in the Search and Rescue operation are members of all of the Dominican state's security organizations, according to a press report from the Civil Aeronautics press office.

The area in which the event allegedly occurred was surveyed by reporters from this newspaper yesterday. It is extremely cloudy and the rains have not ceased. In spite of this, the impenetrable vegetation has not kept local residents and brigades of the police, the National Army, the Civil Defense and the Red Cross from continuing the search.

Residents of Gajo Alto, at the highest point of the mountain, claim having seen the beam of light, but did not hear any detonation.

Nothing has been recorded in the Dominican Republic's airspace and the radars of the Gregorio Luperon Airport of Puerto Plata, which are rather broad in their coverage, have no information about aircraft which flew over the area on Wednesday night.

Another theory which hasn't been dismissed is the possibility that elements linked to the drug trade were flying below the radar and finding a forested area in which to hide.

At El Lirial, residents claim that an airplane would pass over the area every night at the same time, but after last night's event, nothing was found. Faced with the possibility that a drug cargo could be involved, several people offered themselves as volunteers to search the mountainous region. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

---

November 7, 2003 — *Anyos-Luz*, Spain — **VENEZUELA: UFOs OVER CARACAS** — Imposing and majestic, El Avila, a mythic mountain of dense jungles and crystalline waterfalls, has become one of the sites of highest interest to researchers, scientists, spiritual guides and curiosity-seekers, all of whom are driven by the intense UFO activity which has emerged in recent years in the mountain's vicinity, visiting it to glean greater information on the development of this elusive phenomenon.

New UFO sightings over Cerro El Avila have been made from various locations within the [Caracas] metropolitan area. On October 21, 2003, Mrs. Ligia Peralta reported seeing a strange luminous object of large proportions which was flying over the outlying sections of the "La Julia" sector of Cerro El Avila in Caracas.

The event took place at approximately 7:30 PM while Mrs. Peralta was making a phone call, leaning against one of the windows surrounding her dwelling, located on the eighth floor of a residential complex east of the Venezuelan capital. Peralta remarked that the strange object "appeared out of nowhere" and was endowed with a very bright white light; it moved around the area for a few seconds before vanishing from sight as it flew over the mountain's summit.

In another report received, it was said that at 2:00 PM on October 25, five people followed the maneuvers of a circular object--black in color--which moved dizzily over a densely populated Caracas suburb on the slopes of Cerro El Avila.

According to this report, two of the eyewitnesses stated that the object "appeared suddenly" and moved quickly "in a straight line" and far above the peak of a mountain adjacent to the "La Pastora" sector, also in Caracas, before losing itself between the clouds and vanishing from sight. Likewise, in a third report received on Saturday, October 25, Raquel Rivero reported on the maneuvers of another object near Mount Avila, this time from the "Mari Perez" urbanization.

The event occurred only a few minutes before seven o'clock. The witness stated that she was near the Chacaito subway station when she grew aware of an intense "whitish blue" light which was static in the sky, distinguishing itself from other heavenly bodies for its "great size and luminosity." Finally, Rivero noted that after having observed the phenomenon for no more than 5 to 10 minutes, it dimmed gradually until it faded away before the startled eyes of the onlookers. — CREDIT: Arturo Escalante

---

November 9, 2003 — *El Nacional*, Santiago, Dominican Republic — **AUTHORITIES DO NOT DISMISS UFO FLIGHT PATH OVER NORTHEASTERN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — SANTIAGO** — Santiago astronomers do not dismiss the possibility that this could be a natural unidentified object. Residents in the mountainous northeastern corner believe a beam of light fell to the ground like an aircraft.

Ramon Caceres, scientific advisor to this city's astronomy club, stated that while there is no palpable evidence to affirm that an unidentified flying object was involved, "it is nonetheless acceptable as a possibility in the scientific world [to say] that it was an aerolith or a UFO."

He added that they [scientists] are duty-bound to investigate this possibility and among many other possibilities, it is also necessary to speak of the area in which a geological fault is located--a place where strange phenomena have allegedly taken place.

Not long ago, he said, a group of youngsters attending the astronomy club's meetings claimed having seen a red-hued ball emerging from the Diego de Ocampo mountain peak.

Many claim, he continued, that it could have been a laser beam of the type known today, "but others say it could have been an airplane. Something truly startling has taken place."

This student of nature points out that the statement made by this newspaper about the object possibly being a UFO or an aerolith is not in the least bit absurd. "This red ball I'm telling you about ascended vertically and then vanished. Many lights were also seen at the Isabel de Torrews mountain during the earthquake,"



said Caceres.

Members of the Santiago Astronomy Club asked themselves if what was seen was a luminous phenomenon that rose and fell again. "What I've heard is that there was a luminescence that rose and fell," Caceres said, explaining that a friend of his saw the same luminosity at the time that the alleged small aircraft fell.

Victor Sabaster, a member of the astronomy club, also claims having seen the light, which has caused such a stir and has so many people wondering what it was they saw. They say that strange events continue to occur in the mountains in the wake of the September 22nd earthquake. "What people claim to have seen strikes me as something natural, because a spacecraft wouldn't rise and fall, much less in the shape of an orb. This could have been an emanation of energy, nothing more," remarked Reynaldo Castellanos.

This morning, elements of the Civil Defense, Aeronautics, the Red Cross among others pursued the search for the alleged private plane in the region of Altamira, Guanatico and Navarrete. "We haven't found anything yet, but we won't stop looking," said Pedro Alberto Hernandez, a public relations officer for the Civil Aeronautics Division. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

---

November 10, 2003 — *El Dia*, La Serena, Chile [<http://www.diarioeldia.cl/>] — SAG ATTRIBUTES STRANGE ANIMAL DEATHS TO CANINES — \*\* Samples showed that the killings had been caused by a carnivorous predator, discarding the Chupacabras theory\*\* — Despite the incredulity of residents of Pan de Azucar, who insist that a strange being attacked their birds and rabbits, the Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero for the IV Region (SAG), determined that a canine was to blame for the curious slayings in said area, which were the cause of great commotion in mid-October.

Professionals from the agency reached the conclusion after several tests at institutional laboratories and specialized laboratories belonging to the Scientific Police. In both cases they concluded that a carnivorous predator, in other words, a dog, was responsible for the mutilations.

As was made known yesterday in a public statement, the injuries detected in the samples are traumatic in origin: causes of death which can be ascribed to a canine, by their characteristics. However, the explanation did not satisfy the affected parties, who disagree with the result of the tests. The main objection by residents of Pan de Azucar has to do with the way in which the animals were slain, since they claim that no bite marks whatsoever were present. In the case of the canaries, none of them showed the marks that a dog would leave, only a single puncture mark on the chest. "It's as though only their blood had been extracted," they insist. Another aspect that has called attention is that no noise was ever heard on the night of the attacks. "Had a wild dog been involved, the hens would have raised a ruckus. Furthermore, there are dogs in all of the farms, and not even a single bark was heard," says one of the locals.

The first of the alleged Chupacabras attacks was inside Hacienda Venus in Pan de Azucar, and became known on October 15, 2003, when the owner of one farm discovered that all of his ducks and rabbits had been slain, with tell-tale double puncture marks on their throats, as though they had succumbed to a vampire attack. From that day onward, similar deaths were recorded for the rest of the week. One of the most curious cases occurred on a property belonging to Carlos Errazuriz, who was startled to see that his 15 canaries had been exsanguinated and left uneaten. They didn't even have a broken wing and their cage had an enormous hole—something a dog or a fox would have found impossible to do.

However, that wasn't all, since at the edge of a canal which crosses his property, he found strange prints whose size and shape did not belong to any known animal.

All of the attacks took place at night without any of the residents becoming aware of what happened. But as has occurred in all of the locations visited by the alleged Chupacabras, they ceased to occur from one day to the next.

The first records of the mythic creatures' depredations in the region go back to May of this year, when 40 chickens were found dead in Salamanca. The same explanation was given in that case: a wild animal was to blame.

The Chupacabras first became known in our country in March 2000 in the city of Calama, which created a verifiable psychosis that repeats itself in each of the communities in which similar phenomena have occurred. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

---

November 11, 2003 — *Oficinaovni* and *AION*, Chile — STARTLING SIGHTING RECORDED IN VINA DEL MAR, CHILE — November 10 — In an exclusive for *Oficinaovni*, researcher Rodrigo Fuenzalida, president of Agrupacion de Investigaciones Ovnologicas de Chile (*AION*), provided a preview of the information to be presented on Friday, November 14 at Vina del Mar, as part of a seminar being held on the UFO phenomenon.

According to Fuenzalida, the background and images *Oficinaovni* presents here are the result of the research of investigator Enrique Silva.

On October 24 at 16:00 hrs, the transit of a red colored object with three vertexes was recorded over Vina del Mar (on the central coast of Chile), moving swiftly over a broad swath of the coastline.

The object was seen from the Santa Maria University district headed toward Con Con. According to initial calculations, the object's speed would have been 300 km/hr. The flight of seagulls can be seen in the image's foreground.

Silva's first impression was that he was witnessing three joined weather balloons, but according to personnel from the Chilean Meteorological Office (Base Quintero y Santo Domingo) and the Air Force (same bases), this possibility was dismissed (at least officially).

Judging by the information obtained following a conversation with a meteorological technician, the weather balloons are launched from the Santo Domingo base twice a day between 08:00 and 12:00 hrs., while this object was seen at 16:00 hrs. Balloons are launched by these organizations exclusively, since their cost is considerable (\$80 per balloon and USD \$90 per radio emitting the weather signals). The weather office inflates the balloons with hydrogen rather than helium, given the latter's high cost. This gas is heavier than the former and would allow a swifter speed, but never enough to resemble the celerity of the object recorded over Vina del Mar.

*AION*'s research into this sighting is in full swing and new information shall be provided after the recording is presented this Tuesday. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez, *PlanetaUFO*

---

November 21, 2003 — *El Tribuno*, Salta, Argentina — UFO FOLLOWS THREE MECHANICS IN SALTA FOR TWO HOURS — \*\*\* "I'd never been so scared," said one of the protagonists of the strange and extraordinary adventure. \*\*\* — A team of three mechanics from Salta, who had ventured out to rescue a minibus belonging to a Canadian scientific expedition on the Chilean side of the Andean region bordering the provinces of Salta and Jujuy, had an unexpected brush with the unusual: an unidentified flying object (UFO) of considerable size, spherical, and having an "impressive white luminosity" followed them for over two hours

on a straight road that links the communities of Susques and Punamarca through the international Jama Pass.

"I'd never been so scared. That thing didn't belong to this world. It moved at an impossible speed and at one point came so close to us we thought it would collide," said Raul Eduardo Oviedo Tomas of the "Forani" mechanic shop in Salta. The North American researchers were stranded at San Pedro de Atacama. Headed by Dr. Randall, the scientists were conducting a survey of Cordilleran flora.

"We left Saturday at 4:45 a.m. from Salta toward the Cordillera. I asked two friends--Marco Figueroa and Alejandro--to accompany me so I wouldn't have to do either the work or the journey alone. This was the first time I had driven those roads and I was truly impressed, not just by the landscape and the desolation, but by the hardship. One has to climb a 70 kilometer-long incline to reach Chile, which can destroy the engine of any unit driven by an inexperienced motorist," said Oviedo Tomas, 37, with an athletic build.

He added: "We reached San Pedro de Atacama around 2:00 p.m. on the same day, but [upon reaching the site] we realized that it would be impossible to tow the Canadian minibus with my S10 Chevy--it weighed over 5000 kilos and one good look at its structure and equipment sufficed to establish that the only way to get it out of there would be using a 'mosquito truck' [auto transport truck] or something similar. We therefore decided to return home."

Without hesitation, taking deep drags of a cigarette, Oviedo Tomas went on: "The road on the Argentinean side is truly horrible, especially when contrasted with the Chilean side, which is like a paved pool table, with signage and road markings. At that point, shortly before reaching Susques, the stones caused a blowout, which caused us to continue the trip under stress, since there was no other spare tire. We thought to repair it in the little town [Susques], but the tire repairman was on holiday, so we had to continue regardless. It was still Saturday."

"At around 8:00 p.m., we left Susques for Punamarca. We were listening to music and remarking about the impressive darkness and loneliness of this area, which is an upland plateau. Suddenly the lights and radio went out. I braked because I couldn't see anything at all due to the darkness. 'Stop fooling around!', Alejandro told me from the back seat."

"Meanwhile, I was moving all of the knobs, to see what had happened. Nothing worked, only the engine. Suddenly, on my right and at an [undetermined] distance, I saw a strange light. It was a small sphere that irradiated an intense white light. 'Did you see that?', asked Marcos. I never got to answer, even though I thought [the light] was what they call 'la luz mala' [the evil light], because it started moving swiftly toward us until it became enormous. It stopped and remained static. 'Don't look at it!', I told my friends, although I don't know why. I accelerated and poured on as much speed as possible; however, that 'thing' started to fly again in a perfect straight line. It didn't make a single sound. Suddenly, it gained speed and in less than a second it vanished toward the bottom of the plain."

"We were quiet and didn't make a single remark, although all of us asked each other many times, 'Did you see it? Did you see it?'. We went on in silence, although not for long, because other things happened that were truly unbelievable."

After the initial experience with the strange luminous sphere which followed them along a parallel course, the passengers aboard the Chevrolet S10 continued their trip in complete silence.

"It's just that we had no explanation whatsoever for the strange phenomenon," explains Oviedo Tomas. "The glaring brightness, its intensity and whiteness, had never been seen before by my companions or myself. And unknown things always inspire certain fear," he admitted.

He continued: "We were bemused after the UFO vanished into the night. We turned the radio on again to listen to some music, but no sooner had 20 minutes gone by, the lights went out again and the radio quit. 'Look over there!', cried Alejandro, and we saw that the light was returning on our left side. Surprisingly, the lights and the radio began to work once again and I took advantage of the fact to gun the accelerator, although it was useless. That thing kept pacing us with its strong lights, flying swiftly and precisely, giving the impression that it was following a guiderail in space. With the anguish of not knowing what could happen to us, we drove along for some 15 minutes until--as it had done the first time--the sphere built tremendous speed and vanished, becoming dimmer and then vanishing. At this point, we were all dumbstruck, although I think we all shared the same thought: 'When the hell will we get out of this damned place!' And then my blood froze, because the light reappeared -- and not to our side, but directly ahead. I swear," he told *El Tribuno*, "that it came upon us instantly and in less than two seconds had acquired gigantic proportions. I thought it was going to collide with us or swallow us whole. Either way, I thought we were going to die. However, the strangest thing happened: it suddenly stopped right in front of us. I couldn't judge the distance, since the light's brilliance and sheer enormity made it impossible to calculate. And there it stood for a few instants, as though observing us, until it took off again and vanished into the night. We didn't see it again and didn't make any remarks until we reached Salta. There's only one thing I can tell you for sure: I'll return to that area, the Cordillera, if necessary, but never again at night!" — CREDIT: Mercedes Casas and Luis E. Pacheco

---

November 24, 2003 — *La Voz de Galicia*, Spain [[www.lavozdeg Galicia.es](http://www.lavozdeg Galicia.es)] — CHINA: "The Truth is Out There" — Half of the Chinese population believes in the existence of UFOs, according to the results of a survey made known by the Outer Space Investigation Organization.

According to UFO expert Sun Shili, a professor at Wuhan University, this high number of believers in the existence of UFOs is closely linked to the growing popularity of "the paranormal" among the Chinese.

China is the country boasting the largest number of UFO enthusiast organizations in the world, adding to this the fact that *UFO* magazine, published by the OSIO, sells more than 400,000 copies a month.

Up until the reform and openness process spearheaded by Deng Xiaoping in the late '70s, the Chinese government and people believed that UFOs were spyplanes sent from the USA, the scourge of Communism.

Currently, one out of every five UFO sightings takes place in China, a country in which the official news agency is still hesitant when it comes to publishing items of this kind, considering them mere superstition.

"Extraterrestrials are becoming interested in China, as they were interested in the USA during the 1950s," notes Sun, when explaining the large number of sightings in recent years.

The most spectacular sighting occurred in 1998, when a Chinese fighter played a game of cat-and-mouse with an alleged UFO for over 30 minutes in the vicinity of the Changzhou military facility (Xiangsu Province). The pilot, who described the object as a flying saucer straight out of a Hollywood sci-fi flick, was denied permission to open fire. The event was witnessed by over 100 onlookers. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

---





CAPPER'S, Topeka, KS - Oct. 28, 2003

## Frog eggs rain on man's roof

Hurricane Isabel brought unholy high winds and lashing rain to the East Coast. It also dumped something almost biblical on Connecticut.

Primo D'Agata of Berlin, Conn., was startled by what he thought was hail smacking on his porch as the remnants of Isabel moved through the

state. But when he went outside to investigate, D'Agata discovered tiny, gelatinous eggs with dark spots in the middle.

It had apparently been raining frogs.

Since no frogs in Connecticut lay eggs this late in the year, scientists and naturalists

speculate they may have come up from North Carolina or another warm location on the winds of Isabel.

D'Agata brought a bowl of his mysterious find to a nearby nature center, after the town's animal control officer couldn't identify what had arrived in his yard.

Nicolas Diaz, a naturalist and teacher at New Britain Youth Museum at Hungerford Park, took a look at D'Agata's

bowl and told him it looked like amphibian eggs.

D'Agata is keeping two small, water-filled glass jars of the eggs to see if any of them will hatch. He said a few seem to have sprouted what look like a tail.

"I'm going to let them sit and see what happens," said D'Agata.



**Is It Possible—Mind You, Just Possible—  
That the Mysteries of the Pyramids, the Origin of  
UFOs, and the Evolutionary Riddle of the Yeti Will be  
Solved Out of a Basement in Lakeville?**

## COSMIC TRUTHS OF THE AGES, REVEALED

*By Peter Ritter*

**T**he first thing you'll notice about Phyllis Galde when she comes to the door of her Lakeville split-level is her T-shirt. "UFOs are real," it reads. "The Air Force doesn't exist." Beneath this koan is a picture of a flying saucer. At first, you might suspect that the shirt is a cute novelty. It's not. Galde is a believer.

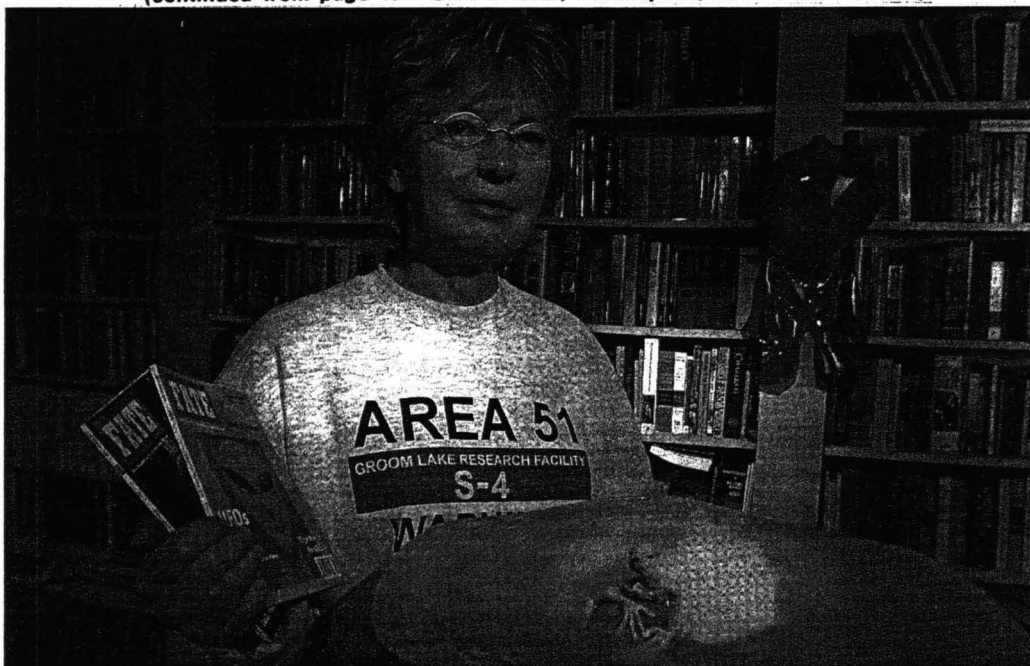
A 57-year-old grandmother with a pronounced Midwestern drawl and an endearing habit of using *heck* as an invective, Galde looks less like a committed student of supernatural phenomena than she does a school teacher or church organist—both of which she once was. Nor does her home, at the terminus of a suburban cul-de-sac, show any outward signs of housing America's oldest and most esteemed journal of the paranormal, which it does.

For the past 55 years, *Fate*, the magazine Galde runs, has been busy publishing stories about Bigfoot, the Loch Ness monster, time travel, astral projection, life after death, the latent psychic abilities of house pets, angelic visitations, haunted houses (which, as it happens, includes Galde's own), government conspiracies, the lost continent of Atlantis, voodoo cults, and, of course, UFO encounters. But this is no mere pulp tabloid. Authoritative, even academic, in tone, *Fate* dares to take all of the above seriously.

"Everyone has a psychic story or has seen something that's changed their life," Galde says. "I think that's why *Fate* has endured for so long while a lot of magazines have come and gone. It has a good reputation because sometimes we'll say, 'This is a bunch of baloney.' We look objectively at things."

Take alien abductions, for instance. Although Galde herself has had experience with UFOs—more on [See COSMIC page 18]

...(continued on page 18)



Tony Nelson for City Pages

that shortly—*Fate* contains none of the expected lurid tales of cavity probings or Elvis sightings. Instead you will find a measured discussion of the possibility of extraterrestrial contact. Here, by way of example, is an excerpt from a March, 2003 exposé on abductions:

*There is an extensive tradition of people who were kidnapped "from above" in human history—Elijah, Romulus, the founder of Rome, and a host of unnamed ones—combined with many thousands that disappear every year without a trace. If these alien-born humans have the power, obviously, to return to Earth, what keeps them from staying? Perhaps they fear the reprisals of their alien masters, or the loss of certain faculties ('powers' so to speak) that they may have developed or acquired on other worlds. Perhaps they have been thoroughly brainwashed and no longer see Earthbound humanity as kin.*

So it goes with other dispatches from the frontiers of fact: "Talking to Angels" (December 2000); "You Can Hear Dead People" (February 2001); "Crop Circles—The Mind of God?" (May 2002); "Civil War Ghosts of Atlanta" (August 2003); "Giant Octopus in Ocean's Depth" (November 2001); "The Medium and the Murderer: Jack the Ripper Exposed by Psychic in 1888" (October 2003); "DRAGONS ARE REAL!" (November 2002).

Strangest of all, every word in *Fate* is true.

*Fate's* nerve center is in Galde's basement. At first glance, the magazine's office is disappointingly ordinary, suggesting nothing more than your average semi-prosperous home business. There are a few desks with computers, and a number of youngish, shoeless employees hanging around. But a cursory inventory of the books lining the walls offers some clue as to what goes on here: *The UFO Encyclopedia*, *Occult Theocracy*, *The Goat Foot God*. Galde points out a corner between the photocopier and a fish tank. This, she says, is the location of an inter-dimensional vortex through which spirits occasionally pop in for a visit.

Galde is sensitive to hauntings. Growing up in a turn-of-the-century North Dakota farmhouse, she was visited nightly by phantoms. Only later, when she returned to the house as an adult, did she discern that the visitors were the spirits of departed relatives. But Galde isn't the only one in the *Fate* office who has experienced eerie phenomena: Her housemate and coeditor David Godwin has, while working late at night, occasionally seen a man in a suit wandering

about—a lonely soul looking for company, Galde figures.

Twice, as a child, Galde had what she believes were encounters with extraterrestrials—nothing more than curious lights in the inky Midwestern night, perhaps, but enough to excite her imagination. These, along with a steady diet of science fiction, opened her mind to the possibility of the paranormal.

"I've always been kind of sensitive about spirits," she says. "A lot of people in our family have a slight bit of psychic ability. The more you're involved with it, the more you pay attention to it. It's just like art appreciation: You're able to see colors, and see designs and brushstrokes, after you've learned about art or done painting yourself."

Galde has never had direct contact with aliens. But some years ago she began having vivid dreams in which she cavorted with tiny beings dressed in gold lamé stretch-suits. Eventually she grew worried that she was advertising herself as a target for alien abduction, and forced herself to stop dreaming.

Many years ago, Galde also came under the spell of Edgar Cayce, known widely as "The Sleeping Prophet." Cayce, who died in 1945, is perhaps history's best-known psychic: From a trance-like state, he predicted that California would one day slide into the Pacific Ocean and that Atlantis would be discovered in 1968 off the coast of Florida. (That neither has come to pass has not diminished him in the eyes of his devotees.)

Inspired by such experiments with ESP, *Fate* recently commissioned an off-site "remote viewing" of Area 51, where the U.S. government keeps its stock of flying-saucer technology. The results, recounted in the June issue, were more poetic than conclusive: "Scattered about this desert are some worn-out boots and a smashed, broken kid's watch with a Mickey Mouse face, with works missing," reported one *Fate* reader.

"The desert sky is very beautiful here at night and reminds me of Egypt when the sky is a cobalt blue with silvery stars, as I rest inside an oasis with palm trees."

There may be no scientific evidence to support such psychic tourism, but Galde likes to point out that science has always lagged a step or two behind *Fate*. Two years

ago, for instance, the magazine published a story positing the existence of an enormous squid. Then, this last April, fishermen pulled just such a creature out of the icy waters near Antarctica.

The story of *Fate* properly begins on June 24, 1947, in the sky over Washington's Mount Rainier. On that afternoon, a traveling salesman and amateur pilot named Kenneth Arnold was returning home from a business trip in his small plane when he saw nine metallic objects darting through the sky. They moved,

In 1988, Phyllis Galde was a junior high teacher in La Crescent, Minnesota, when a voice told her, "Hand in your resignation right now." So she did.

## Galde points out a corner between the photocopier and a fish tank—an inter-dimensional vortex through which spirits occasionally pop in for a visit.

he later said, "like a saucer would if you skipped it across water." When he landed, Arnold dutifully reported what he'd seen. The next day, a Portland newspaper reporter coined the phrase "flying-saucer." And so the UFO craze was born.

Shortly after Arnold went public with his close encounter, he was contacted by Ray Palmer, an editor for the pulp magazine *Amazing Stories*. Even by the standards of the company he kept, Palmer was a strange, shadowy character. Crippled in a childhood car accident, he stood less than five feet tall. He was also a notorious raconteur: Palmer is widely credited with orchestrating (or at least perpetuating) the world's first UFO hoax, when, only two days after Arnold's sighting, an Oregon man claimed that debris from a UFO had killed his dog.

Palmer was, at the time, working for Ziff-Davis, a Chicago publishing house that owned a number of fly-by-night pulp magazines. A few years previous, he'd begun receiving rambling letters from a Pennsylvania welder named Richard Shaver about a race of underground goblins called Deros, who, Shaver claimed, were controlling events on the Earth's surface with ray guns. Harold Browne, Palmer's associate editor, later called the stories "the sickest crap" he'd ever run into. Palmer loved it.

When *Amazing Stories* began publishing the so-called Shaver Mysteries, circulation jumped tenfold almost overnight and letters began pouring in from Americans claiming to have had experiences with the Deros and their mysterious mind-control rays. Palmer had inadvertently tapped a deep and still-rich American vein: The paranoid conspiracy theory.

Jerry Clark, who worked as an editor for *Fate* in the 1970s, once had occasion to meet Palmer. "He had the instincts of a carnival barker—always working up a hustle," Clark says from his home in Canby, Minnesota. "But he wasn't a con man. Palmer saw the Shaver mysteries as a chance to get some controversy going. But he also believed it on some level. Or he believed there was some truth in it."

Despite Palmer's reputation, he and Arnold struck up a partnership. Along with a fellow Ziff-Davis editor, Curtis Fuller, Palmer put together his own pulp magazine. The first issue of *Fate*, from the spring of 1948, featured Arnold's account of his UFO encounter, titled "The Truth About Flying Saucers."

This was the beginning of the Cold War, when malevolent forces descending from the skies seemed like something more than an idle phantasm. *Fate* was a runaway success,

eventually reaching 100,000 subscribers. Yet, says Clark, there was also tension between Palmer and Fuller over what shape the magazine ought to take: Palmer wanted a fast and loose outlet for sensationalistic semi-fictional fare like his Shaver stories; Fuller, a conservative businessman who made his money with an RV camping magazine, was more interested in scientific anomalies and paranormal phenomena. In 1955, Palmer sold his interest in *Fate* to Fuller and moved from Chicago to Amherst, Wisconsin, where he drifted into oblivion.

Clark, who began writing book reviews for *Fate* in the '70s, eventually grew very close to Fuller and his wife Mary, who became the magazine's associate editor. "They were people who it was easy to respect," he says. "They had this extraordinary decency and integrity. Just really good people."

In those days, *Fate* operated out of a nondescript office building in Chicago's north suburbs. Among Clark's duties was dealing with readers who through luck or single-minded determination managed to track down the office's location. "Mostly the readers were normal, nice people who just had this one unusual interest," he recalls. "But there were also some raving loons. I remember this one time a guy showed up claiming he was receiving messages through his TV telling him to kill people. Of course, I tried to usher him out the door. But I was also trying not to do anything to upset him. You do develop great social skills."

Later in the magazine's history, another unsolicited correspondent arrived at the office completely covered in red paint and carrying his manuscript in a plastic garbage bag.

By the late '80s, UFOs had hit the mainstream and *Fate* was in steep decline, scraping by on its cachet and the devotion of longtime readers who remembered the magazine nostalgically from the salad days of pulp. In 1988, the Fullers sold the magazine to Llewellyn, the St. Paul-based publisher of New Age and astrology books. The magazine relocated from Chicago to Llewellyn's Wabasha Street headquarters, a former tannery that, according to Galde, is haunted by

(continued on page 19)



the ghosts of the animals who died there. Carl Weschcke, Llewellyn's longtime publisher, decided that *Fate* would be a perfect complement to his company's lineup. "People wanted to hear magic, and *Fate* was all about magic," he recalls. "The Fullers were very much believers. They did a considerable service to the world by opening people's minds to alternate realities and alternate explanations."

"That's an important thing," Weschcke continues. "A lot of us look at the world with blinders on. We need to take off those blinders and consider the possibility of another reality. UFOs and things like that—they're all things that impinge on our reality."

If *Fate's* raison d'être hadn't changed, though, the exigencies of magazine publishing had. Sweepstakes subscription sales, traditionally a major part of *Fate's* market, had virtually dried up. In an effort to revive newsstand sales, Llewellyn revamped the magazine from its original *Reader's Digest* size to a more traditional format.

Don Kraig, who edited the magazine for three years in the '80s, estimates that when Llewellyn bought it, *Fate's* subscription base was hovering around 30,000. Reportedly, the publisher even considered turning *Fate* into a Goth publication or scrapping it altogether. The former prospect irked the aging readership even more than did the latter.

Galde got involved with *Fate* by chance—or, if you prefer, fate. In 1982, she was a junior high teacher in tiny La Crescent, Minnesota. One morning, while walk-

ing the magazine herself. Restoring the magazine to its former status was, she realized, her destiny.

Since taking over *Fate*, Galde has done her best to change nothing. The magazine's readership tends to be, on balance, rather conservative in its tastes: When *Fate* recently published a cover illustration by R. Crumb depicting a buxom female Yeti in a skimpy outfit, outraged letters poured in—less, perhaps, an outcry against the indecency of the drawing itself than against the misrepresentation of the noble Sasquatch.

"Our readers are devoutly loyal because, you know, it's not some big corporate thing," Galde explains. "But, boy, if we get our facts wrong, they call us up and give us heck. They also don't like anything too raunchy or sexist or too risqué."

On this gusty November afternoon, Galde and a couple of her part-time staff members are sitting at her kitchen table stuffing letters to *Fate* subscribers—one of the innumerable small tasks that devolve to the editors of this decidedly non-corporate enterprise. There has been only one ghost sighting this week: While working near the haunted photocopier downstairs, the magazine's web designer, John Zupansic, had invoked the spirits of Curtis and Mary Fuller. Suddenly, he says, his hair stood on end.

"They come around a lot," explains Galde.

Far from finding these unannounced visits disquieting, Galde draws some comfort from the prospect of an active afterlife. "If I die I'll come back and tell you what it's

## COSMIC NEWS



A unique flying saucer magazine. Gives all the latest information on saucers. Puts you in the inner circle of saucerdom. Gives you serious, detailed information on flying saucers. Subscription rates: \$2.75 per year COSMIC NEWS Stronville, Ohio Box 225

**"One time a guy showed up claiming he was receiving messages through his TV telling him to kill people. Of course, I tried to usher him out the door."**

ing down the hall, she heard a voice. "Hand in your resignation right now," it said. It was kind of scary, because I loved teaching," Galde recalls. "But here was the spiritual voice telling me to quit, so I did."

Some years later, while flipping through the phone book, Galde saw the name "Llewellyn" and decided to call about a job. As it happened, the publisher had one available, and Galde became a copy editor. Eventually, she found herself with the plum assignment of editing *Fate*. In 1991, Galde started her own publishing house, Galde Press, which now features some 90 titles. Galde began mostly with books on New Age spirituality and the paranormal—*Enjoy Your Own Funeral* is one example. But the press has since branched out into poetry and more traditional nonfiction—for instance, the best-selling World War II memoir *A Half Acre of Hell*.

In 2001, when Llewellyn decided to sell *Fate*, Galde jumped at the chance to run

like," she offers brightly.

Indeed, of all *Fate's* regular features, the most popular is "My Proof of Survival," in which readers write about their near-death experiences and brushes with divinity. Some of the stories are silly—a miraculous never-ending bag of potato chips, for instance—but most are sad and sweet and wonderful: dead parents and spouses returning to say goodbye to their survivors is a common one.

Reading through the heartfelt testimonials of *Fate* devotees, one gets a sense that they are, by and large, very much like Galde: Nice, normal people who simply choose to believe in a type of magic that's been wrung out of life. Their animating impulse is religious—a dream of a brighter, more comprehensible world, of life after death, of aliens and angels.

Which is, in a roundabout way, why everything in *Fate* is gospel, even if none of it is true. □

## VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

# Bigfoot at the root of it!

FOREST GROVE — Of course I was excited when my neighbor at The Homestead informed me another neighbor had a petrified foot.

"Only this one is real big," my neighbor informant, Lloyd Uecker, added.

"You mean, it's a human foot, only real big?" I asked, of course thinking of a Bigfoot.

"Yes, it's pretty big, alright," Uecker said.

Well, now, I was surmising, if this is a big foot and it's petrified, can we be looking at something to shed light ... a lot of it ... on this Bigfoot thing? Do we have evidence of Bigfoot's existence going back a few millennia?

Wow! Well, the stuff of dreams can often fall upon the reefs of bad dreams and this was one of those. But, when I knocked on the door of Floyd and Verva Loomis, there came ample reward for checking on the Bigfoot ... or big foot ... matter.

The Loomises had been rockhounds of the first order for about four decades and this big foot thing was a part of all that. Their search for the gems and stones of obvious value or of mystery had taken them all over eastern Oregon, and a prime point of that search — the Condon Fossil Beds. It was on a visit to the Burns region that they came across the sizable foot.

After some introductions all around, the thing was brought forth by Floyd, proffering to me the find of finds!

It truly was shaped just like a foot alright ... and was a real biggie, too. I couldn't establish the object was petrified yet. Its substance appeared to be wood, some of it quite hard but some ... like the end of one of the five toes ... fairly soft. I sniffed this end of the toe but could not pick up the odor of any wood I recognized.

"Everybody, when they see the thing, proclaim it as petrified, but I have always held for its being the root of a tree," Verva said.

On one end of the "foot" we found a name: R.L. Gouldin.

"That was her name, the lady who gave us the thing," Verva said.

The "lady" was but a girl when she gave the foot to the Loomises, Verva added. "This would be about 70 years ago."

The Loomises were in the

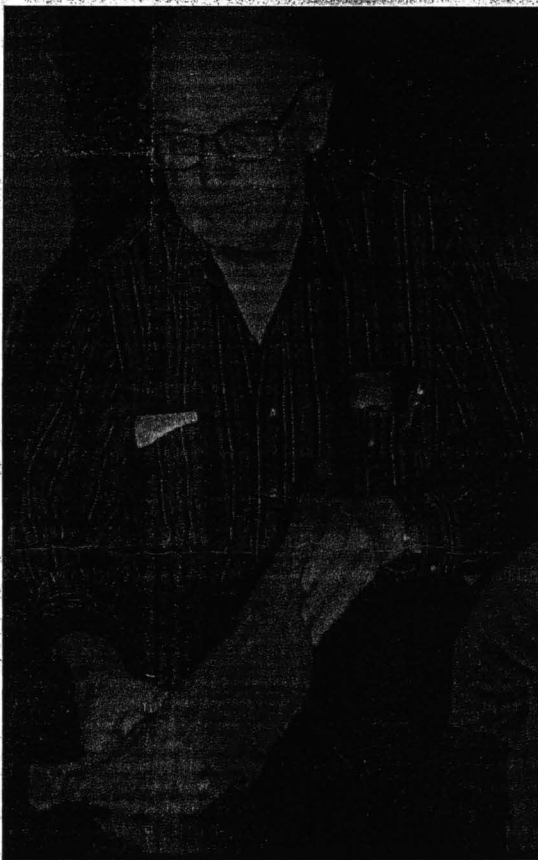
Burns area, seeking "rocks" when they stopped at a ranch. It was here they met Gouldin, who was employed there. "Some cowboys had found the foot and brought it in and gave it to her," Verva said.

That was a long time ago, but the object has remained an important part of the huge collection of agates and petrified woods. The foot came with the couple when they decided a two-story house and yard was too much for them.

good at making them."

In their rock collection, they have another foot that is highly prized and kept indoors. It is a fossilized foot of a huge lizard. Archeologists have given the find closest scrutiny, Floyd said.

Covering Eastern Oregon as they did for many years in their rockhounding hobby, Floyd and Verva Loomis plied another hobby as well. They also played golf on many courses in eastern Oregon. We



They "just held a sale of the rocks and moved to this mobile home at The Homestead a year ago in July," according to Floyd. The sale netted some extra money, but the Loomises continued to own a yardful of gemstones. Much of that stock is now found displayed in their new yard at 1410 Pioneer Way.

But the big foot is kept indoors and comes out when inquisitive guests like me show up.

Along with gemstones the couple has also sought arrowheads and Floyd even learned the art of making them. "He'd make a good Indian," Verva quipped. "He's pretty

shared reminisces of golfing at Kinzua, Echo and Condon, to name a few.

With the subject of Bigfoot, or Sasquatch, so prominent in the conversation that day, it seemed only apropos I give my new friends a copy of my latest book on the subject, "The Walla Walla Bigfoot." They promised to give it an avid read and further check out the matter concerning big foot prints.

While the lure of a possible petrified Bigfoot's foot apparently had fallen on barren ground, the visit with Floyd and Verva Loomis and the sharing of their hobbies had ample reward for all.

SCHOLARS DATE IT TO 1440

## Disputed map real, analysis suggests

Study says ink used to draw New World came from medieval period

BY DIANE SCARPONI  
Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — The latest scientific analysis of a disputed map of the medieval New World supports the theory that it was made 50 years before Christopher Columbus set sail.

The study examined the ink used to draw the Vinland Map, which belongs to Yale University. The map is valued at \$20 million if not a modern-day forgery.

A study last summer said the ink on the parchment map was made in the 20th century. But chemist Jacqueline Olin, a retired researcher with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, said Tuesday her analysis shows the ink was made in medieval times.

"There is no evidence this is a forged titanium dioxide ink," said Olin, whose paper appears in the

December issue of the journal *Analytical Chemistry*.

Scholars have dated the map to around 1440. Some scholars have speculated that Columbus could have used the map to find the New World in 1492.

Tests in the 1970s by Walter McCrone — who also disputed the authenticity of the Shroud of Turin — found the ink contained anatase, a form of titanium dioxide that is common in inks made after

1920. Anatase is found in nature, but the crystals of anatase were too regular-shaped to have been natural, McCrone said.

Olin's study looked at minerals found in the ink, including aluminum, copper and zinc. All these minerals, she said, would have been byproducts of the medieval ink manufacturing process. She said anatase could have ended up in the ink because of the manufacturing process.

600 11 HOPKINS  
Sweden

# Ashland filmmakers consult 'Indigo' children

By JOHN DARLING  
for the Mail Tribune

ASHLAND — The movie "Indigo," currently being shot in the Rogue Valley, is about Indigo children — so-called advanced youngsters with superior sensitivity, awareness and even alleged psychic powers.

But, until now, they haven't had any of these genuine "Indigoes" on the set.

That changed last week with the arrival of a pair of children who claim to be Indigoes: Lizzie McIntosh, 11, of Weed, Calif., and Anna Mantheakis, 15, of Applegate. The girls were brought in as script consultants and spiritual advisors to producer/director Stephen Simon ("What Things May Come" and "Somewhere in Time") and co-writer James Twyman.

The playful pair, who became best friends at recent spiritual conferences in Mt. Shasta, Calif., and Ashland, make their presence felt with an exuberance and eager chatter about a range of fanciful, provocative and sometimes mind-bending issues.

"When I first saw Anna, I recognized her from past lives," claimed Lizzie, hugging her friend. "It was weird and cool. We're a lot closer than my sisters. She understands me better than my mom sometimes."

"Yeah, there was an instant bond between us," said Anna. "When I was little, it was really vague but I knew there were other kids like me out there and I had to find them. It was like being on a treasure hunt but not knowing what the treasure is."

The Indigo pals observe and advise on scenes in which the film's Indigo child Grace, played by 9-year-old Meghan McCand-

less of Medford, an admitted non-Indigo, must act out the nuances of an Indigo.

"They give James their insights on what an Indigo would and wouldn't act like and, by their presence on the set, help the whole crew get in the spirit of what an Indigo really is like," said Lisa Schneiderman, the film's public relations agent.

"They have psychic powers, but their main mission is to bring a message of peace," said Schneiderman. "They are world bridges, here to help people connect with why we are here, which is to love."

The children were found when parents of Indigoes contacted Twyman's Web site after he wrote a book on Indigo children and held conferences on the topic, she said.

Being an Indigo is not always easy, the girls said. Although they claim it comes with heightened psychic powers, it presents the challenge of feeling different and isolated. The girls said they often try to blend in with and behave like other children but it creates inner "friction" and they soon get back in the "clear" groove of being the Indigoes they claim to be.

While the Indigo phenomenon causes excitement and hope in New Age circles, Ashland pediatrician Debra Koutnik said children fitting the Indigo profile are just as likely to be "out of control, domineering, oppositional, acting like royalty" and in general, having problems with discipline and authority.

"There have always been children who fit the Indigo description — empathic, intelligent, gifted," said Koutnik, who specializes in child behavioral

problems. "But I haven't seen any who seem like the Indigo children I've read about in the literature."

"What I have seen is parents coming here who have diagnosed their children as Indigo and they may get a lot of relief from that, but it can be a negative thing in giving a false sense of assurance. All children have difficult qualities and that shouldn't be an excuse for parents to not set limits needed for healthy character development."

Readings on the Internet say 85 percent of children born in the last decade fit the Indigo profile, said Koutnik, and this leads her to believe not so much in Indigoes as that "parents are having a lot more problems parenting their children these days."

The girls are unfazed by skepticism, comforted in their beliefs, and the strength they draw from each other. Both girls strive to live normally, they say.

"Sometimes you can't get it straight in your mind and you do

things wrong and you don't know why you do it," said Lizzie, a student at Weed Elementary School. "You have the urge to say, 'Why am I doing this? I'm such an Indigo, what's wrong with me?' But when you get with another Indigo, you realize you have been trying a different trance, a different part of what you are."

"That's right," said Anna. "You have a whole bunch of different parts and you want to experience them, as if you were not an Indigo, but then you return to being 'clear.'"

The two girls cuddled, intertwining their fingers, laughing and poking each other as they talked, nodding agreement to everything the other said.

"I felt enlightened from the moment we met," said Lizzie. "I've always looked for people like me. There are so many people around me and I know I have this gift and wonder, when I see someone (who might be an Indigo), should I ask them? So many people are Indigo and don't know it yet. But when Anna and I saw each other, we

knew."

Later, the children played in an abandoned buckboard wagon, explaining they were having conversations with three "soul friends" — disembodied people who've been their friends for thousands of years and who come to them for advice on what they should do about returning to embodied life.

"They're like us," said Lizzie, pulling a tiny rubber "earth ball" out of her pocket and inviting a reporter to put energy and love into it. "They want to help people with psychic powers so we can make peace prevail on Earth."

Filming continues through the end of the month, with location shooting in Jacksonville and other sites.

John Darling is a free-lance writer living in Ashland. E-mail him at [jdardling@jeffnet.org](mailto:jdardling@jeffnet.org)

## NEWS-REPORTER, Antioch, IL - Oct. 17, 2003 UW-Parkside conference debates extraterrestrial life Oct. 25

For centuries, people have debated whether worlds like ours exist within and beyond our solar system. The University of Wisconsin-Parkside continues the dialog Saturday, Oct. 25, when a panel of internationally known researchers addresses "God, Man, and ET: The Question of Other Worlds in Science, Theology, and Mythology."

The Parkside Adult Student Association (PASA) hosts this one-day conference.

The conference features Richard C. Hoagland, a leading authority on the possibility of extraterrestrial life in our solar system and author the best seller "The Monuments of Mars," a chronicle of his research now in its fifth edition. Hoagland was the first to propose there might be life on Jupiter's moon Europa beneath ice-covered oceans. NASA's recent decision to destroy its Galileo space probe in Jupiter's atmosphere rather than crashing the potentially contaminated craft on Europa in order to "protect possible lifeforms in Europa's oceans" was a direct result of Hoagland's research.

Hoagland's presentation is entitled "The Gods of Cydonia: The Case for Ancient Artificial Structures in the Solar System."

Another Cydonia expert, David Flynn, addresses "The Mars/Earth Connection: Cydonia in Ancient Science and Mythology." Flynn, an acknowledged expert on Cydonia/Mars anomalies within the Christian community, recently published the book "Cydonia and the Mysteries of Mars."

Doctors Hugh Ross and Paul Nelson address the possibility—or probability—of extraterrestrial life. Dr. Ross, who has a doctorate in astronomy from Toronto University and researched quasars, the most distant and ancient objects in the universe, at Caltech, is a leading figure in the intelligent design movement. He wrote the book "Lights in the Sky and Little Green Men: A Rational Christian Look at UFOs and Extraterrestrials," and he will address the subject "Does ET Have a Home? The Probability for Life's Existence Elsewhere in the Universe."

Dr. Nelson's presentation is "If ET Called, How Would We Know It?" A graduate of the

University of Chicago and a fellow with the Discovery Institute in Seattle, Wash., Dr. Nelson has published chapters in the anthologies Mere Creation, Signs of Intelligence, and Intelligent Design Creationism and Its Critics. His monograph, "On Common Descent," evaluates the theory of common descent in evolution, and is being edited for the University of Chicago's series Evolutionary Monographs.

This exceptional panel includes UW-Madison doctoral candidate Michael Heiser. Heiser is a frequent lecturer on ancient history and biblical studies, specializing in critical evaluation of the belief that references to UFOs and aliens are found in ancient texts, including the Bible. His presentation is titled "No Room at the Inn? Can the Judeo-Christian Worldview Accommodate an Intelligent ET Reality?"

The conference will include a panel discussion and an audience question and answers session. The program begins at 8 a.m. and seating is limited to about 200. Cost is \$20 for UW-Parkside students, faculty, and staff; \$25 for all other attendees. Admission includes lunch and dinner.

For more information or to register, call PASA at (262) 595-2200.



TIMES, New York, NY - Nov. 11, 2003 CR: V. White

## Where Are Those Aliens?

By DENNIS OVERBYE

It was at lunch in Los Alamos, N.M., in 1950 that Enrico Fermi, best known for building the first atomic reactor, asked the question that has haunted those who like to wonder about other life in the universe ever since. Where is everybody?

In the half-century since Fermi posed the question, spacecraft have visited or inspected every planet but Pluto and all the major moons in the solar system, but have yet to find a sign of life. At the other end of the evolutionary scale, astronomers have examined thousands of stars for radio signals from extraterrestrials. So far, the silence is deafening.

Admittedly, those few thousand stars and one solar system represent only the barest trace of the potential riches of the galaxy, which holds some 200 billion stars. Depending on how plentiful Earth-like planets are and how likely the evolution of life and intelligence is, astronomers have argued that there could be millions of civilizations in the galaxy, or only one.

But if alien civilizations are plentiful and interstellar space travel is even vaguely attractive to them, Fermi's question has to be answered.

The argument behind it goes like this: Aliens could spread throughout the Milky Way in far less than the 10 billion years that the galaxy has been around, even if they travel at far less than the speed of light, Einstein's cosmic speed limit.

Suppose, for example, that the first alien starship that sets out for another star takes a million years to arrive there and become established. Then the new colony and the original civilization each send a spaceship on a similar voyage, and so forth, so that a wave of new colonies is formed, doubling the total number every million years.

After 10 million years, there will be 1,023 alien settlements, plus the original. After 20 million years, there will be a million. After 40 million years, if they keep it up, there would be a trillion — more than there are stars in the galaxy.

By now, after 10 billion years, if there were more than one spacefaring civilization in the galaxy, they would be tripping over one another or one another's artifacts. But in fact there seems to be nothing.

If the logic of Fermi's argument is right, it will spell doom and frustration for astronomers' efforts to detect radio transmissions from distant societies, the project known as SETI, or the Search for Extraterres-

trial Intelligence, because the presumed fact that they are not here means they are not there.

SETI enthusiasts concede that the paradox is not easy to get around. Perhaps interstellar travel is just too daunting and expensive, some say. But as Dr. Frank J. Tipler, a physicist at Tulane University, has pointed out, the aliens do not have to send themselves; they could send self-reproducing robots.

Moreover, California, and the islands of the Pacific before it, were settled by people who were willing to pack up their families, turn their backs on the known world and never look back. The scattering of humans over the whole Earth from our origins in Africa is testimony to the ability of our own race at least, to keep on moving for a long time.

So where are they? One answer is the imaginative and humbling-sounding "zoo hypothesis." It says that aliens are in fact

Despite not finding anybody, the search for someone goes on.

here, or at least watching us, but are pledged to not interfere. It would mean that we are being treated more ethically than we have traditionally treated animals and indigenous cultures here on Earth.

Of course, "they" could be here, and we might not recognize them, any more than ants would recognize the Mona Lisa or, say, the Internet as artifacts of superior beings.

The discovery of even a lowly fungus in the shade of some foreign sun would rank as a landmark in the history not only of science, but also of humanity. NASA has lately made the search for signs of extraterrestrial life, or of likely abodes for it, a centerpiece mission. But that mission, as astrobiologists concede, is hostage to our concepts of life and intelligence. We are good at looking for things like ourselves.

Another answer is that even robot proxies are more expensive than electromagnetic waves and that we simply have not yet tapped into the galactic library, the cosmic Internet.

"Absence of evidence," as SETI astronomers like to say, "is not evidence of absence." The search has barely begun, and the scientific thing to do, they say, is to keep searching, expecting answers, trusting that we know the questions.