

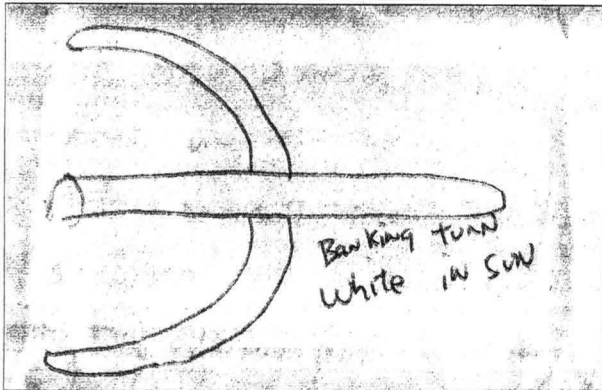
UFO

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HERALD, Durango, CO - Oct. 25, 2003



Durangoan Tim Butler sketched this drawing of an unidentified aircraft he claims he saw flying above Durango on Sept. 28.

Courtesy of Tim Butler

Durangoan reports he saw UFO

Low-flying 'boomerang' flew over FLC, across city, seen near Silverton

By Patricia Miller
Herald Staff Writer

Tim Butler doesn't believe in flying saucers. His perception is more sophisticated. It was a flying boomerang that caught his attention.

From his perch on Smelter

Mountain about 6 p.m. Sept. 28, Butler, a Durango sound engineer, saw a silent, silver boomerang - 40 to 60 feet long - sweep over Fort Lewis College, around Smelter

On the Net

The National UFO Reporting Center is at www.nuforc.org

Mountain, and across the Animas River toward the airport, he said. The object was flying at a little higher than 1,000 feet. "It was flying so low I think it was illegal."

Then, as Butler fumbled unsuccessfully with his binoculars, he watched the object bank west behind Paradise Ridge and disappear, two or three minutes from the time he'd first seen it. Butler was with a friend who saw the craft, too. But he said his friend declined to be interviewed, citing fears that he may "end up on some future 'Men in Black' list."

Official observers seemed to have missed the flight.

It didn't make a sound

The boomerang, Butler said, was notable for what it didn't have: It lacked markings, a cockpit, portholes, a tail and dorsal fins, stabilizing equipment, propellers, engines, and rivets.

"It wasn't thermalling and didn't make a sound," he said. "There was no heat distortion behind the end. I thought it had to be a military drone at one point but there was no contrail, no propulsion."

Butler recalled that the sun hadn't set and he was looking across at Fort Lewis.

"It was a clear, beautiful afternoon. My friend thought he saw a bird. It looked to me like a little glider from the Animas Valley. I have friends who launch gliders from there."

"Then I started seeing reflections from it. The reflections made it look really white, like a long tube of quicksilver. But when it turned, it looked like a cylinder with wings swept back into a delta."

Others sightings reported

So intrigued was Butler with his sighting that he began doing research. He returned to Smelter Mountain to draw a map of where the craft flew. Then he heard about a report in *The Silverton Standard* about a recent sighting; he drove to Silverton to get a copy.

The *Standard* reported on Sept. 19 that three residents on two separate occasions reported seeing a boomerang-shaped object over Silverton: Anita Steck and Tammy Rhoades saw the boomerang around 7 p.m. Sept. 15. At first it wasn't moving, then it turned and flew away "really fast, leaving a trail of smoke." Steck said she saw the same object again around 11 p.m. the same night.

Chris Tousimis saw a bright object over Sultan Mountain late that night or early the next morning, the *Standard* wrote. He described it as emanating two rays of light downward, giving it

a boomerang-like appearance

The National UFO Reporting Center's Web site reported 408 sightings in September. There were 19 sightings on Sept. 28, the night Butler saw the Durango boomerang.

The nearest sighting reported by the center that day was in Santa Fe, at 6 p.m., almost exactly the time Butler had his sighting. The Santa Fe phenomenon was described as "a large, bright, egg-shaped object that moved slightly." The sighting lasted an hour.

The Web site contains hundreds of reports of triangular UFOs but they are typically described as having lights, unlike the one Butler saw.

The Web site also reported that on Aug. 4 a group of four people saw "three lights moving in perfect triangle formation across the sky in Ouray County."

Durango's most well-known "UFOlogist," Dr. Roy Craig, was the major field investigator for the Condon Project, an Air Force-financed, scientific study of the subject. Craig's account of the project, *UFOs: An Insider's View of the Official Quest for Evidence*, was published by the University of North Texas Press in 1995.

"If it (the boomerang) was where you said it was, there should have been a lot of people who saw it," Craig said by phone from his home in Ignacio. "That they didn't indicates that it's a private thing."

But at least one person has taken notice of Butler's report.

Donna Chadwick, who gathers reports of sightings for the Aztec UFO Information Center and Gift Shop said, "This is one of the most particular descriptions I've heard. We haven't heard anything about objects of this shape, but we have lots of small, silver basketball stories. This is the kind of thing we're interested in."

Reach Staff Writer
Patricia Miller at
pmiller@durangoherald.com

UFO Testing in Burnett?

by Chet Newman



Ted Wistrom and Heather Berrard believe it was something out of the ordinary they saw hovering over Burnett County fields recently. What it was exactly, they can't say. Staff photo by Chet Newman.

GRANTSBURG - "It went right alongside the highway all the way from Highway 48 down to the Bible Camp. Then it crossed over the highway in front of us and lowered down toward the field and hovered there about 50 or a hundred feet above the ground."

Ted Wistrom is crystal clear about what he and Heather Berrard saw as they were traveling south on Highway 87 from Grantsburg at about 5 p.m. last Wednesday. They vow the aircraft, no more than 20 feet wide or long, was moving down the west side of the road at about 30 miles an hour.

The craft was not nearly large enough to carry people, says Wistrom, but he also says it was dark, so exact size was hard to tell.

Checks with officials in law enforcement and the Department of Natural Resources uncovered nothing to explain what the couple saw.

Wistrom says he knows they weren't the only ones to see it. He says the car in front of them slowed down, too, as did two others behind them. Wistrom said he had planned to turn east on Highway 0, but continued south on 87 to continue watching the aircraft.

It made no sound

He says it wasn't very high in the air. He could see what looked like propulsion units, sort of like tubes, protruding out of the bottom of the craft that were "tilted toward the ground, like that's what was holding it up."

It made no sound, he says.

There were four rectangular lights on what appeared to be the back of the craft, he said. They spanned the entire rear, with the lights immediately adjacent to each other, with each one being maybe two or two and a half feet high.

While the craft was moving, the lights were all orange. When it began to hover over a field near the Bible camp, he said the center left light turned blue and the center right one turned white. The white light began to blink as it was hovering, he says, and then the craft disappeared.

Wistrom says he can't give an overall description of the craft, because they only saw the underside and rear.

Just kooky stuff

Wistrom says friends had been telling him of seeing strange air vehicles over the last couple of months, and claim they have seen military-type vehicles at Crex Meadows before the snow came. He laughed off their remarks as "just kooky stuff," he says.

Now, he says, he thinks "they're doing some kind of testing around here."

DNR employees at Crex Meadows say there haven't been any unusual vehicles there.

After the strange vehicle disappeared, Wistrom says he and Berrard headed east when a low-flying airplane flew by at low level. That plane, he said, had a blue-and-white light underneath and red lights on the wingtips, but nothing like the much larger rectangular lights on the strange air vehicle.

Sci Fi special puts Kecksburg mystery under a microscope

ANN SAUL DUDURICH
For the Daily Courier

It has remained an enigma for nearly 40 years — a saga that began on Dec. 9,

1965, when a fireball was observed streaking across the Westmoreland County sky.

Many witnesses said the fiery object appeared to bank, turn and glide into a wooded ravine near the small Mount Pleasant Township community of Kecksburg. At the scene, onlookers were told a meteor had crashed. More persistent curiosity-seekers were turned away by police and military

"THE NEW ROSWELL: KECKSBURG EXPOSED"

■ 9 p.m. tonight, Sci Fi Note: At 8 p.m., log into www.scifi.com for a live chat with long-time UFO investigator Stan Gordon, of Greensburg, and California-based freelance writer, Leslie Kean, who has been following the Kecksburg case.

personnel; some at gunpoint.

Over the years, many questions have been asked; few have been answered. Just what exactly took place in the woods that night? And why was the military so anxious to cover it up?

The Sci Fi Channel endeavors to "blow the lid off" the baffling UFO case in "The New Roswell: Kecksburg Exposed," airing tonight. "What really happened in that little town, known to some as Pennsylvania's Roswell?" asks host Bryant Gumbel in his opening narrative.

What, indeed? The townsfolk remain very much divided. "I think it was something from outer space," says one local resident. Another smiles, emphasizing, "Once the cameras are rolling, people will say anything if they think they're going to be on television."

Regardless, notes Gumbel, eyewitness accounts remain consistent. Through a

However, says Mazza, Murphy's enthusiasm for the case evaporated after he received several "unexpected visitors" at the station. Soon after, Murphy was killed in a hit-and-run accident in the state of California. The driver was never found. And the news reporter's notebooks, tapes and photos mysteriously disappeared not long after.

Coincidence? "If someone did away with John, it was because he saw and knew too much," says Bonnie Millsagle, his former wife.

In an effort to further unravel the mystery, Sci Fi enlists the services of West Virginia University professors Dr. J. Stephen Kite (geology and geography) and Dr. Ray Hicks (forestry), for several days of on-site research. With assistance from witnesses Bill Bulebush and John Hays, the investigative team locates what is believed to be the actual crash site. Their findings — the result of soil and tree core sample studies — indicate proof of a "traumatic event" at the site on or near 1965, Hicks says.

The special also offers several differing points of view: James Oberg, space consultant; Nick Redfern, author of "Strange Secrets," and Richard Dolan, author of "UFOs & The National Security State."

"The New Roswell" concludes with scenes filmed during a town meeting, held in August at the Kecksburg fire hall. The event was unprecedented; the first-ever gathering of believers and nonbelievers.

Additionally, the Sci Fi Channel announced earlier this week it intends to press forward with its request to obtain classified documents through the Freedom of Information Act. To that end, representatives of the cable channel detailed what could be a series of lawsuits filed to obtain records relating to the Kecksburg case. Lee Helfrich — of the Lobel, Novins & Lamont law firm — indicated she expects a suit to be filed against NASA within the week. She says action could also be taken against the Department of Defense and the Army if requested information is not released.

series of dramatic re-creations, the documentary returns to an evening that would forever change the dynamics in a quiet, unassuming community.

Eyewitness Robert Blystone remembers seeing a "controlled fireball" in the sky. A short time later, Bill Weaver, then 19, saw a bluish light — "like a welder's

light" glowing in the woods. Johnstown resident Don Sebastian details a contingent of "probably 100 soldiers," as well as two "unearthly screams" he says he'll never forget. Pittsburgh jazz musician Jerry Betters says he observed an "acorn-shaped object with hieroglyphics" being hauled away on a flat-bed truck.

Viewers learn of the late John Murphy's efforts to ascertain the truth. Murphy, a news reporter for WHJB radio in Greensburg, snapped photos and interviewed many eyewitnesses that evening. Mable Mazza, the station's office manager at the time, remembers seeing one of the photos, depicting a "cone-like thing" surrounded by a lot of trees.

MOUNTAIN MAIL, Socorro, NM - Nov. 6, 2003

from the mailbag

It is safe to say that no article or column printed in the Mountain Mail has ever generated as much interest as Part I of the report on the alleged UFO crash near San Antonio in 1945. The article was published on the Internet at www.rense.com last week, which generated the out-of-state letters printed below. To say the least, we were shocked to see the volume of responses - editor.

Can't Wait For Part II Of UFO Saga

To the Editor:

Just a quick note to tell you how much I enjoyed Ben Moffett's UFO article that was published on the Rense website. It was well written, informative and exciting — I can't wait to read Part 2! Great stuff! Thanks for letting the article be published on the Rense site.

Df Bishop
Golden, Colo.

Thanks For Running UFO Crash Story

To the Editor:

I saw the piece from your paper concerning the 1945 New Mexico UFO crash and wish to express my pleasure and give you thanks for running it. A very enjoyable piece and I'm looking forward to part 2!

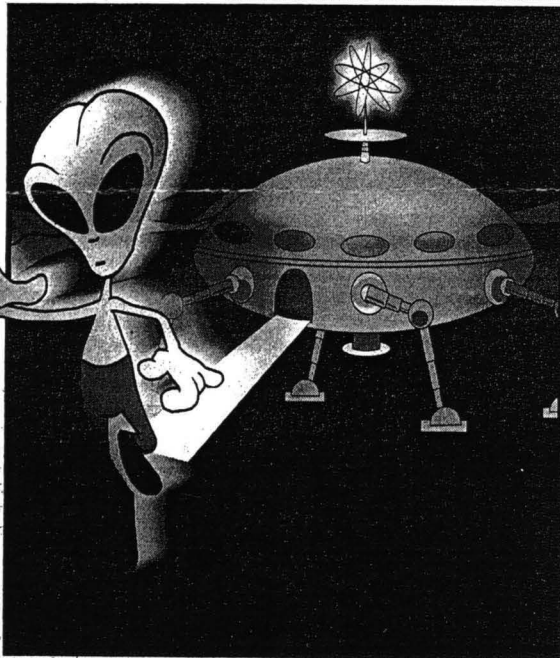
Thanks for letting Rense.com reprint it, otherwise thousands of us would have never known about it!

Burt Brown
Greenville, Mississippi

Rarely Will A Paper Print UFO Story

To the Editor:

With so many newspapers



ignoring the vast amount of UFO activity that takes place in all parts of the world on a regular basis, it is a great pleasure to find a publication that considers such events to be the very important news that they are.

Thanks again.

Lucius Farish
Plumerville, Arkansas

Glaring Omission In Tale Of Craft Crash

To the Editor:

Read your piece about the UFO crash near San Antonio on Rense's site with interest. I'm a Brit physics-educated engineer in California, with an interest in the off-beat. This qualifies.

There appears to be a glaring omission in your piece. Here we have a tale of the retrieval of hard physical evidence, and not a word about lab tests on this material! This oversight is so fundamental, it boggles my mind. What on earth are they proposing to do with the material they garnered? Is it about

bucks? And why do you downplay such an obviously key data point in your telling of the tale?

Andrew Palfreyman
California

UFO Network Seeks More Info

To the Editor,

Allow me to introduce myself. I am Ronald Regehr, Utah State Director for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), Inc. MUFON is an international scientific organization composed of people seriously interested in studying and researching the phenomenon known as Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) by combining their mutual talents, areas of expertise, and investigative efforts. Donald R. Burleson, Ph.D. is New Mexico MUFON State Director. contact information is P.O. Box 583, Roswell, NM 88202-0583, (505) 622-0855, email: burleson@dfn.com. He is a skilled professional, well versed in confidential investigative techniques.

I read with interest, and a high degree of skepticism, your recent article, "New Mexico UFO Crash Encounter in 1945" by Ben Moffett. Several questions come to mind:

1. Why the delay in telling of this event? One would think that an event of this magnitude would not remain under wraps for almost 5 decades.

2. How did Mr. Moffett learn of this event, and is he available for discussion?

3. Has the ostensible debris been evaluated by a laboratory? Other artifacts demonstrate their non-Earth provenance by containing different metallic isotopes than their Earthly elements.

4. What follow-up investigation has been conducted to date?

5. Are the principal witnesses available for interview?

Thank you for your consideration.

Ronald S. Regehr
Moab, Utah

UFO Story Another Sign Of Cover-Up

To the Editor:

I read your article with great interest. I have heard whispers of this crash for decades. I was the child of a Strategic Air Command father who used to tease me that the Roswell Crash was covered up, because the reason they came here was to drop me off. I was born on July 19, 1947. He further told me they had to change the date of the crash because no one was supposed to know about it. I was mortified that they would come back and get me someday.

Needless to say, I have had a passion for all things UFO my entire life.

As I stated I read your article with great interest, however, there is one statement in the article that gave me cause to pause and ponder, thus a growing doubt is festering in my mind that causes me to reject the story.

The government calls them weather balloons," the state policeman chipped in. "I'm here to help Faustian 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."

This smacks of prior knowledge of the Roswell story that purportedly happened two years later. Time may have created this memory, but it throws the entire story off center for me.

I do look forward to Part Two.

I hope this is true, because I just want it to be true. I am sick of the government cover-up just because the government is scared about them. More of us Americans are not as scared of them, even if the occupants are not our "saviors" than those who man the government.

The men of the military always cover-up what they cannot explain. It is never left to the populace to decide what to do, which would make far greater sense, than to allow a group of Cadaverous Olde White Boys to make decisions from their fears.

I look forward to your next half of this intriguing story.

Sheryl Jackson

At 84, original 'abductee' still wants to believe

BY BRAM EISENTHAL
PORTSMOUTH, N.H.

Betty Hill sits in her living room, an inquisitive, highly engaging woman of 84. Surrounded by the mementos and clutter of a lifetime that is waning as the cancer afflicting her progresses, she is serene, even as she reflects on her role in one of the strangest events of the 1960s, one that helped spawn a mass cult phenomenon.

Her petite frame initially takes one by surprise. By reputation alone, you would think that she would be more physically imposing.

You could say Betty and Barney Hill's last meal — at least, the last while they still led normal lives — was eaten in Montreal, one of their favourite cities. The Portsmouth, N.H., couple were already fairly unusual: He was black and she was white, at the dawn of the racially explosive decade, when they were on their way back from a short vacation in Niagara Falls.

But at 11 p.m. on Sept. 19, 1961, the Hills were on Route 3, south of Lancaster, N.H., when the best-documented case in UFO history began: There was a puzzling object in the sky. Mr. Hill thought that it was a satellite or star initially, but its erratic movement brought a plane to mind. They were alone on a deserted road, approaching the enormous silhouetted shape of Cannon Mountain, when the object seemed to be heading straight for them.

After that night, anxiety plagued the Hills. Both experienced nightmares. Mr. Hill developed chronic ulcers. And neither could account for a disturbing sense that something otherworldly had happened, and why two full hours of their journey were unaccounted for. It was only two years later that the story emerged, under hypnosis monitored by respected Boston psychiatrist Benjamin Simon: The Hills had been stopped by a group of aliens



Betty Hill, at home, holds a sculpture on her lap representing Junior, one of the aliens she and her husband Barney claimed they were abducted by in 1961.

on a side road, taken aboard their craft, experimented upon and released unharmed.

Though Mr. Hill died in 1969, Betty Hill has actively discussed the incident in the media and at conventions across North America ever since. "They were under five feet tall," Mrs. Hill says of the aliens. "They look more like us, like actual people, than weirdoes. The main difference is that their eyes are huge, and they have thin noses and thin lips. The leader spoke English, rather than using telepathy, as they are often portrayed."

Why, then, were the couple ab-

ducted? "They grabbed us to see if we were similar to them," Mrs. Hill says. "I can understand why they were interested in us physically. I don't hold that against them, to this day."

She adds that the aliens were particularly interested in the lanky Mr. Hill's bone structure, while they performed a painful procedure on her, similar to one that would not be done on Earth for another eight years — an amniocentesis. They were also, she reported during the psychological sessions, interested in the structure and colour of her skin.

Mrs. Hill is certain that something extraordinary happened to her and her husband 42 years ago, a view Dr. Simon came to share after their sessions. His findings appeared in John G. Fuller's 1966 book *The Interrupted Journey: Two Lost Hours Aboard A Flying Saucer*.

Their experience was also the subject of a 1975 movie of the week, *The UFO Incident*, starring James Earl Jones and Estelle Parsons. "The movie was quite accurate and I thought the actors did a good job portraying us," Mrs. Hill says. "The producers had a big problem with their portrayals of the aliens, though. They really do look more like us."

Though it's easy to dismiss Betty and Barney Hill as crackpots or publicity hounds, sitting with the humble, keen-minded Mrs. Hill might persuade you otherwise.

Stanton Friedman, the New Jersey-born nuclear physicist and UFO lecturer who has been dubbed the Father of Roswell, knows Mrs. Hill well. "First, the outstanding professional background of Dr. Simon, who kept a very tight rein on John Fuller, certainly lent legitimacy. He was a world-class expert on the use of medical regressive hypnosis to help World War II veterans make their way through traumatic experiences. No one would call him a nut," says Dr. Friedman, who now calls Fredericton his home base.

Mrs. Hill came from an old New England family (the Dows, as in Dow Jones, dating back to the 17th century), was a college-educated supervisor in the New Hampshire Welfare Department, and was "respected and active in her community." Mr. Hill sat on the state governor's Civil Rights Commission.

"Dr. Simon's work unlocking the memory took care of Barney's ulcer problem when medication could not," Dr. Friedman says. "They did not seek publicity, but were forced into the public arena when a Boston Herald article came out, with-

out their knowledge. Add to that the fact there were physical marks on Betty's dress, warts on Barney's groin, and the extraordinary emotionalism of their sessions with Dr. Simon. . . .

"This was definitely a pioneering case," he adds. "The publicity . . . helped other abductees to have the courage to seek help in understanding their own missing-time experiences."

The Hills were also administered lie-detector tests by lawyer F. Lee Bailey, which they passed with flying colours. Mrs. Hill points out that the object that confronted them that evening was also tracked by nearby Pease Airforce Base. And then, says Dr. Friedman, there was the alien leader's star map that Mrs. Hill reproduced under posthypnotic suggestion, which portrayed Zeta Reticuli 1 and 2, years before they were charted by amateur astronomers and confirmed by the Hipparchos satellite.

Were Betty and Barney Hill the victims of some sort of hysteria, or were they indeed abducted for two hours by alien visitors from another solar system? Whatever the truth is, Mrs. Hill remains convinced that we are not alone and, what's more, "that our government leaders have known about these UFO contacts for decades."

Mrs. Hill's cancer was originally confined to her stomach about 15 years ago, and she has done well battling the affliction. By last month, however, it had spread to her lung. Still, she says, "I'm feeling pretty good."

Asked what her alien encounter taught her, Mrs. Hill's response is striking: "They've proven to me that God is universal."

No matter what you believe, that's a giant leap of faith for mankind.

Bram Eisenthal is a Montreal freelance writer and an aficionado of science fiction and fact.

CHRONICLE, San Francisco, CA - Dec. 4, 2003 CR: J. Laurino

Crop circles called out of teens' league

Paranormal SWAT team won't rule out alien authorship

By Joe Garofoli
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

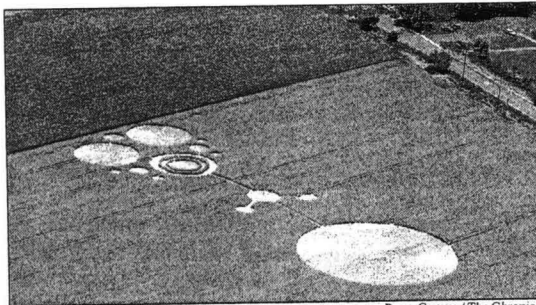
First came the dozen crop circles mysteriously cut into a Solano County farmer's wheat field in June. Then came the paranormal pilgrims, grabbing souvenir shafts of wheat as mementos of a possible visit from their friends in other galaxies.

Two weeks — and hundreds of

souvenir T-shirts — later, four unnamed teenage boys 'fessed up, saying they cut the circles as a hoax because, well, it's boring in Fairfield and "there's nothing else to do around here," as one put it. Even though the Solano County district attorney didn't buy their confession, the story disappeared with the harvest.

On Wednesday the crop circle mystery reignited, as a team of paranormal investigators concluded after conducting a five-month investigation that the "hoax is a hoax."

Though none of the investiga-



PAUL CHINN / The Chronicle

Teenagers claimed these crop circles, which appeared in a Solano County wheat field one Friday night in July, were their handiwork.

tors would attribute the wheat craftwork to aliens, they didn't rule them out as suspects.

"Crop circles are a genuine mystery that cannot be explained by hoaxers," said Michael Miley, a contributing editor with UFO Magazine (and several high-tech publications), who was part of the investigation team.

Led and funded by Fairfield resident Steve Moreno, a kitchen contractor who became devoted to exploring the paranormal after a near-death car wreck 20 years ago, Psi Applications investigators concentrated Wednesday on trying to debunk the hoax rather than explain who or what shaved the circles.

But according to an actual rocket scientist on the team, one thing's for sure: The pattern was too geometrically sophisticated to be done by four teenagers who reportedly had never cut crop circles before. No matter how bored they were.

"The level of sophistication was quite high and I don't think high school students could have done it — especially considering the state of education these days," said Jean-Noel Aubrun, a former NASA engineer who has a doctorate in physics.

Not only that, but investigators say there wasn't enough moonlight that night to cut such an intricate design. For months, More-

no's crew has invited the boys to recreate the pattern on a similarly moonlit night. They've balked.

After analyzing the different-sized circles in the pattern, Aubrun found that the ratio in the size between each was the same as the difference in frequency between each note on a musical scale.

"I played it out on the keyboard," Aubrun said.

Did it translate to the theme from "Close Encounters of the Third Kind?"

Aubrun didn't smile. "No, it was like the scale of F," he said.

Investigators pointed to other hoax-debunking evidence. Like

how the nodes of wheat samples taken from inside the crop circles were larger than those collected from outside the circles. The investigators say, based on past crop circle experiments, it's possible that a blast of microwave energy could have caused such malformation.

Miley said that no matter where such a microwave blast came from — the atmosphere, UFOs, military weapons testers — the possibility should inspire more investigation.

However, the team analyzed only a couple dozen wheat samples, a number small enough that even Aubrun called the finding "preliminary."

Miley thought it was enough, though.

"Hey, how many crows do you need to see to say that all crows are not black?" he said, then answered rhetorically: "One."

Investigators also showed video testimony from a neighbor who described seeing a "ball of light" a few inches above the wheat field the night before they appeared. Crop circleists often spot a so-called BOL (ball of light) hovering over crop circles.

The team hopes to have its studies peer-reviewed, as a skeptical public scratches its collective head.

"I'm a Fairfield native, and if it was a bunch of high school kids, I'm ticked," said Freddy Engell, a 44-year-old roofer. "Because I wish we would have thought of it when we were in high school. It's hilarious."

"But even though I believe in UFOs," he said, "with all the traffic that's around here now, I think we would have heard a spaceship if it landed here."

E-mail Joe Garofoli at jgarofoli@schronicle.com.

Timmerman says the truth is out there

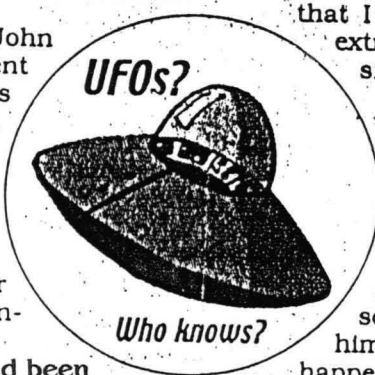
By ERIN MILLER
Staff Writer

Lima native and UFO researcher John Timmerman has a story from a recent event at the Allen County fairgrounds that sounds like it comes straight from the movie "Men In Black."

Timmerman, who now lives in Lakeview, had set up a table with literature about UFOs and photos of alleged UFOs, when a man approached him and said he was or had been employed by the U.S. government as a "disinformation man."

"Prior to his contact with me, he had been assigned, apparently, by the government, to do some things for them, which made possible his

knowledge about things which were to be kept secret," Timmerman said. "He was saying things that I knew to be the case. Either he was extremely well informed about this by simply reading books and hearing things on television, or what he was claiming to be involved himself and was a much better source and he was able to tell it easily and frankly to me. "I tend to believe the man, who was, to some extent, involved in some government project," Timmerman added. "I would like to see him again someday, somewhere, and talk with him. I don't know whether that would happen."



The story is just one of many Timmerman has collected in his years of UFO research. His interest in the subject began in 1947, when he was a student at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., and read about alleged incidents in Roswell, N.M. After graduating in 1950, he returned to Lima and volunteered to assist professors at Ohio Northern University investigating UFOs in the Lima area. That project didn't pan out, Timmerman said, and a lack of reliable sources and cases for study caused the project to be closed.

"But they didn't close down my curiosity, which stayed with me through the '50s, and the '60s and the '70s," Timmerman said.

In the late 1970s, Timmerman became acquainted with Dr. J. Allen Hynek, who had founded the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) earlier that decade, and who had served for many years as a consultant for the U.S. Air Force on reported UFO activity.

"We had a conversation, which, afterward for some time culminated in my offering to serve on his board of directors," Timmerman said. "He asked me to do that, and I said I would be glad to do it."

Timmerman would later serve CUFOS in a number of capacities, including financial adviser. Currently, he works with organizations requesting photos of UFOs. CUFOS, based in Chicago, where Hynek worked before his death in 1986, has more than 140,000 cases on file

at the Chicago office, Timmerman said.

For 12 years, Timmerman also represented CUFOS on the road around the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico and Guam, visiting shopping malls with a traveling display about UFOs and interviewing people who claimed to have seen UFOs. What he heard, Timmerman said, was enough to help convince him that UFOs do exist, though he says he has never seen one himself.

"I have never seen one of these things or anything I would regard as an unidentified flying object," Timmerman said. "I've seen some strange lights in the sky, but that's not like seeing one right across the road. I've talked to people like that, who were so convincing, so honest, so straightforward. They never contradict themselves. They tell me one time and they tell me every time, the same."

"I have interviewed and put on tape over 1,200 interviews," he added. "If only one of those people was describing what really did happen to them, then that one incident deserves the serious attention of someone who is curious about the possibility that we might be under surveillance by an intelligent life form from other source than our planet."

While interviewing people who said they had seen UFOs, Timmerman would double-check their stories, or repeat portions of the story incorrectly, intentionally, to see if he could trip them up, but the people stuck to their stories, he said.

"I can't imagine that there's only one of all those

people who were so convincing," he said.

Timmerman said he believes that the U.S. government does have information about UFOs and life forms that built those UFOs. The government hasn't revealed that information yet, he said, because most people are not ready or willing to believe that life exists on planets other than Earth.

Government knowledge of life on other planets — perhaps influenced by information received in Roswell in 1947 — is a driving force behind space exploration, Timmerman said.

"It has lured the United States government into a program of space exploration which may or may not be directly resulting from information that the government began to accumulate in 1947," he said. "We have testimony from the government denying it proves to be anything other than a misunderstanding, and there's no proof that there's anything out of this world coming to investigate us, but that doesn't mean it isn't happening. It just means that they're willing to say they are not satisfied that this is necessarily the case."

Still, conspiracy theories are not the reason Timmerman became involved with UFOs, nor is fear or superstition. Quite simply, he said, he believes there are rational, scientific explanations to the questions raised by UFOs, and he wants to help find those answers.

"I feel it needs to be done," he said. "Someday it will be done, and while it's happening in my lifetime, I want to be a part of that pursuit."

HERALD COURIER, Bristol, VA - Oct. 6, 2003



MONDAY MORNING ANSWERS

LEE DAVENPORT

Last week, we heard from Kim Shaffer, who videotaped a copper-colored object in the sky on Aug. 2 and sent it for analysis. He asked me to put out a plea to others who may have seen something similar. If so, he said, it might help him identify it.

We received a note from Kyle and Renee Blevins, who live on Raytheon Road in Bristol Tennessee.

"My three small children were playing outside at our home on Aug. 2," Mrs. Blevins wrote. "My husband went outside and found all three of them looking up in the sky with perplexed looks on their faces."

"He asked them what they were looking at, and they said they saw a ghost in the sky. They said they looked down, and when they looked back up again, it was gone."

She separated the children and asked them to draw what they saw. The pictures looked similar to each other, she said.

The object was bumpy and whitish, not copper and smooth, but Blevins said she wrote in anyway because of the coincidence in the date of the sighting.

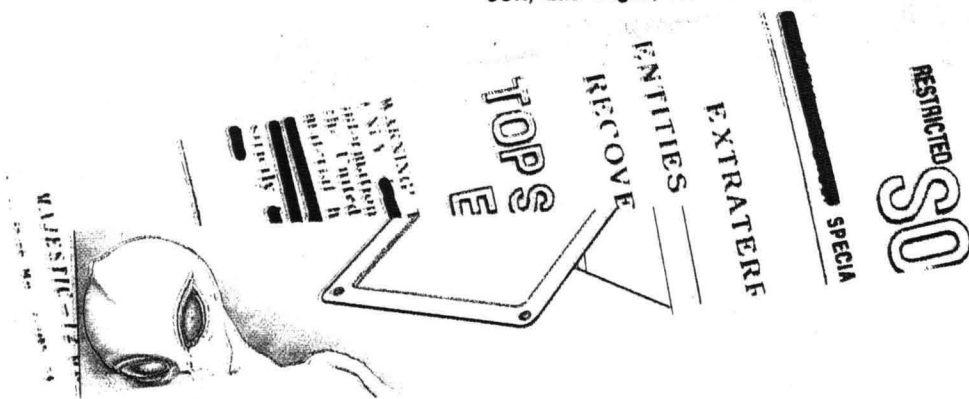
We've passed the Blevins' information on to Shaffer. No word as yet whether it has shed any light on Shaffer's experience.

We also heard from Peter Davenport, director of the Seattle-based National UFO Reporting Center.

"I believe that Mr. Shaffer is a very good witness, and the video he captured is some of the most interesting we have seen in a long time," he

said. "Also, it is very similar to what was captured in New Westminster, British Columbia, on Aug. 11 of this year."

LEE DAVENPORT is assistant city editor. Send your questions to Monday Morning Answers, Bristol Herald Courier, P.O. Box 609, Bristol, VA 24203; or e-mail them to ldavenport@bristolnews.com.



TOP SECRET

Paper Trails

'UFOlogists'
focus on
documents at
Sunset Station
conference

By Kristen Peterson
LAS VEGAS SUN

When a UFO crash retrieval conference beams into Southern Nevada this weekend, don't expect the usual tales of abductions, lights in the sky or cattle mutilations.

Instead, Majestic Documents, a Colorado-based team of UFO researchers, plans to focus on "government coverups" and "paper trails" during its three-day conference at Sunset Station.

"We're focused on hard evidence," Ryan Wood, president of Majestic Documents, said.

"We're the nuts and bolts of UFOlogy."

Before you insert a punchline here, you should know that Wood is used to criticism from skeptics.

The 48-year-old teamed with his father, Robert Wood, a former aeronautical engineer, several years ago to authenticate "leaked" documents on an alleged government program called Majestic 12.

According to Majestic Documents, Majestic 12 was formed in the 1940s under presidential order to investigate the threat of alien attacks and use alien technology for military purposes.

But skeptics abound.

"They have the normal questions," Wood said from his home in Colorado. "Like, 'Why in the world would they crash if from such an advanced civilization? How could the government keep it secret so long? Why is there no evidence?'"

"The very skeptical people are asking reasonable questions. There are a lot of crashes. The question is, 'How do you analyze whether they're real?'"

Both Ryan and Robert Wood, who worked 43 years at McDonnell Douglas, will be speaking at the conference. Joining them are 13 speakers, including Nick Redford, author of three books on UFO crashes and government documents, who will present papers from the National Archives and presidential libraries.

Art Campbell, a researcher who has "uncovered ... something resembling a small artificial body part and some strange narrow shoe soles," will present information on findings from a crash sight in St. Augustine, N.M.

• **What:** Majestic Documents / UFO Crash Retrieval Conference.
• **When:** Friday through Sunday.
• **Where:** Sunset Station.
• **Admission:** \$145 for conference; \$190 for conference and banquets.
• **Information:** (702) 887-8171 or www.majesticdocuments.com.

Stanton Friedman, longtime investigator of the Roswell, N.M., theories, will defend the MJ-12 documents and Roswell stories that are often under attack by skeptics.

Do you believe?

Skeptics deem the Majestic Documents bogus, as do some UFOlogists.

And when the discussion turns to flying saucers and little green men, the general public usually shows no interest in the topic.

"The standard wisdom of UFOs is that a UFO is completely imagined, that it's something of ours that a viewer doesn't understand," said Michael Lindemann, a self-described "has-been UFOlogist" who will speak at this weekend's conference.

"Or it's an unusual phenomenon like a bolide meteor or space junk, stuff that falls out of the sky — satellites. When (some) people see these, they say, 'It's aliens.'"

There are hoaxes by pranksters cooking up a story. But

what intrigues Lindemann and colleagues the most is what they call the unexplainable, evidence that something shot across the sky in a remote area, crashed, then was swooped away by men in uniform.

"Once you say we've got that, you have to open the door to phenomena," Lindemann said.

Lindemann's interest in UFOs began in 1989. He had studied patterns and profiles of government secrecy pertaining to weapons when friends asked him to look into government secrecy regarding UFOs.

Until then, he said, his interest in UFOs "was no more than a person who saw an occasional 'Star Wars' movie."

"I was very skeptical at first," Lindemann added. "But during that 12-year period I was very active. I did little else. It's not, 'Can we or can we not see that there are aliens around?' but, 'Can we or can we not see a pattern of secrecy?'"

"Do these secrets exist? Yes ma'am."

Rapid response

It seems that both believers and non-believers love the mystery.

The Internet links to scores of UFO websites. There are dozens of state and national organizations and hotline numbers to report sightings. Then there are skeptic organizations and hundreds of debunkers prepared to counter any claim.

The International Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) based in Colorado, receives reports of UFO sightings daily and has a team of 500 staffers who investigate.

The National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle claims to have received "tens of thousands" of calls since it began a 24-hour hotline service in 1974.

Locally, the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS), a private research organization with a team of scientists that looks into aerial phenomena and animal mutilations, has received 5,000 reports by telephone or e-mail since it opened its UFO hotline in 1999, spokesman Colm Kelleher said.

"We believe there are phenomenon not readily explained by scientific methods that have been ignored by scientific methods that deserve further scrutiny," Kelleher said.

"We try to remove the moniker UFO and apply the moniker IFO — Identifiable Flying Objects."

Though the NIDS website links to the Majestic Documents conference, Kelleher said the organization remains "agnostic" in regard to the legitimacy of the Majestic Documents.

"We don't have any direct forensic evidence of authenticity of these documents," Kelleher said. "We're open-minded, but we're skeptical."

Rather than delving into past reports, NIDS looks into recent sightings. Its team of scientists and retired police uses forensic testing to explore the claims, which more than 90 percent of the time, the group says, are explainable by earthly means.

"We spend more time on cases that are not readily explained — Venus low on the horizon, bolide meteors, shuttle debris," Kelleher said. "We haven't had any smoking gun, definitely saying, 'This is indicative of an extraterrestrial.'"

"We do acknowledge there is a mystery. The numbers of cases we have that aren't unidentified are in the hundreds. The ultimate question is it ours, is it theirs?"

By "ours" Kelleher means that it could be advanced U.S. military hardware and possibly classified information.

"Then we stop investigating," Kelleher said. "We don't try to get into national security."

This is where Lindemann comes into play.

"I have a visceral dislike of government secrecy," Lindemann said. "That secrecy begets special priesthoods of people who exercise unconstitutional control over other people's lives."

"People are told that if they talk about this they might lose their jobs or something else may occur. That to me is an abuse of government power that should not be allowed."

Doubting the documents

Phil Klass is quick to debunk the Majestic Documents and coverups regarding extraterrestrial crashes.

The longtime aerospace journalist and writer and editor for a

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5 - SUN, Las Vegas, NV - Nov. 12, 2003)

publication by the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal has researched UFO claims, UFOlogists' credentials and written books on the topic.

In a May/June 2000 article in *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine titled, "The New Bogus Majestic 12 Documents," Klass argues that the documents are littered with flaws.

Klass reported that an alleged memo from President Truman authorizing the MJ-12 program included a pasted-on photocopy of a signature from President Truman (rather than an original). He cites date and location problems and similar markings between the documents and personal writing styles or typewriter markings of those who uncovered them.

"I seriously question whether an MJ-12 ever existed or whether crashed ET crafts could be kept secret for more than 50 years," Klass said via an e-mail interview.

"During my 53 years as a senior editor and contributing editor (for *Aviation Week*), I never even heard rumors of the existence of MJ-12 from any highly placed 'sources.'"

Klass, 84, added that he sus-

pects few UFOlogists have signed up for this weekend's conference.

Wood said that more than 100 have registered. And according to John Schuessler, international director for MUFON, several representatives from MUFON will attend.

"Dr. Robert Wood is a very good forensic researcher," Schuessler said. "Not all of the Majestic Documents are credible, but some of them are."

As does Robert Wood, Schuessler shares a similar career background. He says he worked for NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, for 25 years and that his UFO interests developed on the job.

"Back in the Gemini Days there were (things) they couldn't explain," Schuessler said, referring to the space program. "I looked into it, and I got hooked."

Bob Brown, a founding director of the International UFO Conference, also supports the work the Woods have done and says most of today's sightings are military equipment built from alien hardware and technology the government has had for upwards of 60 years.

Wood would like to see the

government come forward about its past. He says government secrecy was a result of the beginning of the Cold War and the United States not being eager to leak information about its "celestial gifts."

Now would be a more stable time to present the evidence, even though religious concerns are the biggest reason for the government withholding evidence, Wood said.

"A lot of religious people are going to say, 'This is the devil come to fruition in front of us,'" Wood said.

But Wood and other UFOlogists believe information taken from these alien life forms could create medical breakthroughs. Some go so far to say that the spacecraft could help solve pollution problems.

"We know they run on some advanced propulsion and energy source we don't understand," Wood said.

So, why do they crash?

"These could be disposable biological robots, why bring them back?" Wood said. "Dump them. As soon as they go across the galaxy on a tank of gas, dump 'em."

Kristen Peterson is an Accent feature writer. Reach her at 259-2317 or kristen@lasvegassun.com



COURTESY PHOTO

Ryan Wood, left, and his father, Robert Wood, are seeking to authenticate alleged government documents relating to extraterrestrial study.

WEST COUNTY TIMES, Pinole, CA - Dec. 9, 2003

Circles crop up again

HMMM. CROP CIRCLES in Solano County? Crop circles are those geometric designs that began appearing in British corn and wheat fields several years ago, raising the speculation that they were the work of extraterrestrial beings.

Last year, the mysterious designs began showing up in Solano County wheat fields. The circles attracted the attention of UFO aficionados, believers of the paranormal and those seeking New Age tranquility. It also brought T-shirt vendors, souvenir hawkers and vanloads of tourists.

A few months after their Bay Area appearance, four teenagers confessed that they created the local crop circles. It appears the flattened wheat was the result of boredom. Not much to do in Solano County, apparently.

However, last week, investigators with Psi Applications claimed at a news conference that the circles in Larry Balestra's 80-acre wheat field off Suisun Valley Road were

too geometrically perfect to be the handiwork of mere humans and that "some other, perhaps anomalous source" was responsible.

Steve Moreno, a residential contractor who is president and director of Psi Applications, suggested plasma or perhaps microwave energy was behind the phenomenon. Those who believe that nonhumans made the circles say hoaxers wouldn't be able to trample down the grain without breaking the stalks.

If the kids didn't make the crop circles, then who did?

Has anyone talked to the E Clampus Vitus historical fraternity? The Clampers, as they are known, are a group of hoaxsters who planted a phony plaque that fooled scientists for years as a product of Sir Francis Drake's crew.

Reluctant to let anyone else take credit, er, blame for their hoax, the boys offered to show how they flattened the wheat into geometric designs. Unfortunately, we'll have to wait until June for the wheat to grow. By then school will be out, just when it starts to get boring.

EDITOR'S VIEW

Time to acknowledge the unexplainable in life

Just when you think life is returning to normal, one of those stories that fascinates our readers, intrigues our reporters and causes skeptics to giggle returned to the front page.

Crop circles are back in the news. Steve Moreno, director of Psi Applications, revealed this week that his group, with the assistance of a Massachusetts-based research group, determined the crop circles discovered in a Suisun Valley field last summer may be authentic and not the work of local pranksters.

Moreno has studied the unexplained for years, from UFO sightings to the recent discovery of crop circles. He's attracted to these unusual occurrences, hoping to bridge mystery with science and provide concrete answers to why some of these things happen.

For those unfamiliar with last June's discovery:

Intricate designs were precision-made through an 80-acre field owned by Larry Balestra. Some believe they are the work of some supernatural force, perhaps space aliens. Others are convinced the circles are a hoax. Some Vacaville teens claimed responsibility. But questions remain whether they were capable of creating the circles.

Moreno joins the list of people who aren't convinced the circles were manmade. He plans to detail his findings at a press conference Wednesday.

I'll be the first to admit I'm a real skeptic when it comes to the supernatural. I don't buy into all the UFO mumbo jumbo. There have to be real scientific reasons for sightings, right?

I say that, yet still remain perplexed at my own "UFO sighting" in the Mojave Desert during the summer of 1977. My wife and I were on a cross-country trip in her parents' motor home with my two older boys when a strange blue light appeared half-way up in the heavens. It's unusual movement and speed mesmerized us for a few minutes before it completely vanished.

We never saw any news reports about this phenomenon. But we knew what we saw was real. Because of our proximity to Edwards Air Force Base, we just assumed it must be related to experimental aircraft. But to see such unusual light movement, then its rapid disappearance was strange, to say the least.

And earthbound, there are other unexplainable occurrences. Like the time my father was looking for his father's grave site at Oakland's Mountain View Cemetery. I had been there once, as a 12-year-old. Eighteen years later, my



Bill James

father stood on the hillside, perplexed because he couldn't locate the grave. I gazed over the hill, walked about 100 paces down a hill with hundreds of in-ground markers without looking at names. I looked down and there it was at my feet, a marker with the name "Albert James" on it. What pulled me to that marker? I had no idea. Freaky. Unexplained.

And then there is this goofy recurring episode. Ghost-like, if you ask me. In the four houses my wife and I have lived in since 1976, no matter how often we close the hall closet doors, we always find them ajar. These doors just don't stay closed. (Even since the kids left the nest).

We've always blame one another for leaving the door unlatched, but we both swear the doors have been closed. Could it be some supernatural force just wants to get out of those closets?

These last two incidents aren't the same, perhaps, as who created the crop circles, but still are unexplained mysteries that make us wonder just who or what controls the universe.

I'm not ready to embrace Steve Moreno's position about crop circles and some extraterrestrial existence, but I do know there are happenings that are just too hard to explain. We hear about them all the time in our business. Most we consider hoaxes and they don't make it into print.

Others like crop circles and UFO sightings are just too bizarre to ignore.

I'm skeptical about Wednesday's revelations, but I, like others who have had enough unexplained experiences in my life, am ready for Moreno's discussion, whether it's serious or on the wacky side.

Bill James is editor/assistant publisher of the *Daily Republic*. Reach him at 427-6983 or bjames@dailyrepublic.net

'Undiscovered energy'



Christine Baker/DAILY REPUBLIC FILE

Rockville farmer Larry Balestra stands in his wheat field after crop circles mysteriously appeared there in June.

Untouched by human hand?

Fairfield researcher categorizes crop circles as 'authentic'

By Jeff Mitchell
DAILY REPUBLIC

FAIRFIELD — The mystery behind Rockville's famed crop circles just got deeper.

A Fairfield man's non-profit organization has concluded, based on six months' research, that the massive crop circles discovered in a wheat field off Suisun Valley Road and Rockville Corners last June are not the work of human beings.

"There are strong indicators that these crop circles are authentic and are not hoaxes," said Steve Moreno, director of Fairfield-based PsiApplications during an exclusive interview with the Daily Republic on Sunday.

"My sense is that there some yet undiscovered energy behind them — what that might be is not now known."

After their discovery in an 80-acre wheat field June 28, the world seemingly beat a path to the site which

'They're going to have to prove it to me one way or another. Still, I'm glad they're doing the research. I'd like to get to the bottom of this.'

— Larry Balestra,
owner of the wheat field

researchers say is the largest set of crop circles yet found on Earth, topping even those found in Great Britain.

Working with Cambridge, Mass.-based BLT Research Team Inc., Moreno said his organization has made two primary conclusions about the Rockville circles:

■ The unique size and shape of the formation is so complex that it would require someone to have an extremely advanced working knowledge of Euclid-

ean geometry to produce them.

■ The stalks of wheat found inside the circles feature "nodules" on their stems that all seem to have been abnormally lengthened. Moreno said researchers have only been able to duplicate the lengthening of the nodules — similar in function to human ligaments — by subjecting them to electromagnetic (in this case microwave) energy.

Moreno, who said he will publicly detail his findings during a Dec. 3 press conference, said the wheat stalk's exposure to the radiation may well be tied to reports by eyewitnesses who claim to have seen "balls of light" over the wheat field where the circles were later discovered.

The research, Moreno says, makes the statements of a group of Vacaville men who claimed in a local newspaper

to have built the circles not very believable.

"Numerous obvious holes existed in their explanation of how they made the circles" Moreno said. "These holes not only exist as inconsistencies but also appear as possible lies."

Moreno added that the Vacaville men, whose identities were never made public, were given a chance to privately and anonymously recreate a circle. They never showed up for the demonstration.

All of these points, combined with the application of a

series of scientific test protocols that can help researchers screen for possible hoaxes, are what led Moreno and colleagues to draw their conclusions, he said.

Moreno stressed that while he and his colleagues are confident of their conclusions, their research is just a jumping-off point for more scientific and scholarly work on the subject.

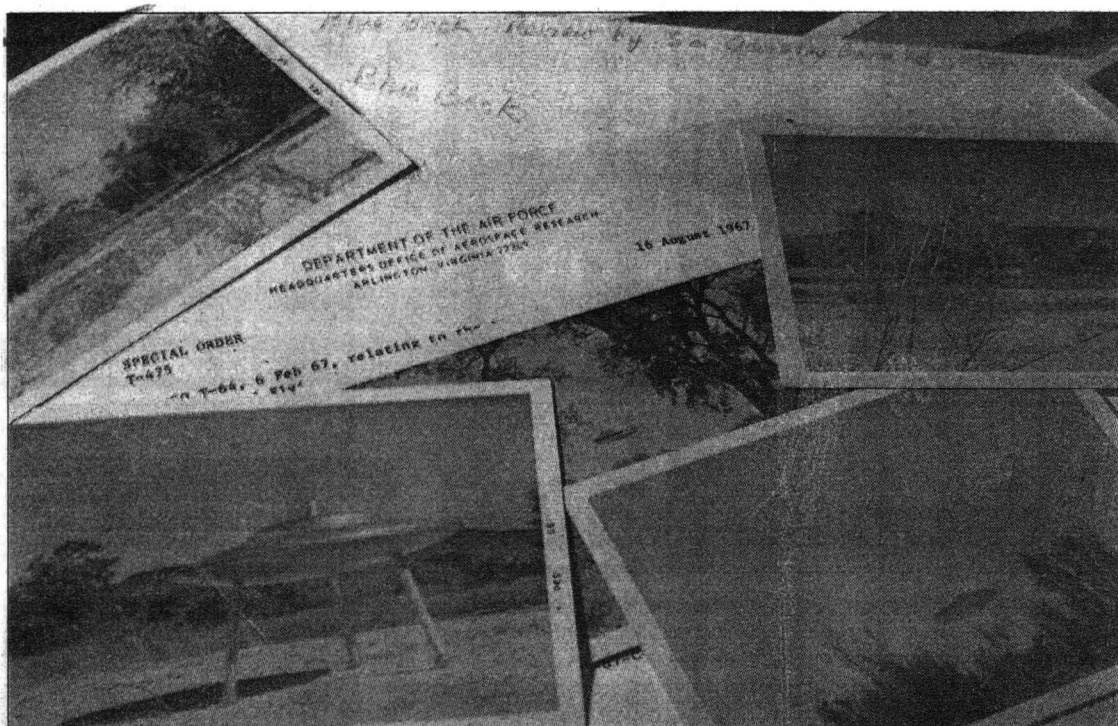
"Our hope is that this work stimulates a hotbed of discussion on this subject in the scientific community," Moreno said.

For Larry Balestra, the

farmer who owns the field where the circles were discovered, the research is interesting but he still thinks there's a chance human beings may have been involved.

"They're going to have to prove it to me one way or another," said Balestra, who has been farming in the area since 1986. "Still, I'm glad they're doing the research. I'd like to get to the bottom of this."

Reach Jeff Mitchell at 427-6977 or jmitchell@dailyrepublic.net.



STEVE UECKER/Houston Chronicle

Photos of purported UFOs are part of the Roy Craig Collection at Texas A&M University's Cushing Memorial Library.

Mystery of mystic proportions: Why not here?

By Patricia Miller
Herald Staff Writer

Roy Craig wrote "The UFO Song" when he was chief field investigator for the Condon Project, the Air Force-sponsored investigation that ended by failing to find any physical evidence for UFOs.

He wrote both the words and music, which he played on tape in his living room on La Boca Ranch, south of Igna-

cio, last Wednesday. Craig played the dulcimer backing and worked space-sounding whooshes, beeps and pings into his composition.

When asked how he achieved the odd noises, Craig said, "They're whistlers from outer space."

Pushed to elaborate, he admitted, "I don't know what causes whistlers."

This is noteworthy information – or a joke – from a man whose three-volume

magnum opus debunked mysteries from outer space. After the report that Craig helped write, the Air Force gave up systematically searching for UFOs.

Now some of Craig's local admirers regret that his papers aren't closer to home.

Susan Davies, owner of the Graden Mercantile Building, wrote to *The Durango Herald*, "I feel so sad that the Center of

Southwest Studies (at Fort Lewis College) did not go after this collection as it is so Southwest in most of its content."

Why did Craig choose Texas A&M University's Cushing Memorial Library? Especially since he was born on Florida Mesa and is a Fort Lewis College alum?

"Fort Lewis didn't ask me," Craig answered.

It's not that Fort Lewis was outbid. Craig said he gave his collection to Texas A&M and even drove it to the university because officials were enthusiastic and promised to keep his papers preserved in a climate-controlled building, properly catalogued and accessible.

Craig enjoys reprising his greatest hits, musical and research. More than 6 feet tall, he turned out Wednesday in Colorado's most ornately patterned camouflage trousers.

He keeps a baby llama and her mother, Mechita (Russian for "green"), in his front yard along with three mixed-breed dogs. His herd of 60 llamas grazes in the background under the cottonwood trees, along with two peacocks and the buffalo herd he pastures for a neighbor.

These days Craig, who describes himself as "an old bachelor, though I have raised a couple of kids," enjoys life with his llamas, his cruises, his houseboat on Lake Powell and his weekly chess games with a neighbor.

By John D'Arcey (the pseudonym of Roy Craig. Notice the similarity between the sounds of D'Arcey and the initials R.C.)

Unidentified flying objects
Glide in and out of space.
Unidentified flying objects
Toy with the human race.
To humans they are UFOs
They are visions clear and plain.
They sail o'er roads and meadows
And waving fields of grain.

'The UFO Song'

Their glow lights up the darkness
As they hover o'er the ground.
As they soar off toward the heavens,
They make a beeping sound.
Beep beep beep beep beep beep
beep beep beep beep beep beep
beep beep beep beep beep beep
beep beep beep beep beep beep
beep beep beep beep beep beep
beep beep beep beep beep beep

Three additional verses and many beeps follow.

He's a vigilant letter-writer, too. The *Herald's* archives contain 43 letters from Craig since 1995. He once cautioned his neighbors not to get into a shooting war "and wipe the Indians all out" over methane-gas ownership.

Craig said he used to write even more letters to the Boulder newspaper when he taught physical science at the University of Colorado. He was protesting the Vietnam War.

Opposition to the war was a position the former soldier arrived at suddenly. After he had served in World War II and received his doctorate, Craig went to work making nuclear weapons. He had a staff of 18 and believed in deterrence: "If we make them, we won't have to use them."

Then one night he went to hear an Army general speak. The general said there was no reason they shouldn't use tactical nuclear weapons to blow up bridges in Vietnam.

Craig soon quit his job. He cruised around the world to col-

lect his thoughts and started teaching, then founded the Condon Project.

As he approaches 80, Craig's position on UFOs is: "I love them."

He enjoyed watching tens of thousands of people celebrate at Roswell, N.M., in 1997, on the 50th anniversary of the supposed UFO crash. A reporter asked if he didn't think it absurd to see people celebrating nothing. Craig said, "Why not? Look how much fun they're having." He said their beliefs were no more irrational than many that others honor on Sunday mornings.

"Reports of UFOs have changed popular culture, so people are accepting the probable fact that there are intelligences elsewhere," Craig said. "It's got people out of the rut of thinking the whole universe was created for man."

Reach Staff Writer
Patricia Miller at
pmiller@durangoherald.com.



MERCURY, Leicester, England - Aug. 14, 2003

ALIEN OWNS MY MIND

The possibility of life in space had never been further from Lydia Stalnaker's mind as she drove her station wagon along a dusty road on the outskirts of Jacksonville, Florida, one summer's evening in 1974.

STRANGER THAN FICTION

BY JOHN MACKLIN

Critics brand Lydia Stalnaker a sensation-seeking fraud, a woman prey to juvenile fantasies and in need of psychiatric help.

Others believe she is telling the truth, and hypnosis, truth drugs, and lie-detection equipment have not caused her to change a detail of her story.

"I don't think she is faking," said Dr James Harder, professor of engineering at the University of California, who took part in one investigation.

Dr Evelyn Brunson, of the University of North Florida, who supervised a marathon hypnosis session, came to the conclusion that "there is no reason to doubt that Lydia is telling the truth about what she saw."

During hypnosis, Lydia described what she claimed happened after stopping the car.

"I blacked out and didn't remember anything until I was back in the car."

Then she was able to recall that she had been taken into a space-ship and, in an operation, her brain was merged with that of a female alien named Antron.

"She claimed that Antron told her she was from a green planet with two suns and that she was

thousands of years old," reported Dr Brunson.

"Antron apparently told Lydia there had been a previous landing in Florida 700 years ago and the beings had returned to make studies of earth."

Lydia claimed that, after the incident, she returned home in shock, and went to bed. All night she had nightmares and the next day was violently ill.

"The next afternoon I became better, and I discovered that I had become psychic," she said.

"I could tell a telephone was going to ring before it did, and I could read the thoughts in people's minds."

"But I continued to have nightmares. I dreamed I was on an operating table and someone was doing something to me. I would wake up shaking and crying."

Dr Brunson claims that in deep hypnosis sessions, Lydia was taken back to childhood.

"We discovered she had had an encounter with a UFO when a child and another in 1969. We were able to talk with the being called Antron while Lydia remained in deep hypnosis."

"There is no rational explanation for Lydia's behaviour. Nor is there any chance she was faking. She was in a deep trance."

Lie-detector tests have apparently showed Lydia is telling the truth when she talks of her encounter with the aliens. She says they told her they lived in a



CONVINCED: Even the experts could not fault Lydia's story

fleet of space vehicles. Communication was by telepathy and they passed on this to Lydia.

Today in demand as a psychic healer, Lydia Stalnaker says she has accepted that she must share her mind with Antron.

"She can take over my personality at will," Lydia says. "But she is a force of good. My family accept I am likely to do strange things from time to time. That's when Antron is in command."

DAVENTRY EXPRESS, Northants, England - July 31, 2003

UFOs are seen flying over town



There's something out there: Adrian Dalton saw two jellyfish like objects in the sky. Pictured above are his sketches of the UFOs. (UFO-077804)

A MAN spotted two jellyfish like objects which he could only describe as UFOs flying over

his Daventry home.

On the same day an hour before a cameraman recorded footage of similar colour and shape vessels in the night sky in Worcestershire.

Adrian Dalton, 32, of Hemans Road, Daventry was standing in his back garden with his son on Tuesday, July 22 between 10pm and 10.30pm.

He first became aware of them when he saw two black objects in the distance which he thought were birds. Next thing, they were above his home.

He said: "They were like two brown jellyfish in the sky, they looked like they were swimming and I had not taken any drugs."

The objects which were brown with a dark centre, and the size of a ten pence piece at arm's length, made a swishing sound and pul-

by Amy Olive

sated. They flew from the west over Mr Dalton's house at slow speed and he could see the propulsion system at work.

He said: "I have been interested in these objects for 15 years but for the past few days I have been trying to come to terms with what I've seen. They were fascinating."

"It's an infinite universe, we're not the only life and it's pretty egotistical to think we are."

Earlier this summer a woman from Crick had a paranormal experience which she recounted to UFO magazine, Rapport.

She was walking in the village on June 16 when she saw an aeroplane with a lozenge-shaped object above it which was going at some speed alongside the plane.

Then when she looked again the object was underneath the plane but quickly shot off very quickly in the opposite direction.

Is Daventry a target for extraterrestrial activity? Have you had an encounter with UFOs? If so call the Gusher on 01327 703383.

New UFO theory

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 in 1980 is that it was due to a bored young man driving on the runway with flashing lights on his patrol car. Kevin Conde, who retired as a technical sergeant, stated he wanted to play a prank on one of his colleagues.

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

EVENING NEWS, Norwich, England - Sept. 8, 2003

'Door to new world'

A FOREST could be an eerie gateway to other dimensions, investigators claimed yesterday.

Experts spent a night in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, where it's believed a UFO landed in 1981, and say they found supernatural goings-on.

They included "evidence" of a yeti-like creature, the ghost of an RAF pilot and strange flashing lights.

Michael Lewis, of the Association For The Scientific Study Of Anomalous Phenomena, said: "My own tentative conclusions are that Rendlesham is a portal between the dimensions."

DAILY STAR, London, England - Nov. 8, 2003 CR: N. Oliver

STRANGE VISITORS: A scene from Steven Spielberg's 1970s classic *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, above, and his endearing alien ET, below right.

Did you have a close encounter with UFO?

'Spacecraft' is spotted in our skies

UFO investigators are targeting Suffolk in their quest to find alien life.

The county has become the focus for alien hunters, in a case worthy of X-Files agents Mulder and Scully, after a strange sighting of an apparently alien craft in the skies over east Suffolk.

Eagle-eyed residents living along the banks of the River Orwell may have witnessed a close encounter of the third kind if they had glanced up at the starry sky.

A strange yellow D-shaped object was spotted overhead by a man in his garden at Preston.

He watched in wonder as the UFO changed shape before it altered course and flew off at around 11pm on August 5.

But instead of phoning home, like

Steven Spielberg's ET, the man called the operator, who put him through to Contact - an organisation based in Oxfordshire which records and researches UFO sightings.

The organisation treats all reported sightings in the strictest confidence, so was not prepared to identify the witness.

The object could not have been very high as the witness saw an aeroplane flying above it, but he knew it was not the moon, as he could see this clearly.

It was not the police helicopter either. According to a police spokeswoman, it was not in the area that night.

Contact spokesman, Michael Sopher, said: "It would interesting to

By **ANDY HOLLIS**

andy.hollis@eveningstar.co.uk



PLEA FOR INFORMATION: Michael Sopher

know if anyone else saw the same thing.

"Any sightings over the Ipswich area are of great interest to us due to the historic events at Rendlesham. New evidence recently released from the government admits that this event was a proper UFO landing."

Rendlesham is renowned worldwide for the events in 1980 when American airmen claimed a UFO landed in the forest at their airbase.

The events remain unexplained although recently someone came forward claiming to have set up the strange events as a hoax.

However, Mr Sopher believes no-one could have damaged leaves 50ft up in the trees or caused the surge in radioactivity measured in the area.

He added: "In East Anglia, reported sightings differ from other areas. There are lots of reports of strange objects flying inland from the sea and then back again."

"There was a wave of UFO sightings in Birmingham in June. Many people reported seeing lights zig-zagging in the sky near the airport."

■ Did you see the strange object? Write in to Your Letters, Evening Star, 30 Lower Brook Street, Ipswich, IP4 1AN, e-mail eveningstarletters@eveningstar.co.uk or visit the forum at www.eveningstar.co.uk



FAST facts: Britain's most famous UFO encounter

Happened during three nights over Christmas in 1980 when it is said a UFO crash-landed in Rendlesham Forest close to the American airbase.

Two airmen went to investigate strange lights in the forest and came across a metallic glowing object which manoeuvred through the trees and disappeared.

Animals on the nearby farm were said to have gone into a frenzy.

Two nights later the object reappeared and base commander Lt Col Holt reported in a memo to the Ministry of Defence that he had seen a red sun-like object which divided into five.

On the third night, servicemen taped their panicked conversation as they saw lights moving through the trees.

The forest is still an attraction for UFOlogists today, some of whom will spend whole nights there.

Source: www.ufology.org.uk



TRUTH IS OUT THERE: Mulder and Scully from TV's X-Files could have all the answers.

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Oct. 10, 2003 CR: G. Conway

Most UFO sightings are explainable, says expert, but there are some ...

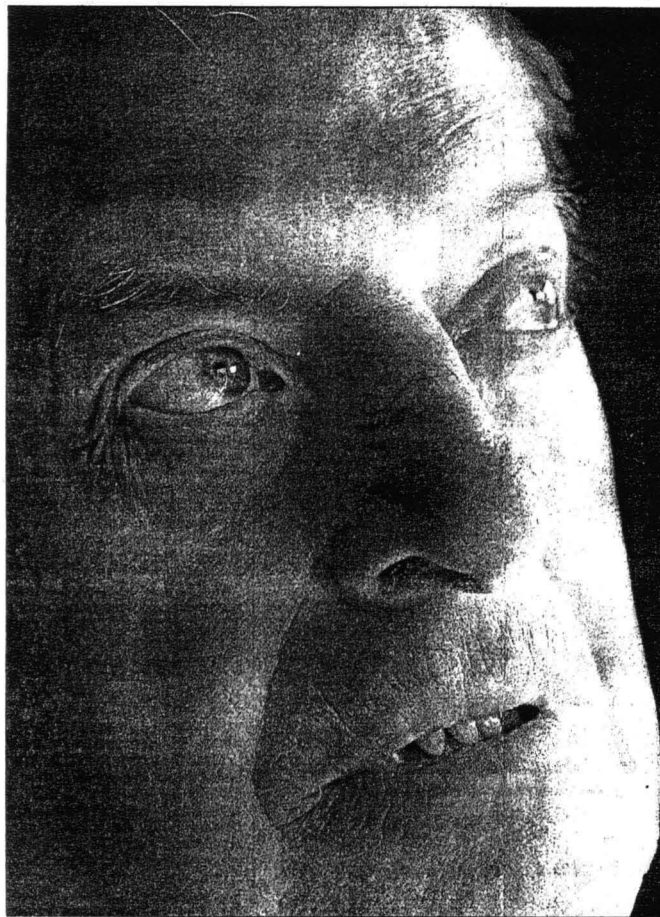
UFO researcher Chris Styles says convincing people they haven't seen an alien spacecraft is often impossible. Mr. Styles, who is to speak this weekend in Halifax at an international symposium on unidentified flying objects, says 90% of UFO sightings are mistakes. The bright lights of the International Space Station, for example, regularly trips up casual ob-

TO BOLDLY GLOW

servers. "I think they want to have a little of the magic and be a part of it," said Mr. Styles, co-author of *Dark Object*, a book about what some say was a UFO crash in Shag Harbour, N.S., in 1967. However, he said proof UFOs

exist can be found in government documents. Through federal access requests, he's found detailed RCMP and Defence Department reports chronicling decades of strange sightings in our skies. *The Canadian Press*





I didn't believe in UFOs before that night

PICTURE: ANDY BAKER / 130149.7

'SEEING IS BELIEVING': Arthur Warrington says that, 50-odd years ago, while waiting for a bus, he saw a UFO. 'I don't know where it came from, it was just there, a few hundred feet off the ground'

It was like a scene from every science-fiction film you've ever laughed at - a huge, circular, flying object, piloted by little men with big heads and protruding eyes, hanging like a glowing cloud above an old shoe factory in Leicester's West End. Not the vast plains of the Nevada desert, or the White House, or even a huge station which might pull the ship down like a giant magnet - just a modest shoe factory on the outskirts of Leicester.

Arthur Warrington, waiting for a bus with his mother and friends, stood there slack-jawed, fixed to the spot, gawping at this circular airship like a kid on a ghost train.

It made no sound, he says, and it didn't move. It just hovered.

Inside, there were funny-looking men with big heads peering out of a window - no doubt returning Arthur's clueless stare and casting an unappreciative glance over the old shoe factory.

Arthur swears it is a true story, a genuine close encounter of the strangest kind. It was more than 50 years ago, he says, dusting off an anecdote he has dined out on more times in the past five decades than his favourite lunch.

Still, he sighs, despite his earnest retelling of his favourite tale from the twilight zone, not many people believe him.

"I don't blame people for not believing me," he shrugs.

"I didn't believe in UFOs before that night. In fact, I don't think I had ever heard of them, to be honest."

"But I know what I saw and it was just like that, just how I've

**DO UFOs EXIST?
AND DID ARTHUR
WARRINGTON SEE
ONE IN THE SKY
ABOVE
LEICESTER?
LEE MARLOW
REPORTS ON
A CLOSE
ENCOUNTER**

described it to you. Seeing is believing."

But that's the trouble with UFO stories - if you don't see it, you probably don't believe it.

So all you are left with is the bare bones of an extravagant story played out on a humble backdrop - in this case, a glowing, extraordinary extra-terrestrial spaceship amid the ordinary landscape of Leicester.

If aliens were visiting this planet for the first time, why would they come here?

They probably took one look at the old factory, saw Arthur and his mates rooted like vegetables to the spot and thought: "Blow this - why should we land here?"

But why shouldn't they, insists Arthur. Why shouldn't aliens appear to a group of men and women waiting in Fosse Road North to catch a bus into town so they could play whist at the Cathedral schoolrooms?

It was a balmy Autumn night in mid-October, the sun just setting and the West End of

UNEXPLAINED



LEICESTERSHIRE

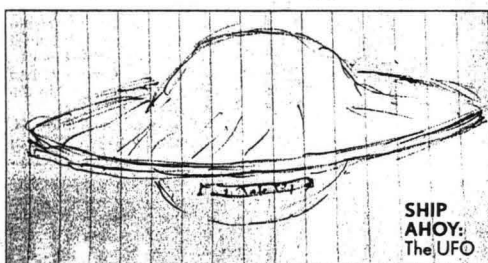
Leicester was bathed in a warm, orange light.

It was a beautiful night and not yet dark, recalls Arthur, 78.

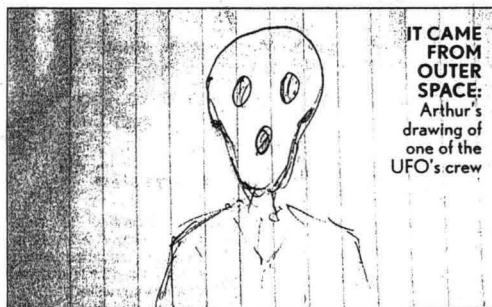
"I didn't hear a thing," he says. "I was at the bus stop and just looked round and there it was, hovering over the factory."

The UFO was huge, he says, as big as the factory, and yet he had no idea where it came from or how it got there.

Sorry, Arthur, but we have to ask - had you been drinking that evening?



SHIP
AHOY:
The UFO



IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE: Arthur's drawing of one of the UFO's crew

"No, I hadn't touched a drop. That's what everyone says. I don't know where this thing came from, it was just there, a few hundred feet off the ground."

You must have been pretty scared, then?

"No, I don't think any of us were scared," he says. "It wasn't threatening. It had three windows and I could see three men through one of them, quite small, wearing white smocks, with big eyes and big heads."

"I tell you what, though, I couldn't concentrate on my cards that night. Not after that." The ship floated off, away from the old factory and off towards, erm, New Parks.

The next day, a report appeared in the Leicester Evening Mail. It helped to add a smidgen of respectability to Arthur's tale of the unexpected, but still, every time he recounted the episode, he could see people's eyes glazing over.

Graham Birdsall, editor of UFO magazine in Leeds, has heard it all before.

More than 500 reports of unidentified flying objects land on his desk every year.

Up to 95 per cent of them can be explained and subsequently discounted.

"Look, no-one is more sceptical than me when it comes to UFOs, and we do try to examine these reports in great detail," he says.

"But even if we discount 95 per cent of these reports, that still leaves between 20 and 30 sight-

ings every year which we can't explain."

The hottest UFO spots in the UK are Bonnybridge, near Falkirk, Scotland, and Bonsall, in Derbyshire. Have we had many in Leicestershire?

"Not many that I know of," says Graham. "If extra terrestrials are looking to land, they're maybe not targeting Leicester."

Which is a shame, because at the National Space Centre, communications manager Kevin Yates is keeping an open mind.

"We don't like to dismiss these reports without looking into them," he says. "There again, they do seem unlikely."

"There are some things that can't be explained - but just because we can't explain them scientifically, it doesn't necessarily mean that unidentified objects in the sky are space ships manned by Martians."

Usually, says Kevin, most accounts of a UFO are weather balloons or the planet Venus.

"During early morning and late evening, if the sky is still blue, Venus is the brightest star in the sky."

"It's a very bright light and often confused for something else," says Kevin.

"You have to put these things in perspective. The nearest star to us is 4.3 million light years away. The fastest space ship we have, Voyager, covers around 17.3 km per second."

"At the very least, it would take around 73,000 years to get here."

"When you think about the kind of distances involved, I think it makes the odds of us being visited by extra-terrestrials unlikely, to be honest."

WALSALL OBSERVER, Staffs., England - Aug. 29, 2003

Seven UFO sightings in six months - claim

Paranormal activity may not just be restricted to the X-Files after a Walsall man claims to have made SEVEN UFO sightings this year.

Paul Riccobono, from Harden Road, Bloxwich, said he had seen an unusual looking object on a number of occasions during the last six months.

The first sighting of the shining 'bell-like' object floating through the sky was made in Bloxwich on January 29.

But Mr Riccobono says he has spotted the UFO a further six

times with the last sighting taking place as he walked past the town hall on 17 June.

Mr Riccobono, who has photographic evidence which he believes confirms his suspicions, said he was unsure of what the flying object was on first inspection.

"I watched for about 15 minutes and originally thought it was an aeroplane," he said.

"But it was unusual because of the way it was lit up and pointing up towards the sky."

"As I looked closer it was clear it

was something different to an aeroplane.

"It had a bell-like shape and was moving sideways in the air instead of heading in one direction."

It is not the first time that a UFO is believed to have been seen in Walsall after sightings a few years ago.

Residents claimed they had seen a 'flying triangle', while various other sighting reports were made across the country.

EXPRESS, Dover, England - Oct. 2, 2003

Town popular with ET

DOVER is experiencing an unprecedented number of UFO sightings though enthusiasts have been quick to stress the term 'unexplained' does not automatically mean space craft.

The latest eye witness account tells of a silent illumination which hovered over the A258 for several minutes one night last month.

A motorist and his passenger were travelling to Deal and at 8.15pm two bright lights appeared approximately 1,000 feet above sea level and were joined by a third,

flickering light in the middle. Other unidentified objects have been sighted in broad daylight.

UFO Monitors - East Kent spokesman Chris Rolfe said: "This is known as a flat, when you get loads of reports of sightings in one area. However, there are times, like in Germany, when lots of people were saying there was something strange in the sky and didn't think it could have been Mars."

To report a sighting, call the UFOMEK national rate hotline on 0870 046 2270.

Woman shares tale right out of The X-Files

■ Kelowna resident goes public with alien abduction story in hopes of meeting other victims

By ROB LINDSAY
The Okanagan Sunday

Corina once enjoyed the quiet pleasure of gazing into distant constellations. Now, looking up at the stars brings only a sense of terror to the 47-year-old Kelowna woman.

Corina alleges she has seen strange objects darting about the sky high above Kelowna, with the most recent of her sightings occurring this past summer.

She also believes she has been abducted by something best described as extraterrestrial in origin.

It's not something she likes to talk about. Her eyes grew wide as pointed questions about the alleged abduction were directed at her during an interview in a crowded Kelowna coffee shop, and she asked that her last name not be published to protect her children from harassment. She trembled slightly and slowly began to recount the events of the July night when something unexplainable happened to her and a friend visiting the Okanagan.

"It was a little past midnight when my friend suggested we go out stargazing. I didn't really want to go," she said. "I was tired, but we went out anyway — jumped in my car and headed off to the Glenmore area on Spall Road."

There, Corina stopped the car on the shoulder of the road and shone a flashlight out the window — a precursory check for cougars and bears, she said.

The two women then got out of the vehicle, confident they were safe, and gazed up into the inky blackness of the warm Okanagan night.

"Look at those stars, up there in the triangular pattern, my friend said to me."

No sooner had her friend pointed out the mysterious configuration of lights than the odd formation started to shift and change colours dramatically.

What happened next, according to Corina, is the stuff of which science fiction movies are made.

"Then, in the bushes, I saw a long, grey arm and shoulder, and part of a bulbous head with glowing, green, almond-shaped eyes. I really panicked. My flashlight started malfunctioning and I couldn't move."

Corina said she and her friend stood there, amazed and frightened at the pattern of mysterious lights moving erratically overhead, and terrified to the bone of the beings in the bushes with the glowing, green eyes.

She said it felt as though only a few moments had passed, but when the two women realized more than 35 minutes had elapsed, they jumped in the car and took off for home.

The next morning, the women noticed odd burn marks on their bodies. "My doctor told me that if he didn't know any better, he'd think they were radiation burns," Corina said.

She chose not to tell him her strange story of flying lights and glowing, green eyes in the bushes.

"I couldn't tell the doctor," she said. "He would have put us away in white jackets."



Corina



STARGAZER: Evening Express reporter Graham Lawther saw 16 strange lights cross northern skies near his home in Fyvie.

Mystery after UFO sightings puzzle experts

Reporter has well-lit close encounter

STRANGE lights in the North-east night sky have baffled the experts.

Sixteen lights travelling rapidly across clear skies were spotted over two nights by a Fyvie resident.

Air traffic control bosses and aviation experts have ruled out aircraft or satellites, because the lights were travelling too fast to be planes or orbiting objects.

Astronomy experts say the lights could not have been "shooting stars" because they were travelling too slowly and from different directions.

One North-east UFO expert was at a loss to offer a straightforward explanation and said the mysterious sightings should be logged as genuine close encounters with unidentified flying objects.

The high-level Fyvie flyovers first appeared on Thursday about 10.30pm and were still crossing silently overhead more than two hours later.

They took only seconds to cross the sky, then gave a repeat performance on Friday night

and into Saturday morning. Resident and Evening Express reporter Graham Lawther said he spotted the first lights at 10.35pm on Thursday.

He said: "I had stepped outside for a good view of Mars, which is closer to the earth now than it has been for thousands of years, on what was a crystal-clear, moonless night."

"But I also saw a small white light, high in the atmosphere, appear in the southern sky and fly extremely fast to the north."

"It was far too rapid for an aircraft. It was across the whole sky in under 10 seconds and a plane would have taken several minutes."

Mr Lawther saw seven identical, fast-moving pinpoints of light between 10.35pm and 11.20pm, and six more from 12.15am-12.45am.

Three more were witnessed on the Friday night, between 10.20pm and 10.35pm, the first

heading south and two more quickly heading north.

The lights, which appeared to be at the altitude of a high-flying aircraft gave off a white glow.

A RAF Kinloss spokeswoman said: "We had no activity in that area on either day."

A National Air Traffic Services spokesman said: "I have checked with our colleagues in Aberdeen and Prestwick, which covers the upper air space."

"There are no reports of any sightings from either night."

A spokesman for the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh said the lights could have been satellites in high orbit.

He said large satellites were occasionally seen with the naked eye, though never 13 in less than two hours.

He said they were almost always observed shortly before dawn or after dusk, when sunlight reflected off their highly polished surfaces.

SEEN A UFO?

Write to Evening Express, Lang Stracht, Mastrick, Aberdeen AB15 6DF or e-mail ee.news@ajl.co.uk

Our skies are hotspot for saucers

THE North-east is a global hotspot for UFO sightings.

Aberdonian Ian Taylor, who has been studying the subject for more than 50 years, said folk travel to this region from all over the country in the hope of a close encounter. Lights and objects were regularly seen near Muchalls, Portlethen, Deeside and the area north of Aberdeen, he explained.

The ex-RAF man said it would be difficult to explain away the sheer number of the latest phenomena in the skies above Fyvie as aircraft, satellites or shooting stars.

"These were obviously aerial objects, either generating their own light or reflecting light," said Mr Taylor.

"What was seen was straightforward UFO activity."

Mr Taylor said no one should jump to the conclusion that the sightings were necessarily "craft from another planet", but said they were certainly unexplained observations of unidentified objects.

"The frequency of sightings up here is immense," said Mr Taylor, who lives in Aberdeen's West End.

"If you are willing to go out and look in the evening, particularly in the winter time, you would be able to see things you would not believe. Recent North-east sightings have included:

- A hovering ball of light seen from Kincorth for two hours last January.
- A silent red light following a couple in their car on the A90 just south of Aberdeen in December 2002, which shot off vertically.
- Two bright globes spinning above Cruden Bay in October 2001, which faded after 10 minutes.
- A black wing-like object, which glowed and buzzed a couple's home in Aboyne — and which was also seen by a man driving between Daviot and Oldmeldrum.

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Derby, England - Aug. 9, 2003

Mystery of lights in sky

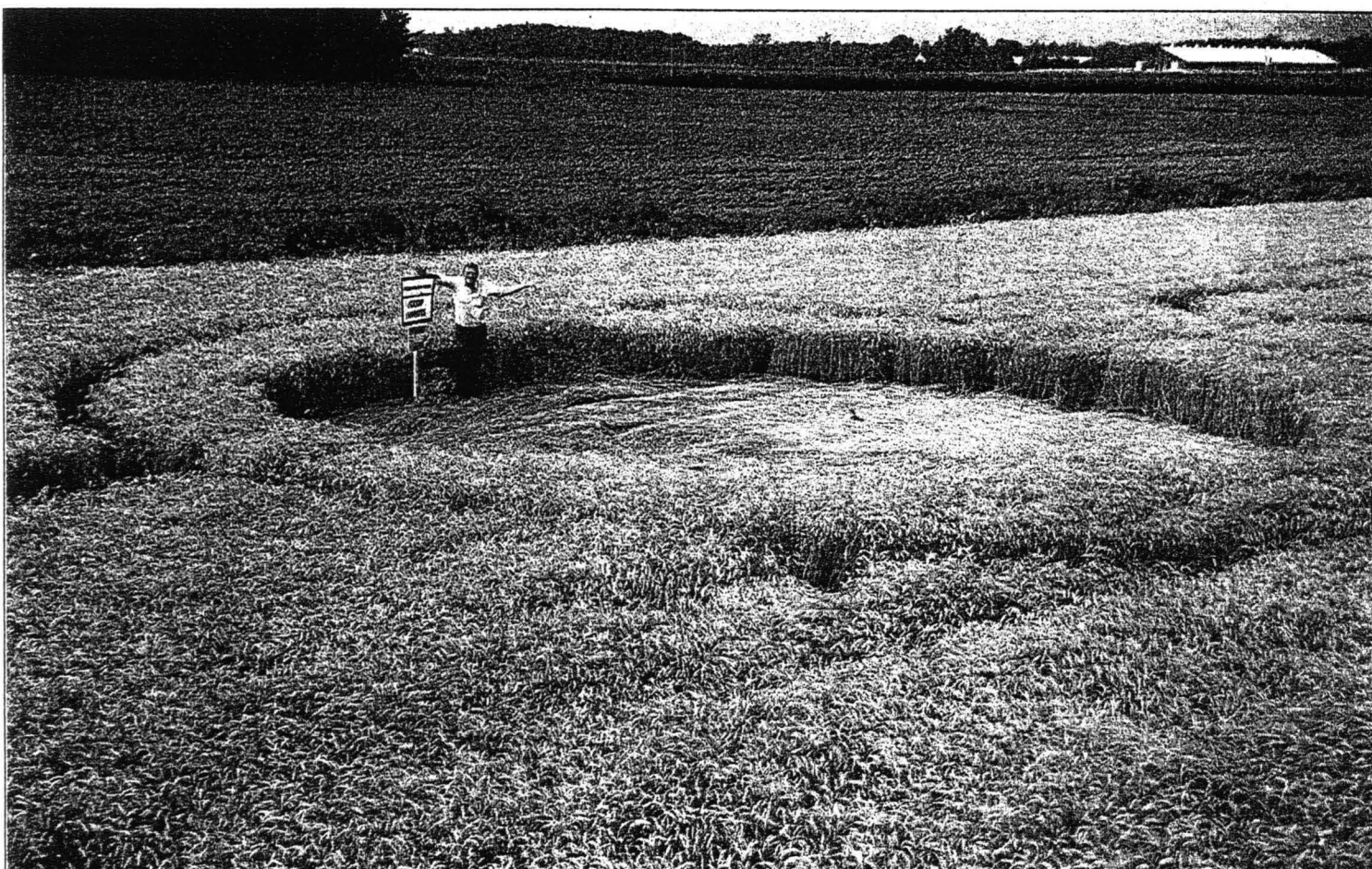
I AM a keen astronomy observer and, on Saturday night, I was at my brother-in-law's house in Littleover village. We had been observing for an hour-and-a-half (it was about 11.15pm) when we both saw a group of eight or nine lights overhead.

At first we thought they were a meteor breaking up — however, the level of brightness did not change and they did not burn up.

There were four lights in a central position with the others around the edges. They passed from east to west at a constant speed and, whilst moving away, the outer lights converged towards the inner lights.

Does anyone know what it was? I have been observing the night sky for many years and I have truly never witnessed anything like I saw on Saturday.

David Selfe,
Oxenhope Close,
Littleover.



THE CANADIAN PRESS

Farmer Ervine Willert stands in a crop circle on Friday which appeared in his 16-hectare wheat field in Hensall, Ont., on Wednesday evening.

Crop circles appear at Ontario farm

Geometric spectacle likely not a hoax, expert researcher says after inspection

The Canadian Press
HENSALL, ONT.

Hundreds of people are flocking to a southern Ontario farm to inspect something they've only seen in the movies—crop circles.

Erv Willert says the elaborate geometric signs appeared in his 16-hectare wheat field on Wednesday evening, and he

doesn't think anybody in the area is responsible.

"There's nobody with enough energy to do this," he said. "They'd get one circle done and lay down and have a beer."

When told by a farm worker about the strange shapes in the field, Willert said he replied, "What's a crop circle?"

Willert said he isn't entirely

amused by the strange shapes, which include two circles with a 15-metre radius, but he's having fun with his visitors.

"It was pretty unexplainable, I guess," said Mike Klaassen, a local resident who took in the spectacle on Friday. "It's all mathematically proportional, so it's pretty crazy."

According to those who study crop circles, the ones in Hensall are as legitimate as they come.

As the Ontario field co-ordinator for the Canadian Crop Circle

Research Network, Joanna Emery travels around the province checking out crop-circle sightings. Having seen the shapes at Willert's farm, Emery said they have all the earmarks of a natural design.

"This is something that's virtually impossible to hoax because the plant has been changed at a cellular level," said Emery, noting the plant is bent at the base but not broken. "This is quite possibly a genuine one. It definitely deserves more investigation."

CHELMSFORD & MALDON YELLOW ADVERTISER, England - Aug. 14, 2003

Area has largest tally of county sightings Town is UFO hotspot

By Jon Austin

BASILDON is the Essex hotspot for UFO sightings this year according to research groups.

Mark Doulton, chairman of Southend UFO group, said the area has had the largest amount of incidents across the county over the last 12 months.

He said: "Sightings have included separate accounts of flying black triangles and glowing white orbs moving at incredible speed near Cranes Farm Road."

"One of the most interesting involved a black drum-shaped object with a red light either side which was visible over St

Nicholas Church in Laindon early one evening in February."

Mr Doulton also shed some light over sightings of a mystery light seen at Pitsea in May this year.

Residents reported the strange light that travelled eastwards before exploding and leaving a trail of smoke just before midnight.

After we featured it in a short article the news room was flooded with similar reports, including one from a pensioner in Whitmore Way who said she watched it travel past her house for five minutes and described it as 'beautiful'.

Shelly Hicks from Chalvedon said: "It looked like a firework or flare but there was no

noise at all. I looked away and when I looked back the light had gone and there was just a trail of smoke left in the sky."

Mr Doulton said: "I have discussed the details you have forwarded with a local astronomy expert who is reasonably certain that the object seen was either a satellite or a meteor burning up in the earth's atmosphere."

Although we are not totally certain, as we would need much more detail from the witnesses to the event, it is reasonable to assume the above."

If you saw the object on May 17 or have seen any other UFOs across Basildon please call Jon Austin on 01268 503465 or e-mail him at basil-don@yellowad.co.uk

UFO spotted over town

A UFO was spotted over Whitehaven on Saturday night.

People in the Corkickle, Valley, area of Whitehaven saw a big star surrounded by white lights and what appeared to be a framework.

One of the residents, John Burns, of Irt Avenue, came into The Whitehaven News office to report the sighting.

"It was pear shaped and came in from the Solway Firth over the Valley. There were no navigation lights, just white lights all round it and some sort of fabrication linking the thing up. It was very unusual. I had never seen anything like it - and none of us had been drinking."

There was also a twist in the tail of the so-called flying saucer.

"Just as it went off in a south-easterly direction towards the Lake District, some broke off or was jettisoned, falling to earth like a flash of light," said an amazed Mr Burns.

WHITEHAVEN NEWS, Cumberland, England - Aug. 28, 2003



THE BOISSEVAIN RECORDER

The discovery of crop circles on Ben Martens's farm north of Boissevain was kept secret until after harvest.

Crop circles touch down

*Discovery by
Boissevain farmer
among 16 cases
in Canada in '03*

By Bill Redekop

BEN Martens was headed to his wheat field near Boissevain when he was stopped abruptly by what he soon realized was more than just common vandalism.

Crop circles!

He raced back to the farmhouse to inform his family.

"We kind of laughed and said Ben had been in the combine too long," said wife Ellen. "But when you see it for yourself, it really is amazing."

The family kept news of their Aug. 12 discovery under wraps because it was too busy with harvesting. But by month's end people were phoning and dropping by to see the phenomenon for themselves.

The Martens farm is 1.6 kilometres

north of Boissevain along No. 10 provincial highway.

The crop circles aren't just circles, but a fairly elaborate series of circles and lines.

For example, the Boissevain circles look like a pair of eyes, one peering through a monocle, or an unfinished piece of curling ice.

But if extraterrestrials are out to impress, they needn't have bothered.

The patterns of various crop circles across Canada look more like doodling in a geometry scribbler.

There have been 16 reported cases of crop circles in Canada this year. One near Cranbrook, Ont., looks like someone wearing headphones, while another near Stewarttown, Ont., could be a failed patent application from the 18th Century. The circles found near Tisdale, Sask., look like bubbles rising from a glass of ale.

Many people hold to the idea that the crop circles are a hoax. In 1991, two English pub crawlers confessed to having made 200 crop circles in the south England countryside over a period of about 15 years. Then they got out some planks, a garden roller and a piece of string to show how they did it.

But Michael Issigonis, local representative of the Canadian Crop Circles

Research Network, notes there have been over 10,000 crops circles reported from all parts of the globe. That's a lot of hoaxing.

The confounding part of the crop circles is their perfection, said Issigonis, a former geologist who is now an associate education professor at Brandon University.

He said one of the best theories may be that the patterns are made by some kind of frequency from space, a theory developed by Gerald Hawkings, former head of astronomy at Boston University.

Applying Hawkings's complex formula, Issigonis transcribed the Boissevain crop circles into musical scales: a middle C, then C again an octave higher, then E in that same octave, and finally F one octave above that. It isn't exactly a melody that will carry Issigonis to the top of the charts with a hit single, he confessed.

"I played the notes on the piano and it made a melody, but not much of one," he said, laughing.

Meanwhile, the Martens family is still welcoming visitors of the corporeal kind to see what visited their wheat field last month.

He hasn't decided yet whether to harvest that last bit of wheat.

UFO Out of the ordinary

By NADINE MILLER

A COUPLE have reported seeing UFOs on the A20 between Dover and Folkestone.

The sightings happened when the motorists were driving along the dual carriage way on Thursday

August 21 and at approximately 10.30pm they saw bright fiery lights in the night sky.

The unidentified flying objects were said to have hovered for about five minutes, about the size of a large football, on fire.

The alarmed motorists, who have not yet been

named, contacted the UFO Monitors East Kent hotline to describe the floating, fiery spheres which, at one point, they reported as being only an arm's length away. UFOMEK's Chris Rolfe, from Folkestone, said: "It was the co-driver who first saw between seven and eight bright lights.

"To begin with they thought they were reflections but they disappeared and came back over the western part of the road over Folkestone way. When the lights were in the sky the motorists said there was

no noise and that they were just really interested to finding out what they were."

Mr Rolfe doubts the lights are the work of alien visitors from another world but said they could be something from earth which we just cannot explain or understand. He said: "There are all kinds of unexplained happenings in the sky. The blue flashes reported over Sandwich could be doorways into other dimensions, or gas. Remember, several

years ago people thought it was strange when sightings were made of flashes before an earthquake but now we know it's the friction of the earth's crust scientists now call them earthquake lights. The lights a fortnight ago could have been lasers from a nightclub, but it was a clear night and they usually need cloud cover for the rays to bounce off."

For more information about UFOMEK or to report a sighting, please call 0870 046 2270. Calls are charged at the national rate.

Like spaceships passing in the night

TODAY'S letter, I think, speaks for itself...

Dear John,

I have hardly talked about this before (people tend to look at you as if they see water burning), but I have seen something UFO-like twice in my life.

The first time, it didn't seem to notice or frighten me or my friend. We simply concluded, "Oh look, a UFO", as if that is something you see flying around every day. Yet it felt very special.

The second time was more peculiar. We were bringing my boat home and had suffered some serious technical problems. It was the middle of the



By John Michell

night and we were in the middle of nowhere, tired and very anxious to reach a safe harbour.

I started to think, "If the engine fails now, or the boat sinks we will be lost. If there is something out there please help us, I can't keep on like this."

I was keeping my mouth shut because the tension was quite enough without expressing my fears when whatever it was suddenly came floating from behind some dark tree-tops ashore on our right.

A bright light dimmed every time I looked at it, only to brighten again when I turned my gaze away.

It kept changing speed and hiding behind trees but it never changed its

altitude. At first I thought it was my fatigue playing tricks on me, but after a while I informed my friend.

I thought he would see nothing, proving that the whole thing was just my imagination. But he saw exactly what I saw. He froze and felt goose-bumps, too.

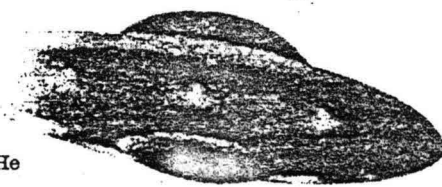
The light stayed close to us until we finally reached a harbour.

In the morning, we woke up to find ourselves next to a big cargo boat which was willing to tow us home.

Without that tow, we might never have reached home safely.

Best regards,

Hanneke van Dongen



LIFE-SAVER: A flying saucer

HAVE you had a mysterious experience? If so, I'd love to hear from you. Drop me a line at the Daily Mirror, One Canada Square, London E14 5AP, or email me at mystery@bubble.com

JOURNAL, Shepton Mallet, England - Aug. 14, 2003

Was it a bird? Was it a plane? Or a UFO?

A group of Shepton Mallet residents have said they are convinced they may have seen a UFO flying over the town of Saturday evening.

Dozens of people saw a strange light, without any sound at all, make its way in an easterly direction over the town at around 9pm.

Among those who saw it were a group of Westway Lane residents and one of them, Taffy Stride, spoke to this newspaper earlier this week.

He said: "The thing was dome shaped and seemed to have a bright white flame at the bottom, but there was no sound at all.

"We were sitting in the garden at the time and saw it come down to what seemed to be a few feet above the house.

"It was a clear night and after a while, the thing made its way away from the

By Alan Williams

town towards Doulling. The whole thing lasted about 20 minutes.

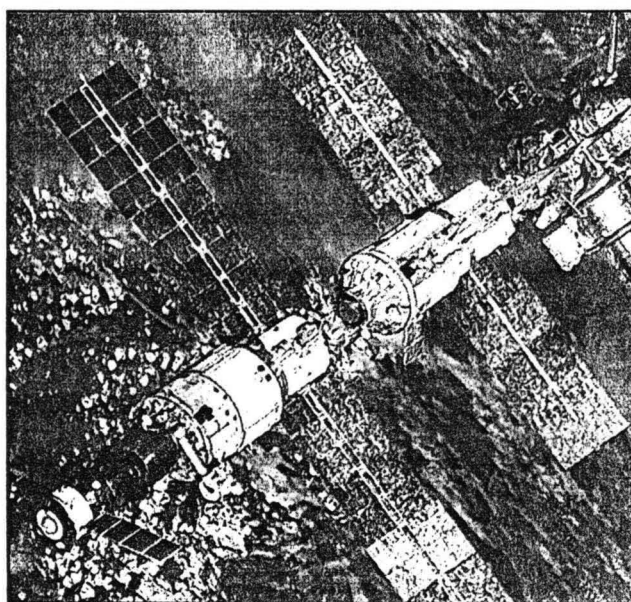
"I had never seen anything like it and I have spoken to several people since who have said exactly the same."

Town clerk Graham Brown also saw something in the sky that night, but he could pinpoint what it was.

He said: "The international space station was due to fly over Shepton Mallet at around 9.30pm on Saturday night.

"It went over at a very high altitude and in the same direction, towards Doulling, but it does seem strange that several residents have seen something else at around the same time."

● Did you see the object flying over Shepton Mallet on Saturday night? Have you any idea what it could



The International Space Station, which flew over Shepton Mallet on Saturday. However, some residents are convinced they saw something much closer and more sinister

have been? Write to us at the Shepton Mallet Journal, Southover, Wells, Somerset,

BA5 1UH or e-mail shepton@midsonnews.co.uk.

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.]

December 29, 2003 — ANSA News Agency — RUSSIA: UFO MOBILIZES CIVIL DEFENSE — MOSCOW, 29 (ANSA) - Russian Civil Defense authorities sent a helicopter to the Russian Siberian region of Kemerovo, whose inhabitants claimed having seen an unidentified flying object which gave the impression of having "landed."

Regional authorities quoted by the Itar-Tass news agency explained that in early hours of December 26th, residents of the city of Gurievsk followed the maneuvers of a UFO for over half an hour. The object, which had the appearance of a fireball, eventually fell to earth.

According to eyewitness accounts, no explosions were heard, nor were any reports of fires or toppled trees received, as seems to occur whenever a meteorite is involved. (ANSA). — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

January 4, 2004 — Planeta UFO, Argentina — UFO OVER ROSARIO — The UFO was seen last Saturday, December 27, between 1 and 1:30 a.m. in the "El Patio de la Madera" sector of the city of Rosario. The luminous object traveled from west to east at a speed similar to that of an airliner. Upon seeing the object, the eyewitness ran for his camcorder but couldn't find a free tape, so he chose not to waste any more time and used his digital camera.

Rosario is less than 60 km distant, in a straight line, from the city of Victoria in the province of Entre Rios, which is famous for sightings that involve lights similar to the ones shown in the photos. The person who sent the images to the list states that a fisherman recognized the object and said that it was identical to others that he had seen in the past over the same area. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

CREDIT FOR TRANSLATION: Jane Guma

July 22, 2003 — *La Capital*, Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina [www.lacapital.com.ar] — Frightened in Greece by an alleged UFO — Fear swept North Greece for the second time in a month, due to the sighting of what many are sure was an unidentified flying object. "It was a UFO. We saw it. It came from the East and lighted up the whole area," said a resident of the town of Nevrokopi, close to the border with Bulgaria. Already in mid-June, a similar object in the northern part of Greece caused a sensation. Scientists believe the luminous object that the locals see is either a meteorite or part of an old satellite that lights up when entering the atmosphere. This is a "normal, albeit strange phenomenon," they said. (DPA) — CREDIT: Jane Guma

October 15, 2003 — *La Capital*, Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina [www.lacapital.com.ar] — Neighbors in Casilda claim having seen a "black elf" — They say it appears at night in the Candelaria channel, is short and has a hairy body — Gustavo Orellano, *La Capital* — Casilda — The press report that the police published yesterday about last weekend's crimes in this city and the rest of the Caseros department did not highlight the usual robberies but a report about the appearance in the Candelaria channel of an alleged "black elf".

The local press took this as some kind of a joke and all sorts of comments were made about it. However, some neighbors of the Nueva Roma district (barrio) who live in a group of tin huts alongside the "zanjon" (large ditch), as the locals call the Candelaria channel, claim having seen a "little hairy black dwarf" a few nights ago who did its best to scare them or at least intrigue them. While they still don't know what it was, the police investigated. For many "it's no more than a stupid thing," although some believe in this alleged phenomenon based on old local legends about elves.

Small, hairy and black

"I heard my dog, barking a lot, so I came out with a flashlight to see what was going on. At first I didn't see anything, but then I lit another sector and saw something small, hairy and black that seemed to be trying to climb up the channel. I couldn't see it well because the night was very dark," said a woman who claimed having witnessed the strange apparition.

She also said she heard a sound similar to "a child's hiccups", and that she was very scared. "We are afraid because some legends say there are elves that come to take the babies and there are many kids in this barrio," she said.

A man also claimed having seen the little night visitor "in the channel and standing on some stones," and agreed that "its whole body was covered in hair."

According to the local residents, the alleged black elf was first seen last Friday night and although they say it had appeared at other times, the police searched the place and found nothing. "There are holes that weren't there before, but we don't know if he (the elf) did it or an animal, but for sure this is very strange," said another woman. "It was the size of a three or four year old kid and was all hairy. Several of us saw it here in the barrio, but it seems that when they look for it and it hears noises, it doesn't show up," she said. — CREDIT: Richard Heiden, via Roberto Banchs

October 16, 2003 — *La Capital*, Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina [www.lacapital.com.ar] — They believe that a "black elf" is an otter — The alleged appearance in the Candelaria channel in Casilda caused quite an impact and all kinds of comments — Gustavo Orellano, *La Capital* — Casilda — The impact and all kinds of comments that the alleged appearance of a black elf close to the Candelaria channel in this city caused, as *La Capital* published yesterday, seems to have a "logical" explanation that throws overboard any speculation fed by legends or popular beliefs.

For the Casilda Hunting and Fishing Club, "it's not an elf but an otter," what the people living alongside the channel saw. However, the police is still investigating because up to now they couldn't find out what it was, according to Sergio Ortiz, a spokesman from the IV Regional Police Unit of the Caseros Department. "Some mention a 60 cm (23") tall hairy being with human features, others associate this with an animal, we have nothing concrete," he said.

Those who encouraged the version about the alleged appearance of a black elf speak of a kind of tiny creature with its body covered with black hair. However, the description could fit that of an otter when—as it sometimes does—it stands on its two hind legs to scratch its head or does other things that they do naturally, and which in the dark can be easily confused with a short human being. At least that's the explanation Adrian Beltrame, one of the members of the Casilda Hunting and Fishing Club gave.

"When subjects such as these come up, a logical and rational explanation has to be found, that's why we believe it was most probably an otter," said Beltrame, categorically. For him, [p] what the people say they saw is compatible with the morphology, attitude and behavior of this mammal rodent that "is nocturnal and can climb up the channel and stand on its two legs and thus be taken for a child." However, and in spite of the explanations, there are those who still believe in the appearance of a "black and hairy dwarf like an elf" and the mothers fear "it is around to steal babies, like the legend says."

They came back to stay

After several years of absence because of the pollution caused by agrochemicals and garbage thrown into the water, the otters and other native animals returned to live in the area of the Candelaria channel, Beltrame said. "A few years ago it was unusual to see otters there, but when some industries took care not to throw garbage into the channel and since there are no longer as many chemicals in it, the water cleansed itself and now it is common to see these animals along the channel, from 25 de Mayo to 9 de Julio streets."

Beltrame also took the opportunity to urge the community to defend the native fauna and recommended "not to buy these animals from those who go door to door offering them for sale because, except for authorized places, their sale is prohibited."

Ferrets

However, Luis, who knows the field animals of the center and western areas of Santa Fe, said that another species that in the dark could be taken for an otter is a ferret, a mammal that is used in some areas to kill rats. "Ferrets, which are also dark, hairy and a little larger than a cat, are the best rat hunters and they practically eliminate them. They are used a lot in our province, especially because of the problem caused by haemorrhagic fever. Although they reproduce too fast, it's better that it be ferrets running around the crops and not rats. It wouldn't be unusual that there are also ferrets in Casilda," he explained. — CREDIT: Richard Heiden, via Roberto Banchs



Falling ice balls a mystery to science

The ice balls were not frozen water from toilets flushed on jetliners. The ice contained no human waste and none of the blue disinfectant used in airplane toilets.

By Michael Woods
Toledo Blade

BARCELONA, Spain — A Spanish-American scientific team is monitoring ice events in the United States this winter following research on a baffling phenomenon first detected here.

They're not watching for ordinary ice storms or slick roads, but incidents involving "megacryometeors," great balls of ice that fall out of the clear blue sky — possibly due to global warming.

"I'm not worried that a block of ice may fall on your head," said Jesus Martinez-Frias of the Center for Astrobiology, in Madrid. "I'm worried that great blocks of ice are forming where they shouldn't exist."

Heads, however, have very nearly been cracked by megacryometeors, a term coined from "mega," which means "big," "cryo" for "ice" and "meteor," the extraterrestrial debris that streak through the atmosphere. Most weigh 25 to 35 pounds, but one whopper found in Brazil tipped the scales at 440 pounds.

Ice balls have punched holes in the roofs of houses, smashed through car windshields and whizzed right past people's heads. Last winter, an ice chunk that eyewitnesses described as "half the size of a car" ripped through the roof of an automobile dealership in Lawrenceville, Ga.

Incidents like those may be just the beginning, according to David Travis, who researches atmospheric conditions that foster megacryometeor formation. He chairs the department of geography and geology at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

"If megacryometeor formation is linked to global warming, as we suspect, then it is fair to assume that these events may increase in the future," Travis said.

Martinez-Frias pioneered research on megacryometeors in January 2000, after ice chunks weighing up to 6.6 pounds rained on Spain out of cloudless skies for 10 days. A government scientific research agency thought the ice might be extraterrestrial, from a comet, and asked him to investigate.

At first, scientists thought the phenomenon was unique to Spain. But they've accumulated strong evidence that megacryometeors are a global event, Travis said. They've documented ice balls falling from cloudless skies everywhere from China to the United States.

More than 50 falls have been confirmed, and researchers believe that's a small fraction of the actual

number, since most may hit unoccupied areas or melt before discovery.

Travis said there appears to be a seasonal pattern to such falls, with most occurring in January, February and March.

"I am anxiously waiting to see what will happen this winter," Travis said. "We'll be keeping a lookout, and we want to make people in every state aware and ask their help. We strongly encourage eyewitnesses to preserve samples in a freezer if need be, and contact us."

Researchers had samples from the 2000 incidents to analyze, thanks to quick-thinking eyewitnesses who kept the material cold.

Martinez-Frias' team quickly ruled out obvious explanations.

The ice balls, for instance, were not frozen water from toilets flushed on jetliners. The ice contained no human waste and none of the blue disinfectant used in airplane toilets.

PRESS ENTERPRISE, Riverside, NJ - Sept. 23, 2003



DAVID BAUMAN / THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Paul GrosLouis of Lake Elsinore is reflected in the window of his hearse holding the digital camera he uses to photograph ghostly activities. "I want people to know that ghosts do exist," GrosLouis said.

Ghost hunter on duty

A Lake Elsinore man takes photographs of glowing orbs in cemeteries

TOWNSFOLK

Paul GrosLouis

- GrosLouis started ghost hunting six years ago after visiting the old Moreno School in Moreno Valley.
- 38 years old.
- Lake Elsinore resident.

"People die and they have to go somewhere. Most ghosts on this earth die tragic or fast deaths."

BY VANESSA COLÓN
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE
LAKE ELSINORE

He calls himself Dr. GhostLouis. It's a nickname he's picked up by snapping hundreds of photographs of glowing orbs.

Paul GrosLouis goes hunting with a digital camera and a "cell sensor" to detect electromagnetic energy.

He once drove a black hearse with ghost stickers on its window on his way to do his explorations. Today, it sits on his dusty driveway because either the engine or the transmission gave up after an accident four months ago, GrosLouis said.

He chooses old buildings and cemeteries as the hunting grounds for ghostly activity. He looks for cloudy, smoke like figures he calls ectoplasm in his pictures and lighted orbs he says are restless spirits.

"I want people to know that ghosts do exist," GrosLouis said after he showed a stack of photos



GrosLouis holds a photo he took with his digital camera at Evergreen Cemetery in Riverside. He says the round objects (orbs) above the grave markers are restless spirits.

of orbs. "People die and they have to go somewhere. Most ghosts on this earth die tragic or fast deaths."

small home with little furniture, which includes a blue couch. GrosLouis lived in his hearse until his mother helped find the home, which he rents for \$495 a month. He is on permanent disability.

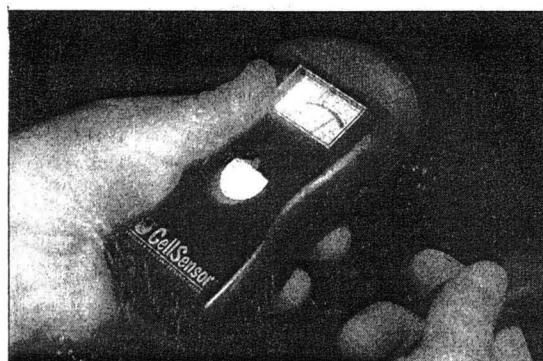
His friends admire his interest in ghosts and also are believers. "There's definitely spirits running around," said Larry Simon, 57, of Lake Elsinore.

"As much time he puts in it, I'm sure some of it is valid. I firmly believe that spirits that roam this earth can be angels or devils."

Next, GrosLouis is going to look for spirit activity at the Agua Mansa area, an early Latino settlement in Colton.

"I'm afraid to go there. It's really haunted. You can see figures in the day time," he said. "I've seen a lady running there and disappear during the day time. I always get a cold chill down my back."

Reach Vanessa Colón at (909) 375-3737 or vcolon@pe.com



DAVID BAUMAN / THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Ghost hunter Paul GrosLouis holds an electromagnetic-field tester that he says helps him locate energy fields generated by ghosts.

GrosLouis has done a lot of his ghost hunting at the Old Moreno School on Alessandro Boulevard in Moreno Valley and the cemetery on 14th Street in Riverside.

He chose the school, built in 1928, because he believes a Moreno Valley girl murdered in 1975 haunts it. It has been vacant for a dozen years.

He said he doesn't mind running into a spirit.

"I've gone to the school and I've actually heard voices," GrosLouis said. Sometimes he will talk to ghosts and ask them how they died.

He once saw a girl run across the hall of the Queen Mary liner in Long Beach and disappear, he said.

GrosLouis prefers to do ghost hunting full time but it's a hobby for the moment. He lives in a

VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

Freeman name cleared

This is a tale of two men who got so caught up in the Bigfoot puzzle that it changed their entire lives.

This is the story of how one who was enmeshed in the matter saw not only his life get changed but that of his good name in the process.

These stories got started when I read of the experiences of a Virginia man who got trapped as had the late Paul Freeman back in 1982, when he was a watershed patrol rider for the Umatilla National Forest, saw Bigfoot and reported same.

Here are the opening lines of the story I read recently (via the Internet) from the Free Lance-Star newspaper of Fredericksburg, Va., as penned by reporter Donnie Johnston:

"There are moments in a man's life that can change him forever, transform his perspective on the world, send him down paths he never dreamed existed.

"Often these life-altering experiences come and go in the twinkling of an eye, leaving one to wonder whether they were real or imaginary, resulting in questions without answers.

"Bizarre and unexpected incidents can, in rare instances, cause men to reorganize their priorities and send them on lifetime quests where the odds of success are almost nonexistent.

"William Draginis experienced just such a moment in the early spring of 1995. While walking through a remote section of Culpepper County with two friends ... he had a chance encounter that turned his life in a new direction.

"There, on a leaf-littered trail in the chill of a March afternoon, he says he came face to face with the creature that has both fascinated and eluded man for untold centuries — Bigfoot.

"At first Draginis didn't see anything, but then a large black head emerged from behind the tree and the creature took off in a 'full-blown run.'

"At that point, I knew this was something different from a man,' Draginis says. 'It was about 7 feet tall, covered with hair and had broad, muscular shoulders, arms and legs.

"It ran about 75 feet left to right in full view, then took a hard left and ran down a hill. I could see its muscular shoulders moving back and forth, and its hair, maybe four to six inches long, flowing as it moved. It disappeared over a hill."

Let's flash back to that day in June, 1982 when Freeman told reporters what he had seen as he rounded a turn in the abandoned logging road at the top of Tiger Canyon out of upper Mill Creek:

"I know what I saw ...
"And, I'm not going to change, because that's what I saw."

To reporters that day, Freeman explained how what he had seen was unlike anything he had seen during his lifetime of woods experience.

"I could see the muscles in its legs move when he walked. I could see the muscles in its arms and shoulders. It just plain scared me and I've never been scared in the woods before. This thing was real. It was big enough to tear the head right off your shoulders if it wanted to.

"It had a high crown on its head ... the face was more open. Its palms were light-colored.

"It was real alright ... I thought it was going to come at me when I first saw it coming down that bank because the hair on its neck and head just went forward like the hair will on a dog's back... did it three times, then it just turned and started walking down the road, looking back at me once in a while."

And to his death earlier this year, Freeman did NOT change his story, either.

Driven by the events of his own sighting, in Virginia, Draginis, 44, has become Virginia's foremost Bigfoot researcher. He founded Virginia Bigfoot Research (email: wdraganis@Virginia

BigfootResearch.org) and spends an average of one weekend a month, using a high-tech mobile laboratory to track his elusive quarry.

He has designed some of the cameras and listening devices he uses. Draginis reportedly devotes about 20 hours a week in his new lifetime quest: to conclusively document a Bigfoot sighting and prove to the world that the mythical creature really exists.

And thus, was his life changed.

This was to be Freeman's fate, in 1982, when he reported his own Bigfoot sighting. Then, amidst a lot of vocal disbelief by skeptics, Freeman first quit his Forest Service job, moved to another town and another job. He and his wife Nancy, had to move again and again, often because of the harassing their children suffered in the schools they attended. They eventually moved from the Walla Walla area to Camas, Wash. But, not for long as Freeman was a stubborn man who became obsessed with proving that he had truly seen a Bigfoot.

So, back he came to Walla Walla where he was to pursue the trail of vindication. It was to be a trail that would include spending many days each week in the mountains where he not only diligently tracked the quarry, Freeman maintained the most copious and complete records of what he was seeing.

Largely the record consisted of a huge Forest Service map, on which were pins indicating Bigfoot-related sightings as well as dates and times. Most who saw the map on the wall in his home wanted to buy the map, bids turned down out of hand, of course.

When Freeman decided to leave Walla Walla several years later to make his home in Portland, his collection of Bigfoot material was offered for sale. The late Dr. Grover Krantz, retired WSU anthropologist, when he heard of the offering, said just a few words: "All I'd want would be that map."

Freeman made some enemies during his years of intense Bigfoot research here, mostly some scoffers, saying Freeman had faked most of the tracks seen in the Blue Mountains. Then, when he offered some hairs he had found and they proved to be a man-made fiber, Freeman was truly castigated for several years for this.

Dr. W. Henner Fahrenbach, a DNA specialist of Beaverton, and a speaker at the recent Bigfoot symposium at Willow Creek, Ca., reported that the tarnish had been removed from Freeman's name.

"One thing that came out of the symposium was that Paul got in effect largely rehabilitated," Fahrenbach told me. "(Dr. Jeff) Meldrum (another symposium speaker) said in so many words that most of the Blue Mountains footprints were the real thing and I hewed into the same kerf when I told them about the 'hair' that was Dynel, contributed by both Paul and Jim Hewkin, the latter from the Oregon Coast Range, neither of them knowing what they had, but only Paul getting maligned as a 'scientific saboteur.'"

Friends of Paul Freeman, watching him over the years as he so diligently pursued his self-appointed task of proving that Bigfoot exists, will be more than pleased with those words.

Meldrum, by the way, made another Blue Mountain Bigfoot point at the Willow Creek symposium. The four day session was attended by some 220 scientists, researchers and enthusiasts, coming there from 22 states and several nations to discuss the probability that the creature exists.

"Bigfoot is really one of the most intriguing questions in natural history," said Meldrum, professor of anatomy and anthropology at Idaho State University.

Paul Freeman certainly should be credited with major work in Blue Mountains research to establish the presence of this anomaly. As will likely be the case with the work underway by William Draginis in Virginia.

Haunting times: Residents share spooky tales

Legends still alive across the state

By Jim Etter

State Correspondent

On a dark and lonely road in northeastern Oklahoma, a distant light is a mystery to all but some local residents. They'll tell you the blood-curdling story behind it.

A wooded hollow near the Cimarron River is named for its ghosts — an American Indian maiden who suffered a tragic death and three horse thieves hanged from a tree.

Farther south, a woman in fashionable ladies' attire of the 1880s rides a thundering horse across a clearing on moonlit nights, singing all the way.

In Ada, a livery barn where four men were lynched on April 19, 1909, is visible just before dawn.

The structure was razed years ago.

Not far from Oklahoma City, every time an Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper drives along a certain rural road, he wonders if he'll meet Bigfoot — maybe for the second time.

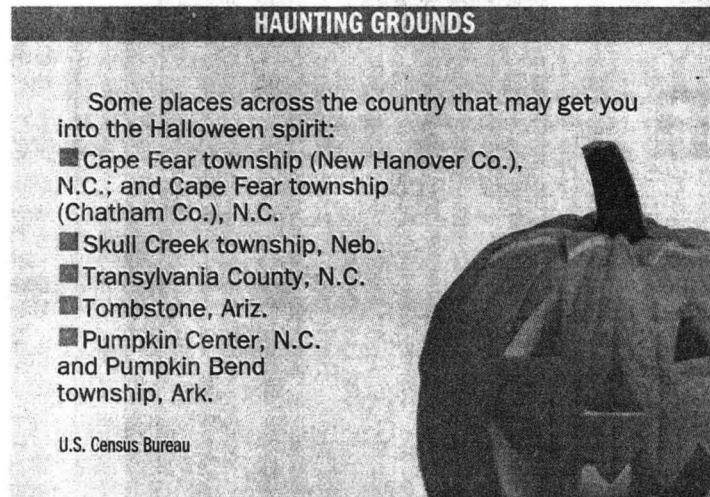
Such stories are told around Halloween in Oklahoma with elaboration. Hundreds of legends exist involving haunts and interesting characters. Here are some of them.

Haunting illumination

On an Ottawa County road near Peoria is the "spook light," a faraway flicker to most viewers.

Legend indicates that long ago an Indian couple often squabbled until the wife, a hefty Quapaw tired of being abused, lopped off her husband's head with an ax.

Every night since, the man plods through the woods carrying a torch, hoping to somehow find his head.



Spirited sight

Near Briartown in southern Muskogee County, not far from where Belle Starr was shot and killed during an ambush in 1889, her spirit lives on in high style.

When the moon is full, area residents said the "Bandit Queen" is seen riding a magnificent steed, sailing across a valley and enhancing her performance with a soft melody.

Tragic curse

Ghost Hollow, north and across the Cimarron River from Ripley in Payne County, is where an Indian princess was accidentally killed after angering her father by leaving to marry a white man in 1871, said Lorraine Owens, 74, a former resident of nearby Ingalls.

Owens, now of Stillwater, said the father, with either gun or bow and arrow, "shot at the white boy" but missed and hit his daughter.

That supposedly put a curse on the area, so other unpleasant events occurred, such as in 1888 when three horse thieves were caught and hanged there.

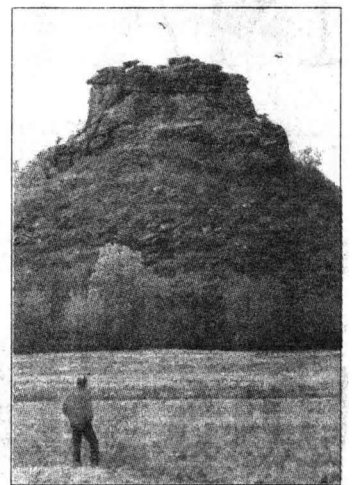
Killers' demise

In Ada, where four murder suspects were discovered dangling in the stable one rainy morning 94 years ago, the barn, though long gone, reappears, legend indicates. The hanging really happened, and it is documented.

Death screams

South of Hydro in Caddo County is Ghost Mound. That's where nearby resident and property owner Deon Yearwood, 52, tells the story of an Indian maiden who, after she and her lover had watched the sunset from the top of the 285-foot mound, slipped and fell to her death.

The maiden's screams are still heard, and her footprint remains atop the mound, said Yearwood, who has climbed up to see.



FILE PHOTO BY JIM ARGO, THE OKLAHOMAN

Ghost Mound in rural Caddo County is an area where many eerie legends have evolved. Visitors to the peak claim to have seen or heard extraordinary things.

Creature seen

Trooper Brent Tucker, 32, of Hinton, didn't expect to meet a strange-looking giant when he investigated a sound one fall night near Cogar in eastern Caddo County.

"I heard something behind me, and turned and saw this figure — a head and shoulders — and it was about five feet taller than the corner post," Tucker said.

Then the figure was gone.

"I can't say it was Bigfoot," Tucker said, referring to the legendary reclusive creature, "but it wasn't a horse, and it wasn't a cow. And whatever it was, it was humanlike."

TIMES, New York, NY - Nov. 6, 2003 CR: J. Fisher

Robert Guenette, 68, Documentary Maker

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 5 (AP) — Robert Guenette, an Emmy Award-winning documentarian whose work, which included "They've Killed President Lincoln," was filled with reenactments that appeared to be filmed by on-the-scene news crews, died on Friday in Los Angeles. He was 68.

The cause was brain cancer.

Mr. Guenette, who was the writer, editor, director and producer of hundreds of hours of documentaries, was also a founder of the International

Documentary Association and of the Los Angeles Media and Education Center.

He produced "Monsters! Mysteries or Myths?" in 1974, and as an investigation of the Loch Ness Monster, Abominable Snowman and Bigfoot legends it remains the documentary with the highest ratings on television.

Mr. Guenette was born in Holyoke, Mass., on Jan. 12, 1935, and left home as a teenager for New York City, where he worked his way up as a film

editor, producer and director.

His other television films include "Victory at Entebbe!" and "The Crucifixion of Jesus."

His 1971 film, "They've Killed President Lincoln," which features grainy newsreel-style footage portraying John Wilkes Booth shooting the Lincoln and interviews with bystanders, won an Emmy for outstanding achievement in cultural documentary programming.

Mr. Guenette is survived by a son, Mark; five brothers and sisters; and his partner and colleague, Robert Leeburg.

Jersey Devil's aura lures curiosity seekers to Pinelands

By KRISTA LARSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PEMBERTON — As Russ Juelg guides groups through the Pine Barrens by the light of the moon, he always instructs them to keep their eyes up in the trees. They're watchful for a strange form crouching from a tree limb or a pair of glowing eyes emerging from the shadows.

The search for the legendary Jersey Devil may include plenty of skeptics, but Juelg says curiosity still draws dozens of thrill-seekers to southern New Jersey each month to go on "hunts."

"Being out in the wilderness at night and hearing and seeing strange things that you can't account for is kind of a thrill, and it kind of puts you in touch with the mysterious side of nature," said Juelg, who leads the outings for the

Pinelands Preservation Alliance.

The tale of the cloven-hoofed creature with the wings of a bat remains one of the best-known examples of a New Jersey legend, says Angus Kress Gillespie, a professor of American studies at Rutgers University and director of the New Jersey Folk Festival. It has also become a popular culture figure, even lending its name to the state's professional hockey team.

There are multiple versions of the tale familiar to most New Jersey schoolchildren, but a popular version describes the creature as being born to a woman named Mother Leeds, who already had 12 children and cursed the baby.

"It's a powerful story, so it has a grip on our imagination," Gillespie said. "It's been in oral circulation ever since 1735, so that's a pretty hardy story."

It is also a tale that's seen a

resurgence in part because of two books on the topic written by James F. McCloy and Ray Miller Jr. That heightened interest in the Jersey Devil has drawn curious visitors and hard-core investigative types alike into the woods.

McCloy attributes some of its current popularity to New Jersey's distinction as the most densely populated state in the country.

"I think the legend's going to keep on going," he said. "It's been around since 1735 and we're getting sightings all the way into the present day. I think people want it to be there."

The tale's roots in southern New Jersey culture also set it apart from fearsome creatures in movies and popular culture, said Abbie Mylod, who opened the Jersey Devil Cafe in Medford last year.

"It's local townspeople who pass it around," she said. "Many

people have claimed to have seen the Jersey Devil out in the woods. It's almost a pastime to search for the Jersey Devil. There's a lot of things that people have said the Jersey Devil is responsible for, and we haven't been able to prove it otherwise."

Still, Mylod comes across plenty of skeptics at her cafe, which serves up Jersey Jabberwocky salads and Leeds BLT sandwiches, along with Jersey Devil T-shirts and books.

"People come in and say it's like our own little Loch Ness monster. I guess it's hard unless you live here and you're with your peers as far as people who believe."

Some have truly turned the search for proof into a full-time interest.

The Devil Hunters, started almost five years ago by Laura Leuter, now has more than a

dozen members who go out on weekends to locations of reported sightings and do research — complete with a night-vision camera and boom mike in tow.

Leuter, 25, of Old Bridge, says she and her colleagues approach their interest in a scientific way and are willing to accept that the legend may be nothing more than a tale passed down through the generations.

"We get people every once in a while who e-mail us and tell us, 'You need to get a life, you need a job,' and we're like, 'Whatever,'" concedes Leuter, who works for a major financial institution. "What are you doing on my Web site? If I'm the one who needs a life, why are you looking up things you don't believe in?"

The legend may have begun as a way to discourage outsiders, Gillespie said.

"It's not too terribly helpful to get too hung up on whether or not the Jersey Devil exists," he said. "From a folkloristic standpoint, a more important question is, what role did the telling of the story play in south Piney culture?"

Juelg agrees that most remain doubtful that the creature ever existed or continues to roam the Pine Barrens. Still, he says, that's not the point of his organized hunts.

"There are a lot of people who just think it's nonsense or object to it on religious grounds," Juelg said. "I never try to convince anybody of one thing or another. The way I present the Jersey Devil legend is primarily a component of the folklore of New Jersey and let people make up their own minds how to interpret it. I'm just basically retelling the story, keeping the story alive."

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Dec. 20, 2003 CR: G. Conway

UFO expert joins hunt for Ogoopogo

BY DAVID WYLIE
STERLING NEWS SERVICE

KELOWNA | A group of Ogoopogo hunters are planning a third major quest to find the monster they believe lurks in the depths of Okanagan Lake — this time in the company of a well-known Canadian UFO expert.

Brian Vike, who researches alien sightings and encounters from his home in Houston, B.C., appears regularly on radio shows across Canada and the U.S. to discuss aliens with a listening audience of about three million. He said he doesn't necessarily believe in Ogoopogo, but there have been enough sightings to take the mythological creature seriously.

"They've been doing this [the searches] for years and it's not a hokey operation. They spend a lot of money," said Vike.

"Some of the big talk radio shows in the United States wanted to carry [the expedition] live. It'll be great for tourism," he said.

Experienced Ogoopogo hunter Bill Steciuk said the wide-scale scientific search is planned for mid-August 2004. The team will use three boats equipped with sonar, remote-controlled underwater video equipment and divers to try to locate the creature.

"Why? It was time to do a scientific search. Why do you climb a mountain? Because it's there. Why do you hunt Ogoopogo? Because there's something in the lake," he said. "We'll find it and we'll get pictures of it."

There have been thousands of sightings, including some from influential citizens, like doctors and business people, he said. Steciuk said he also believes there's more than just one Ogoopogo. "This is a species," he said.

Nearly 50 people helped during the first searches in 2000 and 2001 — both trips resulted in sightings and a 45-minute documentary on the searches was released earlier this year. The expedition and filming costs totaled more than \$250,000.

A third major expedition planned for last August was cancelled because of the Okanagan Mountain Park fire.

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Dec. 9, 2003 CR: G. Conway

ET, don't call here

Re: The ET Quandary, Discovery, Dec. 8.
I've never understood the premise for the SETI (search for extraterrestrial intelligence) program, which is: If they're out there, they must be benevolent. If they are indeed out there, roaming around in interstellar space, the only certain fact is that they're a more advanced life form than we are. We'll only discover whether they're benevolent or not if they succeed in finding us, whereupon we may consider ourselves fortunate if the only task we're called upon to perform is to learn the word "fetch" in the ET language. My advice is: Turn off the radio-antennas, lie low and hope they never spot Earth.

William Leiss, Ottawa.