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WEIRS TIMES, Weirs Beach, NH - March 10, 2005



Betty and Barney Hill and their Dachshund Delsey with a drawing of the spaceship that followed them through Franconia Notch.



Tabloids played up the NBC-TV movie "The UFO Incident", which was based on the Hill's story of alien abduction.

LONG BEFORE THE X-FILES, PORTSMOUTH COUPLE'S ABDUCTION STORY CREATED A SENSATION

by Roger Amsden
News Correspondent

The fall of 1961 saw Roger Maris of the New York Yankees trying to break Babe Ruth's homerun record, international tensions were high because of the Berlin Wall crisis as the Soviet Union's Nikita Khrushchev tried to test the will and determination of a young American president. And one of the favorite television shows was "The Outer Limits", a kind of lineal successor to Rod Serling's "The Twilight Zone", which had captivated American viewers with its tales of the bizarre and the unusual during the 1950s.

It was against this backdrop that an unusual radar sighting was recorded at Pease Air Force Base, right next to Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Report No. 100-1-61, says: "...a strange incident occurred at 0214 local on 20 Sept.

No importance was attached to the incident at the time."



Barney and Betty Hill with Delsey, who was with them when they went through Franconia Notch in 1961.

But that report would serve as at least some kind of observed confirmation for an event, still unexplained, which became the most famous alien abduction story ever.

The Betty and Barney Hill story involved two ordinary people whose lives were forever changed by something that happened on the night of Sept. 19-20, 1961, something which still remains a mystery to this day.

The Hills were an interracial couple. Barney, 39, who was

black, worked as a mail sorter, commuting 120 miles every workday from Portsmouth to Boston. Betty, 41, was a social worker. Both were active in their church and civil rights movement.

The times were difficult for mixed race couples and the Hills, feeling the need to get away from pressure, had taken a short vacation in Montreal, where, hearing a weather report of an impending hurricane, they decided to cut their vacation short and return home. With them in the car was their pet Dachshund, Delsey.

After crossing from Quebec into New Hampshire they stopped in Colebrook for a burger and continued on down Rte. 3 to Lancaster, where at about 10:15 p.m., Barney noticed a light in the sky below the moon, and called Betty's attention to it.

At first the Hills thought it was

ing that a compass could detect radiation (it can't) Betty took a compass out to the car, where she saw "a dozen or more shiny circles scattered on the surface of the trunk, each perfectly circular and about the size of a silver dollar."

The compass did not move when placed on other areas of the car, but would spin wildly when placed on one of the shiny spots.

That convinced the Hills that something unusual had taken place and they filed a report of the UFO with Pease Air Force Base, which years later revealed that its radar had registered an "unknown" at virtually the same time that the Hills had passed through Franconia Notch. (Some reports have said that two jets were scrambled to try and locate the intruder.)

In October 1961, the Hills met with Walter Webb, chief lecturer for the Boston Museum of Sciences's Charles Hayden Planetarium, an investigator with NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomenon).

Webb, who was highly skeptical, made the couple aware of the lost time on their return trip, which



The sinister looking alien leader from the NBC-TV movie "The UFO Incident."

raised the issue in their own minds of what had happened to them during that lost time.

Soon after the encounter, both Hills began experiencing physical and psychological effects from the experience. Betty had nightmares in which she found herself being taken aboard the UFO and examined by small, humanoid beings. Barney began to suffer from high blood pressure, ulcers, exhaustion, and a strange circle of warts around his groin area.

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a planet, but then noticed it was moving. Barney at first thought it was a satellite or aircraft. But Betty, whose sister had reported seeing a UFO, thought that the light was something unusual.

When they stopped the car to let Delsey do her business, they observed the object with a pair of binoculars. By the time they reached the Flume in Franconia Notch, they noticed that the object had grown in size. Barney said it would dart away to the west and then back, coming closer each time.

When they reached the Indian Head, just south of the Notch, Barney stopped the car again and looked at the object with the binoculars. He said that he could now see multi-colored lights and rows of windows on a huge pancake-shaped object only a hundred feet away.

As he walked closer to the craft he said that he could see occupants standing inside, one of which he said seemed to be the "leader." The frightened Barney ran back to the car, started it and drove off quickly towards the south.

The Hills could no longer see the object but heard a beeping noise. When they heard the beeping noise again they found that they were in Ashland, some 35 miles south of the Indian Head, and drove home to Portsmouth without further incident.

The Hills had expected to arrive home at 3:00 a.m. but were shocked to find that it was 5:30 a.m. when they arrived.

Betty called her sister the next day and was alarmed by her suggestion that some type of radiation may have been involved. Think-

(continued from page 1 - WEIRS TIMES, Weirs Beach, NH - March 10, 2005)



Betty Hill became something of a cult figure in UFO circles after the story of her abduction by aliens.

Both underwent extensive medical examinations by specialists in 1962 and eventually were referred to Dr. Benjamin Simon, a respected psychiatrist and neurologist with an extensive background in hypnosis therapy.

Dr. Simon began a six-month series of hypnosis therapy at the Hill's own

expense, beginning in late 1963. Both Betty and Barney told virtually identical stories while under hypnosis.

They said that their car stalled and was soon surrounded by a band of little "humanoid looking men" dressed in tight fitting black uniforms and that they were taken aboard the craft.

Barney was terrified, saying he felt like a "rabbit before a predator" and described the ship's leader as looking like a "German Nazi" wearing a shiny black jacket, scarf and cap. Betty said a long needle was inserted into her stomach as part of a "pregnancy test" while Barney said a circular device was painfully attached to his groin, extracting a semen sample.

Following Betty's examination she was given a brief tour of the craft, and when she asked where the aliens were from she was shown a star map. After being told that they would

not be able to remember their abduction, the pair were released back to their car, and the UFO, appearing like a huge, bright orange ball, flew away. Even though the Hill's encounter was circulated among their friends and a couple

culating in UFO publications.

Fuller's book became a national best seller and brought a great deal of attention to the Hills, culminating in a 1975 NBC-TV movie "The UFO Incident", starring James Earl Jones



Estelle Parsons portrayed Betty Hill and James Earl Jones played the role of Barney Hill in "The UFO Incident."

of UFO publications, the story was generally unknown to the public until 1966, when Look magazine published a two-part excerpt of a book by John G. Fuller entitled "The Interrupted Journey." Some details had surfaced in 1965 in newspaper accounts based on information cir-

as Barney Hill and Estelle Parsons as Betty.

Barney Hill died of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1969, while Betty went on and became a celebrity in the UFO community.

Dr. Simon, the psychiatrist who worked with the Hills, said he did not believe that they were lying.

But he did not believe that the abduction actually took place and his final diagnosis was that Betty's mind had created dreams of an abduction to fill the amnesia period, and that Barney's mind, when he heard the content of her dreams, had unconsciously absorbed her dreams.

But the star map that Betty produced under hypnosis created yet another mystery, as it showed stars which were not known to exist at the time of the alleged abduction. In 1969 astronomers located these previously unknown stars in the double star system of Zeta Reticuli 1 and Zeta Reticuli 2, some 220 trillion miles and 37 light years from earth. The new stars were in the exact location of the star map that Betty Hill had drawn several years earlier.

Betty Hill died peacefully in her sleep on October 17, 2004 and was buried in Exeter, the site of another UFO incident which John Fuller had written about.

AMERICAN PROFILE, Franklin, TN - June 19, 2005

Hometown Spotlight

Out of this World!

by LYN KIDDER
Photos by Frederic Moras

An alien carrying an American flag walks slowly down Main Street in Roswell, N.M. (pop. 45,293), trailed by a glowing spaceship, a green alien on a motor scooter and *Star Wars* characters twirling light sabers.

It's a familiar site for residents and thousands of visitors who line the streets to watch the Close Encounters Night Parade, part of the annual Roswell UFO Festival each July.

Nancy Fleming helps daughter Sienna prepare for the alien costume contest.



"This is how we let our creative side just have fun and not be serious," says Shirley Leif, a supervisor at Roswell's Eastern New Mexico Medical Center. Leif and dozens of other hospital employees spent two months working on their trophy-winning *Star Wars* float.

The festival, scheduled July 1-4, celebrates the town's most famous event—the "Roswell Incident."

Sometime in July 1947, something crashed in the eastern New Mexico desert 40 miles outside of Roswell. The first report said that a "flying saucer" had been recovered, but the U.S. military later identified the crashed object as a "weather balloon."

"I never saw any of the bodies, but I knew people who did," says resident Glenn Dennis, 81. "And people at Walker Air Force Base called the funeral home where I worked to ask about small coffins."

The incident made such an impression on Dennis and resident Walter Haut—who

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Alien-attired attendees roam the streets during the annual Roswell (N.M.) UFO Festival.

wrote the first newspaper article about a "flying saucer" a few days after the crash—that they created the International UFO Museum and Research Center in 1991.

The museum, housed in a 1940s-era movie theater, is a popular spot for people who want to learn more about Unidentified Flying Objects, or UFOs. Inside visitors can see a collection of photographs and newspaper stories from the time of the crash, as well as props used in various space alien movies. There's even a giant world map showing the location of UFO sightings.

"UFOs are a relatively new phenomena, and people come here wanting to be convinced one way or another," says Julie Shuster, director of the museum and festival co-chairperson.

For serious UFO buffs, the festival includes panel discussions and dozens of authors who give lectures and sign books on the subject. For others, the festival is purely entertainment, with music concerts, appearances by science fiction celebrities and an alien costume contest.

As for the latter, Sienna Fleming, 9, has donned an alien costume each year since she was born. "It's one of the most visual parts of the festival," says Nancy Fleming, who helps make her daughter's costume. "We like to do our part to make it worth coming to see. I think it's fun to have crowds once in a while in a quiet little town like Roswell."

Norma McQuaid and her husband, Richard, retired five years ago and moved to Roswell. They both volunteer at the museum. "I'm a greeter, and I always wear my headband with the alien eyes on the antennae," she says. "The local paper called me the Alien Ambassador."

"Some people would prefer Roswell be known as a dairy town," she adds. "One day at the museum, I met someone from Siberia. Now, I wouldn't come from the other side of the world to see cows, would you?"

"Everybody knows Roswell, and it's all because of the aliens," says Barbara Pruett, who runs a local RV park. "We get people from all over. I bet I hand out 100 brochures a week for the UFO Museum."

Many local merchants make use of the alien theme for businesses as varied as bike shops, printers and carpet stores. Even the local Wal-Mart has a flying saucer painted on the front of its building.

Richard Hesse owns Starchild, one of the first gift shops in Roswell to adopt an alien theme. "When we moved here in 1991, people in town were just beginning to see the possibilities in using the alien idea to advertise the town."

But does he really think that it was a flying saucer that crashed in the desert outside of town 58 years ago?

"I'm not sure what to believe," Hesse says. "All I can say is, it's a blast. I meet people from all over the world, right here in Roswell." ☆

Lyn Kidder is a freelance writer in Ruidoso, N.M.

For more information, call the Roswell Chamber of Commerce at (505) 623-5695 or log on to www.roswellnm.org.

The UFO Museum attracts assorted "aliens."



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Stan Gordon summarizes 2004's Bigfoot sightings, UFO incidents

Mysterious events were reported from across Pennsylvania during 2004, as state residents from 48 counties reported strange encounters and unusual observations, notes researcher Stan Gordon of Greensburg.

UFO sightings, encounters with Bigfoot and other odd creatures, mysterious sounds, strange footprints, and unusual ground markings were among the oddities reported. Gordon who has been researching such mysteries since 1959, has investigated thousands of such reports in past years, but he has never had a first-hand encounter with a UFO or Bigfoot.

In 1970, Gordon founded and directed the first of three volunteer research groups which investigated UFO sightings and other phenomena reported by the public. Since 1993, Gordon has continued to receive current sighting reports, and he documents the information as an independent researcher.

Gordon receives reports of ongoing phenomena from the Keystone State on his PA UFO Hotline or via e-mail, as well as through the contacts he maintains with numerous other researchers and organizations who have similar interests. The National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC) in Seattle also receives some Pennsylvania UFO reports.

During the past 45 years that Gordon has investigated mysterious events of various types, he has found that on a yearly basis, most UFO sightings and many other strange encounters are explainable. Many of these reports are determined to have a natural or man-made origin. During 2004, some UFO sightings were explained as the planet Venus, bright meteors, re-entry of space debris, and searchlight displays. In past years, some Bigfoot sightings were determined to be bear or large shaggy dogs. Occasionally huge footprints in the snow have been explained as the tracks of a bear which took on an odd appearance due to fast-changing weather conditions. Every year however, there are UFO sightings and other anomalies reported which aren't so easily dismissed.

According to Gordon, people who report strange encounters come from all age groups and backgrounds. Gordon has interviewed air traffic controllers, state troopers, and military and civilian pilots all whom observed something strange in the sky which they couldn't explain.

Historically, there have been hundreds of reported encounters with Bigfoot creatures from many parts of the state. Bigfoot encounters have been commonly reported along the Chestnut Ridge by observers in Westmoreland, Fayette, and Indiana County.

Besides documenting current strange encounters, Gordon continues to gather information on the Dec. 9, 1965 UFO crash incident near Kecksburg. If you have any information on the case, or have any knowledge of photographs that were taken during that event, please contact him.

An example of some of the interesting cases reported in Pennsylvania during 2004 include:

Bigfoot sightings

Bigfoot sightings have been reported from various locations in the state. The Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society (PBS), which also investigates Bigfoot sightings, received information on possible Bigfoot activity from several areas including Carbon, Beaver, and Fayette County. The PBS

looked into several Bigfoot reports which occurred from August through October in Beaver County. In one case, a man claimed to have seen a large hairy, creature running in a wooded area near his home. In another case, a woman said she observed three creatures moving across a field. For more information on the PBS and PA Bigfoot sightings, visit their website at www.pabigfootsociety.com.

Gordon received reports of possible Bigfoot activity from several locations in Westmoreland County. Researcher Joe Nemanich gave Gordon details of a daylight Bigfoot observation which occurred on July 20 in Tioga County. The witness was working at a construction site when he observed a dark, hair covered man-like creature which he estimated to stand seven to eight feet tall standing near a roadway. The creature crossed the roadway in three long steps and continued into a swamp area. The ground cover in the area was found to be smashed down where the creature had passed.

UFO Sightings

Westmoreland County — In March, passengers traveling on a rural road reported that the headlights of their vehicle struck an object sitting on the roadway ahead of them.

The object was a small metallic cigar-shaped object. The object rose straight up from the ground in the headlights, then moved off to the right and flew out of sight.

Washington County — Researcher Jim Brown investigated a UFO sighting which occurred on April 4 near California, PA.

The witness reported observing a large triangular shape over a nearby house. The object had a blue light at each corner and appeared to glow. At about the same time, another odd object appeared in the sky which looked similar to a glass rod. Then a strange fall of sparkling material dropped from the sky just as the triangular object traveled quickly toward the north. The other object had also departed the area.

In early June, a witness not far from Punsutawney was looking out her window during the evening when she observed a square-shaped object about 30 feet above the ground, and about 50 feet away from the house. The object looked as though it was made up of multitudes of light bubbles.

While the witness looked on, the object suddenly began to slowly move upward into the sky. As the object continued to rise, it soon looked just like a light in the distance.

At about 10:50 p.m. on the night of June 26, observers from Pittsburgh to Greensburg watched a brilliant orangish-red object with a long burning trail, moving fast across the sky. The NUFORC received other PA sighting reports from Lancaster to Tionesta. The NUFORC also received sightings from other states of what appears to have been the same object. The source of these sightings appears to have been the re-entry of Russian space debris.

To report a UFO sighting, Bigfoot, or other strange encounters, contact Stan Gordon by calling his 24 hour PA UFO Hotline at 724-838-7768, or e-mail him at: paufu@westol.com.

Write to Gordon at P.O. Box 936, Greensburg, PA 15601. For information on Pennsylvania strange encounters and the Kecksburg incident, visit Stan Gordon's website at www.stangordon.com.

UFO experience motivates book

By GREG SMART
Courier editor
gsmart@tcnewsnet.com

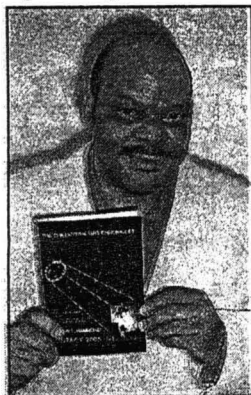
If you were to ask Huber Heights resident Tim Hammond where he was on Nov. 26, 1983, he wouldn't hesitate with an answer.

The experience has so changed his life that it has caused him nightmares as well as being the driving factor for writing a book "The Chillicothe UFO Chronicles."

Late that night, Hammond, a former officer for the Chillicothe Veterans Affairs Medical Center, became aware of this phenomenon after a ward nurse called security about lights in the sky.

"It reminded me of a Xerox machine (operating)," said Hammond. "The beams of light came across the top of the car a couple of times. I wanted to run, but didn't because where was I going to run?"

Hammond worked in Chillicothe until 1987. However, the lingering nightmares continued and he began seeing a counselor in



Tim Hammond holds his new book "The Chillicothe UFO Chronicles"

1992 to help him deal with the associated fears. He said he would wake up at 3 or 4 a.m. in the morning screaming.

Hammond said there was another UFO incident reported in Chillicothe in 1986. Hammond indicated a Sheriff's deputy told him UFO's had been observed between 1969 and 1987 in Ross County.

He also indicated that a Circleville man had observed UFO's in the Circleville/Chillicothe area since 1958.

Hammond's book is 91 pages and is available through Xlibris.com, an online publisher, Amazon.com and Barnes and Nobles.com. "Everything I've written about UFO's is in here," said Hammond.

The first time his work was published was as part of "The Public UFO Illuminator Research Package" published in 1990 and The UFO Encounter Guide in 1991.

Hammond will be sharing his UFO experience at 6 p.m. on June 9 at the Circleville Library.

Hammond also expects to be featured on Wake Up U.S.A., a UFO study radio show, hosted by Joe Mongaldo (National Director for International Community for Alien Research) an inter-

net radio show (Pioneer Radio — www.stardustent.com) from 7 to 9 p.m. central time on July 20.

THIS WEEK, Pickerington, OH - June 9, 2005 CR: W. Jones

MUFON of Ohio

UFOlogists still keep their eyes on the skies

By KEVIN PARKS
This Week Staff Writer

In the end, it boils down to something very much like faith. But when it comes to UFOs, it's not the belief in things unseen. Rather, it's a belief that things are being seen and have been seen for a very long time.

Some people are convinced, unshakably, that something is out there.

Others regard the UFO faithful as being, well, just plain out there.

Interest seems to wax and wane in the phenomenon known generically as "unidentified flying objects."

When it comes to the federal government, interest has apparently waned almost entirely; Project Blue Book, the investigation of what were once called "flying saucers" that was launched in 1947 and based at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, was terminated in 1969.

Among the project's conclusions, according to a fact sheet available over the base Web site:

"There was no evidence indicating that sightings categorized as 'unidentified' (only 701 out of a total of 12,618) were extraterrestrial vehicles."

When it comes to William E. Jones of Clintonville, interest waxed when he was a sophomore or junior at West High School, and it hasn't really waned since.

"It never quite went away," he said.

Jones, 63, is state director of the seven-year-old Mutual UFO Network of Ohio, a chapter of a nonprofit corporation founded in 1969 and now based in Morrison, Colo.

MUFON Inc., according to its Web site, is "dedicated, through its volunteers, to resolving the scientific enigma known collectively as unidentified flying objects."

Jones is also on the board of directors for the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, named for the one-time Ohio State University astronomy professor who was involved in Project Blue Book. He subsequently wrote extensively on the subject of unidentified flying objects (see related story).

If you've seen a UFO or know someone who says they have, Bill Jones definitely wants to hear from you.

He's even offering anonymity to anyone who wants to get in touch with him to tell their story.

Bill Jones has not himself seen a UFO.

Nor has Frank Reams, 58, of Westerville, chief investigator for MUFON of Ohio.

Nor has John P. Timmerman of Lakeview in Logan County who, at 81, is preparing to step down as treasurer and public relations officer for the J. Allen Hynek Center to accede to his wife's wishes that they do some traveling together in their sunset years.

But all three men have spoken extensively with people who claim to have witnessed UFOs, and they believe not all, but certainly some of their stories.

Some of them come across as so very sincere.

"That lends a certain credibility to this stuff," Jones said in an interview. "It gives you a totally different view from what you get just from books."

You start thinking, 'This is real.' I keep my eyes open but personally, I've never seen anything."

Reams, who has had plenty of opportunities during his 25-year career as a corporate pilot, which followed a 10-year stint flying for the Air Force.

"I've known a lot of people who have and I've talked to lots of people who have," Reams continued during a telephone interview. "I just say that there's so much evidence out there and, being involved with it for so many years, yes, it's out there."

"Now what it is, I don't think anyone knows."

"I've never seen what I can honestly say would have been one of these very interesting objects or events," Timmerman said by telephone from his home southeast of Lima.

Timmerman has, however, spoken with what he described as "literally thousands over the years" who have, including many members of the military in this and other countries.

"In a way, that convinces me that we are not alone, that I am not alone, in our curiosity about this, and perhaps we are not alone," said Timmerman, who was chairman of the CUFOS board of directors from 1980 to 1985.

Their sentiments are echoed by Hynek himself in his 1972 book "The UFO Experience: A Scientific Inquiry."

In the introduction, Hynek wrote: "In my years of experience in the investigation of UFO reporters, one fact stands out: invariably I have had the feeling that I was talking to someone who was describing a very real event. To him or her it represented an outstanding experience, vivid and not at all dreamlike, an event for which the observer was totally unprepared, something soon recognized as being beyond comprehension."

But those who long for sincere and serious study of UFOs — people like Jones and Reams and Timmerman and their counterparts around the country and around the world — face something of an uphill battle, and perhaps always have.

Their desire for scientific facts

becomes subverted with science-fiction space opera like precedence over space observation.

And even the people who say they have definitely seen something find themselves lumped in with the improbably proved and the decidedly delusional, the allegedly abandoned and the arguably addled, the hoaxers and the hallucinatory believers in Bigfoot and those who simply will not let Elvis go.

Still, Bill Jones is mystified that more people do not have a deep and abiding intellectual curiosity about a phenomenon as sustained and widespread as UFOs.

"I think a lot of people just ignore it," he said.

Jones, who graduated from West High School in 1960, attended Ohio State University and then went to Capital University Law School. He is not a practicing attorney but does legal work for a well-known local employer Jones would rather not name for, well, obvious reasons. They're the same reasons he offers anonymity to people willing to get in touch with him about their experiences.

John Timmerman, for one, wishes fear of ridicule no longer existed.

"I think that the individuals of the world have to open their hearts to friends and say, 'Listen, this is something that really happened,'" he said.

Some UFOlogists, as they are called these days, think sightings are of examples of technology the government, for some reason, wishes to keep secret.

Many, however, sincerely believe that alien civilizations are paying us a visit.

"It's a decent theory that explains some of the phenomena," Jones said. "The one thing I always say is, 'Be careful what you wish, it might be true.'"

"I think other planets would seem more logical because it fits in our three-dimensional world," MUFON of Ohio chief investigator Reams said. "When you start getting into other dimensions, it all gets pretty theoretical."

In their 1975 book, "The Edge of Reality: A Progress Report on Uniden-

tified Flying Objects," co-authors J. Allen Hynek and Jacques Vallée wrote:

"We start with the incontrovertible fact that reports of Unidentified Flying Objects exist. Furthermore, such reports continue to be made daily, in all parts of the world, by all sorts of people, from all walks of life and all degrees of education, training and culture. The sheer number of such reports over the past quarter of a century or so is embarrassingly large, embarrassing because we still do not know what UFOs are."

"The UFO represents an unknown but real phenomenon. Its implications are far-reaching and take us to the very edge of what we consider the known and real physical environment."

On the other side of the coin from Hynek is Philip J. Klass, often considered the world's foremost UFO skeptic. Klass, who in 1976 helped found the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, has written several books debunking famed sightings.

In his 1974 work "UFOs Explained," Klass wrote:

"The idea of wondrous spaceships from a distant civilization really is a fairy story that is tailored to the adult mentality, a fairy story in which anyone can become a firsthand participant simply by keeping an alert eye peeled toward the skies. The myth of extraterrestrial visitors will persist ... if only because there are so many natural and manmade 'UFOs' to be seen, and because so many people want to believe."

Such sniffing dismissals of so many sightings over so many years in so many places by people from so many walks of life leave Bill Jones practically fuming.

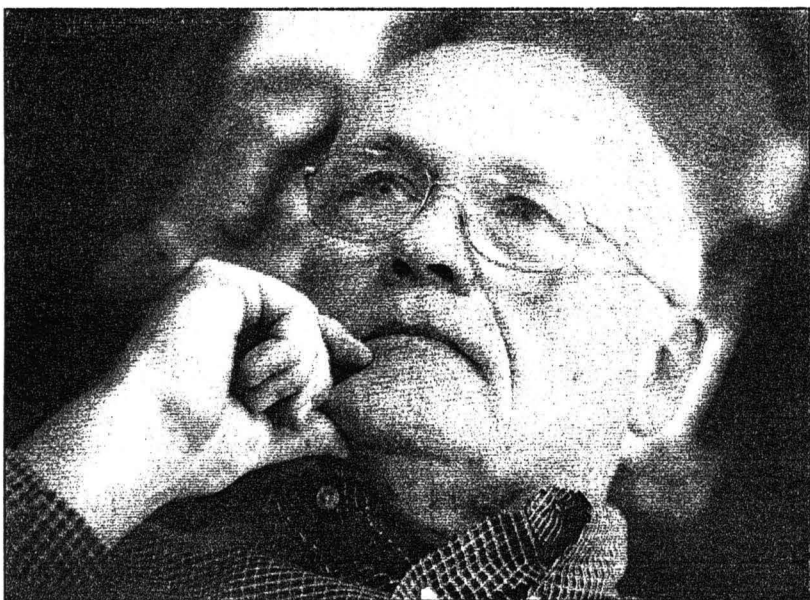
"I don't mind skeptics," he said. "I don't like debunkers."

"What is the truth? We don't know."

But Jones thinks the truth is out there.

Anyone who thinks they have some is invited to call him at 442-1598.

kpark@thisweeknews.com



By David Ron/ThisWeek

William E. Jones is the director of the Mutual UFO Network of Ohio (MUFON).

(continued on page 5)

J. Allen Hynek: From 'marsh gas' to 'close encounters'

J. Allen Hynek represented the yin and yang of UFO investigation.

On the one hand, the former professor of astronomy at Ohio State University is quite possibly the first person to have employed the "swamp gas" explanation for a supposed sighting.

Along with "weather balloons" and "meteor showers," swamp gas has often been used to dismiss such reports.

At the other extreme, it was Hynek who devised the "Close Encounters of the First, Second and Third Kind" classification system for human-alien interaction.

An encounter of the first kind involves observing a UFO within about 200 yards. The second kind details some interaction between the UFO and the environment.

The occupants of such craft are encountered in "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," which became the title of a 1977 film directed by Steven Spielberg.

Hynek served as technical adviser for the movie, although many years before that he had broken with the scientific establishment when it came to UFOs.

"Allen was the first scientist to go public on the matter worldwide," said John P. Timmerman of Lakeview, Ohio.

Timmerman first became intrigued by unidentified flying objects as a result of newspaper coverage of the supposed crash of one near Roswell,

N.M., in 1947 while he was an undergraduate at Cornell University. He is preparing to retire from his many activities with the Center for UFO Studies, which Hynek founded in 1973.

Josef Allen Hynek was born in Chicago on May 1, 1910, according to "Who's Who." He attended the University of Chicago where he earned a bachelor of science degree in 1931 and his Ph.D. four years later.

After working at the Applied Physics Lab at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore during World War II, Hynek became a professor of astronomy at Ohio State University beginning in 1946. During his time in Ohio, Hynek was director of both the Perkins and McMillin observatories.

In his 1972 book "The UFO Experience: A Scientific Inquiry," Hynek recalls that his involvement with the phenomenon came about almost by accident:

"In my association with the UFO phenomenon I was somewhat like the proverbial 'innocent bystander who got shot.'"

Hynek went on to write that when Project Sign, the precursor to Project Grudge, which was the precursor to Project Blue Book, the Air Force's concluding study of UFOs, was launched, he was called upon.

"I was then director of Ohio State University's McMillin Observatory and, as such, the closest professional astronomer at hand."

According to Hynek's obituary in *The New York Times*, the Air Force in 1966 asked him to investigate a rash of UFO sightings in Michigan. His conclusion: "luminous marsh gas, rather than something from space."

Hynek did go on to add, according to the obituary: "Scientists in the year 2066 may think us very naive in our denials."

From 1952 to 1972, Hynek served as a consultant to the Air Force on UFOs, according to his obituary in *The Chicago Tribune*.

Although he made many contributions to the field of astronomy, Hynek once told a reporter he had no objections to being remembered for his connection with UFOs.

"I wouldn't mind," he is quoted as saying in *The New York Times* obituary. "If I can succeed in making the study of UFOs scientifically respectable and do something constructive in it, then I think that would be a real contribution."

Hynek retired in 1978 after 18 years as professor and chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University. His Center for UFO Studies, which he founded in Evanston, Ill., was briefly relocated to Scottsdale, Ariz., where he and his wife moved following his retirement.

The center returned to the Chicago area following Hynek's death from a malignant brain tumor on April 27, 1986.

— Kevin Parks

'The Frosty Factor'

The state director of the Mutual UFO Network of Ohio, William E. Jones of Clintonville, has a theory regarding "unidentified flying objects." It's a bit whimsical, a little mystical and ultimately unsatisfactory, so it's probably as good as any other hypothesis, and perhaps a lot better than some.

Jones calls it "The Frosty Factor."

Frosty was a cat, a white cat with one blue eye and one green eye.

Frosty was also deaf and highly intelligent.

"That cat was super smart," Jones said.

By chance, Jones discovered that Frosty delighted in chasing the beam of a flashlight around as he played it along the floor.

Loved that game.

"She had a ball," Jones said.

When Jones directed the circle of light up a wall and onto the ceiling, Frosty would watch it intently in that wide-eyed way cats have. That led to something of a revelation for the cat owner.

"One day it struck me: that was her UFO," Jones said.

It occurred to Jones that no matter how much Frosty watched him with the flashlight, no matter how much she studied the subject and even discussed it with other cats, that even if Frosty found a broken flashlight and could examine it at her leisure, she simply didn't have the mental capacity to come up with an explanation for the pool of light.

She wasn't going to be able to understand what it was.

UFOs, Jones thinks, might be our pool of light.

"Maybe that's what UFOs are, to some degree," he said. "Maybe we'll never be able to figure this out."

"Now, that doesn't do much for the human ego."

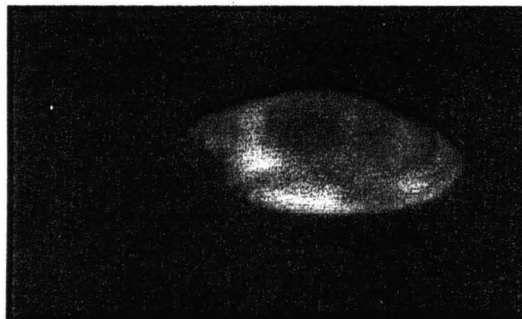
— Kevin Parks

UFO sightings around the globe

(Photos courtesy of www.ufocasebook.com)



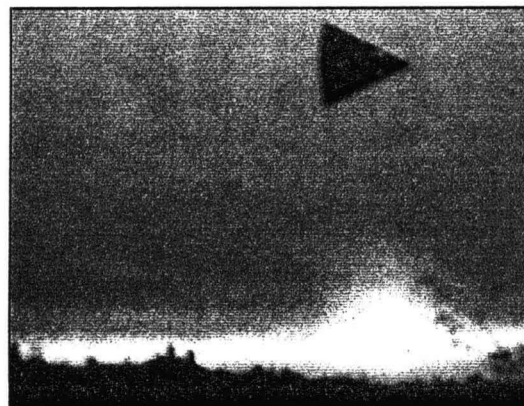
Woonsocket, Rhode Island, 1967



Puebla, Mexico, 1994



Miki-Cho, Japan, 1978



Glasgow, Scotland, 2002



Passiac, New Jersey, 1952



Photo courtesy of Mary Sutherland

Mary Sutherland in the Trevor field in Kenosha County where the crop circle was found.

Experts to check out Trevor crop circle

BY JANINE ANDERSON
Journal Times

TREVOR — From the road it doesn't look like much. Just a field of ripening wheat stalks, rippling in the breeze.

At the top of a rise partway into the field the even pattern of golden wheat breaks up a little bit, like there was a patch of seed that didn't take. The stalks aren't as crowded there, and when the wind moves past it's not the same even, water-like ripples that move across the rest of the field.

In that spot, circles of wheat have been bent over, the once upright stalks now running horizontal in a counterclockwise circle.

Trevor has a crop circle.

Mary Sutherland, a investigator with Burlington UFO and Paranormal, learned of the circle earlier this week, when a man who lives near the field sent her an e-mail.

In the e-mail he told Sutherland about the circle, noting that it could just be that someone drove around in the field, but there are no tracks leading up to the disturbed area.

Instead, it's like a giant wheel lay flat in the field and spun, pushing the wheat over gently but firmly, so that it stayed bent but did not strip the grains from



the stalks.

Sutherland went out to investigate after she learned of the circle. She took photos and soil samples, and she called in the experts. One was coming in Friday to take aerial photographs, she said. Another group was due to stop by the field today. They'll likely bring Geiger counters and audio equipment, and they will compare wheat from within the circle and without, to try and figure out if the circle is real or if it is a hoax.

Sutherland believes it is real.

"If it was a hoax, they would have made it more visible from the road," she said.

This is the second crop circle in Wisconsin she and her husband, Brad, have investigated. The last one was in Mayville in 2003. The Independent Crop Circle Researchers Association came out to help with that

one, too.

Jeffrey Wilson is the director of the ICCRA. He drove from Ohio to Wisconsin Friday night so he could be around to take a look today. Much of the research he wants to do will try and prove whether someone mechanically created the circle.

Hoaxes have what he calls "tell-tale signs of damage" to the plants themselves. They look for that damage, but also compare plants' growth nodes to see if there are differences between the upright and flattened stalks.

"If the ones that are flattened have enlarged or elongated (growth nodes), that is an unhoaxable effect," Wilson said.

He investigated his first crop circle about 10 years ago, after he went to a site in northern Ohio where he detected radioactivity inside the crop circle.

"I knew there was something more than people flattening it down with wood or a rope," he

said. "There are some (circles) people are making that way, but they're not all making them that way."

Wilson and Sutherland believe in sharing the information they gather on crop circles with the public, which is why Sutherland agreed to show the Trevor circle off Friday morning.

Sutherland believes the crop circles are some sort of landmark, left by beings in UFOs. They may be signs that spacecraft landed, flattening the crops with some kind of electromagnetic energy. She also believes that the crop circles are a sign that a race of beings that spent time on Earth thousands of years ago are returning. She connects the crop circles to Stonehenge, the pyramids and burial mounds.

"Whoever was working with us at that time, they left," Sutherland said. "People carried on with these symbols. ... I think these are the same people responsible for the crop circles. They're coming back."

HERALD-JOURNAL, Logan, UT - April 28, 2005

UFO sighting reported

Police received a report Tuesday evening of a UFO flying above Logan.

A man contacted police to alert them of a triangular set of yellow and white lights flying about 15,000 feet above ground, police reports state. The caller reportedly had been watching an airplane fly when he noticed the triangular lights. There was no noise coming from the UFO, reports state.

Police contacted the Air Traffic Control office in Salt Lake City to alert them about a possible UFO in the Cache Valley skies.

Man spots falling object in Magalia

Weather service has "no clue"

BY NEIL H. DEMPSEY
STAFF WRITER

A UFO of sorts — if the "F" stood for "falling" — was spotted by a man at the corner of Skyway and Old Skyway in Magalia on Thursday morning, sheriff's logs indicate.

According to those logs, the man had been snapping photographs of the Sawmill Peak area when, just before 11 a.m., he spotted a black and silver object approximately 10 feet wide that "looked like a triangular balloon or hang glider."

The object was reportedly spinning down into the

canyon below.

After a rendezvous with the man, a responding sheriff's unit determined from a photo of the object on the man's laptop that he had likely seen a weather balloon or a child's science project gone adrift, as it seemed too small to have been manned.

But National Weather Service meteorologist Holly Snell said on Friday that the description wasn't consistent with any type of weather balloon she knew about.

Although NWS balloons fall to Earth each day, Snell said they are brown, not black and

"That wouldn't be one of our weather balloons from Medford, Reno or Oakland."

HOLLY SNELL,
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
METEOROLOGIST

fall.

And it's unlikely that a balloon from the NWS — the only agency in the nation that consistently releases them — would make it to Butte County, as the release stations are just too far away, she said.

"That wouldn't be one of our weather balloons from Medford, Reno or Oakland," Snell said.

She added that if it were, it would be comprised of a rubbery latex and equipped with an electronic instrument the size of a shoebox.

So what was it, then?

"I don't have any clue," Snell said.

silver, are equipped with a parachute to aid their descent and wouldn't likely be 10 feet wide, or triangular, as they

Area man's passion is out of this world

■ Doc Wagner says UFOs, aliens are common in Brazoria County

By THAYER EVANS
CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

While living in Brazoria County the last 32 years, M.D. "Doc" Wagner claims to have seen hundreds of unidentified flying objects.

The UFOs, he said, inspired him to start a loose-knit group in the early 1990s that used to meet at the public library in West Columbia.

"People always say, 'Why are you so entrenched in this?'" said Wagner, 68, a retired Dow Chemical Co. employee, who lives in a log house west of West Columbia, near the San Bernard River. "It's exciting."

Wagner said the group stopped meeting after many of its members either moved or died.

Wagner said his first encounter with aliens came in 1965 when he was living in the state of Washington. He said he was sleeping on a couch and was awakened by what he thought was an explosion inside his home.

"When I got into that bedroom, that whole wall was sucked off the house and into the woods," Wagner said. "That was my wakeup call. From then on, I haven't forgot it."

Although he is confident that UFOs and aliens are real, Wagner said he respects the opinions of skeptics.

"As long as (people) think I'm a weirdo, I'm not bothered," he said. "I love it. The more the merrier."

M.D. "DOC" WAGNER

■ Age: 68

■ Residence: Near West Columbia

■ Occupation: Retired Dow Chemical Co. employee

"People always say, 'Why are you so entrenched in this?' It's exciting."

—M.D. "DOC" WAGNER

West Columbia-area resident

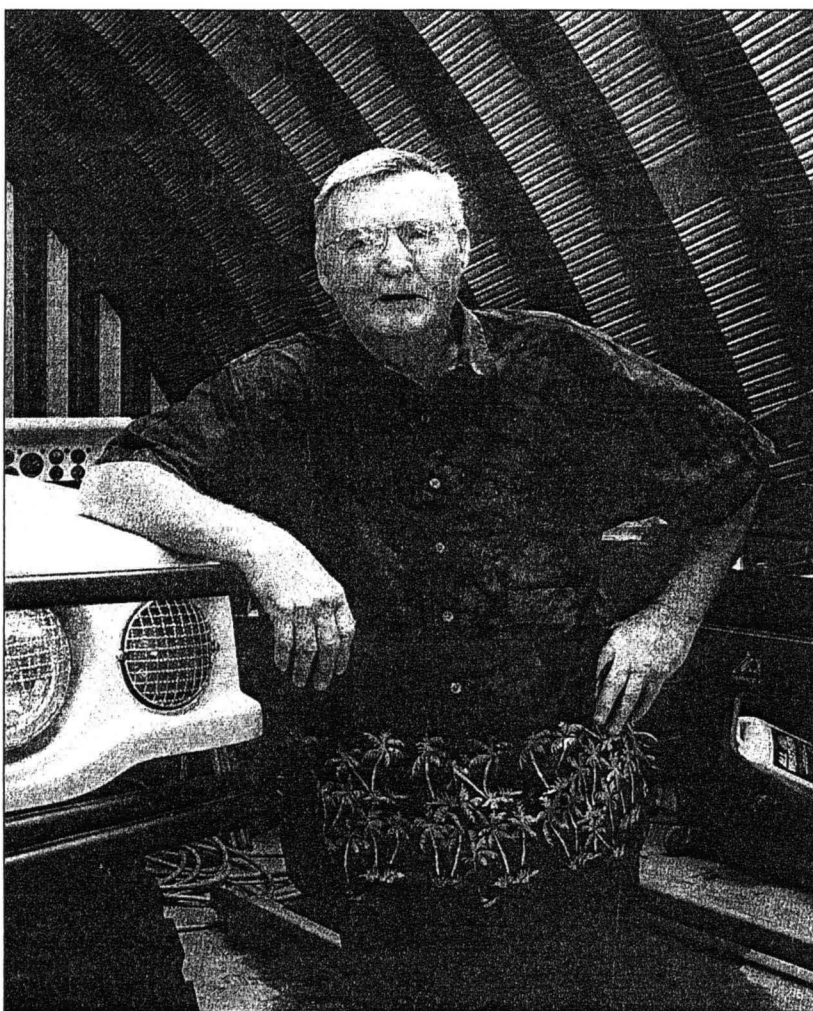
He said he is interested in talking with people in the county who have had experiences with UFOs or aliens and asks for them to contact him by e-mail at mdwagner@starband.net.

Wagner said the spacecraft he has seen range in size from 50 feet to 500 feet in diameter and are piloted by aliens on missions. The creatures travel in groups, are attracted to women and are generally nonviolent unless provoked.

"The only danger you can get into is if you start shooting at them or if you're enticing them," he said. "They like people that are aggressive, but not hostile."

Since moving to Brazoria County in 1972, Wagner said, he has had several encounters with aliens, coming within 75 feet of one in 1995 near his home.

"This thing (was) passing very slow over the top of me to make sure I (got) a picture," he said. "I got it on film and then afterward, I could not find my film."



NOT A BOTHER: M.D. "Doc" Wagner doesn't mind that people are skeptical of claims that he has seen UFOs.

There are more than a dozen species of aliens and most are no taller than 5 feet, Wagner said.

"They don't talk to you like a guy on the street," he said. "If you're being talked to, it's going to be this mental stuff. You're going to hear them in your head. They can speak to a whole group that way."

Wagner's wife, Rose, said she is supportive of her husband's pursuit of UFOs and aliens.

"I think all things are possible," said Rose Wagner, 53, who has been married to her husband for 33 years.

Wagner said he knows why aliens frequent the county, but declined to give an explanation.

At some point in his life, Wagner said, he may have been abducted by aliens, but is unable to recall such an incident.

"For some reason, they do keep an eye on me, because

somehow I'm a threat to them in some way," Wagner said. "It's knowledge. Knowledge is dangerous. I have the type of mind that puts things together that nobody else is thinking about."

If you have a suggestion for a "Faces in the Crowd" profile, contact Richard Zagrzecki at richard.zagrzecki@chron.com or send a fax to 713-362-7552.

Area man brings to light 'UFO Sightings of Illinois'



Dean

By ROB STROUD
Staff Writer

Phillip Dean has researched sightings of unidentified flying objects ever since he glimpsed a long, luminescent object in the night sky south of his Paris hometown in 1960.

Dean has gathered reports of

UFO sightings from throughout the country and is now sharing them with the general public. He recently published a UFO Sightings of Illinois booklet that includes sightings in Coles, Clark, Cumberland and Edgar counties.

Most of the sightings are recounted through newspaper

articles, such as a United Press International article titled "Mattoon UFO" that was published on July 14, 1969, in the Paris Beacon News. This story includes eyewitness reports of a "bobbling star-like object" in the sky northwest of Mattoon.

Other sightings are recorded

by Dean through personal interviews or through letters written to him, many of which are anonymous. These include a letter about a 1963 sighting of a flashing flying disc near Marshall and a recent sighting of a fast-moving

object that glowed with white light above Charleston.

Dean said he hopes his mail-order booklet will get the attention of others who have seen flying objects that they cannot easily explain. He said the reports of UFO sightings in various Illinois communities should be of interest to people who live in or near these areas.

"It's a good way to meet people who know a lot about the subject," Dean said. "When people are interested in something that happened in their area they are more likely to get in contact with you."

Dean, who describes himself as a laborer with a thirst for knowledge, ultimately hopes to publish booklets about sightings in other states.

Besides his 1960 sighting, Dean said he also saw a bright flying object that was emanating flames above Paris. Dean said he has been interested in such phenomena ever since, even making room in his current booklet for an article on The Mad Gasser of Mattoon.

In regard to UFOs, Dean said he has no doubt they exist. He said among the billions of planets there is bound to be intelligent life in the universe that can travel through space.

"We are just like a speck of sand here on Earth compared to that," Dean said of the universe.

James Conwell, a physics professor at Eastern Illinois University, said the odds are that there is other life in the universe. After all, he said there are an estimated 100 billion stars per galaxy and an estimated 100 billion galaxies in the universe.

"I think it's probably almost impossible not to have other life in the universe," Conwell said.

However, Conwell said the question of whether or not there is intelligent life out there that could travel across the universe is almost a sociological question. He speculated any alien race would have to survive the development of nuclear energy or other dan-

gerous technologies before it could ever progress to the level of interstellar travel.

For more information on UFO Sightings of Illinois, write Phillip Dean at P. O. Box 177, West Terre Haute, Ind. 47885.

Contact Rob Stroud at rstroud@jg-tc.com or 348-5734.

Area people report UFO sightings

Reports cited in "UFO Sightings of Illinois" by Phillip Dean of Paris include:

■ Interview with a Chrisman area businessman, who wished to remain unidentified, in the Oct. 16, 1973, Paris Beacon News. "A 'blinding white light' like a hundred flares or strobe lights suddenly

swooped down over the highway (Illinois Route 1) and appeared to hover over a nearby field. Most unusual feature was what appeared to be a 'rope ladder' hanging from the object, before it suddenly sped away in a flash of blue and green light. There was a complete absence of any sound, the businessman added."

■ Report on strange occurrences in Paris in the Oct. 18, 1977, Beacon News.

"Police received a telephone call shortly before 10 p.m. Saturday from a 12-year-old youth, somewhat excited, who stated he had just seen a 'three-legged monster' jump over Carolyn Wenz school, and two other houses in the neighborhood."



True Tales From the Fred Baron Seeing UFOs!

By Fred
"Crash"
Blechman

It's said, "There are those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what's happening!" I admit to being in the last two categories one clear night in the early 1950s when another pilot and I saw an unidentified flying object! But our experience was mild compared to what happened to Ed Balocco, a Marine jet fighter pilot with whom I went through Navy flight training. I'll begin with my story.

stars, all stationary in their relative positions as the carrier gently rolled and pitched, this light was moving randomly in short, jerky transitions among the blanket of stars.

I pointed it out to Don, and we both stared in rapt attention as the light stopped, then suddenly moved left or right at incredible speed—then stopped again. With UFOs commonly in the news in those days, we both agreed we were seeing one! This strange light "dance" went on for about 10 minutes, as the light seemed to be moving higher and getting dimmer, finally disappearing.

As we recounted the story the next day to some of the more senior pilots who had been on other cruises and were accustomed to dark skies and bright stars, they told us what we had actually seen was not some strange alien visitor, but simply a meteorological tool used with a "theodolite."

"Huh? What's a theodolite, and what has that got to do with meteorology?" we asked.

Meteorologists predict weather. This is particularly important for flight operations, especially when at sea and too far away for alternate landing sites. Small weather balloons are released and followed with a theodolite, a calibrated optical instrument used by meteorologists to determine relative position. Similar in construction to a surveyor's transit, it consists of a telescope fitted with a spirit level and mounted on a tripod so that it's free to rotate about its vertical and horizontal axes. Graduated scales are used to measure the amount of rotation about the axes.

Measurements of the altitude and azimuth of a weather balloon at

Dancing Among the Stars

When I joined the VF-14 "Tophatters" Navy fighter squadron in September 1950, flying F4U-5 Corsairs, Ensign Donald Jerome "Don" Flynn, another Corsair pilot, was already in the squadron. We became buddies when we discovered we were both originally from Queens, a borough of New York City. Although we weren't in the same four-plane division in the air, we spent many hours in conversations in the ready room waiting for flights, or after flight debriefings.

It was one night in January 1950, while in the mid-Atlantic on the light aircraft carrier "USS Wright,"

precise time intervals are used to compute the estimated wind velocity of the atmosphere. At night, a battery-powered light is hung below the balloon so the theodolite can track the balloon's motion. What we had seen was the pendulum motion of this light as the balloon ascended.

Chasing a real UFO!

I first met Eddy Paul "Ed" Balocco in Navy pre-flight Class 5-49 in Pensacola, Fla., in November 1948. Because of the alphabetical nearness of our last names, we frequently sat near each other in classes and stood together at various musters and in chow lines.

Ed looked like the living statue of a Greek god—muscular build, curly hair, rugged good looks. But his personality—confidence bordering on cockiness, great sense of humor, can-do attitude, and friendliness with me (a 135-pound skinny kid from New York who didn't even drive a car!)—made him my roll model.

We both made it through basic training in SNJs in Pensacola, including carrier qualification, and then advanced training in F4U Corsairs at Cabaniss Field in Corpus Christi, Texas, with final carrier qualification back in Pensacola. We even received our Wings of Gold on almost the same day.

Ed went into the Marines, and was an 85-combat-missions pilot in Korea, flying F4U Corsairs, F2H Banshees, F9F Panthers, AD Skyraiders, and even TBM Avengers. I heard stories about him doing wild things in combat, which must have been true, since he was awarded four Air Medals along

(CVL-49) that Don and I saw a UFO. We were on our way from Norfolk, Va., to the Mediterranean Sea for a three-month cruise.

Late one night, we were chatting on a catwalk alongside the flight deck on a clear, moonless night. Countless stars covered the pitch-black sky in a manner not normally seen by those who live in large cities, where only the brighter stars and planets are visible. We could clearly see the Milky Way, the edgewise band of stars in our own galaxy.

We were swaying with the gentle motion of the ship as it churned along at about 15 knots, when a strange bright light in the sky caught my attention. Unlike the

with the difficult-to-earn Distinguished Flying Cross for his Korean combat.

I lost contact with Ed for over 40 years until I located him about 10 years ago. After leaving active duty in the Marines, he stayed in the Marine Air Reserve for many years, during which time he got his law degree, opened his own law firm, and flew his own twin-engine Cessna 310.

About six years ago he told me of his encounter with a real UFO. After returning from the Korean police action, Ed was a first lieutenant stationed at Edenton, N.C., a small Marine fighter base about 100 miles southwest of Norfolk, Va. Norfolk was—and still is—a major naval and air base on the East Coast. By that time, Ed, only 24 years old, had some 1,000 hours of pilot time, mostly in fighter jets.

On Feb. 11, 1953, just a week after a flurry of UFO sightings in the Norfolk area, he was the only pilot on the base on intercept-ready status at about 10 p.m.

"I was riding around the base in a Jeep, when the alert whistle sounded," he recalled. "I sped out to my waiting F9F Panther jet and in less than two minutes, I was heading toward Norfolk."

Flying with his external lights off, he was being vectored toward an unknown flying object spotted by Norfolk radar. As he neared where the object was supposed to be, that object suddenly dropped off Norfolk's radar screen.

"I had no radar in my Panther, so I searched visually, and began running low on fuel," he said. "I got approval to return to Edenton."

As he proceeded south at 20,000 feet, with his outside running lights turned on, he spotted a bright light well below him on the port side, near the ocean surface.

"I looked away for a couple of moments to steady my course for Edenton and when I looked back through the windscreen, I was astonished to find that the object had climbed vertically to my altitude and was only about 2,000 feet away and almost directly ahead of me," he remembered.

He quickly adjusted his heading to aim right at the UFO and increased his speed to more than 500 miles an hour. As he got closer, he could clearly see that the UFO was disk-shaped, with blinking red lights.

"I guess it was my Korean combat experience, but my reaction was to squeeze the trigger on my control stick to blast this 'enemy,'" he said.



Marine Second Lieutenant Eddy Balocco flew 85 combat missions in Korea, mostly in F4U Corsairs, F9F Panthers and F2H Banshees.

Nothing happened. The guns were empty!

"With full throttle, I got to about 350 feet from the UFO when my entire cockpit was bathed in a strong, blue-white light," he recalled. "Everything seemed to be motionless."

As he glanced at his gloved hand on the throttle, he was shocked to discover that he could see through the glove, and the flesh, to see the bones of his hand.

"It was like an X-ray," he said. "For what I think was several seconds there was no sound—not even the sound of my engine. Suddenly, there was a flash, and the UFO broke away at incredible speed, as sound and motion returned."

As reported by newspapers in the following days, a similar flash was seen by a Navy pilot over Norfolk and a civilian near Oriental, N.C. Marine helicopters searched where the flash was seen, but found nothing. Ground-controlled interceptors with radar also failed to make contact after a helicopter spotted the mysterious object south of Norfolk earlier in the day.

On his return to Edenton, Ed was whisked to Cherry Point, the headquarters for Marine Air on the East Coast, and subjected to an intense debriefing by several Marine colonels and others for several hours. He was told in no uncertain terms to say absolutely nothing about the incident.

"There were other UFO sightings that night, and the Marines were really concerned," he said.

Ed still has a vivid memory of this encounter and now, over 50 years later, has written a fictional book, "The Roswell Heat—Forever Connected," soon available at www.amazon.com.

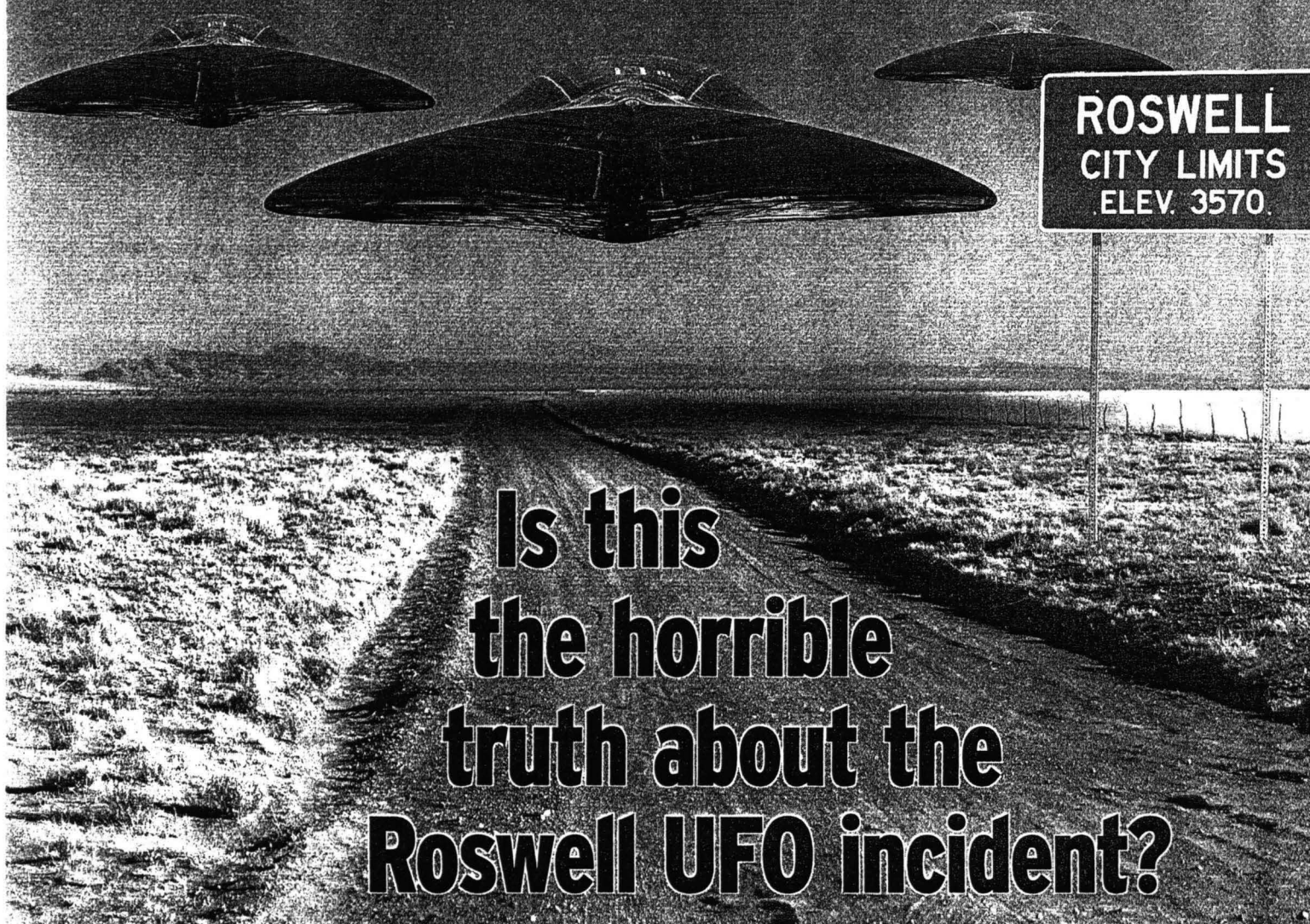
Fred "Crash" Blechman is the author of "Bent Wings—F4U Corsair Action & Accidents: True Tales of Trial & Terror!" It's available from www.amazon.com.



Eddy Balocco explains, "This was just a few feet from my cockpit!" as he examines some of the flak damage to his F9F Panther jet after a Korean combat mission.



BODY SNATCHERS IN THE DESERT



Is this
the horrible
truth about the
Roswell UFO incident?

IT WAS blisteringly hot when Bill "Mac" Brazel set out to check his vast ranch deep in the heart of the harsh desert of Roswell, New Mexico. The farmer had been alerted by an explosion the night before and was curious to discover what had caused it. He scoured the area for hours before finally coming across a large amount of unusual, lightweight debris strewn across hundreds of feet of land. The silver foil-like material was incredibly flexible and would return to its original shape when crushed or folded.

He collected some of the pieces and continued to search for further clues. Shortly after, he came across a shocking scene – surrounded by similar debris and a large chunk of twisted metal was a body that did not look human.

Although smashed to a pulp and decomposing rapidly in the intense summer heat, Brazel could see that it was barely five feet tall, was dressed in some sort of futuristic-looking flight-suit, and had a vaguely Oriental appearance.

For several minutes, Brazel stared in shock at the body then slowly backed away, frightened and unsure what to do. In the days that followed, the military would tell him what to do – they made him swear an oath of secrecy.

To many, the Roswell Incident – as it became known – is proof that we are not alone in our universe. But even to non-believers there is no doubting that the events of that day in July 1947 and their aftermath created a web of intrigue that continues to mesmerise people nearly 60

by **Nick Redfern**

years later. Now, a shocking theory has emerged that will astonish sceptics and believers alike, one that lifts the lid on one of science's darkest episodes.

It is a matter of record that in July 1947, the then-Army Air Force officially announced that it had recovered the remains of a flying saucer that had been found on Brazel's ranch. The intense media frenzy that followed was brought to a halt when the AAF hastily retracted its statement, saying the flying saucer story was a huge mistake and the debris belonged to a weather balloon.

Today, the Air Force tells a different story – that the wreckage found at Roswell came from a Top Secret balloon project, code-named Mogul, that was designed to monitor Soviet atomic bomb tests. The small, "alien bodies"

**'Human beings
were used as
guinea pigs'**

were in fact crash-test dummies used in

parachute experiments.

Those UFO researchers who champion the idea that something truly anomalous occurred at Roswell scoff at the ever-changing assertions of the Pentagon and claim a conspiracy of cosmic proportions.

In the course of nearly four years of painstaking research, however, I have uncovered a new explanation. It summarily dismisses the Mogul balloon and crash-test dummy claims, but also reveals that the world's most famous UFO case did not involve alien visitors.

In 2001, in downtown Los Angeles, I met with an elderly lady who I have dubbed the Black Widow, and who, from the late Forties to the early Fifties, worked at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory on research to determine the effects of radiation and high-altitude exposure on humans. Not only that – she had first-hand knowledge of the horrible truth behind what happened at Roswell.

THE BLACK Widow presented to me a theory that is even more sensational than the idea of extraterrestrials. It linked the post-war

(continued on page 14) **9**



TRUTH IS OUT THERE: The Roswell "alien"

American government with some of the most sinister figures in wartime Japan. These scientists were engaged in a host of controversial activities, including bacteriological warfare tests, horrific medical experiments on human beings and test-flights of advanced aircraft and futuristic balloons.

The strange, alien-looking bodies found at Roswell, the Black Widow informed me, were severely handicapped human beings who were being used as guinea pigs in highly controversial aviation-based experiments.

As a result of this shadowy meeting, I was thrown headlong into a cloak-and-dagger world that was dominated by retired espionage agents, psychological-warfare experts, high-ranking military personnel and Deep Throat-style whistleblowers. For several years, I would meet clandestinely with these people. Over time, I was able to piece together a terrible theory about what happened at Roswell.

During the closing stages of the Second World War, America found itself under attack by a new weapon known as the Fugo Balloon. A classified weapon developed by the Japanese military, no less than 9,000 such devices were constructed and employed against the continental United States.

Up to 32ft in diameter, the balloons were made of either paper or rubberised silk and carried below them anti-personnel devices and incendiary bombs. They were launched from the east coast of Japan during a five-month period in 1944, and were carried by high altitude winds more than 6,000 miles eastward across the Pacific to North America. About 1,000 were estimated to have successfully made it to the US, of which there were approximately 300 reported incidents.

ON JUNE 4, 1945, a Japanese military spokesman ominously asserted that the Fugo Balloons were the forerunners for something far more dangerous. The new balloons, American experts estimated, would be very strong, at least 60ft in diameter and able to carry below them a "pressurised gondola" containing four men - all equipped with oxygen tanks, food and water, and special suits to afford protection for high-altitude flying. The balloons would travel at heights of 30,000ft on their four-day journeys across the Pacific to the United States.

Although the atomic strikes on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki put paid to these plans, the research was set to continue.

It is an established fact that, after the Allied victory in 1945, thousands of scientific personnel were secretly taken to the US from Germany in an operation known as "Paperclip".

Less well known, however, is the fact that similar deals were made with Japan. One such deal involved providing a safe haven to certain personnel from an arm of the Japanese military known as Unit 731, which was responsible for large-scale experimentation on human beings. No less than 3,000 people, including Chinese prisoners, captured allied troops and physically handicapped Chinese and Japanese individuals were used in a wide range of horrific experiments.

This would include bacteriological warfare operations, tests to determine the effects of high and low pressures on the human body, the amputation of limbs and dissection of organs from still-living people, and studies to examine the effects of freezing temperatures.

As the war progressed, the work of Unit 731 became more advanced and ambitious. For example, Unit 731 personnel were planning an assault on San

same time blanketing the population below with deadly and devastating bacteriological warfare agents developed by Unit 731.

After Japan's surrender in 1945, US personnel posted to Japan to secure military secrets uncovered details of this amazing plan. The materials and the personnel involved were transferred to the United States to continue the research.

According to the sensational new whistleblower testimony, in July of 1947 a secret test-flight of this unique combination of balloon and aircraft was made high over New Mexico - with catastrophic results.

A retired colonel who worked for more than a decade in the Department of Defence states: "Space and weight are key issues when you're trying to fly a high-altitude, fully pressurised aircraft below a huge balloon. So the crew was chosen because they were small guys - five-foot max. Just like the Roswell legend says: smaller bodies, Asian faces, human looking, because that's exactly what they were."

According to the colonel, disaster struck when the balloon array and the aircraft were struck by lightning,

causing it all to crash to the ground.

The fact that Brazel, a member of the public, had inadvertently stumbled upon the crash scene forced the Army Air Force to construct an elaborate series of cover stories. "The military knew they couldn't hide the story because a civilian was on to it and so they spread bogus stories to confuse the real picture," says former intelligence officer Bill Salter.

"If you can't hide the truth - and they couldn't, at least not completely - then confuse the truth instead."

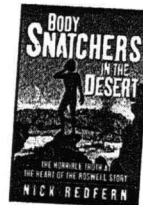
Salter says that there were "other experiments going on at the same time" that also led to rumours that alien bodies had been found in the desert. Specifically, says Salter, this included utilising Japanese prisoners-of-war and handicapped people from the Unit 731 camps in balloon-based, high-altitude-exposure experiments; in prototype high-speed ejection-capsule tests; and in research to determine the effects of radiation on the human body.

He states: "A crashed flying saucer and spacemen story is a big one. Using people in high-altitude experiments is an even bigger one. If you're concerned that the thing is getting

out and you want to hide the second story, there's no better way to do it than by telling the first."

It seems the deserts of Roswell, New Mexico, may finally be giving up their dark secrets.

● *Body Snatchers In The Desert*, by Nick Redfern, is published in the UK in August by Simon & Schuster, at £8.99. To pre-order a copy, send a cheque/postal order made payable to The Express Bookshop to PO Box 200, Falmouth, TR11 4WJ, or call 0871 434 6091 or order online at www.expressbookshop.com. Delivery to UK addresses is free



ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS, Fort St. John, B.C., Canada - March 3, 2005 CR: G. Conway



photo courtesy Mark Mann

Are these images captured on video really UFO's? Local sky-watcher Mark Mann thinks they could be.

Local claims UFO sighting

Dirt, bugs or extraterrestrial life?

SARAH YOUNG
ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

Whether it's actually a speck of cottonwood fluff, a small bug darting around in the sun or an alien ship come to inspect life in Fort St. John, one local man is certain that for now, he has pictures of an unidentified flying object.

Mark Mann has been taking video footage of the sky for a couple of years now and has come up with some remarkable images by pointing his camera to a brightly lit area of the sky, where the sun has just tucked behind a building to leave a backlit area just to the side of it.

"There's hundreds of these things, they're just everywhere," said Mann of the rounded objects he's seen flitting across his video screen. When he slows down the tape frame by frame, Mann can spot the "spinning turnips" that seem to radiate light.

Mann has sent the footage to a UFO group in New York that estimated the object's speed across the sky at up to 18,000 miles per hour and at a size of 15-25 feet in diameter.

"These things are highly polished and moving very fast," he said. "I don't know exactly what they are, but they're solid and silent."

"The definition of UFO is an unidentified object...I can't begin to imagine where they're from, but

they're not ours. I've seen too many different shapes and different sizes, and too many people have been seeing them in different places."

Mann has also been in touch with Brian Vike, a UFO enthusiast who collects reports of sightings. Vike, who lives in Houston, B.C., is a member of several national and international astronomical societies and appears regularly on radio programs in the Okanagan, Alberta and the U.S.

Vike has seen Mann's nighttime footage and originally thought it could be a bright star. But when the object disappeared after two days, he wasn't so sure.

"It stands out in the sky like a sore thumb...if it was a star it should have showed up again after two days."

Vike said many sky observers have used a technique similar to Mann's for daytime shots that reveal "little blobs flying around" that could be anything from cottonwood fluff to dandelions or, quite possibly, UFOs.

Environment Canada spokesman Bill Miller said they used to receive several UFO reports from the Peace region that were attributed to the lights of a weather balloon at night. But as for Mann's sightings, Miller

didn't want to hazard a guess.

"Some could be bugs," Vike offered. "With the sun behind the building if something comes between the camera and the sun it will look very bright. In Mark's footage it looked like a giant hamburger, so I don't know what it is."

Graham Conway heads up a group called UFO B.C. And while he figures the bug explanation is reasonable, he doesn't quite buy it.

"Depending on the time of year, say when it's colder in the fall or winter, the insect theory doesn't stand up."

Vike has heard reports of sightings in the North Peace region from the 1970s but said there seems to be a lull right now, likely because people are afraid of the ridicule from friends and family.

Mann's had his share of naysayers, but is adamant about what he's seen.

"I've had friends who say no way, but seeing is believing. There's nothing I can do to convince people until they see it for themselves."

Vike can't say for sure what's in Mann's photos, but he's not ruling out some extraterrestrial visitors.

"We can't be the only life form in this universe," he said. "There's a lot more questions and not enough answers, but we can't be the only life form in this vastness."

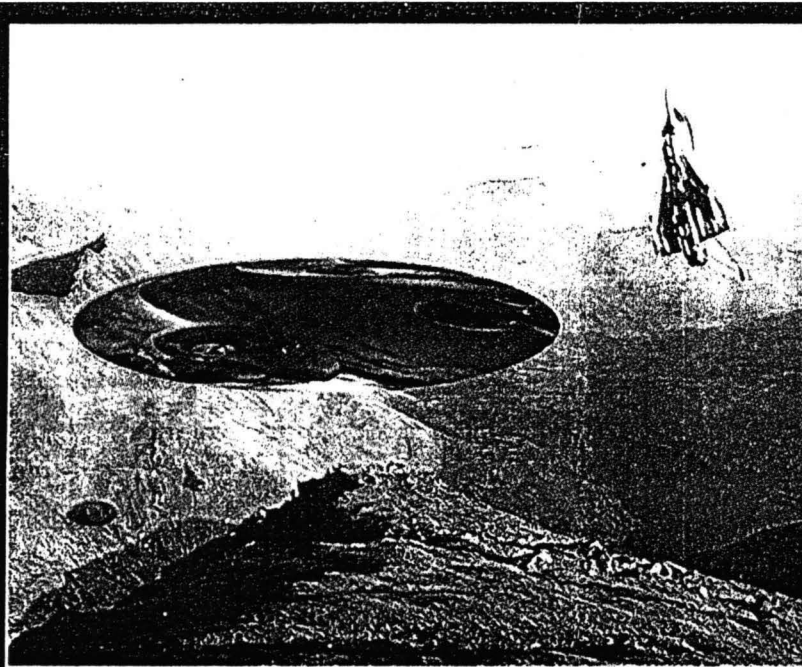
'The work of Unit 731 became more ambitious'

Diego in 1945 that was designed to use kamikaze pilots to attack the city with a deadly plague. Personnel from Unit 731 were also working with Japanese scientists and aviation experts attached to the Fugo Balloon project on a similar operation. The plan was to construct a huge balloon array, below which would be attached a revolutionary, lightweight glider - very similar to the B2 Stealth Bomber of today - that would be piloted by a crew of four or five.

As with the earlier Fugos, the plan was for the balloons to be carried high across the Pacific to the United States and specifically to one of the larger cities on the west coast, such as San Diego or Los Angeles. Then, when in the direct vicinity of the intended target, the pilot would detach the aircraft from the balloon array and would glide it over the heart of the city, while at the

Are UFOs admiring the Snowdonia scenery?

Visitors from outer space!



Alien matter: How the Typhoon might have looked facing off the UFO.

ZZ210205ufo



UFO claim: Tom Slemen.

ZZ020603TOMSLEMAN

A UFO expert claims loud bangs heard across North Wales and Merseyside just before Christmas were made by a flying saucer allegedly seen over Snowdonia.

News reports at the time of the incident on December 21 suggested the bangs and earth tremors they caused were the result of sonic boom from one of the RAF's new Typhoon jet fighter-planes on exercise over the North Sea.

But Tom Slemen, an acknowledged expert on the supernatural, says the first boom was heard at the same time as a religious minister from Cheshire and his

By STAFF REPORTER

two friends out walking in Snowdonia saw a craft resembling a silvered lens – the classic flying saucer shape – appear and hover over the mountain range.

Later, says Mr Slemen, the men saw a Typhoon jet swoop in towards the object – only to be stopped in mid-air “as if by some giant invisible hand”, and turned on its end.

Shortly afterwards, the flying object appeared to be chased off by two more fighter-jets.

“The high-speed departure towards the

north generated another sonic boom which shook the ground,” said Mr Slemen.

“The sinister force holding the Typhoon released its powerful grip, and the plane fell like a stone, but its engine quickly restarted, and it rocketed out of its descent.

“All three planes curved around the mountain and went off at phenomenal speeds towards the north, apparently in hot pursuit of the UFO. Within seconds, the blue lights of the planes’ afterburners vanished into the distance.”

Mr Slemen claims the reverend and his friends were later warned by several anonymous people over their telephones not to report what they had seen.

Far fetched but not pie in the sky

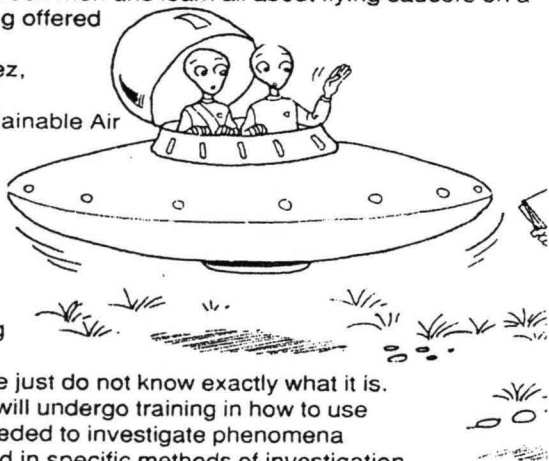
Chemistry, Media Studies, Maths, English, P.E, Art...there is simply no end to the list of subjects that students can take at university... But for something totally out of this world, how about studying for a degree in Unidentified Flying Objects from the Santiago University? Wannabe Mulder and Scullyies are being offered the opportunity to chase down little green men and learn all about flying saucers on a new course now being offered by the university.

But Ricardo Bermudez, who is in charge of the dept of ‘Unexplainable Air Phenomena’ studies which is open to people living nearby, says it’s actually much more serious than that.

“There is definitely something happening out there in

in outer space and we just do not know exactly what it is.

“All of the graduates will undergo training in how to use the scientific tools needed to investigate phenomena and will be well versed in specific methods of investigation by the time that they have finished their degrees. Spooky!



Base in UFO mystery

RAF Staxton Wold played a key part in a UFO sighting off the East Coast, it has been revealed.

One of the most credible reports of a possible visit by extraterrestrials is one made by an RAF pilot and two officers at RAF Boulmer in Northumberland 30 years ago.

The information was released by the Ministry of Defence’s special UFO department under the Freedom of Information laws.

The files show that Flt Lt A M Wood reported “bright objects hanging over the sea” and the closest object was “five times larger than a helicopter”. He said the object changed shape to become body-shaped with projections like arms and legs.

They objects were also seen on the Staxton Wold radar picture which is relayed to West Drayton, near London.

UFO-MAD HACKER COST USA \$700K Brit faces 70yrs in American jail

A BRITISH UFO nut caused \$700,000 of damage by hacking into top-security US military computers, a court heard yesterday.

Gary McKinnon, 39, was searching for evidence that America had covered up visits to Earth by aliens.

If the engineer is found guilty by a US court he could be jailed for up to **70 YEARS** and fined **£1MILLION**. McKinnon

By **MIKE SULLIVAN**

non is alleged to have hacked into 97 systems belonging to the US Army, Navy and Air Force, the Pentagon and the NASA space agency.

At one stage the Army's crucial military district of Washington network was shut down amid fears the hackers were al-Qaeda terrorists.

He also allegedly disabled a naval weapons station for a week just after 9/11.

McKinnon, of Wood Green, North London, was first indicted by the Americans in

2002. They dubbed him "the biggest military computer hacker of all time". Yesterday he appeared before London's Bow Street magistrates for the start of extradition proceedings.

Janet Boston, for the US Government, told the court that McKinnon hacked into the computers between February 2001 and March 2002.

He is accused of stealing sensitive files and obtaining secret information.

Ms Boston went on: "The cost of repairing the damage was \$700,000 (£370,000). These are very serious matters and a

substantial sentence may result." McKinnon was remanded in custody but is expected to be bailed later.

Outside court, his solicitor Karen Todner said he faced up to 70 years in jail in America.

She added: "This decision for extradition is driven by the US government. He intends to contest it vigorously."

"Part of his motivation was that he believes there are UFOs and that the US government knew about this and had been concealing it. He also wanted to expose weaknesses in the US security systems."



Accused... McKinnon yesterday

EXPRESS & STAR, Birmingham, England - Dec. 31, 2004

Group chairman to talk about sightings at international hotspot

UFO expert to get TV chat show spot

A Staffordshire UFO expert is set to appear on a top paranormal TV chat show to talk about unexplained sightings of crafts on Cannock Chase.

Graham Allen, chairman of the Staffordshire UFO Group, has been invited to appear on the Lets Talk Paranormal chat show in America with host Tracie Austin Peters next March.

The top ratings show, filmed in Los Angeles, has featured many celebrities and is to host Hollywood actor and Batman star Michael Keaton on their show this week. Mr Allen, from

By **Andy Richardson**

Rugeley, will discuss the glut of UFO sightings over the Chase on August 7 and 8 this year where people caught on film orange balls of light in the sky and silver discs in formation.

Captured

The spate of sightings has gained Cannock Chase attention from all over the world as the phenomena was discussed at a UFO conference held in Japan in October.

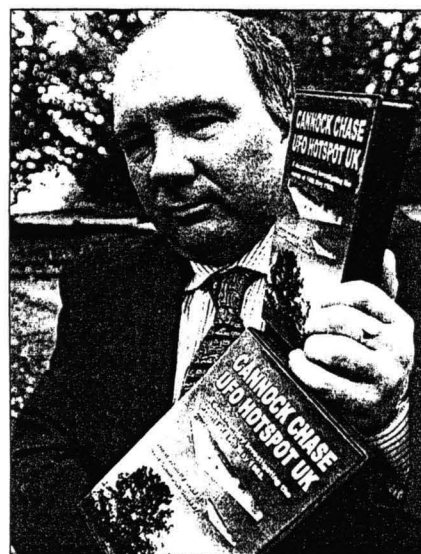
One film shows six discs hovering over a field in Perton, Wolverhampton and others show strange orange balls of light which were captured in Heath

Hayes, Milford and Shenstone. A triangular shaped UFO was seen hovering over cottages at Pottal Pool, near Penkridge.

Mr Allen said Cannock Chase was now seen as one of the major UFO hotspots in the world.

He said there hadn't been so much UFO activity reported throughout the world since a spate of sightings in Mexico City four years ago.

Mr Allen said: "I have been invited to appear on the show to talk about the sightings on the Chase throughout August and September which really was phenomenal. Cannock Chase is now classed as one of the prime UFO hotspots in the world."



TV date - Graham Allen, who is co-ordinator of the Stafford UFO group, seen with the Cannock Chase UFO hotspot UK video which came out recently

HERALD, Tamworth, England - Jan. 20, 2005

Herald receives mystery footage of 'UFO' over town

by **Hannah Greaves**

News Reporter

FOLLOWING recent reports of U.F.O.s over the skies of Tamworth, the *Herald* has received mysterious video footage of a 'sighting' from an anonymous reader.

The film was taken on Saturday evening (January 15) at about 6pm when our reader had just returned to his Two Gates home after walking his dog.

He said he saw "a bright orange/white glow in the sky."

"It was hovering above me at a height of about 500ft."

"There was no noise from it and it was of a round shape and glowing."

"I rushed inside the house and grabbed my handy cam to record it, by which time the object started slowly moving away."

The film shows the bright sphere moving around before mysteriously changing shape and disappearing into the darkness.

Our reader said the object was in the sky for about 15 minutes but he could only capture a few minutes on film due to the battery failing in his camera.

However, he says he will keep looking upwards from now on as his experience has convinced him 'we are not alone'.

SOUTHERN DAILY ECHO, Southampton, England - March 5, 2005

UFO spotted?

I WAS sky watching from my back bedroom and saw a ball of light the size of a football. This thing kept on going off and on like a light bulb and it kept on hovering left to right. It continued for half an hour, then it blacked out and to my amazement it appeared over Southampton Airport doing the same thing before it disappeared.

DENNIS RANDELL,
Swaythling, Southampton.

The truth is out there: declassified reports of UFO sightings reveal 88 sightings last year

DETAILS OF Britain's most recent UFO sightings are revealed in previously secret documents disclosed to *The Independent*.

The files, released under the Freedom of Information Act, show that, last year, the Ministry of Defence's UFO unit received 88 reports from military staff and members of the public worried about unexplained objects in our skies.

The classified files help to complete a picture of the scale of UFO sightings first revealed by this paper last month. These updated "X-files" show the most recent observations were made on 15 January this year following two separate reports from Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, and Whitstable, Kent. The reports refer to "strange lights seen in the sky".

Other sightings give more detail. A report from Devizes in Wiltshire on 24 September last year records an object that: "Looked

BY ROBERT VERKAIK
Legal Affairs Correspondent

liked a big ball of fire coming down from the sky with a tail and sparks coming off the end of it." Another, from Somerset the week before, states: "The object looked like a great bright light and was really intense, like a ball of fire coming down from the sky, rapidly moving towards the ground."

Although such reports might be discounted as meteor showers or other astronomical phenomena, other sightings are not so easy to dismiss. A report from Surrey on 20 May last year describes a UFO as having "grooves and windows" but no room for humans. Even the MoD inspector notes that the "witness had seen the object so clearly".

Many of the other sightings refer to UFO's changing colour, speed and shape. The most common

colours are yellow, orange or black.

A report from Goole, East Yorkshire, recorded in April last year, noted: "The object looked like a boomerang and was stationary over a power station. An aircraft was circling the object."

In the same month, a UFO observer from Seaforth, Merseyside, noted: "I saw a UFO with a cluster of four bright lights in a ring shape on it. Three beams of white light shone upwards and disappeared."

These latest files to be declassified by the MoD are not as complete as reports from mid-1976 and 1977 released last month.

Hundreds of documents previously kept secret by the Ministry of Defence's special UFO department, known as S4F, detail many reports of a possible visit by extraterrestrial life-forms. One is made by an RAF pilot and two NCOs at RAF Boulmer, Northumberland.

In July 1977 Flt-Lt A M

Wood reported "bright objects hanging over the sea". The MoD document adds that the RAF officer said the closest object was "luminous, round and four to five times larger than a Whirlwind helicopter". The UFOs were reported to be three miles out to sea at a height of about 5,000ft.

The officer, whose report is supported by Cpl Torrington and Sgt Graham, said: "The objects separated. Then one went west of the other, as it manoeuvred it changed shape to become body-shaped with projections like arms and legs." The report describes Flt-Lt Wood as "reliable and sober".

That account was deemed so sensitive to the national interest that the MoD had delayed its release for an extra three years. But under the Freedom of Information Act, which came into force on 1 January, the file has been declassified.

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 2004 — *CIUFOS-La Pampa*, La Pampa, Argentina — ARGENTINA: HUNTER HAS A UFO EXPERIENCE By Raul Oscar Chaves, *CIUFOS-LA Pampa*

Location: Rural area west of Toay, La Pampa, Argentina

Witnesses: Two

Date: December 2004

While stalking animals in a hunting preserve, two hunters witnessed a light described as "a full moon" engaging in ascent and descent movements on a hillside, subsequently coming close to the ground. The larger light - orange in color - was static while smaller multicolored lights danced around it.

It is worth noting that at the time of the sighting, there was a moment of confusion since two "full moons" were suddenly visible: the first being Earth's satellite and the other the unidentified flying object. It should also be mentioned that smaller lights were seen during the late afternoon, engaged in strange maneuvers.

In the light of this, one of the hunters decided to leave the location, full of fear. He drove off in his pickup truck. The remaining hunter stayed back, accompanied by his powerful .30 caliber rifle with telescopic sight.

In the wee hours of the morning he was stirred from his sleep by noises similar to those of wild boar, coming from the location where they had previously found a dead cow (dead of natural causes) which they employed as bait. A distance of 80 meters separated the cow from the hunter.

Hearing these growls, he focused his telescopic sight on the dead cow's carcass, startled by the sight of a figure he identified as "an animal," surprised by its bulk and height. It was then that he decided to take the shot, hearing the characteristic noise of the impact on the body.

At that moment, the entire region became illuminated by a "very powerful light" that produced whirlwinds and dirt devils with a permanent, buzzing sound. Through his rifle's sight, the hunter was able to see the creature again, noticing that its posterior had a tail "similar to that of an amphibian reptile."

The hunter chose to wait a prudent amount of time and kept a constant watch on the location. Later on, overcoming his initial fear, and the total silence that predominated, he approached the carcass, certain that he had killed the creature he had witnessed through the scope. With astonishment, he saw that the creature he had hit with the high-caliber bullet had vanished and that the cow had been moved 90 degrees from its original position, giving the appearance of having been mutilated. No traces of blood were found in the vicinity, nor tracks or any evidence corroborating the event.

The witness comes from a line of professional hunters living in Santa Rosa, La Pampa, accustomed to the wilderness and spending nights waiting for their prey. The hunter is convinced, in his own words, that "...he had shot an extraterrestrial in disguise."

NOTE: The characteristics described above cause us to reflect on the absence of eyewitnesses to the mutilations, the places where said mutilations take place and the circumstances employed. This is where we can see that the UFO phenomenon goes beyond the limits of both reason and our reality.

The electromagnetic spectrum visible to the human eye exists in a wavelength of between 10.6 and 10.7

meters with a frequency between 1014 and 1015 Hz. Above these frequencies, which are lower in wavelength, we find UV, X and Gamma Rays; below these frequencies and with a longer wavelength we have infrared, microwave, shortwave, TV and FM radio waves, AM waves and longwave radio.

There are investigations aimed at an effort to collect and present a variety of manifestations which could take place in a level other than the visible and which could be employed by these intelligences to go unnoticed; some of these have already been recorded. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

June 8, 2005 — *Archivos Forteanos de Latinoamerica* — CHILE: The Creature of Tagua Tagua Lagoon [originally featured in *La Tercera* (Santiago, Chile) January 13, 2002, p. 18] — The legend of this creature is little known, even for residents of San Vicente in the country's 6th region, but this discovery returns a piece of their history to them.

The horrible creature in the etching that accompanies this article is the little-known Monster of Tagua Tagua lagoon, a legendary creature that not even the residents of San Vicente, in Chile's 6th region, have ever heard of.

The indescribably horrifying creature was relegated to oblivion for over two centuries until two Spanish researchers discovered the drawing among thousands of documents in the Madrid National Library. Thus, the anonymous etching made in Chile in 1784 became the poster for the exposition "Monsters and Other Imaginary Beings" that took place in the Spanish capital to great popular acclaim.

The winged, two-tailed figure with scales and a human face had a well-deserved presence among nearly 200 images, just as unreal, belonging to such artists as Goya, Durero, Ribera, Brueghel, Holbein, Picart and Kircher. Plates extracted from classics of literature and scientific texts—largely from the 15th and 18th centuries—were also on exhibit.

Under the drawing of the monster, a true bibliographic jewel, it can be read that it appeared in early 1784 at the farm of Don Prospero Elso and that "it did great damage, eating all manner of animals and drinking from the lagoon, until 100 men stealthily ambushed it with firearms and caught it alive."

The description is very detailed: "It measures three and a half rods long and its tail is bigger than its body. Its legs are nearly a quarter [rod], but its claws are much larger. Its mane reaches the ground so that it entangles around its feet. The upper tail...helps it to catch its prey. The teeth are some 30 cm long and the mouth is as wide as its face. Its horns are a rod and a half long and very well-turned, and finally, its ears are three-quarters of a rod long."

Even more curious: an address Calle de Carretas No.8 -- is given for those interested in seeing it.

The spectacular Madrid exposition, unprecedented in Europe, featured cyclops, dwarves, giants, two headed or six-fingered creatures, hermaphrodites, lion-men, bearded or multi-breasted women. However, the organizers of this exhibit -- Javier Moscoso, a professor with the University of Murcia, and Antonio Lafuente, fellow of the Superior Center for Scientific Research -- believe that "the presence of horns is one of the definite signs of monstrosity. Our selection has been based, on the one hand, by the richness of the image and by the historical importance, on the other."

To some residents of San Vicente de Tagua Tagua, the legend that gave rise to the monster was possibly a reflection of the fears, nightmares and anguish felt at the time. After all, this wasn't the first time that the existence of fantastic creatures in the area was suspected, and sometimes quite rightly. That was where the Inca Empire came to an end, and in recent decades the remains of 14 mammoths from 11,000 years ago were discovered, making the place one of the richest sites in America for modern archaeology. However, no one imagined that the most recent discovery would be an item forgotten thousands of kilometers away, in Madrid's National Library.

San Vicente residents recall the Tagua Tagua Lagoon -- drained in the 1930's -- was notorious for its "chivines"--floating islands formed by a dense and firm network of roots, so resilient that they could bear the weight of a horse. Deceived by the large size of some of these "chivines," cattle would climb onto them to graze, realizing only too late that the floating island had been taken away by the current without any hope of escape. That's how the legend emerged among natives and Spaniards about a monster that dragged cattle into the lake. Armed groups of hunters were even organized to capture it. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

June 15, 2005 — *CIUFOS-La Pampa*, La Pampa, Argentina — ARGENTINA: MUTILATED HORSE DISCOVERED — A mutilated horse was found in the vicinity of the Pargue Raceway, located on the outskirts of Santa Rosa (La Pampa). Its death was estimated at some 15 days.

The horse showed signs of missing its tongue and left ear. An oval-shaped incision was present on its left wither, along with another smaller one on its abdomen and still another in the anus and adjacent regions.

The absence of the anterior and posterior lymph nodes was also observed, with incisions on the animal's fetlocks, respectively.

It should be noted that there are similarities between this case and the one detected in the "La Arana" wilderness, where the absence of large pieces of hide on one side was documented, as well as the absence of the ears. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

June 17, 2005 — *www.mundomisterioso.com* — SPAIN: EVP PROMPTS EXHUMATION — ***Exhumation requested because deceased mother's voice was heard on a cell phone*** — ***Deceased woman's voice allegedly requests removal of cross she was buried with*** — A family has requested district judge number six of Grenada to issue a court order authorizing the exhumation of their mother, claiming that a "electronic voice phenomenon" (EVP) recorded on a cell phone indicates that the deceased is requesting the removal of a cross placed over her chest during burial. The judge asked them to consult with a priest.

According to the deceased woman's daughter, the woman has been contacting them from beyond the grave via cell phone. She explained that she has no idea where her mother's messages are coming from, adding that when any member of the family records anything on her cell phone, "what is played back is my mother's voice saying, 'come, come, the cross.'"

Furthermore, her grandfather and uncle, buried in the same tomb as her mother, are also sending audible messages through family cell phones.

The judge, who met the family members for three minutes and managed to hear the spirit voice recordings, explained that he lacked the competence to rule on such a matter and explained that they should take their claim to either a priest or to the Higher Council on Scientific Research (CSIC).

Filomena Gomez died two years ago at 55 from liver cancer. — CREDIT: Rafael Ballester

June 17, 2005 — *CIUFOS-La Pampa*, La Pampa, Argentina — A CONTACTEE'S STORY by Raul Oscar Chaves © 2005 — In 1998, Gregorio T.R., 55, married, a resident of Santa Rosa, La Pampa and a watchman by profession, began to experience recurrent "contact" experiences with a strange entity. These have continued to take place through January 2005.

While performing his duties as a watchman at a computer school in Santa Rosa one evening, he went to the restroom and caught a glimpse of a strange creature moving behind him as he looked into a mirror. The entity was silver-colored and stood some 7 feet tall.

This event took place on December 6, 1998.

It should be noted that on two occasions, the computers in the teaching facility were found to have lost their programming the next day, without the causes ever being established.

On December 28, 1998, a similar experience took place in the same city but at a service station, where the witness also performed security duties. On this occasion, the entity was seen standing upright in a hallway, one hand against the electric circuit breaker panel.

The entity, startled by the onlooker, spun around clumsily and looked at the witness, who described its gaze as "piercing" and the eyes having a green color. The witness reported feeling an intense burning sensation in his eyes for 30 days.

In this instance a mental or telepathic "dialogue" ensued in which the witness was told, "not to fear, that while he was not the chosen one, they would nonetheless be in contact with him."

The witness remained ecstatic, mechanically and involuntarily reaching his hand to his chest and ascertaining that his cardiac rhythm was normal. At no time did he feel excitement or fear.

On January 23, 1999, while on duty at a gas plant in Santa Rosa, Gregorio detected the presence of these entities without being able to detect them physically. On this occasion he was performing his customary rounds and the time was nearly 0200 hours.

On this occasion, the witness experienced a "missing time" event with an estimated duration of 3 hours. Upon recovering, he detected moisture on his trousers, which proved to be seminal fluid; his genitals were affected as evidenced by a state of continuous, persistent and painful erection, showing signs of apparent inflammation. He returned home in a state of crisis and told his wife and relative that he had "been taken by aliens" before breaking down into tears.

This state of shock lasted some 15 days during which the erection persisted, accompanied by intense pain. The witness achieved some degree of relief by taking extensive sitting baths.

Gregorio believes that semen was extracted from him, although he [does not know] the time and the method used.

In November 2001, while working at the computer school and finding himself in a classroom with work desks, wearing short pants and a t-shirt, Gregorio fell into a dreamlike state: he thought that the classroom was completely empty while he felt his body temperature rising, causing him to break into abundant sweat. This circumstance prompted him to undress and wring out his clothes, leaving a puddle of water on the floor after doing so.

Subsequently, he headed for the yard, where he recovered from his fugue state, ascertaining that his clothes were dry. Faced with this, he headed back to the classroom in order to see if his experience had been a dream or not: he found the puddle described earlier.

In December 2002, he performed security duties at the service station and suddenly became aware of the Entity's presence. This prompted him to go sit on a box in order to avoid the contact experience. He suffered an estimated 3-hour time loss at this point, and was unable to recall what happened.

On January 1, 2003, while on security duty in Santa Rosa and in the company of his wife, since it was New Year's Day, he saw the same Entity in the vicinity, but no contact took place. He felt the urge to inform his wife of the experience but chose not to, unable to explain the cause of his refusal.

The last contact event occurred at 15:00 hours on January 21, 2005.

On this occasion, the witness was acting as an employee/driver for a distribution company in La Pampa.

He was returning from [the town of] General Acha, located 115 km South of Santa Rosa, heading for the "Padre Buodo" Rest Area and Shelter on Provincial Route 152 and from there to Santa Rosa along National Route 35.

At some 110 km from Acha, he began to feel restless and nervous, and decided to open the passenger side window of his vehicle - a Ford 100 pick-up truck - only to discover that the strange entity from his previous contact experiences was sitting beside him.

Gregorio T. R. recalls that a powerful storm was taking place at the time, with strong winds and significant loss of visibility. The sky turned dark and the other vehicles driving along the road were seeking shelter from the meteorological phenomenon.

Subsequently, the witness reacted and regained awareness, pulling over his vehicle and getting off. He discovered that he was on Route 35 and very close to Ataliva Roca, a town some 40 km distant from Santa Rosa. The estimated time required to cover the aforementioned distance he calculates as some 20 minutes, a fact that disconcerted him, since his habitual driving speed is some 60 kmh.

He also verified that he had never made a delivery at the "Padre Buodo" Rest Area, nor could he remember how he reached Ataliva Roca, being unable to remember any details of what happened during that leg of the trip.

It should be noted that during the "telepathic dialogues," he is told not to share his experiences with anyone at all, nor make them public, and that the contact events would repeat whenever they were necessary or required.

Also noteworthy is that the materialization of the Entity occurred first through the mirror, where the body's details first began to appear and acquire shape, like a hologram, with the facial features and the body. He subsequently saw that it had acquired the physiognomy of a human being.

His family discusses these experiences seldom, depending on the listener, stating that given the nature of his job, the witness feels no fear whatsoever and at all times feels protected and looked after.

Gregorio T.R. also states feeling extremely active and vibrant, especially in sexual matters. He has discovered his ability to "assimilate electricity" (sic), a capacity hitherto unknown and whose causes he [does not know].

Faced with this new experience, he insists on not wanting to offer greater explanations or details, considering that restating circumstances as the ones indicated above lead him to believe that he is faced with a phenomenon that is beyond his control, feeling calm and resigned about it.

He adds that [the entity] could be a robot or a humanoid, since while its appearance is human, its attitude and gestures are "mechanical" and somewhat clumsy, especially when walking.

The witness comes from a state school background and while he offers no greater details, he is extremely coherent in his statements. In this researcher's opinion, the experiences described are fully credible.

June 25, 2005 — *Terra.cl*, Chile — CHILE: UFO LANDING VIDEO UNDER ANALYSIS — Incredible images depict the landing of an unidentified flying object in southern Chile. A research organization is conducting detailed analysis. (*Terra.cl*) — CHILE, June 25, 2005-- Incredible images of an alleged UFO landing in the vicinity of Ultima Esperanza in Chile's 12th region were made known only a few days ago by the

Agrupacion de Investigaciones Ovniologicas de Chile (AION).

This sequence of clips form part of an exclusive video taken in one of the world's southernmost locations and which show the vast amount of UFO manifestations in that territory, which is considered a UFO 'hotspot' by domestic ufologists.

This video was taken on March 17, 2004, and has been in safekeeping to date by virtue of being considered one of the most interesting items of evidence in recent years in Chile.

AION's director, Rodrigo Fuenzalida, will present a series of new documents on UFOs in Chile and the world on July 2, at 1700 hours at the Alameda Art Theater. The most significant events have been recorded in Brazil, Chile and the United States.

Evidence collected in Chile has also had considerable impact, ranging from the UFO photographed over Termas del Flaco to videos collected in the country's 12th region which are being subjected to analysis. "We are analyzing some interesting UFO video material taken in an area which, to our understanding, has the greatest concentration of UFO incidents," notes Fuenzalida.

The event will take place on Saturday, July 2 at Cine Arte Alameda beginning at 1700 hours. Produced by AION CHILE and Chilecasting, co-produced by Cine Arte Alameda.

For more information: Aion.cl — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez, *Planeta UFO*

June 28, 2005 — *Infobae.com* — CHILE: SANTIAGO FAMILY'S PARANORMAL EXPERIENCE — A family returning home to Santiago witnessed the road and surrounding countryside become "illuminated" by a "light". They still can't explain what happened.

Sunday night turned into daytime for a few moments, at least for members of the Abdo family. As they returned to Santiago de Chile from the city of Loreto, where they spent the weekend, "the road and the surrounding countryside lit up unexpectedly," only a few meters before the "Vuelta de la Barranca" road sign. This was the story given by the family's three members. "It was a tremendous glow that turned the area into daylight. We could see clearly to the full extent of our vision, both front and back and to the sides," said Gaby Daher, Carlos Abdo's wife and mother of Carlitos, to the *El Liberal* newspaper.

The vehicle's occupants explained that the "light" had a "soft sky blue color" that putatively came "from above," although they were unable to see any vehicle or figure that could be identified.

Carlitos remarked that he saw a white contrail on 'the horizon similar to the ones left in the wake of jet airliners.

The car and its occupants traveled a distance of some 200 meters with "everything lit up" around them. The "brightness" disappeared as suddenly as it emerged. Darkness enveloped the road once more and the car's headlights continued to illuminate a small area of the highway.

The Abdo family has still found no answer to this phenomenon. Only a few years ago, local residents claimed having seen unidentified flying objects (UFOs). — CREDIT: Martha Rosenthal

July 2, 2005 — *Prof. Ana Luisa Cid* — MEXICO: IMAGES FROM JULY 2, 2005 — A UFO was photographed on July 2, 2005 in Colonia Acueducto de Guadalupe, north of Mexico City, at 5:45 pm.

According to the explanation offered by Mexican physicist and researcher Mario Torres Lujan, former director of *CONTACTO OVNI Magazine*, the phenomenon of the so-called "invisible UFOs" is based on low-frequency sounds and speed.

The scientist explains: "Strange structures are moving through the sky at high speeds, becoming imperceptible to us. This oscillation may cause an infrasound imperceptible to the human ear, but somehow perceptible by our brains' neurons, and that is the reason why witnesses press their cameras' shutters at a given place and manage to capture images that the unaided eye could not see."

"This low-frequency sound is picked up by animals and for this reason we see alterations among them during sightings. I definitely do not believe in the existence of chance UFOs ... rather, there is more of a causality involved." — CREDIT: Prof. Ana Luisa Cid [www.analuisacid.com.mx]

July 5, 2005 — *INEXPLICATA, The Journal of Hispanic Ufology* — The 2002 Cattle Mutilation Wave in Argentina was one of the great unexplained events of the early years of our new century. Even now, three summers after that fateful season of animal carnage and human confusion, stories still emerge to bewilder us, as this contribution received today from Raul Oscar Chaves of the *CIUFOS-LaPampa* organization. — The La Pampa Human Mutilation by Raul Oscar Chaves — *CIUFOS-LaPampa* ©2005 — It was the month of July 2002 when L.J.C., 45, burdened by a variety of problems, headed off to the western Pampas. Some 20 days later, his body was found dangling from an ancient tree. He had committed suicide. The competent authorities opened an investigation after the field's owner reported the grisly crime, and the coroner attested to the person's sad demise. The story vanished quickly from the media after having been covered by the written and electronic press.

This was also the time at which another inexplicable phenomenon appeared: the mutilation of all sorts of animals throughout the length and breadth of the Pampean geography. Although the coroner attested to the manner of death, he nonetheless came across a number of incisions and injuries that did not appear to correspond to the cause of death, aside from the fact that the corpse's state did not fit the evidence.

What exactly was atypical and did not fit the established criteria?

Without a doubt it was the corpse's condition, which showed a considerable degree of desiccation, described as "premature mummification," adding to this the absence of tissue, and skin from the left jaw and ear, and a missing left ocular orb. It would later turn out that the genitals were also missing.

We were then facing a case of human mutilation, occurring around July 2002, with the discovery having been made on August 13 of that year, as reported by the most important newspaper in Santa Rosa, *La Pampa*, and the local television station. The coroner and the local pathologist, in their respective reports, agreed that, "...the incisions were similar to the ones found on the mutilated animals" and that "...they had been expecting to find a mutilated human at some point," due to the broad range of organisms affected at the time.

The report added that while "...climatic conditions affect the corpses, particularly with regard to the absence of blood..." this appreciation was counterbalanced by the state of the human remains: "premature and advanced mummification" only 20 days after death had occurred.

A question remained hanging in the air following one of the coroner's remarks after having discovered the deceased: "...as are customary in the western Pampean region..."

Was there more than a single case of human mutilation La Pampa?

There is videotaped material showing images of the mutilated victim, as well as the coroner's statements, in the files of *CIUFOS-LaPampa*.



Tessie pops up for an afternoon appearance

By Keith Sheffield
Managing Editor

Each Tahoe Tessie sighting adds to the mythology of the lake's beloved legendary creature.

The legend is so prevalent that Beth Douglas, of Sacramento, thought Tessie sightings happen everyday in Tahoe.

That's why Douglas didn't blink at her friend Ron Talmage's reaction last Friday afternoon to a dark shape undulating at the lake's surface about 100 yards off Tahoe Park Beach.

"Does that look solid to you?" Talmage, of Rocklin, Calif., said to Douglas.

When Douglas replied that the shape — with three to five humps along its back — did look solid, Talmage flatly said "Damn, that's Tessie."

"It was so cool," Douglas added. "The way he said it was so calm, I thought it (Tessie sighting) was an everyday occurrence."

Douglas and Talmage day tripped to Tahoe last Friday to fish at Boca Reservoir and check up on two West Shore cabins owned by Talmage's mother.

They stopped by Tahoe Park Beach to take in views of the lake, which had calm waters early that afternoon.

"There were these solid, black humps," Talmage said, using his hands in an undulating motion while describing Tessie

in the *Tahoe World* office Friday. "There was no wake as it came toward us."

What Talmage and Douglas described was the subject of a talk — "USOs: Unidentified Swimming Objects" — in January 2004 by Dr. Charles Goldman of the UC Davis Tahoe Research Group.

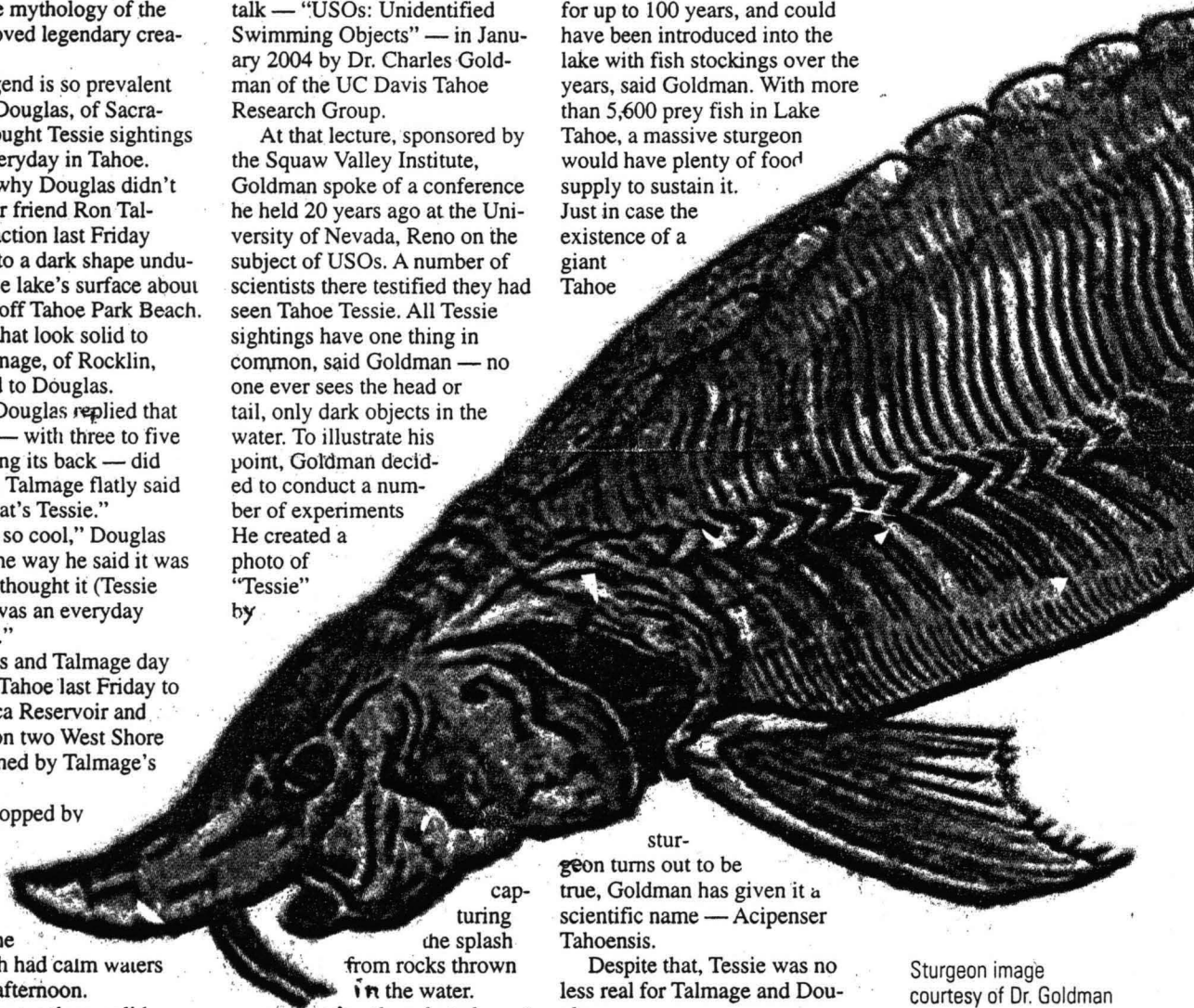
At that lecture, sponsored by the Squaw Valley Institute, Goldman spoke of a conference he held 20 years ago at the University of Nevada, Reno on the subject of USOs. A number of scientists there testified they had seen Tahoe Tessie. All Tessie sightings have one thing in common, said Goldman — no one ever sees the head or tail, only dark objects in the water. To illustrate his point, Goldman decided to conduct a number of experiments. He created a photo of "Tessie" by

Other theories about Tessie postulate the creature could be a very large sturgeon.

Sturgeon have been known to reach 1,500 pounds and live for up to 100 years, and could have been introduced into the lake with fish stockings over the years, said Goldman. With more than 5,600 prey fish in Lake Tahoe, a massive sturgeon would have plenty of food supply to sustain it. Just in case the existence of a giant Tahoe

thought 'Whoa, this sucker's real.'"

— Melissa Siig contributed to this article.



sturgeon turns out to be true, Goldman has given it a scientific name — *Acipenser Tahoensis*.

Despite that, Tessie was no less real for Talmage and Douglas.

"There were no big boats (on the water)," Talmage added. "I

Sturgeon image courtesy of Dr. Goldman

ARKANSAS TIMES, Little Rock, AR - June 9, 2005

A dark and hairy night

■ If you live in Union County, that furry no-see-um that keeps turning over your trashcan every night might be something slightly bigger than a hungry raccoon. It might be Bigfoot — or so a witness told the Bigfoot Field Research Organization (www.bfro.net).

An unidentified man told BFRO that around 8 p.m. May 7, while he and a female friend were parked on a dead-end road about a quarter mile from Highway 167 near El Dorado, he saw, about 15 yards away, a dark furry creature standing on two legs. The witness reported that the creature was between 4 feet and 5 feet tall, covered in brown or black fur, and walked hunched over.



BIGFOOT, OR BOGUS?: The creature, as seen in frames of video shot during a purported 1965 sighting.

Though his female companion was looking another way and didn't see the creature, she did hear it crunching off into the underbrush.

"I can honestly say I have never seen anything like that," the man wrote. "We sat in the truck for five minutes out of fear. I gassed it and left the road quickly."

A BFRO contact visited the Union County area on May 9, the website reports, but found only a well-worn game trail and no evidence of Bigfoot. "The only tracks I found were deer and what looked like coyote tracks," she wrote. "I never saw anything that I would consider a Bigfoot track."

Could it be that folks down in oil country are jealous of the Delta's ivory-billed woodpecker?

'Bigfoot' sighting brings investigators to Union County

By TONI WALTHALL
News-Times Staff

In Arkansas, when we hear talk of Bigfoot, we think of Fouke, and its highly-publicized, trademark "monster."

So prevalent are sightings and stories about Miller County's Fouke monster, it was featured in its own low-budget movie, "The Legend of Boggy Creek" (and the two ensuing sequels).

Though they are known by a variety of other names, these mysterious creatures have been casually dubbed "Bigfoot," because of the abnormally large footprints found near some eye-witness sightings.

Considering that only two counties separate Miller and Union County, it may not come as a surprise that Union County has had its own share of Bigfoot sightings - the most recent being May 7, 2005.

According to the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization (www.bfro.net) and the Gulf Coast Bigfoot Researchers Organization websites, Union County has had at least six submitted Bigfoot encounters. Most occurred in woodlands and bottoms along the route of U.S. 167, but several have been reported near heavily wooded timberlands along the Ouachita River north of Smackover and to the east of El Dorado near Strong.

In a report (No. 11632) posted on the BFRO website, investigators were sent to El Dorado May 9th to interview the "young man" who

reported the latest encounter - and to search the site on Victor Dumas Road where the sighting allegedly occurred.

In his written submission, the unnamed man told investigators that he and a friend were parked at the end of the dead-end road, sitting on the tailgate of his truck, which was facing the woods.

Happening around 8 p.m., there was just enough sunlight remaining in the day to clearly see, the witness reported.

Approaching the passenger side door of his truck to retrieve his cell phone, the man said, he glanced up to see on the left side of the road a fur-covered creature about 15 yards away.

"With great speed, it ran across the narrow road, and paused when it got to the other side," he stated in his account.

The man said the dark, hairy creature was stocky, hunched over and walked on two feet. Standing only

about 5 feet tall, the creature ran with "great speed," according to this account.

The other witness, who had remained seated on the tailgate, did not see the creature, but she claims to have heard the loud noise that was made as it darted off into the woods.

A strong, foul odor, said to be reminiscent of a skunk or decaying animal, is often noticed even before a sighting occurs, according to information from the website. There was no odor associated with the Victor Dumas Road sighting, according to the report.

In his initial submission, the man made reference to the unusually short stature of the hairy being and posed the question, "Do you think this may be a young Sasquatch?"

Sasquatch is just one of the many names of Native American derivation used to refer to Bigfoot.

The investigators' comments indicated they believed the man was "sincere."

It was also noted that the young man returned to the site with friends the next day looking for any signs to verify his experience.

There was no related evidence found the day of the investigation.

Looking through the databases, Arkansas has 53 documented sightings. Miller County has the most on the BFRO database, followed by Saline County. Baxter County and Union County are tied.

One of the more interesting

accounts recorded in Union County occurred the summer of 1975. Two boys, aged 15 and 11, were riding on a motorcycle trail in the woods around Bayou D'Loutre, just off Sunset Road (before the U.S. 82 bypass was built).

The two boys had ventured deep into the woods, against their parents' wishes. They had just crossed a medium-sized creek when the oldest boy looked westward, into the sun.

"I saw an 8-foot black figure staring at us behind a pine tree trunk, and then jumping behind it as though it was playing hide-and-go-seek," he wrote.

The creature was described as very thin for its stature. It's hair hung close to the body.

Both boys decided it was time to leave. They jumped on their bikes and high-tailed it back the direction they had come.

"I never looked behind me again, because I was near panic," the man wrote.

After crossing the creek, the older boy, who was riding behind the smaller boy, started hearing the pounding of feet behind him.

He claimed he could feel the vibration from the pounding of the last several steps through his handlebars. The two peddled ever faster, as one of them saw a movement of black to his left. The two friends completed the rest of the shaky journey home without speaking.

This man also claims to have met a man from Rogers, whose best friend

moans attributed to Bigfoot can be accessed on one of the sites, which also includes an audio recording of an authentic 911 call from Washington state, in which a panicked homeowner requests law enforcement after he comes face to face with one in his own backyard.

Union County is far from alone in its mysterious encounters.

Investigations have been launched by reports from Columbia, Ouachita and Drew County in South Arkansas, North Louisiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Texas too.

In one GCBRO report, a Columbia County hunter shared encounters, second-hand information from the past 20 years and claimed to have retrieved dark tufts of hair lodged high among broken tree limbs.

In 1992, a Ouachita County woman cleaning a family cemetery, saw a tall, dark, hair-covered figured watching her from the wood line.

"I stared - petrified - at the figure long enough to run through the possibilities of what it might be," she wrote in her entry.

After staring at the figure "for what seemed like an eternity," the woman turned her back and accepted her fate.

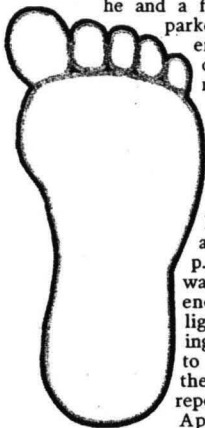
"None came," she wrote. "I turned back to face the thing, and it was gone. I made a

hasty retreat back to my car." The woman told investigators that her mother was raised in those woods, and never heard of any such encounters.

In the late 1950s, on a hot mid-August day, three siblings saw what they recognized as a Bigfoot swimming in the pond behind their rural Drew County home. The 10-year-old brother ran back to the house to get a gun. He returned in time to fire a shot at the creature, who could stay under water for long periods of time and swim at a pretty good clip. They believed the bullet hit the target, but men, who came and searched the pond and the surrounding area after the incident could find nothing.

There have been thousands of credible eyewitness accounts of Sasquatch sightings in the past 100 years, according to officials at BFRO. But some reports extend back several centuries. The sites describe either sightings from a distance or close range encounters, with some describing situations where backpackers and campers have been approached at night or followed (paralleled) along a trail.

Sasquatches have had many opportunities to attack humans. However, there are no modern reports of humans



being injured or killed by a Sasquatch. There are only two reports of violent attacks on humans and just one describes the killing of a human - a story told by President Teddy Roosevelt in his book, "The Wilderness Hunter" (1890).

A chapter in Roosevelt's book recounts the story of two trappers who were stalked by a Sasquatch-like animal in a remote region believed to be in present day Wyoming or Montana.

One of the trappers fired his rifle at the Sasquatch, apparently missing, but the stalking continued. The trappers' camp was twice found ransacked, while the men were out checking beaver traps they had set.

After the second night, the trappers decided to vacate the area. Prior to their departure, the men split up to collect their traps. One was delayed for hours; the other headed straight back to camp.

His body was found by his partner later that day near the campfire. The dead man had a broken neck, which also showed teeth or claw marks - but the body was not eaten.

Retreating appears to be the typical response to humans, but occasional harassment may be related to territorial conflicts - especially in wooded areas.

It's believed these creatures prey on deer, elk, raccoons, and other animals.

As for the secret government project theory, folks have reported spotting black, unmarked helicopters with tinted windows and searchlights at the same time when cattle mutilations are occurring. But again, this cannot explain the other cases that have come in from other countries. Are all the governments where this occurs involved in some kind of worldwide conspiracy?

And I don't believe that these are natural deaths down out of proportion. I have seen photos and video footage of the mutilated cattle. A farmer or rancher would have good reason to be concerned if he went out one morning and found that his someone or something apparently drained the blood and neatly removed the sexual or rectal organs. indicate they were taken from their pastures, killed and mutilated elsewhere and then brought back, according to a Website.

So, we are still left with the theory that cattle mutilations often occur in such UFO-related places as northern New Mexico and near the secret government installation in Nevada called Area 51. Some folks have even reported seeing a UFO lift the animals off the ground with an invisible force. Two people who reported to have been abducted by aliens also said they witnessed a cattle mutilation inside the UFO, according to a Website.

This must bring little consolation to the farmer or rancher who has lost some valuable livestock and doesn't know how to keep it from happening again.

Later, more reported cattle mutilations occurred throughout the Midwestern United States and central Canada. Farmers and ranchers were concerned and afraid about what was happening to their livestock. They had heard nothing during the night when their valuable cattle were killed and mutilated. They wanted answers.

Contact Mike Conley at 652-3313 or e-mail mconley@McDowellnews.com.

McDowell News, Marion, NC - July 7, 2005 Cattle Mutilation Alive and Well Today by Mike Conley

Last week, the History Channel presented a new documentary on the weird phenomenon called cattle mutilations. Although I didn't get to watch the entire program, I saw enough to let me know that the phenomenon is alive and well in 2005 - even if the cattle are dead.

Cattle mutilation is the term given to the thousands of cases where farm animals are found dead and their bodies mutilated in a strange way. The cause of death is undetermined (they don't appear to have been shot or poisoned) and all of the blood has been removed from their bodies. And strangest of all, certain body parts are found surgically removed: from the cattle, usually the reproductive and rectal organs. A cow's udders are sometimes found removed as well. The incisions are always performed neatly and precisely with almost no blood at the scene.

Investigators will find abnormally high levels of radiation around the places where the dead animals are discovered. In some cases, the cattle are found marked with a kind of fluorescent paint. Buzzards and other scavengers will not touch the carcasses. No footprints or signs of a struggle are found around the scene. Investigators will often discover camp marks on the animals' legs that indicate they were taken from their pastures, killed and mutilated elsewhere and then brought back, according to a Website.

People will report seeing UFOs at extraterrestrial theory. Cattle around the same time that the cattle mutilations occur in such UFO-related places as northern New Mexico and near the secret government installation in Nevada called Area 51. Some folks have even reported seeing a UFO lift the animals off the ground with an invisible force. Two people who reported to have been abducted by aliens also said they witnessed a cattle mutilation inside the UFO, according to a Website.

This must bring little consolation to the farmer or rancher who has lost some valuable livestock and doesn't know how to keep it from happening again.

beavers, ducks, and rodents. Sasquatches are also known to kill dogs that chase or threaten them. Dogs often flee or cower in their presence, but some aggressive dogs have been found torn apart, with Sasquatch tracks around the remains.

There aren't enough instances of humans attacking Sasquatches to reliably indicate that human aggression provokes more violent behavior.

Indian legend has it that Bigfoot knows when humans are searching for him. He chooses when and to whom he will make an appearance. Sasquatch's "psychic powers" account for his ability to elude the white man's efforts to capture him or hunt him down.

Native Americans also believe that a giant footprint signals a time to seek change. "In our way of beliefs, they make appearances at troubled times, ... to help communities get more in tune with Mother Earth," said Ralph Gray Wolf, an Athapaskan Indian from Alaska.

The Hopi and Iroquois view Bigfoot as "a messenger from the Creator, trying to warn humans to change their ways or face disaster."

Hopefully, that is not the case for Union County.

AUTHOR INSPIRATION

Giant 'bird' leaves giant impression on local man



MATT HUBNER/COMMERCIAL-NEWS

People
Mary
Wicoff

John Walker reviews some of his water colors he has been working on for his upcoming book on Thunderbirds.

The incident took 15 or 30 seconds. But it left an impression on John D. Walker for the rest of his life.

In 1977, Walker and a friend spotted a creature, which he describes as a giant bird, in the sky over Poland Road east of the airport. That image of a bird with a 20-foot wingspan gliding over the trees has stayed with him.

The experience has prompted him to do extensive research to find out exactly what the bird was.

When asked if it could have been a turkey vulture or condor, Walker said adamantly, "Absolutely not."

It had an eagle-shaped head, but it was so much bigger than an eagle or hawk, he said.

He suspects it was the man-eating thunderbird cited in Native American legends.

Walker was 17 when he and a friend saw the bird coming over a treeline. They were out hunting and had their rifles at hand, but didn't shoot. He estimated the bird's length from shoulders to tail as about 5 feet.

"The wings were so full you couldn't see the tail feathers," he said.

The bird was headed north and didn't look at the teens as it

MERIDIAN BOOSTER, Lloydminster, Alberta, Canada - June 15, 2005

Mutilated cow found near Paradise Hill

by Kirk Sibbald

He stops short of pointing the finger at aliens, but Ray Riguidel swears what he saw in his pasture last Friday evening couldn't have been done by humans or animals.

Riguidel, 68, has been farming near Paradise Hill his entire life. During that time he's lost his share of cattle under various circumstances, but the 10-year-old cow he lost this weekend was far different from the rest. The udder was gone, one eye and ear had been removed and the sex organs were torn away. The remaining 50 or so cattle in the pasture had congregated as far away from the corpse as possible.

There were no tire tracks or footprints. There was no sign of a struggle.

Perhaps most bizarre, however, was a glaring lack of blood despite the numerous and carefully crafted incisions into the carcass.

"When you see a cow go down, you go look, but I didn't have to look twice," said Riguidel. "There was a guy with me, and we both popped our eyes."

"I've heard about (cow mutilations) before, but it never really sunk in," he said. "But it's sunk in now. It's real."

Cow mutilations are a relatively recent phenomenon, with the earliest documented cases dating back to the mid-1900s. While cows have been the main targets in the cases reported throughout North America, less frequent victims have included deer, elk, horses, lambs and dogs.

In some cases, UFO sightings have been reported near the mutilation sites. And even though skeptics will scoff at these extra-terrestrial accounts, no surveillance team has ever come up with any rational explanation for what took place.

After talking to a friend, Riguidel was encouraged to call Fernand Belzil, a rancher from St. Paul who's been investigating cow mutilations for the past eight years.

Belzil - commonly known around St. Paul as the 'UFO guy' - has done documentaries on his findings with The Fifth Estate and Life Network. He's conducted numerous radio interviews with stations throughout North America, and has put together an hour-and-a-half presentation he gives in communities throughout Canada.

Another documentary with Red Star Films from Halifax is in the works and should be completed later this summer. Although he gets paid for presentations and the town of St. Paul has offered to pay the gas bills he incurs traveling to investigations, Belzil doesn't charge individual farmers a cent.

"The reason I get so much publicity is because I'm the only

(mutilation investigator) in Canada," said Belzil.

"I'm the type of guy you don't ask what's new, because I could probably bore you for an hour or two."

Belzil visited Riguidel's farm this past Sunday, and based on his initial observations, he thinks the mutilation is authentic - meaning not the work of predators or a human hoax.

Upon visiting a mutilation site, Belzil uses a metal detector, Geiger counter and compass to record any abnormal electric, magnetic and radioactive properties. He also takes soil samples from around the animal along with a controlled sample from 35 metres away - and sends all the evidence he obtains to a lab in Michigan for testing.

In most cases, he says the culprits usually take the tongue, one ear, one eye and the udder. Sex organs such as the scrotum, rectum and uterus are also routinely amputated. Predators, birds and other animals generally won't come near the mutilated carcass for anywhere from a few days to upwards of a month.

Although Belzil has ranched for years, none of his cattle have ever been harmed - although one did mysteriously disappear many years ago - and he has never personally seen a UFO. His interest in these less-than-ordinary investigations started after visiting a mutilation site in Makwa, Sask.

"It just kind of snowballed from there, and it's been one hell of a deal ever since," said Belzil. "It kind of just opened up a can of worms."

"I guess I believe in UFOs, but I'd sure like to see one first," he said. "We're naive to believe we're alone in this universe, but I guess that's just my opinion."

George Larre, another rancher about 32 kilometres south of Riguidel's farm, had a similar mutilation take place about five years ago. While the scene itself was gruesome enough, he said the behaviour of other animals in the area was equally disconcerting.

"The first thing I noticed was her calf wasn't there, none of the cattle were there. They had all moved to the far end of the pasture and didn't come back for 10 days to two weeks," said Larre, 59.

"I went there, and there was no sign of absolutely anything. But there was a fair bit of pasture that year, so if anyone went there with a vehicle, there should have been tracks or something, and there wasn't," he said.

Although Larre didn't put much faith in extra-terrestrial life before this incident, he doesn't think these stories are so far-fetched any more.

glided past. They just had a feeling to stay still so they wouldn't be attacked.

"It was the most bizarre thing to happen to me in my life as far as hunting. It was like walking into Jurassic Park," he said. "We didn't catch anything that day, but we came back with the biggest story."

"Even to this day, I can't believe it."

The boys didn't tell anyone except their close friends because they figured no one would believe them.

But now, at age 50, Walker wants to translate that experience into a children's picture book.

He already has completed most of the watercolor pictures showing the events of that late-summer day. He still needs a publisher, however.

His purpose is to share an interesting story with children and to warn adults that such a creature could exist.

"It is a rare thing," he said, "but it can be a danger to either children or adults."

In 1977, a 10-year-old boy in Lawndale reported that a huge bird swooped down and nabbed him, carrying him a short distance. His shouts brought out his mother, and the bird dropped him.

Walker also wants to raise awareness and hopes to spur interest in research into the bird's habits.

As a bird lover, I'd like to think that such creatures have evolved from prehistoric times and still survive somewhere.

However, bird enthusiast Marilyn Campbell of Danville states matter-of-factly: "There's no bird strong enough to pick up a 10-year-old child. There's no bird living that's as large as he described."

Campbell, director of the Illinois Audubon Society, said it's difficult to estimate the size of birds when they're flying overhead. The bird might have looked huge to a teen on the ground.

It was probably a turkey vulture, which is the biggest bird around here, she said. Eagles weren't in this area at that time.

The bird with the biggest wingspan is the wandering albatross, which has a wingspan of

12 feet and weighs 15 pounds. The next largest is the California condor, whose wingspan is 9 feet and weight is 20 pounds.

But, Campbell said, "Even a condor at 20 pounds is not going to pick up a 10-year-old child."

And the albatross spends all its time over the ocean.

Referring to Walker, she said, "His claims don't hold up to the facts of what we know about modern-day birds."

Walker sticks to his story. He says the best book he's seen on thunderbirds is Mark Hall's "Thunderbirds: The Living Legend of Giant Birds."

Hall's Web site is <http://home.att.net/~mhall.bigbirds/>.

Walker, who has worked as a real estate broker, also has written a manuscript "500 Homes System," which gives formulas and guidelines for buying and selling homes, and is looking for a publisher.

His father was Donald W. Walker, a Danville firefighter, and his grandfather was John Walker, who ran for mayor in 1939 and once served as president of the Danville Area Board of Realtors.

"If you haven't seen it, I wouldn't expect anyone to believe it. But if you really see for yourself, and you understand what coyotes will do, you know it's not predators," he said. "Some people say it's from up above, and I don't know. I'm not going to say it is or it isn't. But when you see absolutely no clues and no reason, you really have to wonder."

Riguidel said he plans to leave the rotting corpse in his pasture to see if any birds or animals will start feeding on the carcass. But since Friday, other other than some interested neighbours and a few flies have even come close.



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ON THE PROWL: David Shealy is devoted to proving the existence of the Florida skunk ape, which he claims to have seen three times.

EVOLUTION OF A LEGEND

Self-styled expert tries to make a living off the Florida skunk ape, a fabled creature that may or may not exist

BY CARA BUCKLEY
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OCHOPEE — David Shealy's life mission is singular, a little lonely, and sometimes jinxes him with the ladies. None of this may be surprising, given that for more than a decade Shealy has tried to convince the world that outsized, lumbering ape-men call the Everglades home.

"It opens up a whole Pandora's box of bull—," Shealy, 41, conceded one recent sweltering morning as the sun made soup out of the air in Ochopee, a blip of a town in Big Cypress National Preserve, 30-odd miles west of the Miami-Dade County line.

Shealy is the self-appointed world expert on the Florida skunk ape, a legendary seven-foot-tall mangy creature and presumable cousin of Bigfoot, Sasquatch, Yowie, the Abominable Snowman, el Chupacabra, Harry of Hendersons fame and possibly Chewbacca the Wookiee.

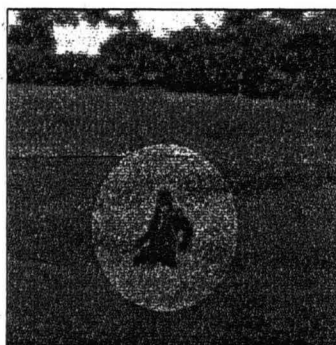
The skunk ape, alias swamp ape, apparently smells like bad eggs and goat dung, an odor attributed to its poor bathing habits and penchant for sulfurous alligator caves. Tales of its existence percolated in Everglades City and points north for a hundred-plus years, with various people — including a busload of highly excited British tourists who swore the creature revealed itself to them in 1997 — finding massive footprints and claiming sightings.

MONKEY BUSINESS

But Shealy, tall, lanky and goateed, a man rarely seen without his snakebite-proof boots, is the first to make the Florida skunk ape a full-time, if struggling, business. He guesses about seven apes wander about Florida, with Miami-Dade's expansion flushing them his way.

"I don't have a choice to believe, because I've seen him three times," said Shealy, blue eyes a-twinkle beneath the brim of his gator-tooth-embossed, black leather outback hat.

Shealy sells skunk ape ball caps, camouflage T-shirts and bumper stickers in the curio shop run by his brother, Jack, at the pair's dusty, sprawling campground in Ochopee on the Tamiami Trail. He hosts a somewhat annual Skunk Ape Festival, replete with bands and hippies. He talks the creature up on local radio. He believes the skunk ape legend could bolster tourism for Collier County, and once convinced its Tourist Development Council to part with \$44,000 for a skunk ape hunting expedition, a plan the County Commission shot down.



EXCLUSIVE: David Shealy took a photo of a hairy creature in the Everglades in the 1990s.

"It serves the tourist promotion business best as legend," Jim Coletta, a county commissioner, wrote in a solemn consolation letter.

COULD IT BE?

Shealy's efforts drum up a mixed local response. Staff members at nearby Everglades City's visitors center roll their eyes at the mention of his name. A young woman at another tourist spot said the skunk ape was hokey, but noted Shealy's parties rocked. Debbie Hooks, a waitress at the Oak House restaurant, said the Shealys were odd to start with, and that kids used to pick on them on the school bus.

"It's a joke," she said of the skunk ape. "It's one of them in a monkey suit."

But others, reflecting the almost gothic, Old Florida air that still permeates Everglades City, believe a darkly mysterious and otherworldly creature could lurk in the swamps.

Floyd Brown, a 67-year-old wizened, devout drinker, said old-timers always avoided certain areas for fear of an apelike beast.

Sandy Steele, a clerk at Glades Haven Grocery Store, said grown men often return shaken from expeditions to isolated, mangrove-blanketed islands.

"You hear bloodcurdling screams, things you can't describe," Steele said. "Maybe things got stranded on those islands. I wouldn't be surprised."

Shealy said he has spotted the creature thrice: first when he was 10, second in 1987 when he was up a tree in a deer blind, and lastly four or five years ago. He shot pictures and later videotape, which he said he sold to a California man for \$10,000.

His transformation into a self-styled Skunk Ape Hunter began a decade ago. Life had never been easy. The Shealys'



AL DIAZ/HERALD STAFF

ASK ABOUT OUR SKUNK APE: David Shealy hopes to lure customers to his campground along U.S. 41 in Ochopee.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

A legendary seven-foot-tall mangy creature and presumable cousin of



Big Foot?

El Chupacabra?

Chewbacca?

ZACH POLZENLORENZ / HERALD STAFF

campground steadily lost business to Big Cypress National Preserve, which all but subsumed their tiny town. Shealy left school after the seventh grade and later began running bales of marijuana through the Everglades. After marrying in his teens, he had a kid, got divorced and was busted in 1989 for possessing 30,000 pounds of pot.

Three years in a federal prison left him eager to start anew. But the campground struggled, and does so still, even after the brothers added a motley coterie of abandoned and donated emus, lizards, mud puppies, pythons, cockatiels, alligators and goats. Jack Shealy is currently facing animal cruelty charges, which his brother says are unsubstantiated, for allegedly trying to lure a sick panther with a tied-up goat.

In the mid-1990s, Shealy began pursuing skunk ape lore, with dreams of spinning legend into gold. He made plaster casts out of purported footprints and tacked a sign, "Skunk Ape Research Headquarters," onto the gift shop.

SOME SIGHTINGS

A few years later, a busload of British tourists returned from an Everglades excursion in a tizzy: Something tall and hairy appeared on a dusty road roughly two miles from the brothers' gift shop. A park ranger later admitted to spotting something similar nearby, too.

Statewide sightings had been reported before, though some turned out to be monkeys on the loose.

"There's plenty of evidence, but no scientific proof," said Bob Carr, executive director of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy in Davie. "But Dave has done a heck of a job to promote it."

Another expert, Dr. Jeffrey Meldrum, an associate professor in biological science at Idaho State University, said he has seen compelling, extra-large footprints before, some with textured imprints of skin, from the Pacific Northwest and southern Georgia. But a cast footprint from Shealy, obtained by a cryptozoologist, left him unconvinced.

"It was not anatomically satisfying that this was left by a living animal," Meldrum said.

Shealy, for his part, swears that he is neither the skunk ape nor a hoaxer, even though he keeps 13 assorted gorilla masks pinned to his bedroom wall and donned an ape suit to reenact the beast for the TV show *Unsolved Mysteries*.

IN STEP

Curiously, Shealy seems to identify with the creature, too.

On a recent drive past the visitors center, he muttered, "They don't like the skunk ape there." Once he inter-

rupted a County Commission meeting with the howl, "No one likes the skunk ape!"

Now though, after years of dead ends, Shealy's ship may be coming in. After performing at a Skunk Ape Festival, Nate Martin, a local musician, made a film about Shealy's skunk ape quest.

Footage includes Shealy setting out piles of wet lima beans to entice the creature, Shealy locating a tuft of long brown hair on a wire fence — "Yep, definitely a skunk ape!" Shealy announces after taking a deep whiff — and the creature itself, tall, lanky and slightly auburn, bounding through the woods.

The film debuted last week at a Marco Island club and was apparently warmly met. Shealy said he could barely keep up with demand for his T-shirts, the backer started talking about film festival distribution, and David Letterman's show called.

"It's all good, so many people came. People came from Lion Country Safari," an ebullient Shealy said. "The movie is the biggest thing that ever happened outside of getting busted."