

UFO

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Special to the IJ/Erin Lubin

MAKING BELIEVERS: Documentary filmmaker James Fox of Bolinas stands in front of a clip from his most recent film, 'Out of the Blue,' at 142 Throckmorton in Mill Valley.

Into the realm of ridicule

Marin filmmaker takes UFOs seriously, even if nobody else does

By Rick Polito
IJ reporter

JAMES FOX has heard all the jokes, seen all the smirks. He can sense the disbelief long before the eyes start rolling.

The Bolinas filmmaker doesn't blame anybody for any of it.

He rolls his eyes, too.

"I would say 95 percent of it is absolute hogwash," he says of UFOlogy and the cottage industry of conventions, books, movies, tapes and trinkets orbiting a widespread belief that extraterrestrial spacecraft are cruising earthly airspace.

But that didn't dissuade Fox from throwing his name into the debate. The boyish 37-year-old who says he "was never known for being the quiet child" has produced not one but two UFO documentaries. He just looked at the other 5 percent. "This is the 5 percent we focus on," Fox says.

That 5 percent keeps him right in the middle of eye-rolling territory.

On Friday, the eyes roll right into Mill Valley. "Out of the Blue," the second of Fox's two UFO documentaries, screens at the 142 Throckmorton theater. Next month, a "director's cut" airs on the Sci-Fi Channel.

At this point, Fox doesn't know which is harder to believe, that aliens are visiting Earth on a regular basis or that a guy who grew up in Bolinas and majored in French at San Francisco State is making documentaries about flying saucers.

And being taken seriously.

At least by some.

Fox's Web site quotes a positive review from Skeptic Magazine, and Stanton Friedman, a certified non-skeptic who has been on the flying-saucer lecture circuit for nearly 40 years, calls the latest film "one of the half-dozen best" UFO documentaries. And he's seen



Provided by James Fox

SOMETHING OUT THERE: Filmmaker James Fox crouches on a runway near Area 51 in Nevada, an airfield used for the secret development and testing of military aircraft.

MARIN



PROFILES

NAME: JAMES FOX

AGE: 37

HOMETOWN:

Bolinas

OCCUPATION:

Filmmaker

IF YOU GO

"Out of the Blue" will be screened Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the 142 Throckmorton Theater in Mill Valley. James Fox and co-producer Boris Zubov will attend the event, which will raise money for Fox's next project, Energy Next. Tickets are \$10. Call 383-9600.

all of them.

"There's an awful lot of garbage out there," Friedman says.

That's the sort of thing Fox heard when he started his research. When he told his family nearly 10 years ago that he was going to make a documentary about UFOs, the reaction was not entirely supportive.

"They basically laughed at me," he recalls.

His father, journalist and author Charles Fox, took it especially hard. "He probably spent a good year and

a half trying to turn me around," Fox recalls, remembering the patriarch's "deep sense of paternal obligation."

But he made the documentary anyway.

A "sighting" Fox experienced in the desert 120 miles northwest of Las Vegas was all the proof he needed that the proverbial "something" was out there. He was driving with friends at nightfall when they saw a "saucer-shaped object" flying, darting, stopping, hovering, doing all the things that UFOs are supposed to do.

He even videotaped it. It's a bad videotape. The real ones always are, he maintains. "If it were too good it would have to be fake," Fox says.

And when he told people about it and showed them the tape, he got the same response he might have given anybody who made such a claim. "They all said, 'What

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drugs were you on?"

Fox wasn't on drugs. He was on a mission.

"I wanted to see what this was all about," he says.

He started by looking at what had already been done. "I got all the UFO films I could possibly get my hands on, and I thought they were awful," he says. Using that as a guide, Fox limited the interviews to what he calls "trained observers," mostly astronauts and military officers.

And he threw out any accounts that he "didn't add up."

He also stopped telling people he was from Bolinas. "I just said 'Marin.'"

What he was left with was what he thought were credible stories. "When you get to the 15th or 20th high ranking military officer you sort of have to ask, 'How much longer can I dismiss this evidence?'" Fox says.

When the first documentary, "UFOs: 50 Years of Denial," got picked up by the Discovery Channel, Fox felt vindicated, perhaps not by the skeptics but by his family.

"The entire family was swept

off their feet," he says.

The second film simply grew out of the first. He became a part of the UFO community, a person to call. He recalls hearing the refrain "This is the film we've all been waiting for."

None of it has been easy. The step through what Friedman calls "the laughter curtain" never is.

"Fear of ridicule" is what keeps a lot of UFO believers quiet, Friedman says. The UFO lecturer and late-night radio guest says Fox had the same motivation many in the field have to march through a gauntlet of skeptical derision.

"Many of us who have spent a great deal of time on this subject are convinced we're dealing with the biggest story of the millennium," Friedman says.

When Fox contacted him, Friedman says his advice was simple. "If you're going to do this, you'd better have the facts in hand."

Fox's father had some of the same worries. When his son told him the subject of his documentary, the elder Fox was afraid his

son was surrendering all hope of credibility. "I said, 'Don't go there. Nobody goes there,'" Charles Fox recalls. "That's Looney Tunes."

But the son who "always danced to his own tune" made the films anyway. Charles Fox says his son "pulled it off." The films "work in that they inject a bubble of doubt into your head."

Fox brought his son along on many magazine assignments and believes that some of the questioning mentality may have been passed down.

"I think that got into his blood," Fox says, but he doesn't know where his son got that urge to challenge the accepted wisdom from such extreme angles.

The younger Fox isn't sure why he does it, either. Fox calculates he made \$7 or \$8 an hour producing "Out of the Blue." He just has a need to question things, to sort it out.

"I like to try to make a difference," he says.

Now the filmmaker is stepping into a different fray but with familiar landmarks. Friday's screening will be a benefit for

Energy Next, a nonprofit Fox founded to produce a new documentary, this time on "alternative energy."

Fox says he wants to rip the "alternative" label off the subject and take the idea of green living out of the "hairy armpits and raisinette date cake" demographic.

But he's stepping into the conspiracy theory landscape again. And he knows it. Fox talks about an all-powerful international oil industry quashing energy-saving innovation. He's ready to bring up whispered stories about carburetors that gave V-8s 65 mpg. He's ready to look for patents on world-changing technologies that were deliberately derailed by the energy concerns.

"The whole word 'alternative energy,'" he says. "Is almost like saying 'flying saucer.'"

He's ready for the eye rolling again.

Rick Polito can be reached at rpolito@marinij.com

Former reporter recounts UFO tale

By Matt Moline
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

ABILENE — As the summer of 1965 moved into early August, Abilene Reflector-Chronicle reporter Ed Corwin's attention had turned to the upcoming high school football season.

During the school year, the 26-year-old Corwin was the paper's one-person sports department, and it was his local sports coverage that usually brought him the most feedback from readers.

But before another football season would begin, Corwin became the talk of Dickinson County for another story — one he wrote for the Aug. 4, 1965, evening edition.

The story detailed a commercial truck driver's report of a spectacular, middle-of-the night encounter with an unidentified flying object while driving north on K-15 highway, about 25 miles south of Abilene.

Corwin duly reported 41-year-old Nebraska trucker Don Tennopir's account of being "buzzed" by a luminous orange flying saucer shooting off red rays "that came from behind my truck, over the top of the cab and then hovered over the road in front of me."

After the 14-foot, saucer-shaped object forced Tennopir to bring his peanut-loaded rig to a halt, the glowing object hovered about 100 feet ahead on the roadway for about 30 seconds before taking off to the west, "with a sizzling, or wind-like blowing sound," Tennopir told Corwin.

"I know this sounds silly, but it looked like a big plate with a cup in the middle. It really did," Tennopir told Corwin.

Tennopir arrived in Abilene at about 2 a.m. and promptly filed a report with Abilene police officer Quenton Kessler, who got Corwin out of bed to interview the trucker.

Forty years after the incident, Corwin, who is now 66 and living in Pensacola, Fla., says he can still recall sitting down over coffee at the police station to hear Tennopir's incredible story.

"He told me how his lights went on and off, just like out of Steven Spielberg's film 'Close Encounters,'" Corwin said. "I remember to this day that the story seemed to be true. It has made me a believer in UFOs."

Corwin's readers also accepted the story without much questioning or grumbling.

"I can remember getting a little grief, but this was a different era, so what you wrote was generally accepted," he said. "For the most part, people seemed to feel it was all true."

HERALD, Circleville, OH - Aug. 16, 2005 CR: J. Fry

Hidden history: The battle of L.A.

Recently, the Circleville Herald has been doing very well deserved articles on our combat veterans from different conflicts. It proves there are many heroes in our midst. I have always looked up to these veterans.

One of these articles caught my attention in regards to my research on the ufo phenomenon. I have had coincidental events occur over the years in regards to my research and investigations. The following is one of them. On the morning of June 20th of this year I received a book at the post office titled, "UFOs Over California" by Preston Dennett. I briefly glanced at the book, but I did notice the reference to the Battle of Los Angeles or the Los Angeles Air Raid. According to the book it marked the first recorded occasion in which the United States military opened fire upon a ufo. The date was February 24, 1942. I had known about this event before from my research. I knew the skeptics or debunkers had explained this as trigger-happy anti-aircraft gunners with war nerves who never really saw anything. About three hours later the Circleville Herald was on my porch. On the front page was the story about my friend Harold Hoffman. He and my father-in-law, Bob Quincel, are good friends and fought in the South Pacific during World War II. In the news article Harold talks about the night of February 24, 1942. He states, "while on patrol at the airport, anti-aircraft fire suddenly came up as three Japanese Zeros flew right over him as he stood guard. Only 24 hours earlier, a Japanese submarine had shelled oil fields at Santa Barbara, California to try and disrupt oil production."

In late June Jon fry and I went and interviewed Harold at his home. He showed us the 40th Infantry Division unit book in which the incident of

The Forum

Pete Hartinger

Pete Hartinger is a regular contributor to The Herald.



February 24, 1942 is discussed. We showed Harold the famous picture from the front page of the Los Angeles Times of February 25, 1942. It depicts at least eight spotlights shining on an unknown object hovering over Los Angeles. In the book, "UFOs Over California", the story line follows. At 2 a.m. air raid sirens sounded throughout Los Angeles that warned of a possible Japanese attack. Several unknown objects moved overhead, followed by a huge disk-shaped object that hovered over part of Los Angeles. The mysterious object or objects stayed in place for several hours. The military converged underneath, training numerous searchlights upon the main object. 1430 rounds of ammunition were fired at the craft. Unreal, it suffered no visible damage. However, six people were killed from falling debris and heart attacks. Damage to buildings totaled thousands of dollars. The objects were witnessed by several thousand people and were last seen over Long Beach.

Harold Hoffman was standing guard at the Long Beach Municipal Airport. He told us that he saw at least three objects in a V formation overhead. They were too high for the anti-aircraft fire to reach them. In thinking back he remembered he thought it was odd for them to be going so slow and he could not see the

details of an airplane, just lights high in the sky. He just took it for granted that they were Japanese planes. An important note is that Harold did not know that the objects were seen over Los Angeles earlier and were fired upon. He just knew what had happened in his area. Then everything was hushed up because of the wartime blackout.

After the Los Angeles Times headlines and a few days of following stories about it, there was nothing else in the newspapers. I can understand that in wartime news like this should be censored. However, after all these years there should be an open investigation and to check to rule out any possibility of Japanese aircraft. There is no question on whether the Battle of Los Angeles happened. It did because there were accidental deaths involved and property was destroyed. However, one item does stand out. There were no bombs dropped or hostility shown by the unknown aircraft. If they were Japanese how did they get over Los Angeles? Were they from Japanese aircraft carriers? If the Japanese or U.S. governments know the answer, they sure haven't told the public.

The last two groups of interested people I have talked to about ufos, a very small percentage had ever heard about the Battle of Los Angeles. That is why I have called this part of our "hidden history."

The movie "1941" produced by Steven Spielberg is loosely based on the factual battle over Los Angeles. Spielberg is known to be interested in the ufo phenomenon. Some of his movies are "Close Encounters of The Third Kind," "ET", and the recently released "War of The Worlds."

In studying the ufo phenomenon I have seen where some interesting ufo reports

are received during meteor showers. It is as if the ufos use the meteor showers as a camouflage. Is this what happened over Los Angeles in February, 1942 when the Japanese threat was real? In appearance and behavior the "unidentified aircraft" were, as would become apparent a few years later, classic ufos.

In Harold's defense for thinking these objects were possible Japanese planes there have been similar incidents. Bob Quincel, another longtime Circleville resident, spotted a strange saucer shaped craft swooping down low over the Army Depot, now DSCS in Columbus, Ohio in 1952 while working there. He told a couple of his co-workers who also saw it that it must be one of ours because it was a daytime sighting and was so low over a populated area. Only years later after realizing our government never has come out with that type of craft and listening to my ufo research did he realize he had seen a genuine ufo. His story is contained in the book titled "Ohio UFOs" by fellow researcher Irena Scott, who is a former Ohio State University professor. I was with Irena when she interviewed Bob. Another ufo story connected at the Army Depot occurred the same time period as Bob's and is also written in the book.

In summary, how many other ufo sightings are out there that are similar? I believe many.

I know some people are scared of this subject. Because the ufo phenomenon has been around for so many years, I am more curious about it. Someone once noted, "any panic that might take place because of ufo disclosure is because of the lack of knowledge."

If you have questions about the ufo phenomena please me at 477-6252 or e-mail him at rufos@columbus.rr.com.

Crownpoint couple spots UFO twice

By John Christian Hopkins
Diné Bureau

CROWNPOINT — It was William Shakespeare, the erstwhile Bard of Avon, who first wondered "What light through yonder window breaks?"

The same question has come once again to New Mexico, and no, not Shakespeare, N.M.

On Wednesday and Thursday nights — both between 9:25 and 10 p.m. — Stephanie Jeff of Crownpoint reported seeing bright rotating lights appear suddenly in the sky and vanish just as mysteriously.

"It was kind of scary at first," said Jeff, who has never seen anything like that before. "They were bright lights, kind of rotating."

The reddish-orange lights first appeared from the west on Wednesday, she said. After about a half hour they vanished.

"I reported it to the Air Force," Jeff said. The following night, she said, there were more planes than usual flying overhead. But about 9:30 p.m. the strange lights again emerged from the western sky. When a plane came too close, Jeff said, the lights went out and never

returned.

To make sure she wasn't hallucinating, Jeff said she called her brother, Tony, in Dalton Pass and asked him to look outside.

"He said he saw two lights flying about," Jeff said.

Crownpoint Police Capt. Steve Nelson said no unidentified objects have been reported to the police. He could not remember ever hearing of a local UFO sighting, Nelson said. But Jeff knows she saw something.

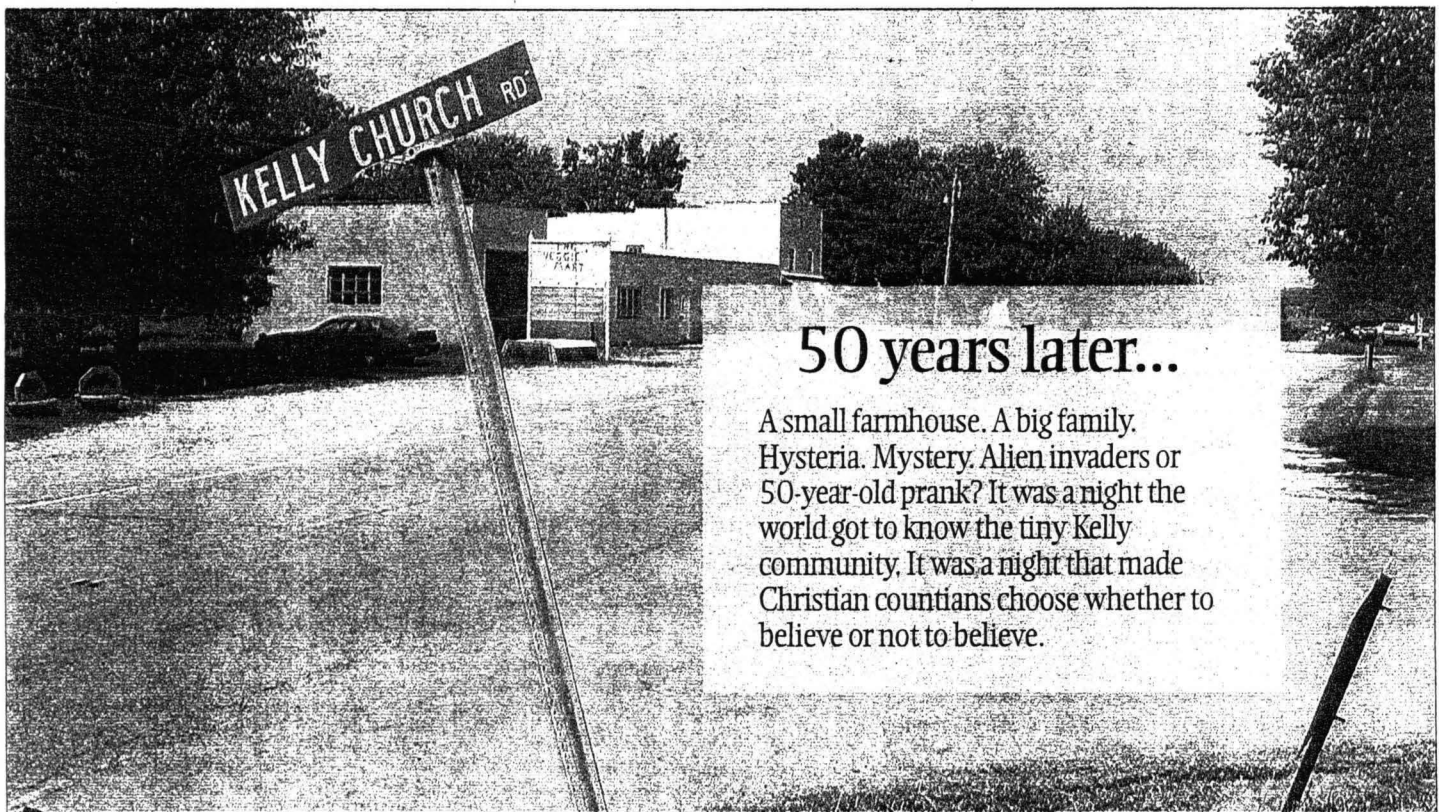
"It wasn't a star, because it just came right out of the sky. It rotated, and was very bright when it was pointed at us," Jeff said. "And we know what an airplane looks like, we know the difference between the lights on a plane."

Reportings of unidentified flying objects are not uncommon. Some UFOs have been reported by prominent scholars. In 1949, Dr. Clyde Tombaugh, the discoverer of the planet Pluto, reported seeing a UFO over Las Cruces; four Air Force officers reported an unidentified flying object over Taos in 1952; and several motorists reported seeing a brightly lit space craft land in a field near Springer in 1996.

Reports of UFOs can be traced back thousands of years, even to ancient civilizations like Egypt and Babylon.

Jeff said her husband didn't want her to tell anyone about the unidentified lights. "I bet a lot of people see things, but are afraid to talk about it," Jeff said. "It's kind of cool, though. It's exciting. We'll definitely be watching (Friday night) to see if they come back again."

The Kelly 'commotion'



50 years later...

A small farmhouse. A big family. Hysteria. Mystery. Alien invaders or 50-year-old prank? It was a night the world got to know the tiny Kelly community. It was a night that made Christian countians choose whether to believe or not to believe.

Kelly, a tiny town about five miles north of Hopkinsville, was made famous by the Aug. 21, 1955, report of an alien invasion.

JENNIFER P. BROWN | KENTUCKY NEW ERA

Life hasn't been easy since the aliens came calling

BY JENNIFER P. BROWN
NEW ERA SENIOR STAFF WRITER

If Lonnie Lankford had been a little older, his mother might not have pushed him under the bed that night she thought she saw an alien outside her bedroom window.

It was the evening of Aug. 21, 1955, and Glennie Lankford was trying to protect the children in the little farmhouse off Old Madisonville Road at Kelly. So, Lonnie, who was 12 years old, was scrunched under the mattress with his brother, Charlton, 10, and sister, Mary, 5.

He never saw the little creatures that frightened his mother and sent his older half-brother, Elmer "Lucky" Sutton, running for a shotgun.

But Lonnie Lankford heard plenty, both that night and in the days and weeks that followed, and he remains clear about what did and did not happen that night 50 years ago.

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JENNIFER P. BROWN | KENTUCKY NEW ERA
Lonnie Lankford, sitting with his dog, Honey, talks about the alien invasion his family reported 50 years ago this summer.

Limited edition spaceship among festival features

BY TONYA S. GRACE
NEW ERA STAFF WRITER

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 4

List of weekend festival activities and speakers

Paul Latham says he doesn't necessarily believe in UFOs or aliens himself, but he does hope that people who see his spaceship believe it's real.

A 2005 graduate of Christian County High School, Latham designed the 4½-foot tall spaceship for the upcoming Little Green Men Festival, and it will be used during the event as a backdrop for pictures.

Visitors to the festival may have their picture taken with the ship for \$5, said Cheryl Cook, executive director of the Hopkinsville-Christian County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The spaceship will be on display at the Hopkinsville-Christian County Conference and Convention Center during the festival. The event kicks off with the show-

ing of the movie "Plan 9 from Outer Space" at 6 p.m. Thursday at Hopkinsville Community College, and activities will continue through Sunday afternoon, when an "Out of this World" karaoke contest and bus tours to Kelly are slated.

Kelly, a rural community about five miles north of Hopkinsville, is the site of the legendary Aug. 21, 1955, invasion of the little green men, where members of the Elmer "Lucky" Sutton family said battled 12 little men who landed in a spaceship.

At the time, the Sutton family said the 12 little men were dressed

(continued on page 4)

"He was one of the biggest liars in Hopkinsville, but he didn't lie about that."

Lonnie Lankford

Said of his brother, Elmer "Lucky"

A different time

In the summer of 1955, air conditioning was rare in Christian County homes and highly prized in public places such as theaters, stores and churches. People spent a good amount of time simply trying to endure the heat and humidity, said William T. Turner, county history. Fans blew in hallways and at night people often slept, or languished, on pallets on their porches.

The First Presbyterian Church in Hopkinsville was running a newspaper ad that touted its air-conditioned sanctuary. Window air conditioning units were selling for \$169 at Keach Furniture.

Many people in Hopkinsville had black-and-white television sets and received antenna signals for three stations, channels 4, 5 and 8, all out of Nashville, Tenn. At 7 o'clock on Saturday nights, they watched "The Lawrence Welk Show."

Six movie theaters, including three drive-ins, were showing westerns, romance stories, monster movies and science fiction. The Alhambra had "Rainbow Over Texas," starring Roy Rogers, Dale Evans and Trigger. The Family Drive-In was showing "Daltons Ride Again," and the Skyway Drive-In had "Revenge of the Creature" and "Flying Saucers."

The Shrine Circus came to town, featuring clowns, dancing dogs, elephants and ponies. Hopkinsville resident Margaret Rash played the organ for the circus.

There were parties at restaurants — the Coach and Four in Hopkinsville and Gray's Steak House out on Madisonville Road.

One day, people stood in line to apply for jobs at the new Moe Light Plant of Thomas Industries.

At Buddies restaurant next to the fire station on East Ninth Street, people paid 10 cents for a hamburger.

Former Gov. A.B. "Happy" Chandler campaigned at the courthouse for another term in office. His opponent, Bert Combs, courted voters at the Memorial Building.

Dalton Bros. Brick was developing a new subdivision on South Jessup.

Almost everybody in Christian County, even the ones in Hopkinsville, still had a connection to farming. They worked on farms, or in tobacco warehouses, or they worked for businesses that couldn't survive without the money generated by farming.

Many families, like Lonnie Lankford's, lived on small farms and lived a modest life.

The Kelly sighting

At Glennie Lankford's house, there was no indoor plumbing. There was an outhouse in the back. Water had to be toted from an outdoor well.

Billy Ray Taylor, a visitor from Pennsylvania and friend of "Lucky" Sutton, was going to the outhouse when he saw a light streak through the sky, said Lonnie, who related the story Friday at his home off U.S. 68 near the eastern edge of the Hopkinsville city limits.

Taylor saw a spaceship land in a field of sagebrush, but he didn't tell anybody what he saw when he returned to the house.

Then Lonnie's mother screamed. She had seen a space creature through the bedroom window. "Lucky" ran for his double-barrel shotgun and fired at the creature. It retreated, but was not hurt.

Stepping outside on the small front stoop, "Lucky" felt a tug at his hair. One of the creatures had reached for him from the roof, Lonnie said.

"Lucky" backed into the yard and saw four or five aliens on the roof. He fired a few shots. Again, the creatures seemed to retreat but were not hurt.

Later, according to the family's story, everybody in the house, in-

cluding Glennie, the three children, "Lucky" and his brother, J.C. Sutton, and Billy Ray, loaded up in a couple of vehicles and headed for Hopkinsville.

At the Hopkinsville Police Department, they asked Police Chief Russell Greenwell for help.

Police officers, Kentucky state troopers and soldiers from Fort Campbell converged at the Lankford place that night and searched for a spaceship and aliens. They found nothing, according to the report in the U.S. Air Force "Blue Book."

Over the years, Lonnie has heard the speculation that his family actually saw some escaped monkeys from the Shrine circus. He laughs at the suggestion.

"I ain't ever seen a silver monkey, or a green one," he said.

Lonnie concedes that his older brother, "Lucky" had a reputation for telling tales and that he drank. But on that night, "Lucky" wasn't drinking and he didn't invent a story about space creatures.

"He was one of the biggest liars in Hopkinsville, but he didn't lie about that," Lonnie said.

To this day, Lonnie wishes he had not crawled under the bed after his mother screamed.

"I wish I had seen one of them, but I didn't and I'm not going to lie about it," he said.

It's hard to tell, Lonnie said, how many people have made money off the Kelly Green Men since that night in 1955. It seems like everybody but his family made something off the story.

"Here I sit, broke and poor, and I ain't made nothing off it," said Lonnie, who is disabled after years of manual labor.

He worked so many different jobs, it's hard to list them all ... roofer, gas station attendant, truck driver, saw mill hand.

But Lonnie still has a sense of humor about his family's brush with fame. Three years ago, he went to a Halloween dance at the Hopkinsville Elks Club. He dressed as an alien. Hardly anyone knew the story behind the mask and cape that night.

Lonnie has been looking for his costume this week.

Next weekend, for the Little Green Men Festival's Alien Ball, he'd like to go as an alien.

JENNIFER P. BROWN can be reached by telephone at 887-3236 or by e-mail at jpbrown@kentuckynewera.com.

Festival activities

The Little Green Men Festival debuts next week with the following events:

Thursday

■ Showing of the classic science fiction movie "Plan 9 from Outer Space" at 6 p.m. at the Hopkinsville Community College on North Drive. Price of admission is \$2 and includes a bag of popcorn.

Friday

■ An "Alien Abductions" fund-raiser hosted by the Kentucky Circuit Court Clerk's Trust for Life Charity to support organ and tissue donor awareness. This event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pennyroyal Area Museum in downtown Hopkinsville. People may suggest that someone be "abducted" by the charity, and the abductee's family will have to make a donation to the charity to rescue their relative.

■ Exhibits on the Kelly alien incident and related topics will be on display at the Hopkinsville-Christian County Conference and Convention Center.

■ Judging for a Kids' Alien Costume Contest will take place at the convention center at 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Hopkinsville Optimist Club, the contest will offer prizes furnished by area merchants for winners in categories for ages 3 to 5, 6 to 8, 9 to 11 and 12 to 14.

■ An intergalactic trade show featuring "out-of-this world" paraphernalia, gifts, trinkets, food and keepsakes is slated for 5 to 11 p.m. and will also continue throughout the festival at the convention center. Set up will begin at 8 a.m. and must be complete by 4 p.m. Friday. Folks may take down their booths no earlier than 4 p.m. Aug. 21. Cost for booth space is \$100 for a 10x10 area, and an electrical connection is \$10. For more information, call Betsy Bond or Cheryl Cook at 1-800-842-9959 or visit www.kellygreenmen.com.

■ Dr. John McCubbin will present "What is Amateur Astronomy in the 21st Century?" at 8 p.m. Friday at the convention center. McCubbin is webmaster for the Halfmoon Observatory website www.ccdastrophotography.com. Additionally, Ross Workman will give a presentation on "Amateur Telescopes." Workman previously operated the planetarium at the Land Between the Lakes recreational area.

■ Local amateur astronomers will have telescopes set up at 9 p.m. so that interested participants can see stars and planets, the moon and other deep sky objects.

Aug. 20

■ Intergalactic trade show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the convention center.

■ The panel discussion and question-and-answer session "What Really Happened in Kelly?" is slated for 9 a.m. to noon at

His mother saw a space creature outside her window, not a cat or a monkey or a bird. There were more in the yard and on the roof.

The creatures were sliver, not green. They were small, about 3 feet tall, and had webbed hands and feet, and big round eyes.

Shots were fired at the creatures, but there was no raging gun battle that went on for hours.

Most important, Lonnie says, no one was drinking at the house that night. No beer, or liquor or moonshine was allowed inside. That was Glennie Lankford's rule.

"I remember the commotion and the hollerin' and screaming," Lonnie, 62, said Friday afternoon. "I didn't see them, but my momma did, and I believe her because she was a religious woman and she wouldn't lie."

The Legend of Kelly

Today, the world knows the Kelly story as the tale of the Little Green Men, or the Kelly Green Men.

In the days following the first news story of the family's report, published on Aug. 22, 1955, in the Kentucky New Era, the world beat a path to Kelly, a tiny community about 5 miles north of Hopkinsville.

The New York Daily News reported on its front page, "Space-men Take Kentucky." A headline in the Los Angeles Times read, "Kentucky Gains New Fame."

Someone — maybe a headline writer — couldn't resist the word play on Kelly and Green, and the little men changed colors, from silver to green. (A French journalist, Yann Mege, who traveled to Hopkinsville in 2000 to research the story, has theorized that the phrase "little green men" originated from the Kelly story.)

The family, embarrassed by reports that they were drunk or simply pulling an elaborate prank that night, rejected the attention and turned away reporters. While the world laughed, they were often insulted.

The Kelly incident became a legend that grew over time. It remains a classic chapter in the U.S. Air Force's "Project Blue Book," a catalogue of more than 12,000 UFO sightings in the United States between 1952 and 1969.

FESTIVAL: Limited edition spaceship among features

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in silver suits, although the description has evolved over time to become the little green men commonly referred to today.

Cook said plans for the festival honoring the local legend began about five years ago when a newspaper article was published mentioning the little green men and the 50th anniversary of the spaceship landing.

"I kind of sat straight up in bed and said, 'We've got to have a festival,'" Cook said as she recalled her reaction to the article written by former Kentucky New Era staff writer and managing editor Rob Dollar.

Cook said news of the upcoming festival has generated a huge response, although she isn't sure how many people will attend the event.

"We don't know what to expect," she said. "We think it's going to be larger than life. We'll have a lot of the UFO communi-

ty, but I think a lot of our local people are curious as well."

Cook said the festivities will include a symposium featuring visiting speakers Dr. Joe Nickell, a paranormal investigator from the University of Kentucky; George Fawcett, a UFO investigator and lecturer; and Peter Davenport, who is executive director of the National UFO Reporting Center.

A panel discussion also will highlight the events of the Kelly incident, with local folks who were either at the site in 1955 or involved in some other aspect of the incident slated to be on hand to discuss their memories of that time.

Among those who have been invited as panel guests are Geraldine Stith and Elmer Sutton Jr., children of Lucky Sutton who were at the Sutton home that night, Lonnie Lankford, a Christian County man who also was at the home on that night and Philip Mullins, a Christian

County businessman who talked to one of the farmhouse occupants not long after the encounter.

Hopkinsville-Christian County historian William T. Turner also has been invited to be a part of the panel, and Turner, a retired history professor at Hopkinsville Community College, will be available during the weekend as well to tell the story of the Kelly incident during Sunday's bus tours.

Both the panel discussion and symposium will take place on Saturday at the convention center.

Other events will include an "Alien Abductions" event hosted by the Kentucky Circuit Court Clerk's Trust for Life Charity to raise funds for organ and tissue donor awareness, an alien costume contest for children hosted by the Hopkinsville Optimist Club, a "Space Jam" alien ball that will feature music from the 1960s and '70s, a presentation on amateur astronomy

and a trade show featuring paraphernalia, gifts, trinkets, food and keepsakes.

Cook noted that organizers may have similar events in the future if this weekend's event is successful.

The festival already has captured the interest of numerous folks who have been visiting Internet Web sites to get information about it, and Cook said organizers have tried to link to every possible UFO and festival site available.

Latham said he believes the festival is a good idea for some folks.

"I don't necessarily believe there are UFOs or aliens out there," said Latham, who built the festival spaceship together with his father, Danny Latham. "But it will be something for the community to do, and it will bring people together."

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UFO sighting in Exeter — again

BY ADAM DOLGE
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EXETER — There was something odd in the sky last week, something that caused a Navy veteran with 10,000 hours of flight experience to have his own close encounter.

The former flight engineer, who wished to be identified only as "David," said of the experience, "this was like nothing I've ever seen before."

What the retired Navy chief petty officer said he saw last

Wednesday could only be classified as a UFO, an unidentified flying object.

It was a bright and sunny afternoon, about 3:15 p.m., and David was outside preparing his lawnmower. He had filled the mower with gas, checked the oil, and took a sip from a glass of water he had poured. When he tilted his head back to get the final sip, through the bottom of the glass he saw a large cigar-shaped object hovering in the sky.

"that's not a blimp."

The object moved from west to east, very slowly for something that size, he said. His initial instinct was that the object was moving at about 100 knots, but something that big shouldn't be able to stay in the air if it's going that slow, he said.

The object began changing colors from a bright silver to an orange-ash red. A strange cloud of red and orange flames began surrounding the object, and before he knew it the object

stretched out like a rubber band. It grew to about twice its original size, and then it was gone.

The entire incident lasted about 10 minutes, he recalled Monday morning, but he is unaware of the specific time because, "it felt like time stopped."

He went into his house and first thought to call the police. He decided not to because he didn't think they'd take him seriously. So he went on the Internet and searched for "report UFO," and found the Web site for the

Seattle-based National UFO Reporting Center.

Peter Davenport, director of the UFO reporting center, said David's report was astonishing because of his history with flight. "I have no question on his reliability."

He said he gets several accounts each year, but this one stood out. The report was well written and scientific, Davenport said.

ing over Route 101 in Kensington. The sighting was documented in a book called "The Incident at Exeter."

And then there was the incident involving Barney and Betty Hill, a husband and wife from Portsmouth who claimed to have been abducted by aliens. The couple was driving from a vacation in Canada in 1961 when they saw a UFO.

The object moved directly over their car, and before they knew it they grew drowsy. They later claimed to have been abducted by aliens and gave identical accounts while they were hypnotized.

But for this recent sighting, David said he believes that there is life beyond Earth. He said the galaxy is so enormous, it's hard to believe humans are the only intelligent life.

"To the point of not being obnoxious, it'd be egocentric to think there is no other life out there."

Not the first time

The Exeter area is no stranger to UFO sightings. In 1965, two Exeter police officers and hitchhiker Norman Muscarello, who was with them, gained national attention after seeing a UFO hovering

(continued from page 4 - KENTUCKY NEW ERA, Hopkinsville, KY - Aug. 13, 2005)

the convention center. Among the guests who have been invited as panelists are Geraldine Stith and Elmer Sutton Jr., who were among the 11 people at the farmhouse on the night of the encounter and several local residents who were there that night or who have acquired extensive knowledge of the legend.

An afternoon symposium at the convention center will feature Dr. Joe Nickell, a paranormal investigator at the University of Kentucky, speaking at noon, George Fawcett, a UFO lecturer and investigator, at 1:30 p.m., and Peter Davenport, the executive director of the National UFO Reporting Center, at 2:30 p.m.

"Monsters of the UFO," a documentary that features the Kelly incident, will be shown at 4 p.m. at the convention center.

The musical event "Picnic With the Pops," featuring the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra,

will offer an "Out of This World Evening of Music" beginning at 7:30 p.m. on the campus of University Heights Academy at North Drive. "Grass Roots" tickets are \$8 each for those who want to bring lawn chairs, blankets or quilts, while tables of eight are \$120 each for folks who want to decorate tables and serve their own food. For tickets or tables, call 887-4295 or visit the Pennyroyal Arts Council office at the L&N Depot downtown. The event will take place at the HCC auditorium on North Drive if it rains.

The Cruisers from Louisville will be the featured band for a "Space Jam" Alien Ball slated for 9 a.m. Saturday until 1 a.m. Sunday at the convention center. Tickets can be purchased at the door at a rate of \$25 per couple or \$15 for singles. Refreshments will be available. The event is being sponsored by the Oak Grove Tourism Commission.

Aug. 21

The intergalactic trade show continues from noon to 4 p.m. at the convention center.

Registration for an "Out of This World" Karaoke Contest begins at noon at the convention center. The contest starts at 1 p.m. and offers prizes for ages 13 to 17 and ages 18 and older (\$150 for first place and \$50 for second place in each category). The event will be presented by the House Party Karaoke and DJ Service and is sponsored by the Hopkinsville Newcomers Club.

Bus tours to Kelly sponsored by Jeff Newton and Genesis Tours beginning at 12:30 p.m. Four 1½-hour tours will be offered, featuring historian William T. Turner talking about the Kelly UFO encounter. To purchase tickets, call 1-800-842-9959 or stop by the Hopkinsville-Christian County Commerce Center at 2800 Fort Campbell Blvd.

NEWS-LETTER, Exeter, NH - July 29, 2005

UFO saga continues

Woman from France reports 2 similar sightings in Europe

BY ADAM DOLGE
adolge@seacoastonline.com

EXETER — There has been a considerable response to Tuesday's article in the News-Letter about a recent UFO sighting. Interested local residents and skeptics joined UFO enthusiasts commenting from throughout the nation, and reaction was even received from a French "Ufologist" who recalled two similar sightings in Europe.

Yann Marchandin, the French "Ufologist" who contacted the News-Letter via e-mail, said there was a similar UFO sighting in Poland in 1997 and another in 1999. In both incidents, witnesses claimed to have seen large "military ship-sized" tubes, or cigar-shaped objects in the sky.

She said this recent report, by an Exeter man who wished to be identified only as

"David," was very interesting to her because of its similarities to the two other sightings and also because of his military and aviation background.

There were also those who questioned the recent sighting. If the object was so large in the sky, why did nobody else see it, many asked in e-mails sent to the News-Letter.

Last Wednesday, Aug. 20, David reported seeing a silver, cigar-shaped object around 3 p.m. that he said was roughly the size of two aircraft carriers. It changed colors to an orange-red before stretching to twice its original size, then disappearing.

David is recently retired as a flight engineer with the U.S. Navy and has logged more than 10,000 hours in the air.

Director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, said there are various reasons why no one else witnessed what David did. David submitted a report to the reporting center shortly after his encounter.

Davenport said that perhaps David was in the right place at the right time. Also, the object's technology could have been so advanced that it might only have been visible from where David was standing.

David's report will soon be available for public viewing at the center's Web site at www.nuforc.org.

But Peter Davenport, di-



Jackie Lorentz, staff photographer

▲ Penny Altendorf walks through the crop circles made near the Northwood (N.D.) Municipal Airport on Friday. The wheat near the circles has been harvested this week but the farmer left a border around the crop circles.

Northwood abuzz about crop circles

Crop circles? I bet you never thought you'd see those words appear in one of my columns. Or, maybe you did.

Either way, crop circles in a grain field just south of the Northwood Municipal Airport have caused a lot of commotion in the Northwood, N.D., area.

The question that's on everyone's mind is, are the crop circles the work of aliens or hooligans? Or, was it the work of Mother Nature?

Gary Butz, a retiree and airplane pilot, took to the sky in his Cherokee 140 when he heard about the crop circles to get a better look. He brought a friend along to take pictures of the phenomenon.

He believes the crop circles showed up Sunday morning, but others say the crop circles appeared as early as Friday of last week.

"I'm not saying this is legit," he said. "I'm not saying it isn't."

But curiosity got the best of him and he went out to the field to measure the circles. He paced the largest circle and determined it was 66 feet in diameter.

"Being a disbeliever (in aliens, that is), I was looking for a stake mark in the middle of the circle," Butz said.

But he didn't find anything that looked like a stake had been pounded in the ground. Because the circles are perfectly round, Butz figured whoever, or whatever, created them would have needed to stake out the center and use something that was about 33 feet long to smash down the grain.



Rona K. Johnson

HERALD
COLUMNIST

Doesn't make sense

Brian Erickson who rents the field where the circles appeared, doesn't understand, if the circles were created by aliens, why did they land in his field?

"If I was an alien, I wouldn't have landed in a wheat field, I would have landed on the airport runway," he said.

Erickson, who harvested the field but left a buffer zone around the crop circles, isn't saying that it was aliens who made the circles, but he's perplexed.

"They are perfectly round, just like if you took out a tape measure," he said. "How do you flatten it to keep it from popping back up?"

Erickson said he and his hired hand joked that they should look over their shoulders for aliens as they harvested the field.

"But we didn't see any-

thing," he said.

Grady Thorsgard, another Northwood area farmer, also doesn't want to believe that it was aliens that created the crop circles.

He's leaning more towards humans or Mother Nature, in the form of some kind of twister.

"People say that nature couldn't do it, but I think that God's got a sense of humor too," he said.

Penny Altendorf like everybody else, has no idea how the crop circles were formed, but she's just as curious as the next person.

Altendorf, whose husband owns Northwood Aero-Spray at the airport, did the same thing that I did when I heard about the crop circles — jumped on the Internet.

And after reading several articles on crop circles, neither one of us feels we are experts in the field.

"Everyone has their own theory," she said. "It's just there, whether it happened on its own or someone did it."

Butz doesn't care how the crop circles were formed, but as a member of the airport board, he's just happy to see all the attention the crop circles have attracted.

"I'm on the airport board and I want more people to come out here and fly," he said. "Uh, oh, now it sounds like I did it. But if you knew me you'd know that I'm too lazy to do that."

Johnson reports on local news and writes a weekly column. Reach her at (701) 780-1229; (800) 477-6572, ext. 229; or rjohnson@gfherald.com.

Navy veteran knows what he saw: a UFO

'Odds are there's intelligent life outside of Earth'

By Adam Dolge
adolge@seacoastonline.com

EXETER — There's been a flurry of responses to the Exeter man who witnessed what he described as a

silver-cigar shaped object in the day's sky on July 20.

For those who don't believe the 20-plus year Navy veteran, who wished to be identified as "David," his response during an interview on Thursday was, "I'm a pragmatic individual. If you were there with me in the yard, you would have seen it."

It was a hot and humid afternoon when David saw the object

in the sky. He was preparing his lawnmower, and after tilting his head back to take a sip from a glass of water, he saw the object in the sky that he could only describe as a UFO — an unidentified flying object.

But David is alone with his account, and so far, no one else has come forward saying they saw the same object in the sky. He lives on the west side of

Exeter in Louisburg Circle, a wooded development with about 20 houses surrounding a cul de sac. The incident occurred at about 3:15 p.m., and David said after the object disappeared, he looked to see if any other neighbors were outside and witnessed what he saw, but no one was around.

The Exeter Police Department has not received any calls regarding the incident. Also, the Federal Aviation Administration did not see anything out of the ordinary on radar that day.

But David still has no doubt what he saw. An artist's rendition depicts what he saw that day in the sky.

David said the object was as large as two aircraft carriers. It was long and silver, with windows equally spaced around its center. After what felt like several minutes, he said the object started changing colors to an orange-red and similar-colored flames billowed from underneath. But there was no smoke or noise. The object eventually stretched to double its size and disappeared.

After the incident, he realized a neighbor's dog had been barking and the glass of water he was drinking was on the ground. At one point, he thought to run in the house to grab a camera, but hesitated because he was stunned to see something like that in the sky.

He reported what he saw to Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle. Davenport took his account very seriously because of David's military history and the details of his account.

Davenport said he was a little disappointed no others have come forward with similar accounts since the object was so large. He was also concerned because David could not be contacted for days afterward. He and other UFO experts began to wonder if this was a hoax.

Rye resident Peter Geremia, state director for the Mutual UFO Network, said when he first heard of David's account, he was worried it was someone trying to get media attention.

"It could have been phony, and I haven't heard anything yet that has changed my mind," he said.

Besides the report David filed with the National UFO Reporting Center, Geremia said he would have liked to interview him as well and file a formal report with his organization's headquarters in Morrison, Colo.

Geremia said he takes several accounts of sightings each year. Once he gets in touch with the witness, he interviews him or her and reviews a topographical map of where the witness saw the reported UFO. He then takes a Polaroid picture of where the witness saw the object and has the witness draw what the object looked like on the photo. Then the witness fills out a two-page UFO sighting form. Geremia then files the report to Colorado.

Some of Davenport's and Geremia's initial skepticism regarded David's military background. David said he has about 10,000 hours of flight experience. He joined the Navy at the age of 18 in 1975. As a former flight engineer, the retired Navy chief petty officer said he's seen just about everything that can fly.

At the interview Thursday at his home, he showed his numerous medals and awards, his old flight suit, his user manual for

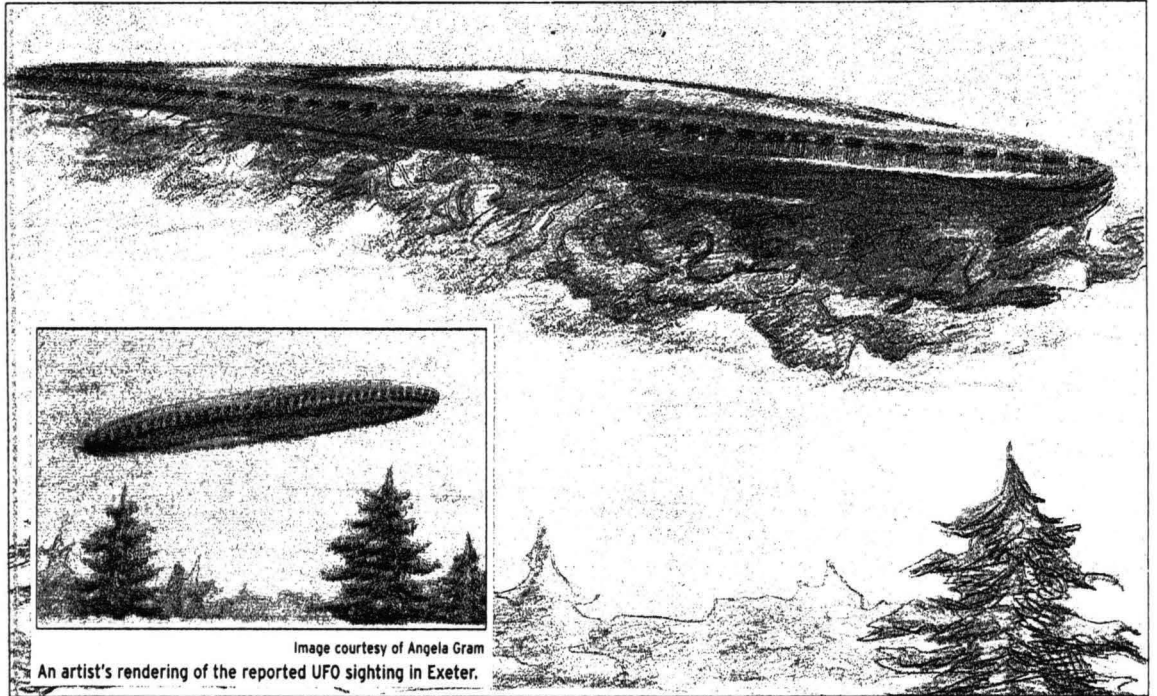


Image courtesy of Angela Gram
An artist's rendering of the reported UFO sighting in Exeter.

An artist's rendition depicts what "David" saw in the sky on Wednesday, July 20, from his Exeter home. The picture shows a large object shaped like a "silver cigar," as David says it appeared just before the object vanished — twice the size at which he first viewed it, with flames billowing underneath.

one of the spy planes he flew in, and a photo of that plane signed by his colleagues when he retired in March 1997. His computer is full of photographs of different jets, and he can easily be described as a flight enthusiast.

David said he doesn't care if people don't believe him. He knows what he saw that afternoon.

"I'm pragmatic, so odds are in favor that there is intelligent life outside of Earth."

Exeter first made alien radar screen with reports in the 1960s

"David" is not alone in reporting the witnessing of a UFO in the Exeter area.

Two sightings in the 1960s grabbed national attention.

In 1965, two Exeter police officers and a hitchhiker named Norman Muscarello, who was with them at the time, claimed to have seen a UFO hovering over Route 101

in Kensington. Their accounts of the sighting were documented in a book titled, "The Incident at Exeter."

Years before that sighting, Barney and Betty Hill, a couple from Portsmouth, claimed they were abducted by aliens while driving home from a vacation in Canada in 1961. An object slowly moved over their car, and before long the couple became drowsy. They later determined they had been abducted by aliens.

They both gave identical accounts while they were hypnotized.

The adventure brought media attention to the postal

worker and his social worker wife. They appeared on national television. John Fuller documented their experience in his book, "Interrupted Journey." The former Look magazine published a two-part excerpt of the book in 1966. "Interrupted Journey" became a TV movie in 1975, with James Earl Jones playing Barney and Estelle Parsons playing Betty.

Many UFO enthusiasts refer to the Hills' encounter as the door that opened a national debate on abductions.

—Adam Dolge

TIMES-COURIER, Charleston, IL - Aug. 25, 2005 CR: J. Scarpellini

DON'T SEE THIS EVERY DAY



Pictured is damage to crops in an area cornfield. A Coles County farmer reported a recent incident of vandalism to his fields involving two circles of flattened corn stalks, one large and the other smaller. The vandalism was reported Wednesday morning to the Coles County Sheriff's Department after it was discovered earlier in the week. A deputy at the scene said he is not aware of the department encountering vandalism of this kind before during the past 30 years.

Kevin Kilihoffer/
Staff Photographer

East Kingston woman reports second UFO sighting

She describes its appearance as a 'silver cigar'

BY ADAM DOLGE

adolge@seacoastonline.com

EAST KINGSTON — It's happened again. An East Kingston resident said she saw a "silver-cigar" shaped object in a day-time sky last week.

This time it was a home-maker who, like the first person to give an account of witnessing an unidentified flying object, wished to use only her first name, "Lucienne."

The sighting allegedly happened about noon on Monday, July 25. Lucienne said she was standing in a meadow behind her house on North Road when she saw the long object in the sky. She described it as a pill shape, because it had rounded ends and was longer than it was wide. Dark spots lined the object, which she said appeared to be windows. Lucienne said the incident lasted about 30 seconds, and she didn't have time to run into her house to get binoculars. When she saw the object she yelled for her husband, but he was too far away to hear.

This report comes about a week after a 48-year-old Navy veteran claimed to have seen a similar object when he was in the back yard of his home in Exeter. "David," as he wished to be identified, said he saw the object at about 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 20. He provided a detailed account to the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle. Lucienne said she didn't read the first article in the News-Letter about David's account until Wednesday, July 27. When she read the second article about people questioning the validity of David's account, she contacted the News-Letter because, she said she believes, she saw the same object in the sky just days after his encounter.

Like David's account, Lucienne said that, before the object disappeared, it stretched out to about twice its original size. But, unlike David's account, Lucienne said the object did not change color, and she did not see any flames under the object. Also, the "windows" on the object did not extend to each end; rather, each end of the object was solid and without windows.

Lucienne wrote down her observations so that she'd have documentation, but she had not submitted the information to UFO authorities as of Monday.

planation of what he saw in the photos was a spaceship that was having some problems and had to make a forced landing.

On Monday, he called Lyle Jeff and quizzed him on what he saw and went and got directions to his house so he could make a detailed investigation of the area to see if something did in fact land in the fields near the Navajo community.

There have been other landings of alien spacecraft reported in UFO circles over the year and he said he knew what to look for — scorched earth in the form of a circle, showing where the spacecraft landed and then took off. And signs of radiation that had been emitted from the spacecraft as it landed.

"Maybe it never did take off," he said. "Maybe it's possible that the craft is still there on the ground."

No matter what people saw and think they saw, Allen said the sightings deserved to be thoroughly investigated to try to determine its origins, not only for the sake of the people who looked up into the night sky last week and saw something strange, but because of the millions of people who will be hearing of this over the next week.

A Los Angeles radio station has already talked to Allen after hearing of these reports, and he said he will be interviewed on the station for an hour today on what was seen and how it may be greeted by UFO experts and fans in coming weeks, months and years.

But Allen said that if it was observed over several nights last week, it still may be around or others like it.

And to see them, all one has to do is something that Allen has been doing for years — watch the night skies.

To Allen, however, the only ex-

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That's another sign that this sighting may go down as one of the most significant sightings in recent UFO history — the number of people who sighted it and were amazed by what they saw.

Jeff said he and others in his community had observed the object in the sky for five straight nights.

On Friday, he got a camera and took several shots of what he saw.

His mother, Stephanie, called The Independent on Monday, and said that other families were saying that the object appeared to have gone beyond a hill north of Standing Rock and landed.

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UFO, expert, speculates about strange lights

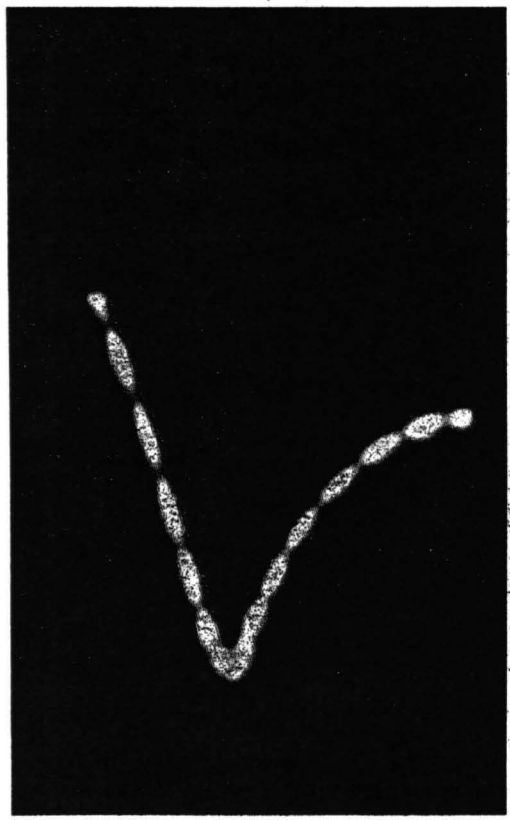
By Bill Donovan
Staff Writer

GALLUP — Local UFO "expert" Robert Allen got noticeably excited when he got his first look at photos that appeared over these skies last week.

"I'm getting goosebumps," he said, adding that these may be the clearest photos taken of a UFO in decades.

The photos were taken by Lyle Jeff, a 17-year-old student who lives in Standing Rock, a small Navajo community about 35 miles north of Gallup.

The photos show something but just what that something is will probably be talked about in UFO circles for years if not decades.



This is one of several photos taken by Lyle Jeff of Standing Rock that show an unidentified flying object near Standing Rock. The object was seen by dozens of people from Williams Acres to Crownpoint.

Courtesy photo



DAILY NEWS, Prince Rupert, B.C., Canada - Aug. 16, 2005 CR: G. Conway

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Has anyone else seen these 'UFOs'?

To the editor,

I have now seen UFOs over Prince Rupert three times and I'm wondering if others have had similar experiences.

My first sighting was on June 20, 1996. At 12:12 p.m. when I took four photos and half a minute of video of the UFO from my living room window, I reported it to UFOBC and other places.

The second one was on Oct. 25, 2004. At 9:30 a.m. I was just leaving my driveway when I saw the oval shaped silver object toward the southeast just above Mount Hays, about 15 degrees up. The object was very shiny and it was traveling slowly toward the southeast. I observed the object for seven or eight seconds before it was gone over and behind Mount Hays.

The third one was on July 23, 2005 at 7 p.m. From my driveway, I saw this red object in the sky toward the southeast at 15 degrees up over Mount Hays. The object was travelling slowly to the northeast toward Mount Oldfield.

I asked my cousin Jerry who was sitting in my truck at the time, to keep track of the object while I was going back and forth to the truck for my cameras and my 7x50 mm binoculars.

First I took two pictures of this red UFO with my Sony Cyber-Shot 3.2 Mega Pixel digital camera, then I went back and got my old Minolta camera with a 70 to 210 Zoom lens and I took three more pictures of the craft. Then I went back and got my 7x50 mm binoculars. When I looked through my binoculars I could see that the object stopped for a few seconds and it



looked like it was slowly rocking back and forth. Then I went back to my truck to grab my digital video Camcorder. That's when we both lost sight of the UFO.

I know I made a mistake by grabbing my binoculars instead of my camcorder, at least I could have zoomed it in with my camcorder while it was rocking back and forth and to see where this thing went to. Anyway, when I got my three photos developed from my old Minolta camera, I could see that there where two UFOs in the first photo I took.

I did not see this other UFO when I took

the picture, this other UFO was about 12 degrees above and further North of the one I snapped a picture of. The other two photos showed just the one UFO in them.

The weather was cloudy over Mount Hays that day. The object was two thousand yards away from us and we had it in view for about seventy-five seconds.

If anyone has similar experiences I would love to hear from them at alien@citytel.net.

People can also report sightings at www.ufobc.ca.

Frank Robinson

TIMES, Irvine, Scotland - April 29, 2005

Now ... is this really a UFO?

PROSPECTIVE Labour candidate Brian Donohoe broke off his election campaign at the weekend ... to chase a UFO.

Irvine man and Central Ayrshire contender Brian was in his motor when he spotted the mysterious blue object hovering overhead.

Brian, who is the only Scottish member of the Commons' transport committee, immediately grabbed his camera and took snaps of the unidentified flying object before it vanished.

The 56-year-old father of two was on his way from Kilwinning to Irvine when the UFO appeared over the Warrix Interchange.

Brian said: "Other drivers ahead of me saw it too and swerved to have a look - there was quite a traffic jam. Then it disappeared.

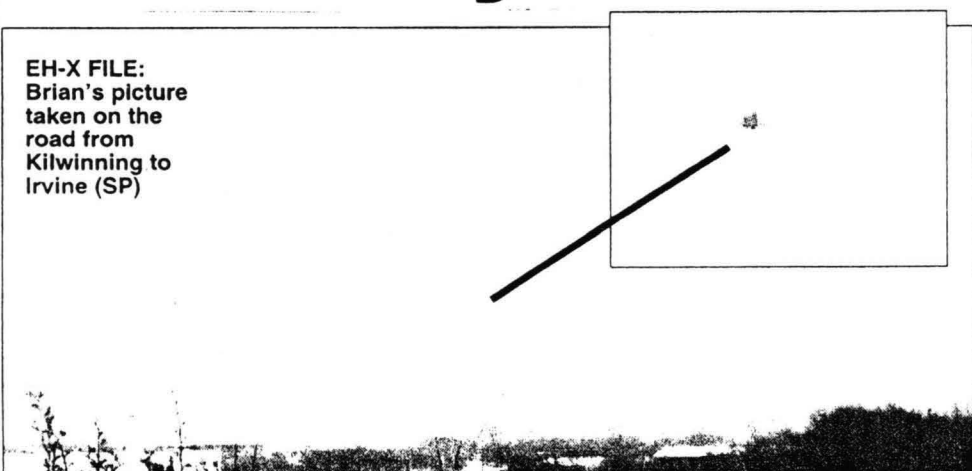
"I drove around a bit but the thing vanished. At first I thought it was just a plane, it could have been a kite, but I've never seen anything like it."

Expert Ron Halliday said the sighting was quite close to Britain's UFO hotspot, West Kilbride.

He said: "There has been quite a lot of activity there. These pictures are quite clear and they are definitely worth further investigation."

Are you the Unidentified Flying Object. Call us on either 01294 273421 or 464321 and ask for the editorial desk.

EH-X FILE:
Brian's picture
taken on the
road from
Kilwinning to
Irvine (SP)



The light on the disk in Hannah Roberts' photo suggests a sun position behind the camera, which is consistent with the picture's overall light pattern. HANNAH MCROBERTS — FOR THE PROVINCE

B.C. UFO picture 'best in the world'

TEST OF TIME: Vancouver Island woman's photo remains a mysterious treasure

BY CARRIE WEST
SPECIAL TO THE PROVINCE

More than two decades ago, Hannah McRoberts, a young wife and mother, snapped a picture of a mountain near Kelsey Bay on Vancouver Island.

A small puff of cloud made it look like the mountain was spewing steam. She thought it looked interesting. When she developed her film, it looked *really* interesting. It looked as though a flying saucer had appeared in the photograph.

And today, this image, taken on Oct. 8, 1981, remains British Columbia's most famous Unidentified Flying Object photo.

McRoberts figures it's been reproduced in books, magazines, television shows and websites close to 100 times worldwide — from Microsoft and BBC websites, to children's books and strange-but-true television programs.

"It's been published in Time-Life books," says McRoberts. "That kind of authenticates it, too, for them to publish it."

The Province published her photo and story amid a flurry of interest at the time, says McRoberts, but now she only gets a phone call from a journalist or interested party every couple of years.

"My name will always be in print with that picture," says McRoberts. "But I'm certainly not wealthy or famous or anything for it."

McRoberts, who still lives in Campbell River, says she hasn't had any other close encounters. And she maintains to this day that her peculiar photo wasn't a hoax.

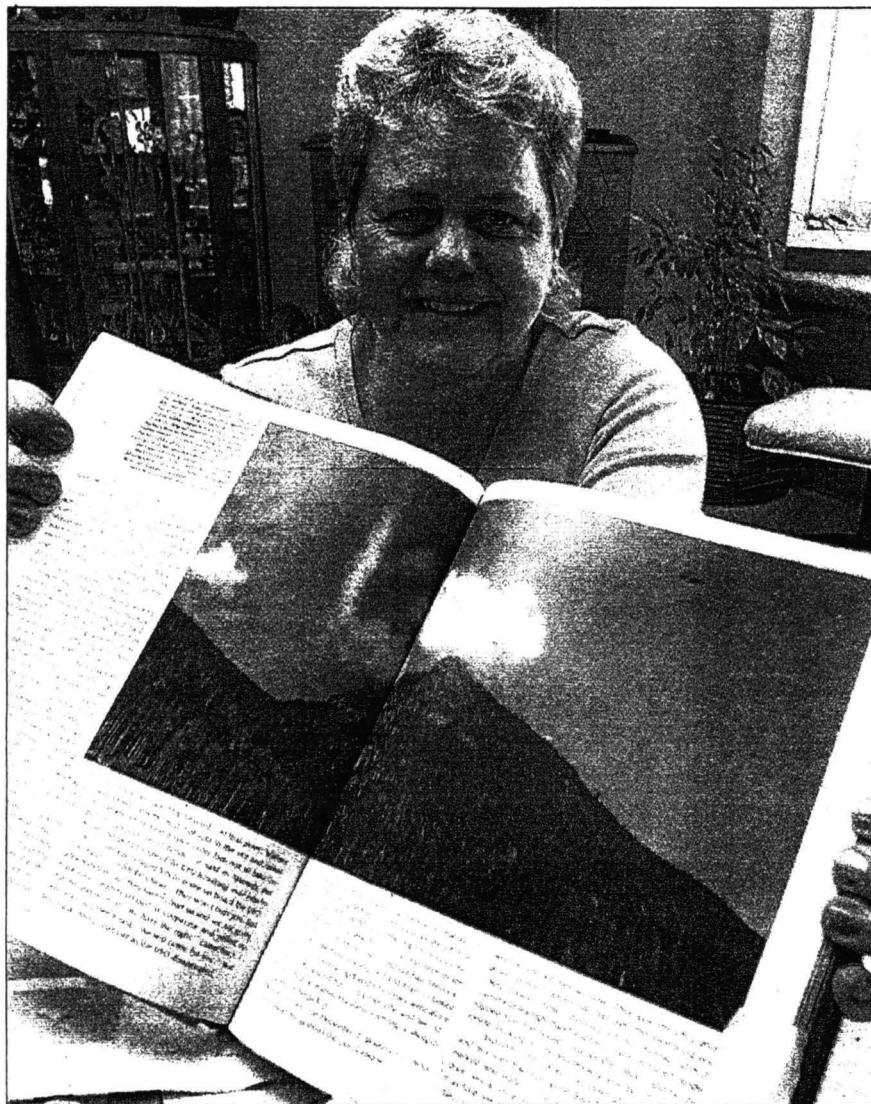
"Absolutely not," says McRoberts, without hesitation.

McRoberts' presumably accidental photo has become internationally famous in UFO circles, according to Gavin McLeod, president of UFO British Columbia, a 10-year-old non-profit organization.

Most other photographs or videos of UFOs can be explained, he says. Many are out-of-focus airplanes, stars or bright planets like Venus. Hoaxsters use pot lids or Frisbees to convince the gullible.

But because experts examined the McRoberts photo and the image of the apparent flying saucer appears relatively clear, McLeod says it's well-known internationally.

"In my humble opinion, the Hannah McRoberts photo is the best



Hannah McRoberts displays her picture in the most famous publication to use it, a Time-Life book called *Alien Encounters*. JERITT BOOMER / STRATHCONA PHOTOGRAPHY — FOR THE PROVINCE

credible UFO photo in the world," says McLeod.

Whether or not McRoberts' photograph is the best, it is considered believable in part because of

McRoberts' own credibility. At the time, she was 26 years old, snapping pictures with her husband and 18-month-old daughter on her way to visit her sister in Holberg, on the

northern tip of Vancouver Island.

McRoberts says she never saw any flying object in the sky that day. It only appeared after her film was developed. After seeing the devel-

oped photo, she says, she contacted the Canadian Forces Base in Comox, where they took her name and number.

"I never heard from them again," says McRoberts.

McRoberts waited eight months before showing the picture to experts at the MacMillan Planetarium in Vancouver.

An American UFO researcher, Richard Haines, spent two days with McRoberts and her family in 1983. He considered possible explanations, including double exposures and scratches on the film. He conducted experiments around the possibility that the object was a Frisbee, but concluded this was highly unlikely.

Also, the photos snapped immediately before and after the one with the strange flying disk were taken in different locations, meaning that if the picture was a hoax, there was only one attempt to capture it on that roll of film.

"In my humble opinion, the Hannah McRoberts photo is the best credible UFO photo in the world."

— Gavin McLeod, president of UFO British Columbia

Haines also considered the credibility of McRoberts and her family (McRoberts says he grilled everyone when he visited in 1983).

At the time, her husband worked in a lumber mill in Campbell River. Haines described the McRoberts family as "middle-class, hard-working people" and McRoberts herself as a "mature adult with high credibility." He also credited the family with not trying to instantly capitalize on the photo, which heightened her believability.

Today, McRoberts charges for the use of her photo through a service in England. *The Province* paid \$90 for the two pictures above.

McRoberts currently works in an adult daycare facility. She says she's shy about the UFO photo, but her husband "kind of brags about it."

"It happened so long ago," says McRoberts. "It's not that important to me anymore. Life goes on, and things go on."

On the web: www.ufobc.ca/History/1980/kelsey.htm

UFO boffin baffled at RAF base sightings

By Oliver Cartwright

A real-life Fox Mulder who spent years looking into mystery UFO sightings across Britain has revealed one of the most sensational cases he ever investigated was in Shropshire.

Nick Pope, who was a UFO desk officer for the Ministry of Defence from 1991 to 1994, has said an incident at RAF Shawbury which sparked a wave of sightings was one of the most important of his career.

STAR, Shropshire, England - Feb. 17, 2005

The Freedom of Information Act, which came into force on January 1, has paved the way for secret MOD files to be made available and the Shawbury file has just been uncovered.

On Mr Pope's website www.nickpope.net he speaks of his time with Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a where he was responsible for researching and investigating extra terrestrial phenomenon.

He says: "One of the most sensational cases I ever investigated related to an

incident that occurred in the early hours of March 31, 1993.

"There had been a wave of UFO sightings that night culminating in the direct overflight of two military bases, RAF Cosford and RAF Shawbury."

Jumbo

He said the UFO was described to him by one of the military witnesses as being a "vast, triangular craft only marginally smaller than a Jumbo jet".

Mr Pope said: "It flew slowly over the base at a height of around 200ft, firing a narrow beam of light at the ground before flying off at high speed."

He said he had been a complete sceptic before starting the job, but the Shawbury incident was one

of the five per cent of cases where logical explanations had been ruled out.

Each year the MOD receives hundreds of reported sightings connected to UFOs.

During his time with Secretariat 2a Mr Pope had to see if there was evidence of a threat to the UK.

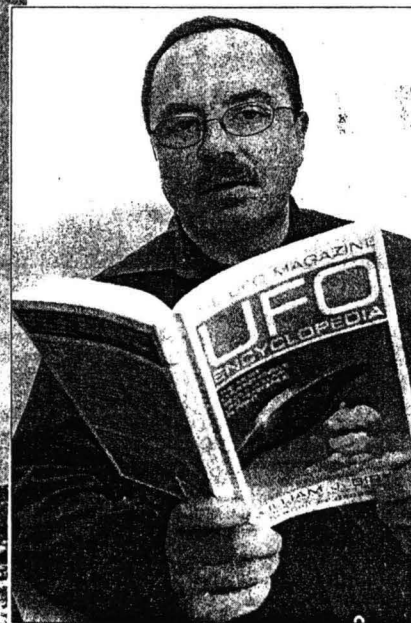
On his website he said most sightings turned out to be the misidentification of ordinary objects or phenomena.

The common culprits mistaken for UFOs were aircraft lights, satellites, meteors and airships.

Reporter LISA ROOKES meets a UFO researcher convinced the truth is out there...



UFO QUEST: Leigh Arkwright searches the skies. w8966a519
And below, combing through the data. w8966b519



Sharing a universal truth

THE dark skies of Wakefield may hold the proof that we are not alone – at least that is what a brand new Wakefield UFO group is hoping.

From cigar-shaped objects over Ossett to silver orbs in Lupset, Wakefield has a pretty bizarre history of UFO sightings.

Scoff or quake at Wakefield residents claiming to have been abducted, but Hollywood included our Yorkshire city in the blockbuster alien film *Signs*, perhaps because of its paranormal heritage.

And Leigh Arkwright, 40, of Rutland Avenue, Portobello, has set up his own society to celebrate just that.

In a bid to encourage more people to come forward to share their extra-terrestrial experiences, Mr Arkwright has started the Wakefield UFO Research Association, which aims to help people get to the bottom of their close encounters.

Mr Arkwright, a father of three, first became interested in UFOs after a strange experience 10 years ago, when he believes he may have been abducted from his bed in Barnsley.

He said: "I don't like talking about it because people laugh or ridicule me, and I'm not trying to convince anyone of anything. This is just what happened to me and I can't find a reasonable explanation for it."

"I was asleep in bed and woke up needing the toilet, so went through to the bathroom. On the way I noticed my little girl's light was still on so I thought she was drawing."

"While I was in the bathroom I

noticed the wall was going funny – like I could see through it – but I was so tired, I thought nothing of it and went back to bed. As I was just getting off back to sleep the bedroom door opened and I saw a figure which I assumed to be my daughter."

"I sat up in bed and just started to tell her to go back to bed when I realised it wasn't my daughter, but a small dark figure. The next thing I know, I am flung back by a huge

weight pressing down on my chest. After that all I remember is being in bed and it's the next morning and I'm cuddling my wife and shaking."

A similar abduction was also reported in Outwood.

A man who wishes to remain anonymous was trespassing on a building site off the A61 late at night around two years ago when he was blinded by white lights.

He claims he remembers nothing until waking up the next morning

feeling terrified, lying on the ground of the same building site.

Via a UFO website, residents in Ossett reported seeing a 'cigar-shaped silver object' over Ossett and one Lupset resident said he's seen strange orbs by his patio.

Crop circle phenomena has also been recorded in Wakefield.

It is claimed that in 1986 a crop circle appeared near Chevet Lane, and in 2000 a pattern consisting of 55 large circles, measuring more

than 300ft in diameter, appeared from out of nowhere. According to the United Kingdom crop circle database, sightings have also been recorded in West Bretton and Rothwell.

Crop circles, traditionally associated with alien landings, caught the attention of the world in the 1980s, but the majority turned out to be hoaxes by farmers.

But some still remain unexplained. There have been more than 10,000 circles reported over the world – 90 per cent in England.

Mr Arkwright, a widower and full-time dad, added: "The point of the group is to encourage people who feel they have had any kind of experience to be able to come and talk about without feeling they are going to be laughed at."

"Everyone is entitled to their own opinion and we are not trying to preach or convert anyone."

Later in the year the group are looking forward to best-selling author Timothy Good speaking at its conference.

The next meeting of Wakefield UFO Research Association is on Thursday, May 26 at 7pm at Stanley Library.

Mystery of an 'alien abduction'

WAKEFIELD'S most famous case of suspected alien abduction was in 1980, when an elderly Polish man went to his local shop in Tingley on June 6 and disappeared. Five days later his body was found at the top of a stack of coal more than 50 miles away in Todmorden.

Zigmund Adamski, a 56-year-old miner, worked at Lofthouse Colliery. He was found wearing a suit – but his shirt, watch and wallet were missing. On the back of his head, neck and shoulders were mysterious burns which attracted lots of attention.

James Turnbull, the coroner who dealt with his death, was quoted on BBC's *Inside Out* saying it was the biggest mystery of his career. The coroner was baffled because although Zigmund had been missing for five days, he only had one day's growth of beard.

He said: "The question of where he was before he died and what led to his death just could not be answered."

Mr Turnbull also said a strange ointment that appeared to have been used on Zigmund's burns could not be identified by forensic scientists.

And it was not just the usual investigators –

police and coroners – who were attracted to this case. One of the most famous UFOlogists of all time, also called Adamski, offered his own amazing theories on the tragedy.

He believed aliens from outer space abducted the Yorkshire miner by mistake.

The speculation of an extra-terrestrial encounter was fuelled by the policeman who originally found Zigmund's body, Alan Godfrey.

Six months after finding Zigmund's body, Alan was again on duty in Todmorden at 5am. He claims he also encountered a UFO, which made headlines all over the world.

CANNOCK CHASE POST, Wolverhampton, England - June 9, 2005

Dozen folk recall shock sight

Cannock town centre was brought to a standstill last weekend when a crowd of evening visitors to the park spied a glowing, tube-shaped object hovering in the sky.

A dozen residents of the town all

Exclusive by Mike Bradley
mike_bradley@mm.co.uk

claim to have seen the object, which they say hung in the air over the town centre for almost a full minute before vanishing in silence.

The shock encounter took place on the evening of Sunday, June 5, around 6pm. "I didn't notice anything at first, but then everyone around began talking very excitedly and pointing at the sky. When I turned around there it was," said 22-year-old Angela Davies, of Stafford Road, Cannock.

"A few people were trying to get pictures on their mobile phones. I don't know whether anyone got one, though."

"The object looked about 20ft across, a lot thinner, and like a silver tube in two halves, joined

in the middle. There were green lights on it, that glowed for a couple of seconds then pulsed on and off."

"It was exciting, but frightening. I don't really believe in UFOs or anything like that, but I'd love to know what it was."

Another park visitor, Nigel Davey, 35, from Bridgtown, said: "I was with my friend in the park. We'd been there all day. I think I may have been the first to notice it, and I started telling other people to look."

"When I first saw it, it was almost in a sort of 'V' shape, and

was approaching towards the town centre from the direction of Brownhills."

"By the time it had got to the town centre, it was like a straight tube and had lost its 'V' shape. I believe in aliens, and I believe in UFOs, and I'm convinced that's what we saw."

■ **Did you spot the 'V' shaped object hovering in our skies last weekend? Do you have an explanation for what they saw?**

Write to The Post, 103-106 High Green Court, Newhall Street, Cannock, WS11 1AB.

SUN, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Aug. 2, 2005 CR: G. Duplantier

Fewer UFOs in Canada?

WINNIPEG (CP) — It's possible that Canadians are keeping their eyes on the ground rather than the skies, or maybe fewer extra-terrestrials are visiting the planet.

Whatever the reason, the number of UFO reports filed in Canada so far in 2005 is down significantly from last

year, according to a mid-year analysis by a national research group.

"We're likely looking at report levels only around those of 2000 or 2001," said Chris Rutkowski, writer for *Ufology Research of Manitoba*. "Why the drop is so significant this year, I don't know."

The centre's yearly analysis has found that UFO report numbers have been increasing steadily over the past five years, Rutkowski said.

But halfway through 2005, the number of reports is 36% fewer than what was recorded by this time in 2004.

During the first half of

2005, only 274 UFO reports were filed through public, private or official agencies in Canada, compared with 431 in 2004. Rutkowski said 2005 started off strong, with a flurry of UFO reports in Atlantic Canada, followed by a series of bright fireballs over the prairies in the early spring.

by Sharon Edwards

sharon.edwards@lincolnshireecho.co.uk

Could weird lights be alien visitors?

SEVEN unidentified flying objects have been reported in Lincolnshire's skies over the past five years, according to newly released documents.

Plumes of smoke, a blue and white light, glowing masses and silently moving objects are among the unexplained phenomena recorded by the Ministry of Defence.

Under the Freedom of Information Act the Echo has received details of all official UFO sightings reported to the military over the past five years.

The records show six sightings involving seven objects reported to personnel in the county.

All of the sightings were made by residents and motorists who claimed to have seen unexplained objects. But no reports explaining the sightings or showing the results of further investigations into their authenticity has been released.

The sightings include reports of objects described as objects shaped like triangles, torpedos or even cylinders. Others were recorded as "glowing" and "lights".

The objects were reported to hover in the air, move silently, race across the sky and even spin.

One "speeding light" was said to have "turned 180 degrees back on itself instantaneously". Another was reported to hovered in the air before it "shot off creating a blue and white light some 30ft long".

In November 2001 a resident of Gonerby, Grantham, reported that his house had started to shake and had experienced a power cut when a "glowing object" appeared over it.

MoD records report the caller seeing what "looked like a missile" moving very fast.

"Caller believes it could not have been an aircraft as it did not have wings," reads the report.

At the time the RAF reported no flights in the area.

Personal details on who reported the sightings has not been released.

Reported UFO sightings over Lin-

colnshire are not new, but many have assumed that military activity in the county has been to blame.

An MoD spokesman said: "From a military point of view all the MoD will do is to check that these reported objects are not a threat to the country and that our airspace has not been violated."

"Beyond that, it is not in the public interest to spend resources investigating what these objects are."

"In truth, a lot of them can be explained via military planes, lights etc. As far as I know, we don't pass the information on to any other Government body to investigate."

But Grimsby-based parapsycholo-

gist Robin Furman, who claims to have seen a UFO and has researched the phenomenon, said blaming the military does not always add up.

"There is no doubt that there are unexplained objects in the sky, but whether or not they're actually aliens from another planet, no-one knows," he said.

"Even when you take away all those that can be explained, there are a number of inexplicable and unexplained cases. They have been reported since Biblical times so they cannot be dismissed."

Have you seen a UFO and should taxpayers' money be spent investigating them? Write to Your View, Lincolnshire Echo, Brayford Wharf East, Lincoln, LN5 7AT.

Or e-mail yourview@lincolnshireecho.co.uk

WARMINSTER JOURNAL, Wiltshire, England - June 10, 2005

Memories Of The Thing



Authors of a new book about the social history of UFOs in the UK are looking for Warminster people to add their input to the entire chapter dedicated to the 'Warminster Thing'.

Andy Roberts and Dr David Clarke (pictured) are currently researching their book and have this week been in Warminster talking to local people and visiting sites of sightings during the 1964-1970 flying saucer scare.

"We'd like to hear from anyone who has photos, memories or any information about that period and anyone at all who was there who has an opinion," said Mr. Roberts.

"If people thought it was all rubbish - and many did, we'd like to hear from them as well. Also, any people who attended the meeting of the town council who discussed it at the time."

The researchers are hoping to speak to anyone who went on 'skywatches', for any photographs or film of the UFO hunters and magazines, newspaper clippings and memorabilia from the period.

"It's a pity Warminster has not made more of the title of UFO capital of the country when people are wanting tourists to visit," said Dr. Clarke.

'Take me to your leader' ... UFO sightings

■ September 9, 2001, at North Hykeham. Caller reported a "triangle shape hovering in the sky, with several white lights and some coloured lights at the base" and "intermittent lightning flashing around it".

■ November 6, 2001, at Gonerby, Grantham. The report reads: "At around 1930 the caller's house

started to shake and the lights went out. Went to the window and saw a glowing object moving very fast over his house. Caller believes it could not have been an aircraft as it did not have wings. He states it looked like a missile. The powercut affected the whole area and he states people were in the street looking at the object."

RAF said there were no reported flights in the area.

■ November 21, 2002, at Walcott, near Lincoln. A black torpedo shaped object seen in the air.

■ August 21, 2003 at Lincoln. A cigar-shaped cylinder with domed ends seen. It was described as "silent, grey and slow".

■ September 19, 2003 in Ashby-de-la-Launde, near

Sleaford. Object described as spinning while stationary. It then "shot off creating a blue and white light some 30 feet long".

■ February 11, 2004, at Holbeach, south Lincolnshire. Two bright lights described as moving fast. "There was no noise. Second object turned 180 degrees back on itself instantaneously."

UFO hotspot!

By MIKE HALLOWELL

LAST week, I gave Bizarre readers an exclusive peek at stills from a film, of several unidentified flying objects, recorded by South Shields housewife Bethany Isaacson.

Bethany captured the strange objects on camera as she stood at the back door of her home.

When I interviewed Bethany, she clearly recalled the date and time of the incident: Monday, February 21, 4.30pm.

Basic information like this is useful, as it helps investigators correlate a sighting with others that may have taken place at the same time.

The question was, had anyone else seen the flotilla of shining, puck-shaped objects that Bethany had immortalised on film?

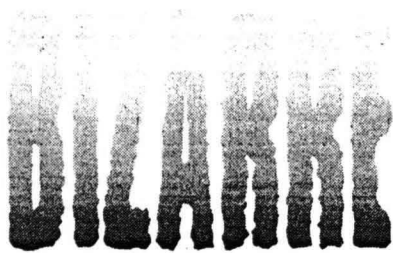
At exactly the same time as Bethany was filming her real-life flying saucers in South Shields, an East Boldon family were sitting in their living room chatting to a friend.

Without warning, an intense white light seemed to "burst through the window," and illuminated the entire room for about two seconds.

The family and their friends dashed to the window and looked out, but everything seemed perfectly normal.

More intriguingly, a woman shopping in South Shields town centre spotted "several bright lights" in the sky. She watched them drift slowly behind a cloud, fully expecting them to reappear on the other side seconds later. They never did.

This sighting also took place at 4.30pm, although there was some ambiguity about the day. The witness said she was "75 per cent certain" she'd seen the objects on the Monday - the same day as Bethany saw her UFOs - but



admitted that it could have been the following day.

The flash of light seen by the East Boldon witnesses is intriguing, for it came from the opposite direction to where Bethany's "flying saucers" were seen. The light is puzzling, and doesn't fit into any recognised category of UFO that I've read about.

The puck-shaped objects seen by Bethany and the lights seen by the witness in South Shields are not so problematic.

They are generally referred to as Daylight Discs by UFO researchers, and are quite common.

This is not the first time that such objects have been seen over South Tyneside. On November 4, 2002, Maria P from South Shields saw a large, silver disc floating in the sky.

While hanging some washing out in the garden, she looked for a place to peg a freshly laundered top and something

caught her eye. "I'm not sure what it was, but something made me look up."

"The object was bright silver in colour, and not merely reflecting sunlight. It was very low in the sky, definitely below normal cloud level. It was weird," she said.

Maria was also adamant about the shape.

"I could see the outline very clearly. It was a perfect circle, although I couldn't tell whether it was saucer-shaped or spherical like a football."

Within the hour, another Gazette reader spotted a "football-shaped object" hanging over the River Tyne.

That evening, a Gateshead family and a retired teacher from North Shields, Elsie Bidewell, both reported large, bright lights in the sky.

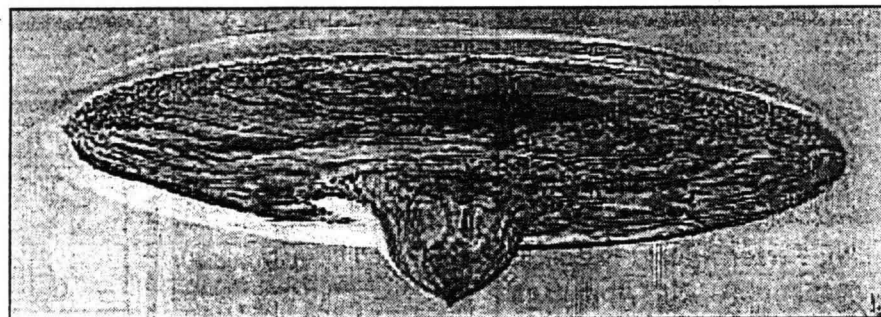
The difference between these sightings and those in 2002 was that Bethany Isaacson was able to film the objects she saw, although Maria P's partner had filmed a very strange light in the sky earlier.

Bethany Isaacson's footage is some of the most intriguing I've ever seen, and I'm going to be investigating this latest case further.

Gazette readers will be the first to know about any further developments.

Meanwhile, if other Gazette readers saw anything strange in the sky on February 21, please get in touch.

You can write to me at the Gazette, or e-mail your stories directly to: bizarrefans@tiscali.co.uk



UFO ... last week's interpretation of Bethany Isaacson's object.

FREE PRESS, Denbighshire, Wales - [Date Unknown], 2005

Experts take close look at 'UFO sightings'

WELSH UFO experts have launched an investigation into a continuing mystery lighting up the night sky over Llanefydd.

The Welsh Federation of Independent Ufologists has taken up the challenge of discovering the truth behind mystery objects continuing to return above the home of villager John White.

The Free Press reported recently

that John had spent more than nine hours monitoring sphere-shaped objects, after seeing them for the first time in March.

John, 60, has bought new equipment to track the UFOs and has kept a log ever since his first encounter.

The objects change colour through red, blue, purple, green and dashes of white, and 'pulse' in

the night sky.

The householder, who informed the Ministry of Defence of his evidence, has now received the help of local UFO experts to track down the truth.

Co-founder of the Welsh Federation of Independent Ufologists Margaret Fry has sent an investigator to the scene of the mysterious night-time activity.

Armed with digital equipment the investigator discovered a different side to the orbs.

"He got one of these orbs high on the neighbour's roof and it had a face in it. He has just seen very strange evidence," Margaret said.

She added: "It is very very strange ... we are continuing the investigations. We are watching with him (John)."

ECHO, Lincolnshire, England - June 4, 2005

My first sight of a UFO

I WAS very excited when I saw the article in Tuesday's Echo about UFOs. I assumed they had been spotted over the cathedral but it was not so in this case.

However, I would like to report a sighting of a UFO I had last Tuesday, May 24. I was walking round the side of the cathedral when I stopped and looked up at the central tower. I spotted something moving above it. At first I thought it was just some litter blown by

the wind but the object, a silver disc, circled the tower for about 30 seconds and then slowly moved off to the south. Some visitors were approaching me and I wanted to say: "What do you think that is?" But I was afraid to take my eyes off it for fear of losing sight of it.

I don't know what size it was: it was difficult to judge. But I believe I saw my first UFO!

P. D. THACKER,
Foster Street, Lincoln.

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England - May 26, 2005

Skywatch over UFO sightings

A UFO group will be investigating reports of low-flying objects in both Stourbridge and Kidderminster by staging a vigil on Saturday.

Stourbridge-based UFO Research Midlands will be holding a public "skywatch" event on the car park at Hartlebury Common, near Kidderminster, from 8.30pm onwards.

The event has been organised, weather permitting, following reports of a very low unidentified object seen in the skies. The object was first seen around Norton and Wollaston at approximately 9.45pm on April 28.

A similar object was also seen around Wolverley and Kidderminster on May 13, at around 9.30pm.

Anybody is welcome to attend, but people are advised to call 07941 883842 to check on weather conditions.

'I saw UFO over hospital'

LITTLE green men from Mars sent to fix our ailing health service or a phenomena with a perfectly logical explanation?

Dublin father of six Christy Breen from Beaumont was flummoxed when he spotted an object hovering in the sky over Beaumont Hospital for over an hour on Tuesday night.

The object, which appeared to be oval-shaped and bore bright green lights appeared to approach in the distance for some time before settling in the sky over the hospital.

The former sailor at first thought it was a helicopter but Mr Breen said it became apparent that it was not, in fact, a regular aircraft. "It was just incredible -- I never saw the like of it in all my years."

Mr Breen said he and a neighbour spotted the object between 8.30pm and 9pm and they watched it for around an hour.

Tom Finnegan of Astronomy Ireland said they receive a great number of UFO reports throughout the year but they can generally be explained.

No other reports about the Beaumont Hospital sighting have come through to the society, however.

While Luke Drury, Professor of Astronomy at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies,

said his guess was that it was some form of aircraft. "We certainly haven't heard anything about any sightings," he said.

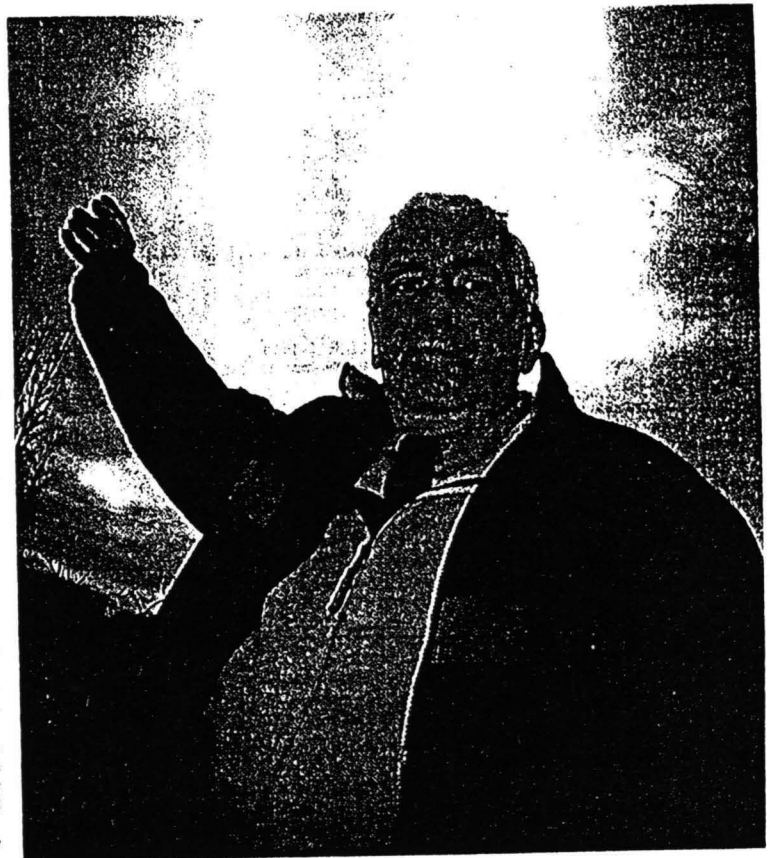
He revealed that laser displays and weather balloons are one of the chief causes to blame for people thinking they have spotted a UFO.

"People get distances wrong," said Professor Drury. He cited the famous case where during the second world war, the US airforce tried to shoot down the planet Venus - particularly visible and bright that night - thinking it was a foreign aircraft.

This is not the first time that north Dublin has been the scene of a UFO sighting. Last year Fingal was a hot spot for UFO sightings, with almost 100 incidents of unexplained events.

Many of them centre around Dublin Airport. In late 2003, the co-pilot of an airbus claimed he had seen an unidentified red disc flying in Irish skies after their flight had taken off from Dublin Airport.

Twenty seven minutes later, the crew say they overheard a KLM pilot radioing air traffic control with a similar report.



SKY SHOCKER: Christy Breen near his Beaumont home where he spotted the UFO

TRANSLATIONS

[The following translations are all courtesy of Scott Corrales and the Institute for Hispanic Ufology, with translation copyright being retained. Credit for individual contributors will be given at the end of each article. All articles are from South American and other Spanish-language newspapers and media sources.]

August 3, 2005 — *Clarín.com*, Buenos Aires, Argentina — Mystic phenomenon defies the Church — MARIAN APPARITIONS AND MESSAGES IN SALTA AND MENDOZA? — Man and woman summon crowds who attribute them with powers of divine intercession.

They summon multitudes. They create an evident spiritual atmosphere. They say that the Virgin appears before them and gives them messages calling for greater religious devotion among the faithful. Believers ascribe to them gifts -- or at least, the possibility that they may have them -- of intercession with Mary, or directly with Jesus Christ, to grant favors, generally healing. Many say that what they asked was granted to them, and many claim to have deepened their conversion and even that of their loved ones. In Salta, Maria Livia Galiano de Obeid, and in Mendoza, Manuel Yanzon are the protagonists of these potent mystic phenomena.

The Church prompts extreme caution -- with allowances, as the case may be -- or directly rejects the existence of supernatural events. It even shows its displeasure because of the tendency among movements created around these events, to abide by investigative processes and the ecclesiastical provisions that apply in these cases. Although it avoids outright prohibition, the Church feels particularly affected by these events as it evidences a spiritual search by many people who perhaps it cannot reach with its more formal structure.

The case involving the so-called Virgen del Cerro (Our Lady of the Mountain) in Salta is the oldest and also the strongest. The story began in 1990, when a married housewife with three children claimed having been visited by the Virgin. The image, according to the description, is different from other devotional images known. The woman allegedly receives messages from the Virgin, and in 1996, the spiritual entity told her that her image represents a new avocation: the Immaculate Mother of the Divine Eucharistic Heart of Jesus. An image was created around the vision described.

According to Maria Livia, the Virgin asked in the first apparitions that a shrine be built for her (the present hermitage of Shoenstatt, located at the foot of the mountain). She later asked that all messages be made known through a Carmelite abbey in the region. Later on, she asked that another sanctuary be built for her on top of the mountain, and that the site should become an evangelical center. [She asked] that a house be constructed for elderly priests; a seminary and a house for monks. But above all, she recommended working for conversion and the adoration of the Eucharistic heart.

Increasingly more people congregated every Saturday around the image of the new avocation and of Maria Livia at the mountain, a privileged geographic site, beautiful and with a unique view of [the province of] Salta's capital city. Amid a powerful spiritual atmosphere, people congregated to pray, especially the Rosary, and to meditate on the messages received by the woman. With all of this, the most emotional moment is when Maria Livia prays a brief "prayer of intercession" for the intentions of the faithful, walking in front of them and placing her hand on their shoulder for a few seconds.

To many, this is a very powerful experience. Not a few collapse to the ground--even the nuns. Behind them, ever-attentive ushers keep people from being hurt during their falls. In fact, the organization is very prolix and seeks to preserve an atmosphere of prayer centered on a hermitage with the image of the new avocation. In fact, it is only possible to reach the summit on foot following a path along which the usher -- wearing white and blue kerchiefs -- offer water. Many report a scent of roses, which do not exist in the area.

The Archbishopric of Salta is extremely cautious. After the former archbishop--Msr. Moises Blanchoud -- allowed the diffusion of the messages received by Maria Livia, the current archbishop -- Msr. Mario Cargnello -- decided to deepen research at this stage of the phenomenon and to forbid the most recent messages from-

becoming known while they are studied. He also virtually forbade the "prayer of intercession" in a pronouncement made 2 years ago: Cargnello made it clear that in his jurisdiction "no layman is authorized to perform the laying of hands."

Cargnello also questioned the messages, which he considered "revelations lacking content" and maintained that "the seeress's urge to be in the limelight is evident." He further stated that he was never informed of the results of the psychological exam requested from Maria Livia. "The woman and the Carmelite nuns did not comply with what the Church asked them to do," was the recent statement from the Archbishopric. Maria Livia's collaborators sent him a letter last month in which they deny that the results of the psychological test had been concealed and asked him to be more understanding toward the phenomenon.

The Mendoza case is more recent. It began on July 27, 2000 when Yanzon reported having seen his first apparition of the Virgin under the avocation of the Mystical Rose. Yanzon himself claims to have received messages, even requesting the construction of a sanctuary. Many visit him at El Agarrobal in the department of Las Heras in search of his reputed efficacy as an intercessor for finding impossible cures and other miracles. But he was recently deserted by a close collaborator who accused him of fraud.

Last May, the Archbishop of Mendoza, Jose Maria Arancibia, seriously questioned the authenticity of the phenomenon [sic] experienced by Yanzon. "There aren't sufficient reasons to acknowledge these alleged supernatural manifestations as genuine," he pointed out in a letter. He rejected the alleged messages on the grounds that "they contain serious errors and statements contrary to the Catholic faith," but reserved his judgment on the grace that the faithful claim to have received.

He concluded his message with an incisive reflection: "We cannot cease to wonder what our God is telling us from El Agarrobal. What are we being told through the faces, hopes and supplications of so many of our brothers who, having heard of a possible manifestation of Mary, set out to reach that humble location? How may we hear the voice of the Spirit in all of this?" -- Maria Livia Galiano -- Manuel Yanzon — CREDIT: Christian Quintero

August 5, 2005 — *www.lasnoticias.net.ar*, Argentina — THE ENIGMA RETURNS: COWS FOUND MUTILATED IN IDEVI FIELDS — VIEDMA - The discovery of two bovines found dead under not entirely clear circumstances reignited the mystery that held the country hostage two years ago when hundreds of similar cases became known, and for which no reasonable explanation was ever found beyond a number of hypotheses--some of them inventive and unsustainable.

One of the animals was found dead in a farm belonging to Luis Garrone, located on Kilometer 1.001 on National Hwy. 3. As in other strange incidents, the beast had been relieved of the right eye and ear, and the skin of its jawbone had been excised with straight, cauterized incisions. It was further missing its tongue and presented a 20 cm orifice on the right side of the nape of its neck.

Police officers from San Javier Deputy Sheriff's office reported to the scene with experts from the Criminalist Bureau, who took photos and examined the scene of the discovery.

A police veterinary specialist was also at the scene to offer a vision diametrically opposed to that of popular imagination. To this expert, the cow was not attacked either by the "red-muzzled mouse" or the "chupacabras," nor was it the victim of an alien experiment. He said that it was merely a natural death and that the wounds presented were the work of carrion animals such as foxes, ferrets and weasels.

In any event, Carlos Garrone, the field owner's brother, reported that he had never seen anything like it and professed to be mystified by the situation.

Subsequently, the police detail visited Cubanea, where another animal was found dead under similar circumstances.

The animal presented injuries similar to the ones seen before. Police elements analyzed the carcass and the site where it was found. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero

August 6, 2005 — *www.rionegro.com.ar*, Argentina — THREE COWS FOUND DEAD IN VIEDMA — VIEDMA (AV) - The phantom of the so-called "Chupacabras" has reappeared. Three bovines were found dead in a very spectacular and similar manner in two fields of the Cubanea and San Javier regions some 70 kilometers from Viedma.

Rumors about these discoveries circulated in the area until they reached the ears of the San Javier police, which, faced with the magnitude of the situation, decided to intervene to calm the situation. It was thus that a group of officers, accompanied by veterinarian personnel and photographers, visited the respective areas. Minutes were ultimately drafted regarding the situation.

A total of three cows were found in two different properties. In one of them, belonging to Erberto Malaspina, Development Commissioner for Cubanea, two of the bovines appeared 50 meters distant from each other. The third was found in a field located some 20 kilometers from the former and was the property of Oscar Garrone. Both are cattlemen and knowledgeable in the field, hence their surprise at finding their animals in these conditions.

Malaspina's field is located on the side of National Route 250 which links Viedma with Conesa at Kilometer 17. The other property is located some 20 kilometers from the first in the direction of Viedma in the San Javier area.

According to the cattlemen, the animals found present similar characteristics not only for the incisions made, but by the elements lacking in all three: eyes, ears, tongue, jawbone and genitalia. No signs of bleeding were detected in any of the cases nor indications of tearing in the missing parts of the body that indicate predator activity.

Nor were there any signs suggesting that the animals were slain to use their meat, as is the case with poaching. Furthermore, this possibility was dismissed because the bovines were in mid-field, far from any road, and in areas where no quick entry or exit is possible. It is estimated that they died some 9 days ago, but according to the cattlemen, when they found the carcasses, it was noticed that the mutilations had been recent. It was only the rumors that took a number of days to spread. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero

August 13, 2005 — *Professor Ana Luisa Cid* — MEXICO: UFO VIDEO FEBRUARY 2005 by Ana Luisa Cid, Mexico

Video Location: Mexico City

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Author: Ana Luisa Cid

Witnesses: Salvador Guerrero and Gerardo Nieto

[Prof. Cid's description of the events on this day in mid-February 2004 are reminiscent of the "critters" or "space animals" that were studied by Trevor James Constable in the 1960's]

Mexico celebrates "Friendship Day" on February 14 and this date has become a special one for skywatchers, as it is a date on which recurrent UFO sightings have occurred since the year 2000 in the

Mexican Republic. My friend Salvador Guerrero visited my home at approximately 6 p.m. and we climbed to the roof of the building where my mother lives. Accompanying us were my husband and my son Gerardo.

At around 6:30 p.m., I observed a simple dark flying figure in plain sight. It remained static toward the west, and I initially thought it might be a helicopter. Looking at it through binoculars, I developed the suspicion that it was not a conventional artifact despite the fact that its silhouette at the time was similar to that of a helicopter. I warned the others and decided to activate the video camera to see what would happen.

We had the opportunity to see and record the precise moment in which the device captured a sphere in full flight. This sphere had emerged from a cloud located below the object. It approached it swiftly and the enormous structure absorbed it.

The flying object had already trapped the sphere and it was now being fragmented into two parts, as if the head were being separated from the body of an organic being. To surprise us even more, the rear structure engaged in an oscillating motion to expel a third element at high speed: this small sphere sped off toward the northeast in the direction of Cerro del Tenayo, where it was lost from sight.

The unexpected event had an approximate duration of half an hour, enough to let us know that we were witnessing an inexplicable event, since the object gave the impression of being alive, of being a biological entity, but one measuring several meters long and with the ability to fragment itself, rejoin and change its shape. It is possible to see the change in the color of the sky in the photos; the sun had already gone down and twilight had begun. The strange object or entity - I do not know how to classify it - headed for the mountain and lost itself swiftly over the city. Fortunately it was reported by others, among them Carlos Rodrigues, a gentleman who lives a few minutes away from my home.

He explained that he had climbed to the roof of his house to dry some pieces of artwork he had painted, when he saw what I described earlier. I believe that Mr. Rodrigues was closer than we were; he mentioned that it was something enormous and that the bottom part "wiggled like the tail of a fish."

Such was the impression he and his family found it hard to sleep that night, according to his own testimony.

As a result of this event, he decided to purchase a camcorder and patiently wait for the object or entity to return.

His perseverance was rewarded: on March 21, 2005 at 6:40 p.m., he managed to film it from his rooftop.

Could enormous animals unclassified by science exist?

Can UFOs change shape?

I do not know. All I can say is that the afternoon of February 14, 2004 is still present in my thoughts.

[To see video segments: <http://www.analuisacid.com/photo.htm>]

August 19, 2005 — *INEXPLICATA, The Journal of Hispanic Ufology* — MEXICO: UFO PHOTOGRAPHED NORTH OF MEXICO CITY — We have received the following information from Prof. Ana Luisa Cid in Mexico:

"Photo taken to the north of Mexico City by Gerardo Nieto Cid, 14, son of researcher Ana Luisa Cid. This photo was taken on August 17, 2005 at 11:51 hours with a 4 megapixel digital camera.

"The strange structure was not visible to onlookers until the photos were checked on a computer. The original is preserved on a Kodak Digital Film 64 MB memory stick, along with the complete sequence of images taken that day.

Sincerely -- Ana Luisa Cid"

August 29, 2005 — *Planeta UFO, Argentina* — DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: UFO SIGHTING OVER SANTO DOMINGO — (from a report by Ing. Carlos R. Pena) — "At 12:50 pm today (08-29-05) I was able to witness a completely black UFO at an altitude of between 1000 and 3000 meters. I say this because the object flew between a low cloud (raincloud) and medium altitude cloud (white cloud). We know that rain clouds are usually at an altitude of between 1500 to 2500 meters, with the lowest ones at 1000 meters and the higher ones between 2500-3000 meters.

"The object was traveling from West to East and its shape was hard to describe. I was unable to define its shape, but I believe it was something that appeared to be vertical (sic). Something like the alleged 'flying humanoids' seen in Mexico over recent months. I cannot relate it to any other object, such as balloons, birds, airplanes, etc., on account of its very strange shape.

"Unfortunately I did not have time to take a photograph, as the sighting lasted only some 40 seconds and I did not have a camera at hand.

"The object was flying in an even single-row movement, except for a moment in which it [performed] a maneuver resembling a soft curve, which I estimate at some 5-10 degrees.

"I hope other people in my country saw the object and may therefore dispel any questions about the event. I will keep you informed about the event." — CREDIT: Carlos R. Pena

September 3, 2005 — *Planeta UFO, Argentina* — ARGENTINA: UFO SIGHTING IN LA PAMPA — It occurred in the evening of Tuesday, August 30, 2005, between 19:30 and 20:00 hours local time. The witness is a security worker for the local airport.

A flight had just arrived, and an airport staffer told the witness: "Look at the light, up there in the sky. How strange!"

He thought it was a joke, but no -- upon looking up, he saw a light 4-5 times greater than a planet toward the northwest and facing his position. What most attracted his attention was that it was "beautiful," since it had the characteristic, clean glow of a star and a wake that ranged toward orange in its tail section. "It took off as though headed for Bahia Blanca," he said.

A regular airline pilot added his voice to the witness's remarks. He said that pilots are always seeing things, but that this one caught his attention, because it was his understanding that it was flying very high. The main witness also told me that although airplanes often fly overhead (Santa Rosa is a beacon or point of reference and flights make course corrections when they reach the beacon), they do so at a certain speed. This object was flying three times faster, at least. This object was also reported to the south of our city and in communities in the southeastern corner of the province of La Pampa.

Given that airplanes flying over us are around 50-60 meters long, and considering what the postal pilot was saying and contrasting it to what the woman was saying, we may deduce that this object would have an approximate diameter of some 60 meters, if we subtract the brightness from its altitude at which it was flying. I am also cross-checking my appreciation against the film I took a few days ago of the International Space Station and the Shuttle, but no wake was seen (in this last case). — Salvatore Valentine Carta, Santa Rosa, La Pampa, Argentina.



EXPEDITION

Researchers seek legendary creature

CHRISTINE WOOD
STAFF WRITER

Researchers from the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization (BFRO) are hoping to get footage of the legendary ape-like animal during an expedition planned for the Coast Aug. 25 to 28.

The expedition was originally planned for Vancouver Island but a multitude of sightings reported to BFRO from the Coast in recent months have shifted the outing to our local shoreline.

"It will be the first organized field expedition (for Bigfoot evidence) in British Columbia ever," said researcher and founder of BFRO, Matt Moneymaker.

His own experience finding what he says is an authentic Bigfoot print lead him to delve deeper into the Bigfoot phenomenon and ask the question, "do they exist?" "I used my Internet experience to pool all of the information amassed over years and years on this subject and thought if I made it all public something good would happen," said Moneymaker who is also an Internet consultant and web developer.

He said going through all of that evidence, along with his own research, he has come to believe there are groups of Bigfoot living throughout the U.S. and Canada.

"I believe people see these things but they dismiss what they saw. I know that when I see something out of the ordinary, an anomaly, not to dismiss it because it does not fit into popular wisdom. Popular wisdom can be very, very

wrong," said Moneymaker.

Selma Park's Robert Kennedy agrees, saying he has seen the creature near his home.

"My wife thought I was nuts until she saw it too," he said.

He said he has seen something that looks like "a huge gorilla," near his property on several occasions.

"The first time my wife and I saw it together was when we were driving in the car in October two years ago," said Kennedy. "It was foggy out but we glanced over and saw the thing sitting near the roadway. At first you dismiss it and think you're just seeing things, but then my wife said she saw it too. We drove past at first but then stopped and reversed the car but it stood up and moved off into the bush."

He also says he has heard heavy footsteps in the bush and has found huge footprints near his home.

"Some people laugh at me when I tell them and sometimes it's tough to take," said Kennedy, who admits he was a skeptic too at one time.

Moneymaker's not laughing at the reports Kennedy has provided to BFRO or the "half dozen" other reports filed on the BFRO website by Coast residents.

"There have been a rash of incidents in the past two months," he said.

Those incidents have been filed by locals on Moneymaker's website at www.bfro.net and include evening sightings, discovery of "huge footprints" and odd sounds in the Halfmoon Bay and Selma Park areas. There have also been some reports



PHOTO CHRISTINE WOOD

Robert Kennedy says he has seen Bigfoot on the Coast and he is gathering similar sighting reports for a Sasquatch research group coming to the Coast later this month.

from the Pender Harbour area.

Kennedy has been gathering information on local sightings for the past few months and Moneymaker hopes to talk to Kennedy, and other residents of the Coast who have had sightings while he's here.

He encourages members of the public who feel they have "authentic sightings" to file a report about the incident on the BFRO website.

That site shows reported sightings in the B.C. area over the past few years and reports are broken down into A, B, and C categories.

Class A and B reports are those "deemed credible enough by the BFRO to show to the public...most second hand reports, and any third-hand reports, or stories with an untraceable source, are

considered class C, because of the high potential for inaccuracy," the website said.

Kennedy says the rating system and "screening process," done by BFRO makes it a "credible source for information, which is good because there are a lot of whacko sites out there."

Despite the "evidence" and witness statements gathered by the BFRO Moneymaker knows the general public and many in the scientific profession think he's crazy to be chasing a creature that "they say doesn't exist."

That's why he hopes to get some film footage while on the Coast.

"That will be part of the satisfaction the BFRO gets, to humiliate those people who say there is no evidence they exist," said Moneymaker.

HERALD, Penticton, B.C., Canada - July 30, 2005 CR: G. Conway

Ogopogo proving shy so far this year

Ogopogo reports haven't surfaced since mid-May, but the existence of something big in the lake might be confirmed in a National Geographic special Aug. 1.

Forensic investigator Joe Nickol and his buddy, Ben Redford, came to the Okanagan Feb. 4 to 6 and used a surveying crew after examining the first — and some of the best — film

footage of something in Okanagan Lake.

The crew used survey quadrants to determine there was something 12 to 18 metres (40 to 60 feet) in length 90 metres (300 feet) offshore on that 1968 film, said Arlene Gaal, Ogopogo expert and author of several books on the creature.

"They concluded there was a large, unknown animal in the lake, moving at a good speed, pushing water ahead of it. It was nice to get those assurances," she said.

The program, called *Is it Real?*, will focus on sea and lake creatures.

The two men, who have co-written a number of books, assume the roles of believer and non-believer.

"It was probably one of the more interesting shoots we've had due to the personalities involved," said Gaal.

Another film crew is expected to arrive in the Okanagan in early August to do a show on Ogopogo for B.C. Experience, a new display that is taking over a renovated Crystal Gardens in Victoria.

The last reported sighting of Ogopogo was at 5 p.m. May 17, when a witness working in an orchard saw a huge object in calm water.

The object was thrashing around; a boater passing by appeared to see it and moved in quite close, said Gaal.

Something "leaped up, quickly sprang out of the water," and the boater backed off as the object disappeared.

A week earlier, a Peachland couple, both seniors, also saw something.

"The neat thing is the husband was a non-believer until he saw an object off Beach Avenue, said Gaal.

No sightings have been reported since those two in May, but as soon as local news outlets report anything on Ogopogo, she usually gets several calls from people who believe they've also recently seen something unusual.

"It happens all the time," she said. More precipitation fell in June than usual, which likely kept people off the lake, but mid-July to mid-August is when the best video and photographs of Ogopogo have been shot in the past, said Gaal.

Some Texans claim Bigfoot is among us

Bigfoot might be in our backyard.

Since 1977, the giant, hair-covered, foul-smelling, gorilla-like creature has been spotted in West Texas at least seven times, according to a small group of dedicated investigators.

You don't believe an 8-foot-tall creature is roaming the mesquite pastures and cotton fields of West Texas?

"Seeing is believing," said

Rick Smith

rsmith@sastandardtimes.com
or 659-8248



Craig Woolheater: Craig is director of Dallas-based Texas Bigfoot Research Center. The 6-year-old organization investigates sightings of the mysterious creature,

which is also known as sasquatch.

Craig said they have confirmed seven Bigfoot sightings in West Texas from 1977 through 2001. Locations range from the Davis Mountains to San Angelo State Park and include Eldorado, Pecos County, Big Spring, Garden City and the Spence Reservoir area near Robert Lee.

According to reports, the creatures have thrown rocks

at fishermen, stalked a horse rider, peered into homes and frightened motorists.

"I've never been spooked like that before or since," one witness told an investigator from the Dallas research group.

But don't panic.

"We're not dealing with a monster, a missing link or an extraterrestrial," Craig said.

"What we're looking for is a flesh-and-blood primate."

Scientists have not found any proof that such a creature exists, but university researchers aren't exactly out beating the bushes looking for evidence, Craig said.

"Mainstream scientists don't want anything to do with it," he said. "They'd be risking their careers by sticking their necks out."

"It's the amateur scientists

Whom to call

Who: Texas Bigfoot Research Center.

What: Dallas-based group that investigates Bigfoot sightings.

What else: The group also sponsors research projects and holds an annual conference in October in Jefferson.

Information: www.texasbigfoot.com or (877) 529-5550.

who are out there, trying to solve the mystery."

Craig said his group receives about 150 reports of sightings a year, most from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas.

He said volunteer investigators, including some law enforcement and ex-military personnel, interview witnesses and gather evidence.

Some of the reported sightings "are bogus — obvious jokes," Craig said. Those are disregarded.

But if reports check out, they're published on the group's Web site, www.texasbigfoot.com.

While most of the Texas sightings occur in the eastern half of the state, Craig said, the creatures also seem to follow the Colorado River and its tributaries into West Texas.

Area sightings the group has confirmed include:

• **Near Big Spring, August 1996** — A man whose family lives out in the country 5 miles east of town was awakened by the sound of barking dogs about midnight and discovered an 8-foot-tall creature peering in the kitchen window.

"While I was loading the rifle, we heard a loud, weird howling sound come from the backyard, which finally got me moving as I thought it would be coming in the house next."

• **Imperial, in Pecos County, February 2000** — Two people spotted "a large, hairy creature" while hunting rabbits. One witness said the beast was "unlike anything I have ever seen before," and it "stood upright like a person, but was not a person."

• **Eldorado, late summer or early fall, 1990** — A 5-year-old boy awoke in the night and saw something hunched over and staring at him through a window. The creature bared its teeth, and the child screamed for his mother.

• **Jeff Davis County, northeast of Marfa, October 1977** — Three men driving to Midland spotted a creature alongside a two-lane highway.

"It had a very large head, large eyes and very long, thick hair," one told an investigator. "The body was covered with thick, matted hair. It stood with a stoop, and the arms were very long. There was a very strong smell like garbage."

• **San Angelo State Park, October 1986** — A woman was riding her horse near a ridge when she spotted a large creature in the bushes. "It was very dark and scared me to death," she told an investigator. She said it was covered with hair.

• **Glasscock County, 10 miles northeast of Garden City, July 2001** — A man, his mother and two nephews were hunting rattlesnakes when they spotted a couple of the creatures moving in a caliche pit.

"They were big and dark," the man reported.

• **Above Spence Reservoir, in Coke County, the fall of 1988 or '89** — Two men were fishing under the Colorado River bridge on Farm Road 2059 after dark when they had a close encounter with something that roared at them, threw rocks, then seemed to chase them to their pickup.

"I've never returned to that spot because it scared me," one

fisherman told the investigator. "Problem is, it's some great fishing."

Scoff if you must, but Craig said he's convinced Bigfoot exists.

"If only one of the people we've talked to is telling the truth, then there's something out there," he said.

"There is certainly a mystery, and we're trying our best to get to the bottom of it."

His advice for Bigfoot-seeking West Texans?

"Driving late at night on rural roads, keep your eyes peeled. You may be rounding a bend and see one standing on the side of the highway or cutting across the road."

"And that will make you believe."

DAILY SENTINEL, Grand Junction, CO - Aug. 15, 2005

Ancient floor a work of nature, not nurture

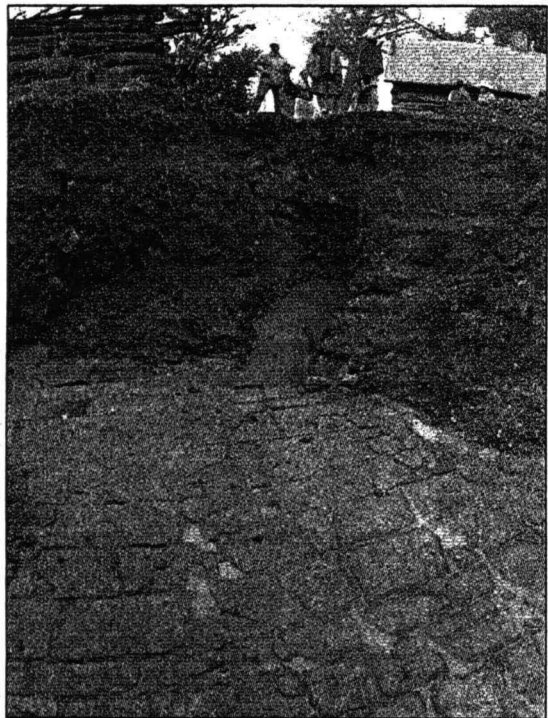
By GARY HARMON
The Daily Sentinel

The 67-year-old western Colorado mystery of the cellar with a tiled floor has an explanation now, and the Western Investigations Team has a new notch in its belt.

The solution is that the seeming inlaid-tile floor discovered in 1937 by Collbran-area rancher Tom Kenney was one of nature's little twists. It was not, as had been speculated, placed and fitted by man thousands of years before. Rather, it was the handiwork of nature.

For years, though, said members of the investigations team made up of the Museum of Western Colorado and Mesa State College, the tiled floor was the stuff of archaeological dreams.

It began in 1937, when rancher Tom Kenney decided to build an outhouse and started digging into the soft earth of Battlement Mesa. Kenney changed goals when he struck an impermeable



CHRISTOPHER TOMLINSON/The Daily Sentinel

THE WESTERN INVESTIGATIONS TEAM, a group of archaeologists, peers into the natural brick road on Battlement Mesa, discovered in 1937. The road was originally thought to be built by a prehistoric civilization but has since been determined to be nature's doing.

layer of rock, which, on closer inspection, looked like a tiled floor buried under 10 feet of boulders and clay. Instead of an outhouse, Ken-

ney decided he would have a tiled root cellar.

went to visit. They concluded the tiles were laid somewhere between 25,000 and 80,000 years earlier.

To learn more, the Denver archaeologists approached the Archaeological Society of London, which sent an Egyptologist, who pronounced the floor a geological phenomenon.

And there, for the next seven decades, the matter stood, with adherents on

both sides, until the Western Investigations Team took on the mystery.

Led by forensic-history veterans, David Bailey, curator of history at the museum, and Rick Dujay, director of the Center for Microscopy at Mesa State, the team expanded the pit to expose a 40-foot-by-40-foot expanse of the floor to two of its edges.

Using a backhoe and front-

end loader, they excavated 2,000 cubic yards of earth and boulders deposited there by glaciers to unveil the plaza.

"It looks like a beautifully laid masonry floor," Bailey said.

Geologist Joe Fandrich said it "looked like a dance floor."

The "floor" once was exposed to the elements and "that's what gave it that polished look," Fandrich said.

His first impression was that it could have been man made, given its inlaid appearance.

Closer inspection, however, showed it to be part of an entire outcrop that Fandrich hopes to study in greater detail.

The "joints" in the outcrop were most likely formed by stress and weathering, said Fandrich and Bill Hood, another Grand Junction geologist. Both also are adjunct professors at Mesa State College.

Some could have been caused by frost wedging, or by the pressure of debris dumped suddenly atop it. Whatever the cause, the rock underlying the "tiles" had the same orientation as the surface, Hood said.

What seemed to be mortar in the joints is nothing more than underlying material squeezed up by pressure from the overburden, he said.

That material remains to be tested in Dujay's college lab.

Grand Junction resident Mary Lane, Tom Kenney's granddaughter, said she always thought the floor — which was opened again in the 1980s — was the work of ancient man.

She's looking forward to learning the results of the tests of the material in the cracks, Lane said.

"It's still soft" and resilient, like a man-made material of some sort, she said.

Though not the paleo-Indian

plaza some had hopes of finding, the mission was a success, said Mesa State President Tim Foster and museum executive director Mike Perry.

"We were kind of crestfallen" that the floor was a geological phenomenon, not an archaeological wonder, Foster said.

Nonetheless, "It was a great opportunity for us to interact with the community," with a variety of scientific and academic disciplines, Foster said.

In addition to the geologists, archaeological experts John Lindstrom and Phil Born were ready to dig into the possibility the floor was man made.

"It was really neat to be able finally to solve a mystery that had been out there for so many years," Perry said.

Once the examination was complete, the outcrop was buried again. Jim and Karen Kirchner, who now own the ranch, said they were glad to have the work done and their lives returned to normal.

Karen Kirchner, who had her hopes pinned on an archaeological explanation, said it was just as well that the outcrop was a work of nature. Otherwise, she said, there might have been a flood of investigators studying the floor.

Not everyone will be convinced, Lane said.

Her mother, Mary Lou Rid-enour, believes the floor is an ancient artifact and "I doubt she'll ever change her mind."

The Western Investigations Team scrupulously marked the site with global-positioning satellite coordinates, so the mystery is buried, but not lost.

That way, Jim Kirchner said, "Sixty years from now, our grandchildren can dig it up another time."

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Building in Iceland? Better Clear It With the Elves First

By SARAH LYALL

HAFNARFJORDUR, Iceland — Do elves exist? Like many Icelanders, Hildur Hakonardottir considers the question to be more complicated than it appears.

"This is a very, very, very delicate question," Ms. Hakonardottir, a retired museum director, said. "If you ask people if they believe in elves, they will say yes and no. If they say yes, maybe they don't, and if they say no, maybe they do."

Hypothetically speaking, what does she think elves look like?

"Well, my next-door neighbor is an elf woman," she declared suddenly. "She lives in a cliff in a rock in my garden."

Despite having seen the elf only once in 15 years — enough time to determine that she was "bigger than life and dressed like my grandmother, in a 1930's national costume" — Ms. Hakonardottir, 67, has no doubt of her existence. "My daughter once asked me, 'How do you know where elves live?' " she said. "I told her you just know. It's just a feeling."

It is a feeling that many people in Iceland apparently share. Polls consistently show that the majority of the population either believes in elves — generally described as humanlike creatures who are fiercely protective of their rocky homes — or is not willing to rule out their existence. But while believing in elves is rooted in Iceland's culture, it remains a touchy subject.

"You have to watch out for the Nordic cliché," the Icelandic singer Bjork told *The New Yorker* magazine several years ago. "A friend of mine says that when record-company executives come to Iceland, they ask the bands if they believe in elves, and whoever says yes gets signed up."

Yet even Bjork cannot say no for sure. "We think nature is a lot stronger than man," she said in another interview, when the Elf Question came up. "A relationship with things spiritual has not gone away."

A belief not just in elves but also in the predictive power of dreams, in the potency of dead spirits and in other supernatural phenomena, is closely linked to Iceland's Celtic traditions and punishing, powerful landscape — especially the harsh weather and the rocks that appear everywhere.

"If there was a large stone in the garden, and somebody said to an Icelandic, 'That's an elf stone,' would they blow it up? They wouldn't," said Terry Gunnell, head of the folkloristic department at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik.

"It's not like they think there are little people living in there who come and dance outside," he added. "It's more a sense that there are other powers, other forces around them."

This town, a port on the outskirts of Reykjavik, prides itself on its unusually high elf population. Tourists are invited to tour the known elf locations, including a large rock whose reputation as an elf habitat meant



In Kopavogur, a section of road was narrowed to accommodate elves thought to live in the nearby rock.



Residents of Hafnarfjörður sometimes dress up as elves to amuse themselves and tourists. The Elf Question is a delicate one in Iceland.

If the next-door neighbor lives in a rock, tread lightly.

that a nearby road was diverted some years ago so as not to disturb its unseen residents.

Elly Erlingsdottir, head of the town council's planning committee, said that made sense to her. Recently, she said, some elves borrowed her kitchen scissors, only to return them a week later to a place she had repeatedly searched. "My philosophy is, you don't have to see everything you believe in," she said, "because many of your greatest experiences happen with closed eyes."

Recently, the planning committee considered a resident's application to build a garage. "One member said, 'I hope it's O.K. with the elves,'" Ms.

Erlingsdottir related. Should the council determine that it is, in fact, not O.K. — usually this happens when a local mystic hears from the elf population, directly or through a vision — the town would consider moving the project, or getting the mystic to ask the elves to move away, she said.

Such occurrences are not unusual. In nearby Kopavogur, a section of Elfhill Road was narrowed from two lanes to one in the 1970's, when repeated efforts to destroy a large rock that was believed to house elves were thwarted by equipment breakdowns. The rock is still there, jutting awkwardly into the road, but it is unclear whether the tenants are.

"With the artificial lampposts, there's too much light for them, and there's also too much noise," explained Guðrún Bjarnadóttir, who has lived across the street for some 30 years. "A lot of people believe they still live there, but I think they've moved."

In the same town in 1996, a bulldozer operator, Hjortur Hjartarson, ran into trouble as he tried to raze a suspected elf hill to make way for a graveyard.

After two different bulldozers repeatedly and inexplicably malfunctioned, and local television cameras failed when trained on the hill, though they worked elsewhere, the crew halted the project. "We're going to see whether we can't reach an understanding with the elves," Jon Ingi, the project supervisor, told *Morgunblaðið*, a Reykjavik newspaper, at the time.

Local elf communicators were called in to arbitrate, and after a while, work resumed. "In my opinion, well, whatever it is, hidden people or elves, it has just accepted this and moved away from there," Mr. Hjartarson told Valdimar Hafstein, an academic researcher who in the late 1990's published "The Elves' Point of View," an article about elves and their effect on construction projects. "That's my opinion."

Although he found many similar cases, Mr. Hafstein has grown weary of the subject. For a while, the Icelandic tourist board cited him as a national elf expert. "I kind of feel that I've done my part," he said. He recently completed a doctoral thesis (on Unesco, not elves) for the University of California, Berkeley.

Although it is easy to find Icelanders who roll their eyes at elf conversations, it is not easy to find hardcore skeptics. But 73-year-old Arni Björnsson is one.

"Today, it is almost a fashion to say that you believe in supernatural beings, but I take this with a pinch of salt," said Mr. Björnsson, who worked for 25 years as the head of the ethnology department at the national museum.

But even he is not saying no, exactly. "If you were to ask me, 'Are you sure there are no supernatural beings?' I would say I don't believe there are," he said. "But I wouldn't rule it out."

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Replication Machine Nearing Completion

By KAT PIPER

Epoch Times Sydney Staff

"Tea, Earl Gray, hot." These may be familiar words to Star Trek fans, evoking a scene of captain Jean-Luc Picard ordering his favorite beverage from a "food replicator" on star-ship USS Enterprise. Well, it's not quite

Star Trek but an in-home "replicator" machine is close to becoming a reality.

Andrew Bowyer of the Center for Biomimetics at the University of Bath, UK has been working on a manufacturing machine that can create household items and replicate itself. Called the "RepRap", the idea

first came about in February 2004, with breakthroughs in the design announced in March this year.

The RepRap replicator could be used to make spare parts for broken objects or completely new items, cheaply and in the comfort of your own home. According to its inventor, the potential benefits include helping alleviate world poverty and aiding the environment by localizing production.

Based on a Rapid Prototype Machine—a type of printer currently used in manufacturing industries that uses a computer design to create 3D models by building up layers of plastic—the RepRap has the added ability of producing integrated circuitry without the aid of lasers.

A Rapid Prototype Machine will set you back \$58,500 so is not eas-

ily affordable to the average family. However, according to Dr Bowyer, the RepRap would have the capacity to replicate itself by building each of its components one at a time, eventually making the units cheap enough for everyone to own. Their spread would be similar to a virus says Dr Bowyer. The RepRap would not be self-assembling however, requiring human input for the final stage.

Once you own a machine, objects and more machines could be made cheaply as they only require the raw materials of plastic and a low melting-point metal alloy.

The replicator cannot make glass objects or computer chips though, so to make a camera, microprocessors and lenses would have to be added at the assembly stage.

Not only is the RepRap to be self-

replicating, but it would also evolve. Owners could alter the programs to make improvements or make machines for different purposes.

The team plan to publish all of the designs and computer code free on the Internet as they are developed over the next four years, allowing collaborative community development rather like that of the Linux computer operating system.

The original concept of a "Universal Constructor"—a machine that could copy itself—was first proposed by mathematician John von Neuman in 1960s. Dr Bowyer believes his machine is the first useful version invented.

There is divided opinion over whether or not it will ever work, with skepticism mainly coming from industry.

Cleve Backster's legacy

Those of you who have stuck it out with me over the years know of my interest in the graceful mystery of awareness. I'm speaking of the Creator force that temporarily infuses our frail bodies with the profound riddle of consciousness in a world teeming with life forms.

Earlier this year, I spent a week in Santa Fe, N.M., listening to those who have made it their life's work to research the so-called hard problem of explaining consciousness. As it is always with the politicized human species, their remarkable efforts toward shedding light in this area likely will not be fully appreciated until well after their deaths.

The Message Company of Santa Fe each April sponsors the International Science and Consciousness Conference at the historic La Fonda Hotel. I went, as I have previously, to learn from scientists and profound thinkers such as Peter Russell, Gary Schwartz, Masaru Emoto, Michio Kaku, Greg Braden and Rupert Sheldrake.

That reflective week of learning in the shadow of the dramatic Sangre de Cristo range has become one of the most enriching and fulfilling periods of my life. To me, these are people who have both mind power and the courage of their convictions in a conflicted world that, sadly, rewards group-think and the lowest common denominator.

The most intriguing speaker this year was an embracing, funny and humble man, internationally acclaimed polygraph expert and instructor Cleve Backster of San Diego. Backster is, by his own description, now an old man. But he still remembers well the date Feb. 2, 1966. He was in his



Mike Masterson

Manhattan office. It was then and there that, to satisfy curiosity during a coffee break, he connected his lie-detecting equipment to the feather-like leaf of his *Dracaena* cane plant. He had intended to measure the decrease in the leaf's electrical resistance as moisture content increased after the roots had been watered.

Backster could never have known that what he witnessed and recorded that day would radically alter both his career and his personal life. In short, on that day and every month since then, he has shown time and time again, through carefully controlled experiments, that not only could the plants he tested react to his intentions and spontaneous thoughts, but so could the cells of living tissue and even life forms at the bacterial level.

Backster methodically recorded all of his experimental data on charts, many of which are shown in his recent book, "Primary Perception."

Backster, who still owns and manages a polygraph academy in San Diego, recorded clear and profound readings from plants whenever he could generate "real intent to do something harmful. ... If you merely pretended, you would not cause a reaction. The plants seemed to know when you didn't mean it. They appeared to pick up the difference between your pretense and your true intent," he wrote. He found similar reactions in vegetables

that were about to be dropped into boiling water or otherwise harmed. The effects could stretch for long distances.

"The plant's attunement to those actually in the lab (with them) and a familiar individual (to them) at a remote location ... causes one to suspect that the mode of communication does not follow concepts ordinarily attributed to the electromagnetic spectrum," he said. "I began to suspect that a kind of perception was being demonstrated that likely was more basic or more primary than our traditional views on perception. This led to use of the term primary perception."

Backster said he also showed that the plants under study were sensitive to the deaths of nearby microscopic life forms and even brine shrimp dropped into a boiling pot. His studies also showed that blood cells removed from a human reacted to sudden emotional swings in their host's body even at a distance.

A book called "The Secret Life of Plants" would come to be written about Backster's achievements. Just over a year ago, he published his own account. I believe it will be his one and only personal account of his pioneering work.

While there are those who would try to discredit his efforts, which support the findings of fellow scientists such as Emoto and Sheldrake about a field of consciousness that permeates all we can sense, I'd advise you to get your own copy of Backster's book and draw your own conclusions. For more details, see primaryperception.com.

Staff columnist Mike Masterson is the former editor of three Arkansas daily newspapers.

STAR, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - July 29, 2005 CR: G. Duplantier

■ BUFFALOED

Bigfoot a big hoax, DNA test reveals

Hair clump found in Yukon is bison

'You can't fool us,' geneticist says

EDMONTON—Bigfoot will remain just a tall tale after DNA hair samples purported to be from the mythic creature turned out to be bison hair.

Researchers said yesterday that a mysterious clump of hair found in the Yukon is from a North American bison and not from the elusive ape-like sasquatch, or Bigfoot, said to haunt the woods of western Canada.

"You can't fool us with a hair sample," wildlife geneticist David Coltman said yesterday in announcing the findings.

Coltman's University of Alberta team performed DNA tests this week on hair reportedly plucked from a bush near Teslin, Yukon, earlier this month.

"The DNA sequence from the Teslin hair sample produced a 100 per cent match with known bison sequences," Coltman said at an occasionally hilarious news conference.

"This hair sample could not have come from the hairy, bipedal animal that was reportedly sighted in Teslin last week."

The result came after days of excited speculation about the hair, which was found close to where several people heard — and swear they saw — a large, hairy creature late one evening. One person, on the way to a washroom, told reporters the creature was standing in the brush and watching. A large, unusual footprint was also found.

"Maybe it's possible that the sasquatch stepped on the bison hair on its way out of Teslin," Coltman deadpanned.

The hair DNA was also so degraded it was probably years old, and could have come from a stuffed animal, he said.

"It could be a consequence of the tanning process that is used to preserve hides and trophy mounts," said Coltman.

Bison are uncommon in the Teslin area of south-central Yukon and along the boundary with British Columbia.

The DNA material was separated from the rest of the hair with a chemical solution. The order in which the various genes appeared was then examined and the sequence compared with published ones of other animals.

CANADIAN PRESS, REUTERS

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Bigfoot a big hoax: Expert

WINNIPEG — Is the purported Sasquatch footage a Manitoba man sold the U.S. tabloid TV show *A Current Affair* the real deal?

Bill Borody, founder of the Manitoba Sasquatch Research Centre and a true believer in the phenomenon of Bigfoot, says no.

After viewing the out-of-focus footage of a tall blob, Borody said there are problems with the video shot by ferry operator Bobby Clarke in northern Manitoba on April 16.

"Sasquatches are supposed to be large, barrel-chested creatures. But this is all wrong ... it's narrow at the top and fans out at the bottom, like a tent."

Borody said he was also puzzled by Clarke's claim that he videotaped the creature at 6:30 a.m.

"I've been to Norway House and I know that it would still be dark at that hour at this time of year but it's very light in the video."