

UFO

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TIME OUT CHICAGO, Chicago, IL - Nov. 3, 2005

Over

The last word of the week

Look! Up in the sky!

Ufologists from the Center for UFO Studies swear they might be out there

By Keir Graff Photograph by Martha Williams

People who scan the horizon for UFOs aren't necessarily rubes afraid of being "probed." Some believe unexplained lights in the sky merit serious study, and some of these folks are in Chicago. Take, for example, the people at the Center for UFO Studies, which has about 500 associates and a research library that publishes books and journals, owns a massive collection of UFO reports, and "conducts investigations into areas of particular interest and concern to contemporary ufology," the group's website says.

Mark Rodeghier, CUFO's ("CUE-foes") scientific director, and George Eberhart, publications director, give us the skinny on the best UFO movies, a recent sighting in Tinley Park and whether we're really not alone.

Time Out Chicago: Is it hard for a UFO researcher to get respect in the scientific community?

Mark Rodeghier: Expecting to get respect from science is a bit like expecting to get quality performance from FEMA in a disaster. Possible, but unlikely.

TOC: Have there been credible UFO sightings around Chicago?

MR: Recently a large triangular formation of lights has been reported on at least three occasions in the Southern suburbs, centered on Tinley Park. Literally thousands of people have seen something, and dozens videotaped the lights, so something real was seen.

TOC: Have you ever seen a UFO?

George Eberhart: No, I haven't.

MR: I haven't, but I'd certainly like to.

TOC: And yet you're undeterred?

MR: Many people in our field have seen them. At least half of our board members have.

TOC: Don't you have doubts, not having seen one yourself?

MR: No [shaking head emphatically]. We've talked to these people and seen the evidence.

TOC: Do you have to deal with a lot of crackpots or hoaxers?

MR: Photos received from teenagers are immediately suspect, for obvious reasons.

TOC: You say sightings are becoming less frequent. Why?

MR: We don't really know. But if we suppose that some UFO sightings are caused by visiting aliens, then it is possible that they recently completed a certain stage in their observation of Earth, and now don't need to flit about our skies so frequently. We are hoping that none of the stages involve massive invasions from a Death Star-type craft.

TOC: What do the aliens want?

GE: Maybe they want to *kamipitz the zemefaria* in order to *fnargus*—meaning we may not even have the words or concepts yet to describe their alien aims.

"We are hoping that none of the stages involve massive invasions from a Death Star-type craft."

TOC: Are we being visited by beings from other planets? Or are they Berwynians from the future?

GE: Most UFOs turn out to be aircraft, satellites, meteors, stars or planets seen under unusual conditions—misidentifications, essentially. Some undoubtedly involve secret military aircraft. Some could be an unknown, naturally occurring atmospheric phenomenon. Other reports apparently describe metallic-looking vehicles that surpass the capabilities of conventional aircraft and are piloted by human-

oids that don't seem to belong on Earth. Others could be psychic or apparitional in nature. Still others are so exotic and bizarre that researchers speculate that they exist in a parapsychical or extradimensional realm. We just don't know the answers, and that's what makes ufology so fascinating.

TOC: If you were visiting another planet, what would you want?

MR: If it had been a long trip, I'd probably want the closest thing they had to a good, stiff drink, assuming there was advanced life.

TOC: Given that we can map the genes in DNA and the far reaches of space, why can't we turn UFOs into IFOs?

MR: UFOs are very difficult to investigate because no one has found a pattern to when and where sightings happen. This makes it difficult to decide where to position high-tech equipment from which we might gain lots of detailed knowledge about the phenomenon.

TOC: War of the Worlds—the new one. One to five stars?

GE: Three stars. Grimly realistic, but has many major plot holes.

TOC: Close Encounters of the Third Kind?

GE: Four stars. Wonderful pre-CGI effects. Plot only semibelievable, but loosely based on real UFO cases.

TOC: The Day the Earth Stood Still?

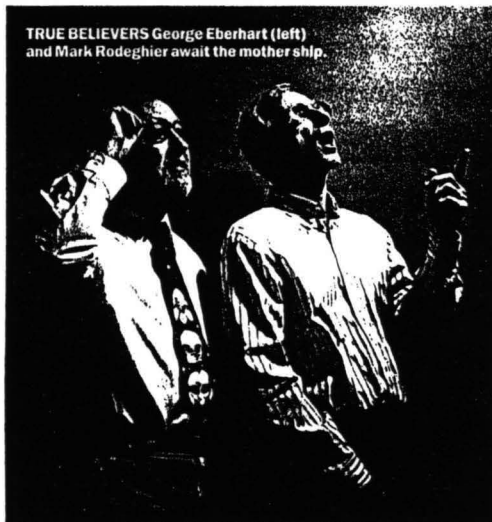
GE: Five stars. One of the best old-style saucer films. Love that theremin!

TOC: Do you believe—or do you just want to believe?

GE: I've always had a problem with the word *believe* when it comes to scientific or historical topics. One "believes" in Catholicism or the Republican Party, often for very subjective or illogical reasons.

Report your sightings via the CUFO's website (www.cufos.org/sighting.html). Or call its office (773-271-3611).

TRUE BELIEVERS George Eberhart (left) and Mark Rodeghier await the mother ship.



SUN, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Dec. 19, 2005 CR: G. Duplantier



WALTER HAUT
Issued news release in 1947

He made 1947 UFO blooper

Infamous Roswell report

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — Army Lieut. Walter Haut, made famous for issuing a news release that said a flying saucer landed in Roswell, N.M., has died, his daughter, Julie Shuster, said. He was 83.

Haut, a former spokesman for Roswell Army Air Field, listened closely on July 8, 1947, as base commander Col. William Blanchard dictated a news release about a recovered flying saucer and ordered Haut to issue it.

Turned out to be weather balloon

The *Roswell Daily Record* newspaper ran a bold headline on July 9, 1947: RAAF Captures Flying Saucer on Ranch in Roswell Region.

The same day a statement was released saying it was only a weather balloon.

Haut, who died Thursday, said he never was told exactly where the flying disc reported in his news release was found nor did he ever see a UFO. But he remained a believer.

Haut and two other men founded The International UFO Museum in 1991. He was president of the museum until 1996. More than 2½ million people have visited it.

PRESS TELEGRAM, Long Beach, CA - Nov. 17, 2005

TV news station probing UFO footage

By Tracy Manzer
Staff writer

LONG BEACH — Look, up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane!

What the heck is it?

That's the question ABC-7 News has posed to Long Beach police and local military experts after getting a copy of a tape that shows an unidentified object flitting through our skies last year.

The tape was made Dec. 25 by Long Beach Police Department helicopter pilots who caught sight of the glowing blob while on patrol around 11:30 p.m., said Sgt. David Cannan.

Because the officers could not identify the object, they took video that was forwarded to a local military base for closer scrutiny.

"We just asked them to take a look at it, in case it was a possible security issue," Cannan said.

It was not, however, classified as an invasion by little green men, silver ones or any other kind of imaginable space beast, the sergeant assured.

Julia Pfeiffer, a producer at Channel 7, said their news piece will take a look at the possible explanations for the item and the story will air either today or Friday.

"We are approaching it fairly seriously," she said, "but we're not doing this to scare people."

While neither military or local experts could tell the Press-Telegram what precisely the object was, theories include a possible prank or experimental military aircraft.

Prank candle balloons, also called fire balloons, can be built with such ordinary objects as a birthday can-

dle and dry cleaner bag and have been a frequent cause of "UFO" sightings over the years.

This was especially common in the 1960s, after an article describing their construction appeared in a science magazine. And, according to one of several Web sites that explain how to build the balloons, "they do a good job of scaring the bejeebers out of many people."

Cannan said the pilot's best guess was that it was a bag or balloon with a flare attached to it, which would explain the trailing sulfur-like light.

In the tape, the brightly lit object looks as though it's traveling fast, but it could just be the effect of the helicopter orbiting the item at its speedy pace with the background flashing by, he said.

Tracy Manzer can be reached at tracy.manzer@presstelegram.com or (562) 499-1261.

Knapp shows guts by treading on shaky ground of UFO sightings

Courage is required of any journalist who admits to believing in the possibility of UFOs because your peers turn on you. And your bosses worry that a UFO-loving reporter might lose some credibility with the public.

Courage also is necessary to live on a remote Utah ranch and stay there for 20 months even when frightening and unexplained things occur as soon as you move in.

George Knapp doesn't lack courage. And he's just co-authored a book about the family in Utah whose ranch was a site of unexplained paranormal activities.

Knapp expects to be ridiculed once again by colleagues, and he's ready for that as he starts promoting his first book "Hunt For the Skinwalker." Ever since Knapp first broadcast a series in 1989 about mysterious happenings in the Nevada Test Site's Area 51, he's been mocked, even though the series won national journalism awards.

"The ridicule comes from my fellow journalists," Knapp



Jane Ann Morrison
COMMENTARY

said. "The public can't get enough of it."

The KLAS-TV, Channel 8 newsman is at the forefront of news stories covering political corruption and the mob, but the one subject the public brings up to him most often is UFOs.

Knapp doesn't say yes, but he also doesn't say no when asked whether he believes in UFOs. Speaking carefully, he said that even if you eliminate the hoaxers and the deranged, there are still weird things happening out there.

"They can't be explained, and they haven't been investigated," Knapp said.

The events at a ranch in

Utah that he and medical researcher Colm Kelleher wrote about are unique, he said. "They're ongoing, in one spot, over a long period of time." And they have been researched.

After the strange activities drove the family out, Las Vegas businessman Robert Bigelow bought the ranch in 1996 and paid for a research team to study it for years.

The book covers the period when the family lived there, and the studies by researchers afterward. Because of the sensitivity of the subject, the book is light on real names and doesn't reveal the exact location of the ranch 150 miles from Salt Lake City in the Uinta Basin.

The book tracks the history of the types of paranormal activities found at the ranch and explains that "skinwalker" is a witch that takes the shape of an animal and cannot be killed. The opening chapter, which chronicles their first paranormal encounter with a wolf that would not die, is a gripper.

As a believer in leaving trouble behind, I questioned

why the family stayed when things were disappearing inside and outside the house, UFOs were floating around, their three dogs were killed in gruesome fashion and their cattle were mutilated. "At the end, the family was sleeping on the floor in one room together," Knapp said.

So why not leave instead of waiting 20 months?

The father was a proud, stubborn man, Knapp said. "He was convinced the military was doing it, and he was going to catch them."

He didn't catch them, and the book offers no conclusions for what caused the strange happenings at Skinwalker Ranch.

Knapp himself made four trips to the ranch, spending a total of 12 days there. "I thought my inherent weirdness quotient would attract something."

So the researchers made noise, lit fires, disturbed the earth and tried to attract the weird by strapping Knapp to a chair in the middle of the night "to see if something would come to get me."

He waited about 45 minutes. Nothing happened.

The only creatures that came to get him were mosquitoes.

I'm not a believer, partly because of my long-ago experience with a mischievous aunt who once reported seeing a UFO. She swore it was true, the story was printed in an Arkansas newspaper, and when UFO researchers interviewed her, she relayed detail after detail of her experience and never cracked. However, I knew it was a big, whopping lie enriched by Jim Beam.

So I became a doubter. My one overnight trip to Rachel in search of aliens and UFOs ended in failure to find either, although it was unbelievably fun.

So while I'm a skeptic, I won't deride Knapp. It takes guts to put your professional reputation on the line for something you believe in that seems downright goofy to most mainstream journalists.

Jane Ann Morrison's column appears Monday, Thursday and Saturday. E-mail her at jane@reviewjournal.com or call 383-0275.

UNION-TRIBUNE, San Diego, CA - Nov. 10, 2005

He sees Maya link in UFOs, natural disasters

By Pablo Jaime Sainz

Katrina. Rita. Wilma. The earthquake in Pakistan. These devastating natural disasters are part of the change the world is undergoing, something the Maya foretold thousands of years ago.

That's according to Jaime Maussan, a popular investigator of UFO phenomena in Mexico.

What's more, he said, a Maya prophecy predicts radical changes for the year 2012 that will alter the history of the planet.

Maussan will be at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido tomorrow to present a

conference titled "La Profecía," where he said he will explore how the Maya predicted the future through their knowledge of astronomy.

"There are indications that the Maya had knowledge of this 5,000 years ago," he said, referring to the natural disasters. "The question is: Who told them?"

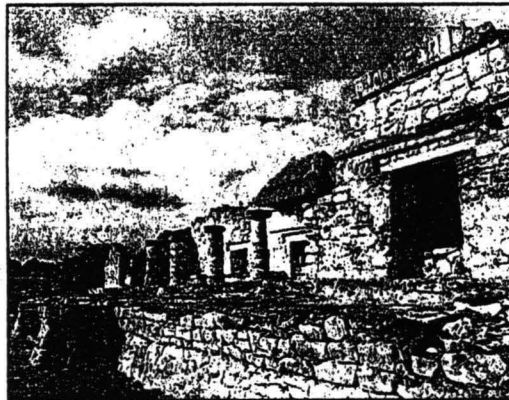
He theorizes that extraterrestrials somehow contacted the Maya, who were able to develop an understanding of events to come.

Someone looking at Maussan's résumé would not have prophesied his involvement with UFOs.

The Mexico native received a bachelor's degree in radio and television studies from Miami University in Ohio.

In the 1970s and '80s, he was considered one of Mexico's leading investigative journalists, working in that country's version of "60 Minutes."

In 1991, he became interested in the wave of



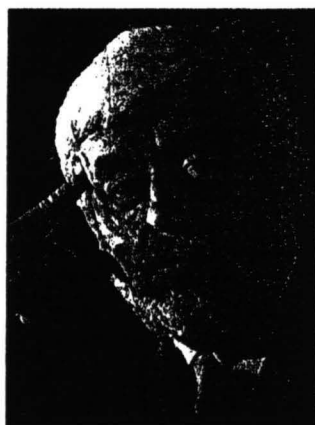
Jaime Maussan will speak about prophecies of the Maya, an advanced civilization that built temples such as the ruins of Tulum in Yucatan. *New York Times*

DATEBOOK

Jaime Maussan, "La Profecía" conference
California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

7 and 9:30 p.m. tomorrow
\$32 and \$37.

Tickets at the box office,
(800) 988-4253; or through
Ticketmaster, (619) 220-8497.



In 2004, Jaime Maussan watched a video about Mexican air force pilots who identified 11 UFOs.

Eduardo Verdugo / Associated Press

UFO sightings Mexico experienced after that year's solar eclipse.

Since then, the 52-year-old has become Mexico's most popular UFO investigator, thanks to his weekly television program, "Third Millennium," and interviews in popular variety shows like "Otro Rollo."

Maussan said his interest in the Maya began after he investigated the mysterious designs that had been carved into fields in England, designs similar to Maya symbols.

Why does he think the Maya can predict the future?

The subject is a little complicated, because it is based upon codices and the Maya calendar, he explained from his home in Mexico City.

The first Maya prophecy is about "no-time," a 20-year period called the "katum" — part of a great solar cycle 5,125 years long, he said. This "no-time" period stretches from 1992 to 2012.

The Maya prophesied that at that time, ever more intense sunspots would appear on our stellar neighborhood and that, starting in 1992, hu-

manity would enter a last great period of introspection. He said the natural disasters around the globe are delivering lessons about the power and limits humans have to control their world.

"We have to prepare for the climatic changes that are on the way. San Diego and other coastal cities could be lost. We face the possibility of a catastrophe in this sense," he said. "We are in a period of very great and important change."

So what's the use in knowing all of this?

"We must show more loyalty to one another, more solidarity among ourselves."

Not everyone in Mexico buys Maussan's message. Some plainly call him a fraud.

Dino de Labra is a journalist and investigator, who hosts the Tijuana radio program "Cosmic Sphere," which deals with UFOs and paranormal phenomena. He said Maussan's work is nothing more than marketing.

"He's only succeeding in titillating the audience. UFOs are a great business," said De Labra, whose program can be heard on both sides of the border. "When someone investigates these matters, it's not just about making money, but also nourishing people's spirituality, of awakening their conscience. Maussan shows only blurry videos. It's nothing that nourishes people's spirit."

"Maussan is an entertainer," de Labra concludes.

Pablo Lonnie Pacheco works for the Astronomical Society of the Alfa Planetarium in Monterrey, the most prominent such facility in northern Mexico. He has debated Maussan several times on television.

"He's a charlatan," he said. "He takes advantage of people's ignorance. He sees UFOs everywhere."

Maussan lost a great deal of credibility last year, when he maintained that the asteroid Toutatis would

crash into the Earth, Pacheco said.

"Most people are ignorant about astronomy. Maussan presents it in a fun and creative way, and that's how he gets them hooked," said Pacheco, who has a column on the Astronomical Society's Web site titled "Las Maussandas," dedicated to refuting Maussan's statements.

There is little dispute that Maussan is a draw. He virtually sold out four presentations he made Oct. 28 and 29 at Tijuana's Centro Cultural.

Maussan's work is well known by investigators in the United States.

Mel Podell, director of the Mutual UFO Network in San Diego, an organization that investigates sightings in the region, said he has followed Maussan's career for several years.

"Maussan is a believable person, a serious person we can rely on," said Podell, calling Maussan Latin America's pre-eminent UFO researcher. "The work he is doing to keep people informed is good."

Maussan himself said he leaves it up to the audience to decide what to believe.

"I am just a journalist trying to find answers to these phenomena. I present the evidence. Each person must decide what they believe and what they cannot."

Pablo Jaime Sainz is a contributor to the Union-Tribune's weekly bilingual newspaper *Enlace*.

Believers mark 40th anniversary in Kecksburg

Witnesses say an unidentified object crashed there in 1965.

BY A.J. PANIAN
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Free-lance journalist John Horrigan knows UFOs.

Since 1990, Horrigan, of Watertown, Mass., has visited the scenes of incidents widely believed to involve unidentified flying objects, including three trips to Roswell, N.M., and one to Shag Harbour, Nova Scotia.

"I've done a number of stories around the world involving reported UFO crashes," Horrigan said. "When I'd heard of all these witnesses from various walks of life and heard their stories, I thought that all of them can't be lying. I also wondered why these things were being ignored by mainstream media or covered up."

Add the mystery surrounding Kecksburg to his list of inquiries.

Horrigan was there Saturday, along with about 250 others, observing the 40th anniversary of a still-disputed accounting of what happened on Dec. 9, 1965, that over time has drawn an international eye to this tiny farming village in Mt. Pleasant Township.

"News of this anniversary went on the international newswire, so it's been in papers from South Africa to Canada, all over the place; the phones have just been ringing day and night," said Stan Gordon, of Greensburg, who organized the event and has spent a lifetime investigating the incident, in which a large, metallic acorn-shaped object supposedly streaked through the region's skies before plummeting into a patch of woods near the town.

The anniversary event attracted many who were on the scene that day. Each testified that military and police officials restricted all access to the woods where the crash is believed to have occurred, left the scene with the suspected object in tow on a flatbed trailer, and subsequently denied finding anything.

Bob Gatty, a former Tribune-Review reporter who wrote the initial articles on the incident, said follow-up inquiries into that singular event have tailed him ever since.

"I've been a journalist and congressional aide for about 42 years, and nothing has stuck with me like this story," Gatty said. "When I got to Kecksburg that night, I was met by Army people and state cops with guns who told me I couldn't go any further. All these years, this story has been kept alive. There has to be a reason why that is. The reason is because the government is covering something up."

A report was given by Lee Helfrich, an attorney with Lobel, Novins and Lamont, Washington, D.C. Helfrich is representing journalist Leslie Kean in a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed in December 2003, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, to get the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to release records of what happened that day in Kecksburg. Kean is an investigative reporter backed in the suit by the Sci Fi Channel's director of special projects, Larry Landsman.

"When we first filed the suit, the government immediately went in and asked the court to rule in its favor, which is typical. Our argu-

ment was that they didn't conduct an adequate search. They never even looked for this information," Helfrich said.

In May, U.S. District Judge Emmitt Sullivan restricted the filing of any further case information pending review of submitted data. On Friday, Helfrich asked Sullivan to lift his restriction on new information so she could file for a ruling in Kean's favor. She is awaiting his decision.

"We're hoping to get some response soon," said Kean, adding that the government may never relinquish documents revealing the truth of the matter. "It's quite possible that records have been expunged, or that whatever records remain are so highly classified that we will never get them. But they're obligated to tell us that, and they haven't done that."

A NASA spokesman told The Associated Press there is no cover-up and the UFO was a Soviet satellite, although government records have been lost.

A chasm ultimately formed between town residents who believed a UFO had crashed there, and those who thought the incident a hoax, Horrigan said. Just as astonishing, he added, is the way the lore behind the incident has now galvanized the community.

"Forty years on, and everyone is here to offer praise to one another, and that's great," Horrigan said. "There's no way that they can stop (Kecksburg) from being a tourist destination, so they might as well embrace the tourism as opposed to trying to reject it. There's nothing wrong with that, and the community should be proud."

COURIER, Russellville, AR - Dec. 28, 2005

Dover lights cast shadow on legend

Caller reports vehicle plunged off bluff

By Brooke Vermillion
government@couriernews.com

A few hours after dark Monday, a distressed caller notified Pope County emergency personnel of a possible vehicle accident near a bluff in the area known as the Dover Lights off of Old Highway 7.

"The caller said there was a vehicle down there that had run off of the mountain into the valley," Sheriff Jay Winters said Tuesday. "They said they could see the (head)lights on the car, but when they would call down there, they could not get an answer."

The sheriff said the call prompted the Pope County Emergency 911 dispatch center to call out units from the Arkansas State Police, Pope County EMS, and the Sheriff's Office, along with the Jaws of Life extrication crew, to aid in the potentially fatal situation.

Although Winters said the bluff is not easily accessible for conducting a search, he noted the steep slope of the bluff made the situation especially dangerous for any victim who may have had an accident.

"If somebody was down there, they would have been dead or would have needed serious help," Winters said.

After an hour of searching in the Dover Lights area, emergency crews canceled their quest after finding no evidence a vehicle had plunged off the bluff.

"Somebody had evidently thrown a light down there," Winters said, noting the EMS report did not specify what type of light was found. "I don't know what type of light it was; the officers just said they did not find a vehicle - nothing other than a light."

Winters said the sheriff's office gets calls at times about mysterious white lights in the area now known as Maupin Flat Road, about 15 miles north of Dover. The Dover Lights area has been a part of local legend for decades.

"There are old stories about that pull-off at the bluff," Winters recalled, saying he has never seen the unexplainable lights. "People have said they see lights over there, and nobody could ever figure it out."

But the sheriff also said not all calls from the area have proven to be uneventful. He recalled an incident that

GAZETTE, Colorado Springs, CO - Jan. 7, 2006

'I've got to think it's UFOs'

By R. SCOTT RAPPOLD
The Gazette

RUSH, Colo. (AP) - Cattle rancher Clyde Chess never learned who - or what - killed his heifer 11 years ago, removing its lips, tongue, ears, heart and reproductive organs with laserlike precision.

But he has a theory. "I suspect, and I know it sounds farfetched, it was government testing," he said. "They're the only ones that have that kind of technology."

This is eastern El Paso County, where stories of mysterious black aircraft, unexplained lights in the sky and bizarre cattle experimentation aren't considered too farfetched. Many remember a string of cattle mutilations in the 1970s.

It's been a long time since Colorado ranchers sat on their porches at night with shotguns, scanning the sky, but there's a new mystery on the eastern plains involving the deaths of six horses and a burro in Calhan.

The case has caught the attention of UFO investigators. The truth, they say, is out there.

"Is this a mystery? It's a huge mystery," said Linda Moulton Howe of Albuquerque, N.M., author of "An Alien Harvest," a book about cattle mutilations. "What it all means I don't know. But do I think humans did that? Absolutely not."

The facts are sparse: On Oct. 11, six horses and a burro - all healthy - were found dead in a field near Calhan.

Dr. John Heikkila, the veterinarian who examined the animals, ruled out a winter storm, disease, toxic plants and lightning. Officials remain puzzled by the quarter-inch puncture holes in the animals' hides, originally thought to be gunshot wounds, but no bullets were found.

Toxicology tests for common poisons were negative, and expensive testing for "unusual possibilities" was not done because of cost, Heikkila wrote in his Nov. 20 autopsy report.

He concluded that an unusual toxin, delivered through a dart or pellet, caused the deaths.

The horses' owner, Bonny Blasingame, also thinks the animals were poisoned. She doesn't know who would do it, but others have an idea.

"I've talked to several of my friends who think that it's aliens," Blasingame said, noting that she didn't laugh.

Fears were heightened when 16 more horses were found dead near Calhan on Oct. 22. But investigators determined lightning caused those deaths.

Howe, who has written several books and produced television documentaries on strange phenomena, wrote about the Colorado deaths on her Web site. She has seen similar puncture holes in dead livestock elsewhere.

"Unusual animal deaths have long been associated with odd, silent black helicopters that have dissolved into misty clouds and unidentified lights and beams in the sky and pastures," she wrote.

Leslie Varnicle, state director of the Mutual UFO Network, has also looked into the deaths. She said a teenager spotted a strange aircraft in the Calhan area Oct. 21.

"You had the animal deaths and, in the same time and area, an observation of this V-shaped craft," Varnicle said. "In the back of my mind, I think there is a connection."

Eastern El Paso County is fertile ground for such theories.

In the 1970s and '80s, the area was among many parts of the West that experienced a string of cattle mutilations. Typically, soft tissue such as the lips, rectum and sexual organs were removed, with little blood or signs of a struggle evident.

There was an FBI investigation, and in 1979 scientists, law enforcement officials from several states, UFO investigators and a U.S. senator gathered for a summit. Interest waned in the mid-1980s.

But mysterious livestock deaths never stopped here. According to the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, there have been 26 unusual or unexplained livestock deaths since 1989. No arrests have been made.

Some cases have been truly bizarre. In January 1996, Truckton-area rancher James Richard White found one of his cows dead, with an entire eye socket surgically removed.

According to a sheriff's report, White told a deputy he had seen black helicopters in the area before, hovering a couple hundred feet above the ground, not making a sound. And on the night his cow was killed, his television flickered.

"I really couldn't tell you exactly what it was. I know what I saw and what I reported," said White, who still owns a ranch.

In 1994, Simla rancher Ted Hasenbalg found one of his bulls mutilated, the third to die mysteriously since the 1970s.

"I've got to think it's UFOs. That's the only thing logical," Hasenbalg said. "I think anything's possible, because we don't know if we're the only life in the universe."

The presence of two Air Force bases and NORAD has fueled the speculation.

"We jokingly say, 'Yeah, they moved Area 51 over to Peterson (Air Force Base),' " said Varnicle of the Mutual UFO Network.

She continues to ask questions about the recent Calhan deaths.

"I would love to catch someone doing it, whether it's the military, E.T. or Joe Joker," she said.

Sheriff's office investigators have heard plenty of theories, among them top-secret military lasers and ice bullets. They believe the answer is more mundane, probably some sort of toxin that didn't show up in the tests.

"We believe there's a logical explanation. We just haven't found it yet," sheriff's spokesman Lt. Cliff Northam said. The investigation remains open.

Jim Brewer, president of the El Paso County Farm Bureau, dismisses talk of UFOs and secret experiments. He thinks the animal deaths were weather-related.

"It was a bad thing, but it wasn't somebody out trying to kill livestock," Brewer said.

For Blasingame, the horses' owner, the case is more than a story worthy of "The X-Files." She loved the horses that were killed.

One horse survived the incident, a 6-month-old filly named Santanna, whose mother was among those killed. The horse remains skittish, jumping at the slightest sound.

"I'd give anything if she could talk," Blasingame said. "She'd have a story to tell."

On the Net:
* Earthfiles: <http://www.earthfiles.com>
* Mutual UFO Network: <http://www.mufon.com>



BURNTWOOD POST, Cannock, England - Sept. 15, 2005

UFO's make return trip

EXCLUSIVE by Mike Bradley
mike_bradley@mrn.co.uk

UFOs have been spotted in Cannock's skies for the fourth time in as many months.

This week, Hednesford residents living miles apart from each other contacted The Post to report a strange cigar-shaped object moving silently through their skies.

Experts are baffled, but say the sighting, which took place last Wednesday morning, could support evidence of extra-terrestrial life - if witnesses snapped the event on their mobile phones.

Pye Green's Marie Carter, 32, told The Post: "It was my husband who spotted it. We were both in the garden at the time. It was around 10.00am.

"The sky was clear and he just happened to glance up. Suddenly he started shouting me to look at the sky. I couldn't believe what I saw.

"It was a brownish-orange colour, and it looked like nothing else I've ever seen.

"It was quite thick, looking thicker than a plane, and totally round. It was about 20-feet long and flying silently.



"It was quite scary, really. We didn't know what it was, or who to tell about it."

Mature student Paul Flemming, 41, was riding his bike through nearby woods when he saw the object.

"I just caught glimpse of it out the corner of my eye," the electronics student told us.

"It was moving at a steady pace, but not quite as fast as a plane or a helicopter.

"It was a golden-brown colour. You

couldn't see any windows on it or anything. Just a perfect cylinder."

Paul poured scorn on neighbours claims that the object he saw was a balloon.

"There's no way," he said.

"Because of my late fathers' hobby, I have spent a great deal of time around hot air balloons, blimps, even weather balloons. This looked nothing like any of them, and didn't have the characteristic sounds of those. It made no sound at all."

ARGUS, Brighton, England - Sept. 23, 2005

Ministry reveals UFO sightings

Mysteries of the sky at night

SIGHTINGS of flying saucers and mystery lights continue to be taken seriously by the men from the Ministry.

Details of alien sightings released by defence officials to The Argus today under the Freedom of Information Act reveal we really may not be alone.

The Ministry of Defence revealed details of seven UFO sightings in Sussex since the beginning of 2002, with five being reported in that year alone.

On May 15, an object with red and green flashing lights was seen in the skies above Uckfield at 2.15am.

An unusually large flying object was spotted over Brighton on August 16.

Less than a week later, on August 22, lights were seen in the sky over Heathfield and on September 5

by JENNY LEGG

strange lights flashing in the shape of a triangle were seen above Wisborough Green, near Billingshurst.

On December 19 a large cylindrical object with a white light pouring out of the front and flames coming from the rear was seen above Brighton.

On September 22 the following year, a red unidentified flying object was seen over Hove and on August 3 this year seven red and white flashing lights moving erratically were seen in the skies above Peacehaven.

Andy Thomas, who has published several books on crop circles and extra-terrestrial phenomena, said the sightings added greatly to the argument that alien life was possible.

He said: "There are strange sightings like

these all the time and while a fair number can be explained rationally there are a significant number that can't.

"There are some very good pictures and video footage from Sussex and beyond that is clearly anomalous."

He said UFO spotters began watching the skies after Second World War pilots reported seeing lights that appeared to follow their planes.

Brian Barnes, 64, who spotted a mystery light near his home in Dartmouth Crescent, Brighton, last year said of the MoD report: "It makes me realise I wasn't going mad.

"It is not just people who have fallen out of a pub that see these things so the MoD should take them seriously."

jenny.legg
@theargus.co.uk

EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES, Ipswich, England - Sept. 1, 2005

Did anyone see lights over Felixstowe coast?

Sir, - I was slightly disappointed, after a search through the pages of Monday's EADT, to find no mention of the curious aerial display that I and others witnessed on the night of Saturday, August 27 over the Felixstowe coast.

Between 8.55pm and 9.20pm five bright orange lights rose above the eastern horizon and moved very slowly toward the north, first three in a thin isosceles triangle then, minutes later, a pair which grew to a brightness comparable to that of Venus only to fade suddenly and vanish at about 30 degrees elevation.

I was just one of several drivers on the A14 between Ipswich and Felixstowe who felt compelled to stop their cars to observe the stately and silent progress of this phenomenon. They, too, must be asking the same questions.

Having spent the last 40 years or so gazing at the night sky, I am familiar with the appearance of aircraft, both commercial and military, meteors and artificial satellites. Indeed, a satellite bisected the pair of lights by way of convenient comparison moments before they faded. These flickering lights behaved quite unlike any of these objects.

I am not a proponent of Little Green Men nor trying to stir up another Bentwaters or - Heaven forbid - a Roswell scare, but if any of your readers, particularly those who were fortunate enough to see what I saw, have a plausible explanation, I would be very grateful to hear it.

PAUL BLOCK,
Trimley St Mary.

DID YOU SEE THE UFO?

■ **Bracknell's X-files:**
Mystery craft seen flying above hotel



What it might have looked like: An oval-shaped object was seen flying above the Coppid Beech Hotel on John Nike Way. Neighbours also saw bright lights in the sky.

WHEN Corinne Dainton woke in the middle of the night and saw bright lights seeping through her bedroom window she thought nothing of it.
But the next day neighbours revealed they had also spotted the mystery lights - and believe Bracknell was being visited by an alien spacecraft hovering above the nearby Coppid Beech Hotel at John Nike Way.

EXCLUSIVE by RICHARD CROWE

The drama started soon after midnight on Wednesday, June 22. Mrs Dainton, of Fletcher Gardens, Popeswood, said: "I remember seeing bright lights coming through the window."
"But one of my neighbours actually saw an oval-shaped object above the hotel. When she

phoned the MoD they told her it was probably an airship.
"But how can it have been an airship that appeared in the middle of the night then just disappeared into nowhere."
This week, Whitehall officials were denying they had launched an inquiry into the Bracknell UFO incident.
An MoD spokeswoman said: "The MoD would not investigate

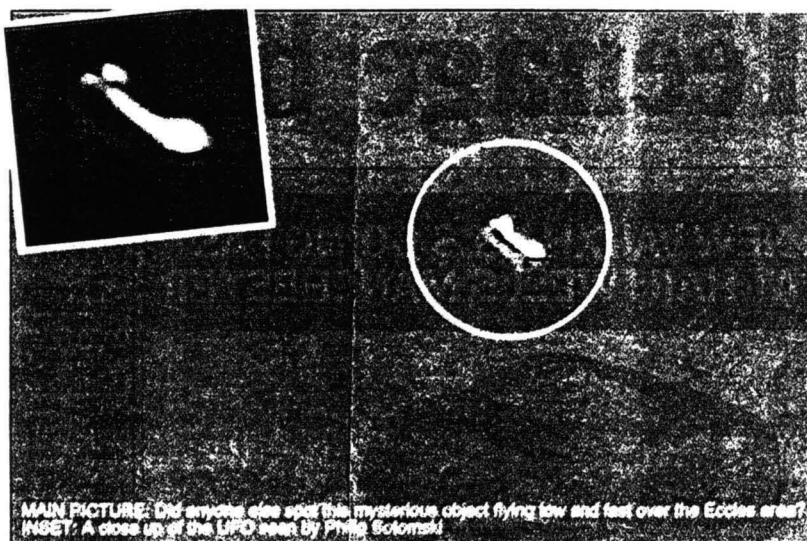
these sightings unless UK airspace had been compromised by hostile or foreign air activity."
● Did you see the UFO over Bracknell? Have there been other sightings of unidentified flying objects in the area - and has anyone managed to photograph the "alien" aircraft? Write to: Bracknell News, Ocean House, The Ring, Bracknell RG12 1AX or email news@bracknellnews.co.uk

DAILY STAR, London, England - Aug. 11, 2005

Cash is Lotts in space

LOTTERY chiefs have handed over £2,000 to fund Britain's first official UFO trail.
The grant will help the man who stumbled on the country's most famous X Files incident to return to the scene after 25 years to show people where he saw a flying saucer land.
Vince Thurkettle will start a forest trail near the former USAF base at Woodbridge, Suffolk.
But one local said: "No-one took the sighting seriously so it's a complete waste of cash."

Is the truth out there - in Eccles?



MAIN PICTURE: Did anyone else spot this mysterious object flying low and fast over the Eccles area?
INSET: A close up of the UFO seen by Philip Sotomski

EXCLUSIVE by Christopher Brereton

COULD this picture of a strange silver shape in the sky prove that the truth is out there - in Eccles?

Is it, as UFO experts are suggesting, evidence that aliens are making a regular Saturn to Salford round trip?

One of the men who spotted the UFO, is in no doubt as to what he saw above him in the Eccles sky.

Philip Sotomski, 31, said: "I would like to point out that I am a big sceptic as far as UFO sightings



CONVINCED: UFO expert Chris Parr

are concerned but in some ways this only makes me more determined to show the photos to people and to try and get some kind of answer about them."

The spooky shape was spotted flying by Mr Sotomski and four of his colleagues at 10am on July 10 this year.

Above them, on Half Edge Lane, Eccles, they saw the object travel across the sky at great speed, followed five minutes later by another extra-terrestrial entity.

Mr Sotomski, is adamant about what he saw and is willing to take a lie detector test.

He added: "Myself and my colleagues know what we saw whilst not knowing what the object was."

"We are all professional people and quite frankly have better things to do with our time than

to make wacky e-mails or photos. We all feel that what we saw was totally unexplainable."

Chris Parr, from the British UFO Hunters, said: "I have applied the latest photographic and computer technologies available and I can confirm that the mysterious object is a solid mass with curvatures and sharp right angles."

"I have evaluated and solved many hundreds of UFO cases and the Eccles UFO evidence has no immediate solution."

"This case remains unsolved and experience tells me that it will remain a mystery for a very long time."

SALFORD ADVERTISER, Manchester, England - July 28, 2005

GRAHAM SHEPPARD

Pilot who risked professional censure for his readiness to speak publicly about unidentified flying objects

IF UFOs existed, airline pilots would probably be the people most likely to see them, track them and, with the help of their sophisticated equipment, gather the reliable technical data that makes a tall tale less easy to dismiss. It was Graham Sheppard's contention that pilots had been sighting unidentified craft experiencing regular near-misses for decades.

Sheppard was a telecommunications engineer and civil pilot who alarmed his superiors by speaking out about such experiences and, as he claimed, the danger to civil aviation of near-collisions and panic reactions in the face of unidentified craft.

His discussions with the press about his experiences led to his being censured in 1993, with the threat of dismissal from British Airways if he continued to air his views. After this he remained circumspect until his retirement. Thereafter he became a popular speaker at UFO conferences and seminars.

Sheppard was born in Pembroke in 1942. His interest in UFOs was first aroused when, aged 11, he spotted something odd in the sky. Although he had a dream of becoming a pilot himself, he did not begin flying commercial aircraft until 1966. First he worked as a telecommunications engineer on a prototype modem — a room-sized technologically advanced device. During his time working for the Post Office he was also stationed at the Satellite Earth Station at Goochdown in Cornwall.

He subsequently trained at the BEA/BOAC College of Air Training at Hamble, Southampton, and graduated to fly as first officer on BOAC's Vickers Vanguard aircraft. In the next 30 years he flew almost every kind of aircraft, both passenger and cargo, for BOAC and then, on

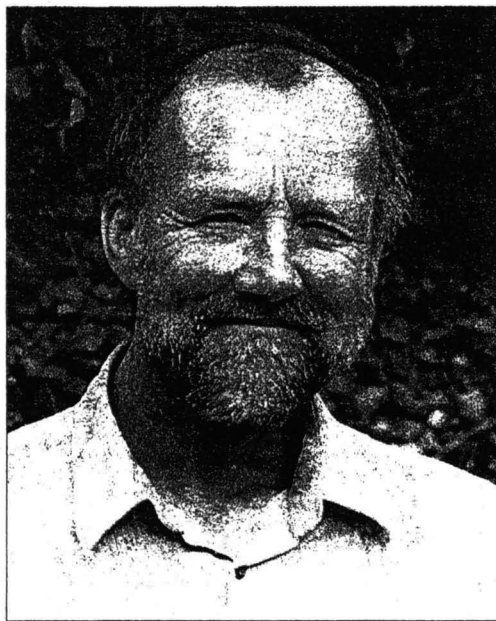
its amalgamation with BEA, for British Airways (BA). In the mid-1970s Sheppard would take a two-year sabbatical in Africa, flying a twin-engined Britten-Norman Islander for Zambia's flying-doctor service; he later flew domestic routes in Malawi.

In 1967, on a flight from Scotland to London, Sheppard's crew were warned of "high-speed opposite direction traffic, identity unknown". Almost immediately Sheppard saw, so he reported, below him and about 300 metres to the west, a shining disc-shaped object which passed at a speed he estimated as being 1,300km/h. That same year, on a night flight to London from Gibraltar, he and his crew recorded what appeared to be an aerobatic display by two unidentified craft. The two objects were confirmed but not identified by radar in Bordeaux.

(Richard Haines, a Nasa research scientist and science director of the National Aviation Reporting Centre on Anomalous Phenomena (Narcap) states that since the early days of civil aviation pilots worldwide have made about 3,400 reports of unidentified craft.)

After speaking to journalists about his concerns over near-misses, Sheppard was summoned to the office of Lloyd Griffiths, British Airways' chief pilot for the Boeing 757 and 767 fleets. The correspondence that followed stated that "BA is not putting its collective head in the sand on this topic" but gave warning of the "media reaction involving ridiculing of your views and the subsequent damage of your image as a BA captain". It stated that Sheppard should be in no doubt about the "likely repercussions" of further disclosures.

He had, however, broken the silence and changed the atmos-



Sheppard kept relatively quiet about near-misses in the sky, such as that reported in *The Times* in 1995, until he retired

where immeasurably. On February 2, 1995, *The Times* reported that a near-miss between a BA 737 with 60 passengers on board and an illuminated wedge-shaped object at 13,000

feet above the Pennines was under formal investigation by the Civil Aviation Authority. The conclusion, a year later, stated that: "Despite exhaustive investigation the reported

object remains untraced", and the Joint Airmass Working Group (JAWG) stated that it hoped this case "will encourage pilots who experience unusual sightings to report them without fear of ridicule," added that the pilots, Roger Wills and Mark Stuart, were the "latest in a long line of pilots to have faced the unmentionable". The pilots in this case had taken no evasive action; responding to gut instinct in other such cases has been known to stall aircraft. Knowing this, Sheppard briefed the JAWG in 1995, a year after his retirement from BA.

In 1989 he met and befriended the UFO researcher Timothy Good. In his book *Unearthly Disclosure* (2000), Good included an account of an experience in which, while flying a Cessna 172 from San Juan to Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, Sheppard, after passing over the Arecibo radio telescope, suddenly found himself impossibly far off course. His instruments — still, apparently, functioning normally — had recorded that he had passed over hills 3,900 feet high while flying at a constant 22,000ft.

Sheppard was kept busy on the lecture and conference trail until incapacitated by myofibrilosis. He was a musical polyglot, able to play many instruments, but with a particular skill for jazz clarinet and saxophone. His abilities as a raconteur, and his ability to be always credible, as well as immensely likeable, brought great conviction, as well as entertainment, to any discussion of the unexplained in which he participated.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and by two sons from a previous marriage.

Graham Sheppard, airline pilot, was born on December 11, 1942. He died on August 24, 2005, aged 62.

ASIAN PACIFIC POST, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Dec. 8, 2005 CR: G. Conway

Asians believe in little green men from outer space

Alien encounters and UFO sightings, along with a fascination for outer space, are alive and strong in Asia, according to survey results released by global market research company Synovate.

Synovate director Scott Lee said the recent successful Chinese space mission inspired the firm to explore Asian perceptions of space, resulting in some out-of-this-world findings on people's attitudes, space travel desires and extraterrestrial experiences.

The survey covered 5,500 respondents in China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia and Korea.

"Asians are clearly convinced that we are not alone in our universe, with more than six out of 10 people (64 percent) surveyed across all countries believing that intelligent life exists on planets other than earth," Lee said.

"Personal extraterrestrial experiences are also far more common than expected with 10 percent of Asians believ-

ing that they have seen a UFO and a further three percent believing that they have had an encounter with aliens from another planet.

"When applied across the enormous populations of the countries surveyed, that is over 250 million UFO sightings and more than 80 million alien encounters," added Lee.

Chinese (81 percent) and Hong Kong residents (70 percent) are the most likely to believe in intelligent life outside of earth while UFO sightings are more common in India (13 percent), Korea (10 percent) and China (9 percent).

Visitors from other worlds land more often in Indonesia, where six percent of respondents believe they have had an encounter with aliens from another planet, and Korea, where eight percent of residents aged 50 to 64 reported making contact with alien counterparts.

Although many Asians believe that life exists on

other planets, they are not so keen to go exploring these unknown worlds themselves just yet.

Sixty-one percent of respondents across Asia said they would not want to travel to outer space if given the option.

The Chinese (76 percent) and Indonesians (71 percent) are the least adventurous populations when it comes to space travel.

Indians are the only people who appear keen to explore their astral surroundings, with 60 percent saying they would like to travel to outer space one day.

"Indian Astronaut Kalpana Chawla, a crew member aboard the ill-fated Columbia Space Shuttle Mission, is a national hero and admired by Indians everywhere for the dedication she showed in following her dream of traveling to space," said Alok Shanker, managing director of Synovate India.

"Her memory and commitment have helped inspire



An artist's version of alien life

many Indians to also dream of one day exploring the stars," Shanker added.

Synovate Indonesia Managing Director Robby Susanto said the high rate of alien experiences in Indonesia may be connected to their culture's firm belief in ghosts.

"Indonesians, like many Asians, hold a strong belief in the existence of ghosts," he said.

"It may well be that people believe their experiences with ghosts are similar to aliens, while many are also of

the opinion that all creatures from another world are really siblings anyway."

Despite a relatively low regional enthusiasm for personal space travel, 64 percent of Asians are certain that space tourism will become a big industry in the future with the Chinese (72 percent) and Koreans (69 percent) the most convinced.

"However, Hong Kong residents are the most likely contenders for any fledgling space tour with 76 percent very willing to pay US\$20

million (C\$23 million) to travel to the moon if they had the money."

Koreans are the least enthusiastic about having a space travelling child with only 19 percent supportive of such a career and 61 percent firmly against their children becoming astronauts.

Regardless of space travel plans, parental ambitions or personal experience, it is clear that people in Asia remain fascinated with space and the great unknown of our universe.



MYSTERIOUS WEST

Geoff Ward explores the alternative universe

You can contact Geoff Ward by email at g.ward@bepp.co.uk

MYSTERIOUS West has given a surprise boost to a UFO movie to be made in Somerset next year.

After I wrote about the film, The Gulf Breeze Caravan Park UFO Society, last month, I heard from Paul Thomas, of Easton-in-Gordano.

Amazingly, he was vice-president of the 1970s Weston-super-Mare group - the West Country UFO Research Association - on which the film is being based.

I put Somerset film-makers Nick Harding and Sean Martin in touch with Paul - and he will now have a small part in their movie.

Paul has given Nick and Sean much valuable information about his old group - including its belief

Reader's surprise role in new UFO-hunter film

that there was a secret UFO base under the Dolebury Warren hillfort, near Burrington.

Paul has also provided association newsletters, and a copy of one of them will be used as a prop in the film.

Nick said: "There's lot to draw on here - we have enough for about four films now, to be honest! It all helps to make the film more authentic." Paul, 60, told me he

was looking forward to appearing in the new UFO movie.

He is still on the outlook for UFOs and other unexplained phenomena, such as crop circles, and nowadays is a regular contributor to the Fortean Times.

"There are a lot of mystery animals and strange weather conditions around here," he said. "Recently, a haystack flew up in the air near Yate, due to an air

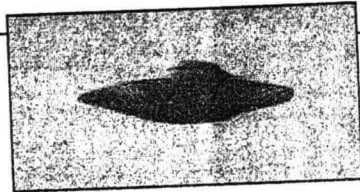
funnel." The West group, a branch of the British UFO Research Association, folded in 1980.

"We used to see lots of strange lights over the Mendips, but I think they were cars going up the hills," recalled Paul, who is now preparing a book about Bristol ghosts.

Other good news for Sean and Nick is that the Mannheim-Heidelberg Film Festival has

agreed to put up the cash for about half of the movie's estimated £300,000 cost.

They also have on board a Canadian co-producer, Andre Bennett, who has produced Atom Egoyan (The Sweet Hereafter) and Guy Maddin (The Saddest Music In The World), and distributed arthouse heavyweights such as Andrei Tarkovsky and Theo Angelopoulos.



RECORDER, Brentwood, England - Sept. 9, 2005

'They floated off getting higher and higher'

Orange UFO sighting baffles family

ACACIA AVENUE has become synonymous with leafy suburbia where nothing ever happens - but that doesn't seem to be the case anymore for one family in the Elm Park road of that name.

For the down-the-to-earth Smalley family, the idea of visitors from outer space was - well, alien - but they are now having to reassess their ideas after witnessing a baffling light display in the night sky above their home.

It all happened on Monday, August 30, at about 10pm as 53-year-old Janet Smalley was getting a breath of fresh air outside.

She suddenly spotted something in the sky, spurring her to summon her family to the back garden.

Undulating

One of her two sons, Dancil, 25, brought his binoculars with him. He said: "I thought it was a balloon at first - it was orange - but once I looked through my binoculars I could see it was undulating like a jellyfish."

"I couldn't get a clear enough view. The lights seemed to flicker like flames and were bright. The balloon had several little points of light in the centre of it, almost in a triangular arrangement."

"There were three in all; each was about a minute or two apart and appeared in sequence from left to right across the sky."

"They floated off towards Romford over the houses, all the time getting higher and higher. It was like a firework, but its course was too direct. It disappeared into the stars."

Her other son, Alan, 28, and husband Peter, 53, were also awestruck as they watched the amazing lightshow.

After researching on the Internet, Daniel discovered the strange sighting could be something called "earthlights" - natural phenomena of unex-

By EDEN BLACK

plained origin.

Daniel said: "From the way I described the incident to people on Internet sites, it seems as if it was an unidentified flying object, I am as sceptical about UFOs as the next person."

"To me it is all rubbish and I would never think they exist. But we are totally freaked out and have no idea what they were."

An MoD spokesman said: "It doesn't look like this can be explained militarily. I haven't heard of an orange light before. The MOD doesn't investigate all reports of UFOs, only if they are a direct threat to the UK defence. We haven't launched an investigation."

If you saw the strange occurrence e-mail the Recorder at news.desk@romfordrecorder.co.uk

Friends witness new 'close encounter'

EXACTLY a week after the Smalley family spotted UFOs above their Elm park home, a group of friends in a car had a similarly eerie "close encounter" less than half-a-mile away writes JAMES COLASANTI.

Shortly before 9pm on Monday (September 5), Russell Careford, 33, was driving to his home in Vernon Road, Collier Row, with friends - Richard Carter, 20, Kirsty Thornton, 19, and Ricky Thornton, 17. They had been flying model aeroplanes at Brettons playing fields on Rainham Road.

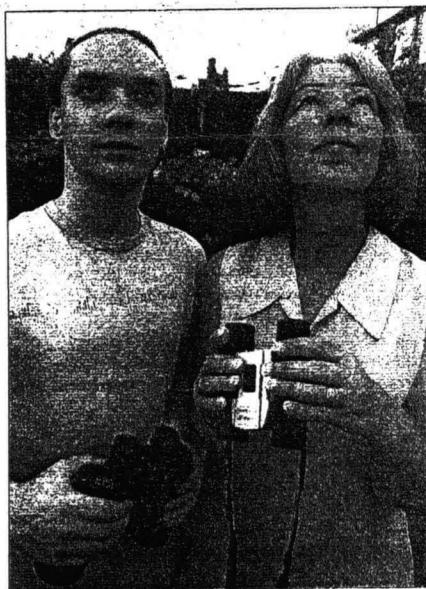
As they approached the traffic lights on Upper Rainham Road near Roneo Corner, Hornchurch, he noticed a "burning orange light" hovering in the sky.

Taxi-driver Russell said: "It looked like a ball of fire travelling across the sky."

Richard, of North Street, Romford, explained: "It remained motionless for a couple of minutes, while a bunch of motorists and pedestrians stared up in amazement. Then it shot straight up into the sky and disappeared."

A Met Office spokesman said: "The weather was clear on both occasions, and there is no obvious weather related cause. One possible explanation might be if they were looking westwards as the sun set below the horizon it may have illuminated something strangely. But this is unlikely."

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said they had no reports of either incident.



● Janet with her son Daniel scan the sky.

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England - Sept. 30, 2005

UFO sightings rise appeal

UFO sightings in and around Wolverhampton are rising and people's video footage of strange lights will be used to aid research across the world.

A home recording of silver lights flashing in a clear blue sky was sent to Japan. The recording, made at Lichfield in August last year, has similar features to other sightings in Mexico.

It will also be used in a BBC online feature at Halloween. It followed

footage of six silver discs hovering over a field in Perton, near Wolverhampton.

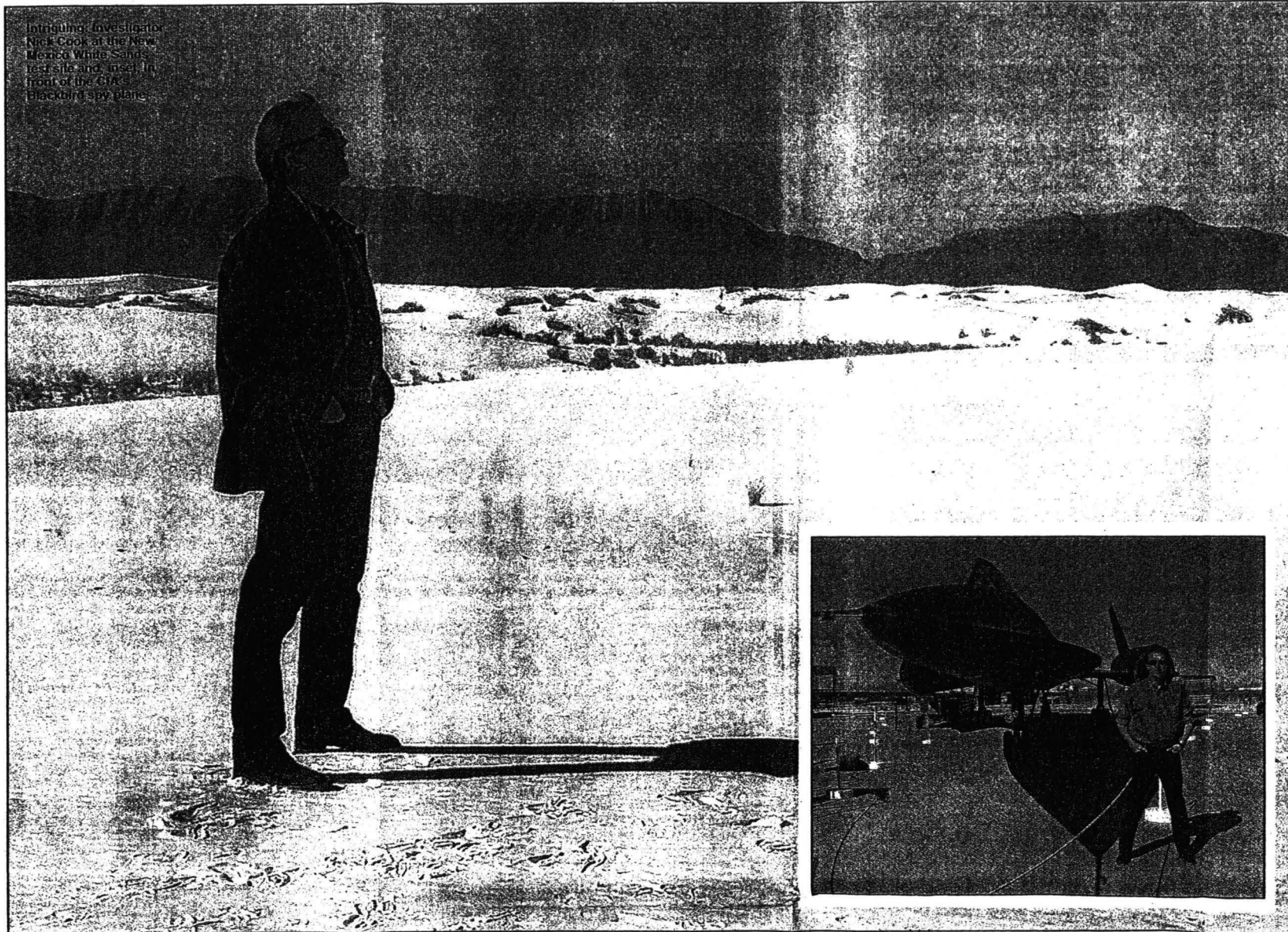
Graham Allen, Staffordshire UFO Group chairman, said: "Wolverhampton has had its fair share of sightings but what we are seeing covers the entire county. There have been many multi-witness sightings which gives us a great deal to go on."

"There are anomalies which do not lend itself to the explanation that these

objects were birds or balloons." One recording showing orange balls of light hovering featured in Cannock Chase UFO Hotspot UK and won the Staffordshire UFO Group an Extra-terrestrial Biological Entity Award (EBE) at March's World UFO Conference.

Mr Allen wants anyone who sees anything in the sky they cannot explain to call him on 01889 585149.

The truth is out there – or is it?



Investigator Nick Cook at the New Mexico White Sands test site and, inset, in front of the CIA's blackbird spy plane.

UFOS: THE SECRET EVIDENCE

Channel 4, Thursday, 9pm

Is something out there – or do all UFO sightings have a mundane explanation to them? After watching this two-hour investigation by journalist Nick Cook, we'll be in a better position to judge.

Channel 4 promises us an insight into "a world of mystery and deceit", with the last word obviously referring to all the con artists who have rigged up pictures of flying saucers using just such a utensil.

Cook, who describes himself as a British Aerospace specialist, has spent 20 years probing strange and secret military aircraft.

In this programme, he casts his expert eye over tales of close encounters and alien abduction in a bid to discover whether a common factor links these objects that have been intriguing us for so long.

Interviews and classified info

As well as dramatic reconstructions and first-hand accounts, there are interviews with military experts and historians, plus revelations stemming from secret blueprints and classified government memos.

We've been led to believe that the earliest UFO sightings were made during World War II, but it seems they have been around a lot longer than that.

In 1909, a PC Kettle from Peterborough heard a strange buzzing sound from above. When he looked up, he saw a bright light attached to an huge, oblong-shaped craft, which moved at high speed across the sky. Many more sightings were reported.

In that same year, on Caerphilly Mountain in South Wales, a member of the public reported an encounter with two strangely dressed occupants talking to each other in a strange language.

As other sightings were reported over the next four years, legislators fearing mystery craft entering British airspace were moved to strengthen the Aerial Navigation Act of 1911. Thirty years on,

On the box with our man in the know TV Editor David Humphrey



strange balls of light and small, metallic objects seen by both Allied and Axis pilots during World War II.

A file in the Public Record Office describes how aircrew from Bomber Command's 115 Squadron saw some of these strange objects on raids in December 1943.

Shortly after the war, a wave of "Ghost Rocket" sightings were reported across Scandinavia.

But UFOs came into their own in 1950, when the Sunday Express began serialising Gerald Heard's book *The Riddle of the Flying Saucers* and the Sunday Dispatch ran extracts from Frank Scully's *Behind the Flying Saucers* and Donald Keyhoe's *The Flying Saucers are Real*.

Earl Mountbatten of Burma, who took a close interest in the subject, read the Dispatch articles avidly and wrote to the editor saying: "These extraordinary things have now been seen in almost every part of the world – Scandinavia, North America, South America, Central Europe, etc. Reports are always appearing and the newspapers generally try to ridicule them."

"As a result it is difficult for any seriously interested person to find out very much about them. I should therefore like to congratulate you on having had both the intelligence (and, incidentally, the courage) to print the first serious helpful article which I have read on the Flying Saucers. I have read most other accounts up to date, and can candidly say yours interested me the most."

Mountbatten's own country house was visited by a UFO on February 23, 1955.

Frederick Briggs, a bricklayer employed at Broadlands in Hampshire, described it as resembling a spinning top, metallic and about 20 or 30 feet in diameter with portholes around the centre.

Too many pints at the village inn beforehand – or a genuine extraterrestrial experience?

You be the judge.

'I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE'

■ Latest UFO is spotted hovering over Birch Hill homes

By NICK CAPEHORN

A NOISY UFO woke Birch Hill residents in the early hours of Monday morning when it zoomed over the sleeping suburb.

The craft spent half-an-hour hovering above houses in Jevington before zipping towards South Hill Park, according to witnesses.

Susan Mallia, who called the *Midweek* to see if anyone else reported the strange sight, said: "I have never seen anything like that before. It looked like a pile of scaffolding with lights, red, blue and orange ones."

"It also had a big spotlight that was moving around. I don't think it was a helicopter because it sounded like a vacuum cleaner or a generator."

"Perhaps it was a weather balloon. It was very noisy, and it would have woken everyone in the area. It woke me at 2.30am and my husband and I watched it for half an hour."

"Just as he went to get his camera it headed off to South Hill Park and was out of sight - but we could still hear it."

Midweek's sister paper the *Bracknell News* was invaded with calls of an extra-terrestrial nature over the summer as UFOs flocked to observe the town.

Nowhere in Bracknell Forest



Are the aliens back? How we reported other UFO sightings at the Coppid Beech Hotel on July 7 and at Crown Wood just over a week later.

was left out of the spacemen's tour, with the paper reporting sightings at the Coppid Beech Hotel (July 7), Birch Hill (July 14), Crown Wood (July 19), Binfield and College Town (July 28) and another in Binfield (August 30).

The *News* also interviewed local man Terry Walters, who claims he was operated on by aliens in the 1960s and has also

exorcised a borough councillor's home. Since then alien visitors seemed to have flown south for the winter, but it appears they

are once again spying on the town's residents. If you have had a close encounter, contact the UFO hotline on 01344 456611.

'It also had a big spotlight that was moving around. I don't think it was a helicopter because it sounded like a vacuum cleaner.'



UFOs spotted in Whitby's skies

STRANGELY similar reports of more UFO sightings in the Whitby area were made and civil and military authorities had no explanation.

Farmer Clifford Dowson, of High Newbiggin Farm, Aislaby, and his daughter, Melinda, who first saw flashing lights the previous month, said they appeared again at the weekend.

Whitby police said they had one call from an Ellerby woman reporting UFOs above the village in the early hours last Saturday.

The woman said she saw two saucer shaped objects with red and white flashing lights above her home - they were soundless and flew off towards Teesside.

A senior police spokesman said the woman appeared rational and sensible.

The police said that, according to RAF Fylingdales, there were no aircraft in the area at the time and there was no information on any kind of a flying exercise.

A Scarborough couple said they were travelling to Whitby the same night at 7.45pm when they saw two flashing lights approach Whitby along the coast from different directions and hover briefly over the town.

Dorothy Clegg, of Whitby, also saw the lights the previous month while travelling along the moor road from Guisborough towards Whitby.

She stopped to watch them at the Egton bend. The lights, two bright red ones, were about 300 to 400ft up, said Mrs Clegg. "They didn't vary in height and didn't move one way or the other, but moved a little around a fixed point."

Joan Dowson - Mr Dowson's wife - described several calls from people who had also seen the lights.

"The first person to phone said she was coming back from Sandsend at the time and it was exactly how it was described in the *Gazette*."

"A Robin Hood's Bay woman said she had seen the lights two weeks ago and asked her neighbour what it was."

"She said it was soundless and was not a plane. A young boy travelling to Ughorpe saw the lights on Friday 'spinning and flashing' and a family was travelling back from a hospital visit to Scarborough when the light suddenly appeared above them."

"A young man spotted them over Blue Bank on Saturday and a woman who saw them this Saturday was very agitated and contacted the police and RAF Fylingdales."

"She was told there was nothing registering on the Fylingdales screens."

"My husband and daughter also saw them again this weekend both on Friday and Saturday."

Steve left puzzled over mysterious sighting

A north Shropshire man who claims he saw a glowing object travelling in the skies is searching for answers.

Steve Powell, 49, who lives near Prees Green, was shocked to find no one else knew about the mysterious object he had seen the night before.

Mr Powell even called RAF Shawbury to see if they had received any reports or had any information about the sighting, and again drew a blank.

He described the object as being a big round orange ball, about the size of a full moon in the sky. After Steve and his wife Cynthia watched the object for nearly a minute it dimmed and eventually faded away.

Steve is now wondering why no one else witnessed the phenomenon, which he believes was a meteor crashing to earth.

He said: "To be honest I was expecting there to be quite a bit about this on the news,

but no one seems to have seen it. It looked like a UFO to start with and didn't seem to be moving, but it obviously was and had a bit of a trail behind it."

"It then dimmed after about 60 seconds and then went from a large ball to nothing, perhaps bouncing off the atmosphere."

"That's why I thought people would know about it because if it hit the ground there would be a big impact."

"It was a really amazing sight and I have

certainly never seen anything like it before. I'm surprised no one else saw it because it was massive."

Squadron Leader Martin Locke, from RAF Shawbury, said no reports had been received about the strange sighting.

He said: "Occasionally we get people calling when they have seen something in the sky and want to know if we have any information, or if other people have reported it. Not on this occasion though."

LAST NIGHT ON TELEVISION

Gerard O'Donovan

Listening to Radio 4 last week I was amazed to hear British UFO enthusiasts bemoaning the decline in flying saucer sightings in recent years. Membership of the UK's crick-necked sky-watching fraternity reached its apogee in the late 1970s, coinciding tellingly with the release of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. But, as with spacehips, memberships are currently in freefall too; so much so

they could barely scrape enough people together to hold an annual convention this year. UFOs, it seems, are very last century.

So I was surprised to hear Nick Cook claiming at the start of *UFOs: The Secret Evidence* (C4) that more people than ever believe in their existence. Where's the evidence for that, I wondered? But none came. Indeed, one of the more striking features of Cook's tour of the outer limits was how little hard evidence, as against hearsay, he produced in the course of two hours. Cook, a longtime aviation expert with *Jane's Defence Weekly*, has written widely on cutting-edge aerospace technology. Recently he made a fine documentary for the Discovery Channel, *Billion Dollar Secret*, in which he exposed the obscene amounts

of American tax dollars poured into unsupervised and unaccountable top-secret US defence projects in the last 50 years. But here he seemed uncomfortable with a subject he referred to as "taboo... for a journalist like me". He was constantly compelled to remind us of his journalistic credentials - perhaps to convince us he's not the sort who believes in aliens. For all his earnestness, though, he had no objections to being filmed looking all moody and wandering around with a torch pretending to be searching through dusty file racks in secret cellars, in the hope of adding a spurious atmosphere of mystery to the proceedings.

As it was, his 60-year history of mankind's encounters with unidentified flying objects was full of fascinating events and occurrences but his

investigations into them never seemed to get anywhere decisive. Could Allied air crews' experiences with so-called "foo fighters" over Germany during the Second World War be evidence of advanced Nazi technology? Well, maybe (or maybe not). Might there be some significance to the fact that most UFO sightings cluster around US air bases, such as Roswell and the notorious Area 51? Well, gee, it's not impossible. Could reports of alien abduction have more to do with psychological imbalance than little green Martians eager to conduct silly experiments? Gosh, do you think...?

From London to the Sudetenland, Moscow to New Mexico, Cook trod his weary way but the hard facts always trickled from his grasp. In the end, he concluded that the

UFO phenomenon was probably either wholly invented or hijacked by the CIA as a convenient means of explaining away the US air force's frequently botched efforts to develop superior aircraft and espionage technology during the Cold War. Which, while entirely reasonable, even likely, will hardly have struck many viewers as either particularly original or revealing.

For three weeks now, ace hotelier and chef Ruth Watson has been *The Hotel Inspector* (Five), trying to help novice innkeepers keep their heads above water - with limited success. Last night, she was at Worlington Hall, a lovely Suffolk country house hotel which sisters Sarah and Joy were struggling to stop haemorrhaging money. A few good tips about first

impressions, reduced menu choices and the art of attracting wedding receptions and they were soon back on the road to profitability.

Despite Watson's strong personality, good presentation and enthusiasm this series has never really caught light. Unlike more cynical (but more entertaining) shows of the type, the producers haven't tried to make melodramas out of every minor crisis. But still a smidgen of drama wouldn't hurt. Were the emphasis more on what's at stake rather than the practicalities of rescue there would be a stronger sense that what she's doing matters. Watson knows how a little something extra can make all the difference in a hotel. Perhaps if the principle were applied to her TV show, too, more viewers would come to stay.

Would you offer ET a nice cup of tea?



EIGHT out of 10 people believe that aliens exist – and some want to invite them in for a cup of tea.

A new survey has shown that Britain is a nation of believers when it comes to otherworldly sightings.

The results have struck a chord with people in Lincolnshire, which has a high number of alleged UFO sightings.

One in 15 people believe they have seen a UFO and half would like to experience life on another planet.

Nine per cent of people would invite any aliens they saw in for a drink.

The figures come from a survey by the Science Museum ahead of a new exhibit, The Science of Aliens.

Horncastle-based astronomer Paul Money said the figure did not surprise him at all.

"I think alien belief has become a lot more common in the last 10 years," he said.

"It's partly due to much more science fiction exploring the possibility of aliens.

"It's also down to more and more new planets being discovered outside our solar system.

"At the moment the problem with

by Emma Pearson

emma.pearson@lincolnshireecho.co.uk

exploration is that the galaxy is so big that it would take 100,000 years to get to some planets.

"However, even here on earth we have mayflies that have a lifespan of a few hours and us who can have a lifespan of up to 100 years.

"So I see no reason why some aliens couldn't have a lifespan measured in thousands of years. Then it would be possible for them to travel to earth."

Documents show that in the last five years there have been seven sightings in Lincolnshire which cannot be easily dismissed or explained away.

In November 2001 a resident of Gonerby, near Grantham, reported that his house started to shake and he lost power when a mysterious "glowing object" appeared in the sky above it.

Another resident said they saw a "speeding light" which turned 180 degrees back on itself instantaneously.

A Lincoln resident also wrote to the Echo saying that he had seen a UFO hovering over Lincoln Cathedral.

The Ministry of Defence keeps records of UFO sightings, but does not investigate them.

The new exhibition opens at the Science Museum in London in October.

It explores the search for alien life and attempts to distinguish science from science fiction.

Exhibition content manager Stephen Foulger said: "It's very interesting that, like me, so many people think aliens exist.

"I find it almost impossible to believe that life has not evolved somewhere else in such a vast universe.

"The exhibition is a fascinating way to explore the very real possibilities for alien life and discover that science can be stranger than fiction."

Do you believe in aliens? Write to Your View, at the Lincolnshire Echo, Brayford Wharf East, Lincoln, LN5 7AT.

Or e-mail yourview@lincolnshireecho.co.uk



ABDUCTION: Aliens hover above actor Tom Cruise before they beam him up on to their UFO in hit movie War of the Worlds.

□ Echo Interactive>>>>

For more stories about life in Lincolnshire visit www.thisislincshshire.co.uk/news

ALIEN SPECIES: Eight out of 10 people believe in creatures such as ET (below) or the beings from Men In Black (right).



Do you believe in little green men?



"I've not quite decided. I believe that we are not the only life forms in the galaxy but whether that is life as we know it or not is difficult to say."

Mark George (38)
security guard,
Lincoln.



"I don't know for sure one way or the other, but I don't really believe that it is possible that there is life on another planet apart from earth."

Claire Hooper (18)
full time mum,
Lincoln.



"I think it is all rubbish. I've never seen anything like a UFO and I think that the UFO sightings are not real. I don't believe in them."

Leon Howsham (20),
Lincoln.



"I believe in aliens. Nothing unexplained has ever happened to me but I believe UFO sightings are real. Why shouldn't they be?"

Billy Powell (29)
horse rider,
Hemswell.

TOP SECRET WEST FIFE U.F.O. FILES DISCLOSED

REVEALED

Ministry releases records on close encounter

A DOSSIER of X-files uncovered from defence archives has revealed the full mystifying details of an unexplained UFO sighting near Dunfermline.

The Ministry of Defence has been forced to disclose records under new freedom of information legislation that reveal a startling eye-witness account of strange events which suggest we are not alone.

The defence files reveal how a witness reported a UFO with strange lights hovering in the sky in West Fife and how MoD officials are still baffled by the sighting over a decade after it was reported.

Photographer

On a winter's afternoon in 1994 a photographer travelled to Craigluscar Reservoir near Dunfermline to shoot images of the wild scenery to help with a painting of the area.

As he was taking photos the man's attention was suddenly caught by a strange noise near the reservoir and as his eyes turned towards the sky he saw a bizarre saucer-like object moving through the air.

The stunned photographer managed to keep his composure long enough to capture two images of the alleged UFO before it soared away.

Unsolved

But now the MoD has been forced to reveal that it had known about the unsolved sighting at the reservoir for the past 11 years.

The defence files state, "The individual reported travelled to Craigluscar Reservoir on the afternoon of 19th February 1994. He heard a humming noise, turned towards the reservoir and saw a disc-like object high in the sky

TO date, the MoD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

The MoD examines any reports of 'UFO' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance."

"Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no 'UFO' report has

revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting.

We believe it is possible that rational explanations could be found for them, but it is not the function of the MoD to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

We could not justify expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond our specific defence remit."



Here's what the MoD says about things like this

POST, Cannock Chase, England - Sept. 22, 2005

Paranormal team report UFO activity

Paranormal investigators have documented evidence of UFO activity during an in-depth research mission over a Chase beauty spot.

Members of Paranormal Awakening team recently completed a night time investigation of Castle Ring Monument in the hope of documenting evidence to back-up the glut of UFO sightings over the Chase woodland.

The group recorded a video of strange lights in the sky and unexplained phenomena on the ground. They have published their findings on their website and hope the footage will provoke further research from experts in the field of paranormal activity.

A spokesperson for the paranormal investigators said: "The Cannock Chase local authorities were kind enough to give permission for PA to conduct its research. Indeed we are extremely grateful to them for being so open minded as to allow us to conduct our research at this historical and

**Exclusive
by Kevin Edge
kevin_edge@mrn.co.uk**

most important monument.

"The group's results are stunning and have created yet more questions than we have answers. We appear to have obtained a very strange mix of UFO and genuine paranormal activity.

"I have a twenty minute and sixteen second streaming edit of the strange lights in the sky recorded in colour on our web site. This video is best viewed full screen as I have included captions that indicate certain key events. The original source footage is DVD quality."

The Chase, specifically, the Castle Ring area, has long been regarded as a hotspot for sightings of paranormal activity. Earlier this year The Post reported members of Staffordshire UFO group had stepped up surveillance of the Chase beauty spot after a spate of similar sightings.

The members of Paranormal Research say they also recorded

footage of mysterious happenings on the ground at the historic site.

They said: "During our video recording in the centre of the ring, two of the three team members present witnessed a black object moving along the centre path towards them. Subsequent analysis of the audio on this video has a voice that is just audible.

"It follows researcher Susan Penton as she says, 'Stefan, Tell me that there's not something black moving along the path'.

"The EVP voice then clearly states 'THERE IS!' This voice does not correspond to any voices of the members present. We also have recorded another 27 EVP clips from its media analysed to date, from their five hour night time investigation session. For more information about the investigation visit <http://www.navigatortm.com>

Have you seen any UFO activity on the Chase? Write to us and tell us at: Chase Post News Desk, 103-106 High Green Court, Newhall Street, Cannock, WS11 1AB

moving slowly in his direction.

"He described the object as metallic, with several points of diffused light on its underside, inside a darker coloured rim.

"He took two photographs before the object moved away to the west. Air defence staff were consulted at the time and record show that there had been no unusual radar returns."

These astonishing events have still never been explained but the MoD have been forced to reveal their knowledge of them under the Freedom of Information Act (FoI).

Officials at the MoD say they do not attempt to identify any alleged UFOs unless they are deemed to be a threat to national security and the sighting near Dunfermline posed no such threat.

The search for extraterrestrial life-forms has been thrust into the public eye by Hollywood blockbusters like Independence Day and War of the Worlds.

UFO sightings have also been recorded in Saline in Fife with witnesses sighting a disc or triangular shaped object.

The ministry has had hundreds of requests for UFO information since the FoI act was passed through Parliament. Officials say the MoD does not have any expertise in the field of UFOs or flying saucers but remains "open minded" about extra terrestrial life.

Real-life X-Files man comes to Cornwall

THE man who investigated Britain's "real X-Files" will be making his way to the county next year to meet local UFO researchers.

Nick Pope was the Ministry of Defence official responsible for investigating UFOs, alien abductions and crop circles in the early 1990s.

He was described as the UK's "Fox Mulder" and has been snapped up for the Cornwall UFO Research Group's 10th anniversary conference.

Dave Gillham, the group's chairman, said he is looking forward to a special event in 2006.

"Next year will be the big one because it will be our 10th anniversary and we are looking at running it over two days.

"It's brilliant that we've booked Nick Pope but some people suspect he is just a plant who tells us what we want to hear while keeping other things hidden."

There have been several sightings of UFOs over the West Country this year, at areas including Porthleven and Chacewater.

They were under the spotlight at Saturday's annual conference, which was attended by more than 80 people.

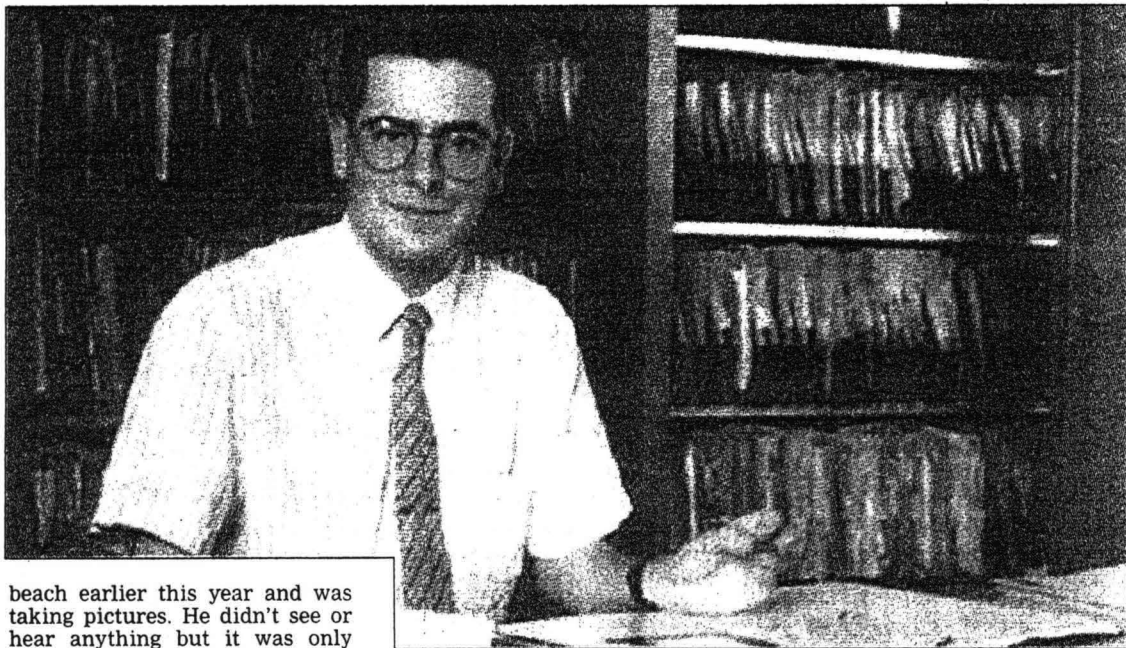
"Everyone went away smiling. We had some good presentations and parts of it just blew my mind," said Mr Gillham.

Some of the topics at the conference included pyramids, earth mysteries and mind dimensions, as well as UFOs.

"We haven't had too many reports recently but a chap from Kent was in Chacewater in August and took some photos. When he looked at the processed pictures he saw six UFOs," said Mr Gillham.

"Another man was at Porthleven

UFO expert is guest speaker **Gareth Bartlett reports**



● Former Ministry of Defence man Nick Pope comes to Cornwall next year.

beach earlier this year and was taking pictures. He didn't see or hear anything but it was only when he downloaded them that he realised there was an object in the sky.

"We try and enlarge the photos but it needs to be done professionally and we don't have the funds to do that.

"I've seen things like orbs, lights and silver objects in the sky and I believe they are definitely out there because there are so many photographs of UFOs," he said.

"It's hard to find out where they are coming from. Over the years we are getting more questions than answers."

E-mail gbartlett@c-dm.co.uk

BURNTWOOD POST, Cannock, England - Oct. 6, 2005

UFO spotted

Sir,
On Wednesday, September 7 at 4pm in the afternoon my brother and I were driving back from Penkridge, I turned left onto the road where it takes you alongside a golf course by Pottal Pool. In the distance you could see the tower and the Chase when suddenly a brownish object was going across at a slow speed, it was not a plane.

As I drove further up the road I stopped in a forest gateway. My brother saw the object hovering above the trees, it was brown in colour.

We both watched it for about five minutes. It shot straight up at great speed. I came back home and told my mom. Then last Friday my friend told me about the story in the Chase Post.

I am a great believer in UFOs. I think there is somebody else out there.

S Smith
Walsall Wood
Walsall

ROCHDALE OBSERVER, Lancashire, England - Aug. 24, 2005

Dell is focus of hovering UFO mystery

by Beatriz Ayala

A MYSTERY has unfolded in Whitworth after a Levensgreave resident says he spotted a unidentified flying object hovering over Healey Dell.

Mike Walsh, who works in Salford as a social worker, was driving back home when he stopped by Cowm Reservoir.

To his surprise, the 47-year-old spotted a dark, dia-

mond-shaped object over the Dell which he says stayed put for about 10 minutes before disappearing into the clouds.

And Mr Walsh said he was not the only person to spot the mysterious shape. Two workmen near the reservoir saw the shape and tried to take photos of it.

Mr Walsh said: "I'd

stopped by the reservoir to shelter from the rain when I looked towards the dell and saw the black parallelogram about 500ft above the ground. It was about 250ft across.

"I'd never seen anything like this, but it was visible for about 10 minutes before disappearing into the clouds.

"It never changed shape or direction and didn't have any flashing lights or distinguishing features.

"Workmen, who I think were from United Utilities, saw the figure as well and were staring at it for a bit before attempting to take its picture.

"I've not got a great interest in UFOs or science fiction, but I did spot a silver object flying over Irlam in 1971."

A spokeswoman for United Utilities said: "We are not aware of anyone in the area at that time."

Man sees mysterious orb in sky

A Telford factory worker was astonished to see a mysterious yellow ball in the sky when he nipped out to his patio for a quick smoke.

Derek Evans, 51, of Acacia Drive, Leegomery, said the orb vanished behind a cloud in the direction of The Wrekin.

He contacted the Shropshire Star after reading about a similar sighting in north Shropshire by Prees Green resident Steve Powell, 49. Mr Powell and his wife Cynthia watched the object for nearly a minute before it faded away.

Mr Evans said his sighting happened on September 11, a Sunday night, as he was looking south west.

"I was amazed. I've never seen anything like it before and have never really believed it when people say they have seen a UFO."

STAR, Shropshire, England - Sept. 20, 2005

TRANSLATIONS

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

December 9, 2005 — *Diario de Merida*, Mexico and *Planeta UFO* — MEXICO: Newspaper Discusses the "Merida Martian" — ***Strange "creature" reported *** — Residents of Oriente fear going out at night and are avoiding a prowler by William Casanova Vazquez — The casual recording of an alleged close encounter of the third kind in a street of Fraccionamiento del Parque has transformed the lives of families in Merida's broad Oriente sector, who on the one hand seek financial gain from the arrival of national and international groups linked with extraterrestrial research and on the other, have modified their lives to avoid becoming the victims of alien beings.

"Now I shut my doors at nine at night and do not let my children go out after hours for any reason whatsoever," said a fearful Marycannen Avila Ordonez, who lives in Pacabtun.

Cristo Rey parish, the axis of this district's spiritual life, says that it has no reports on this event and that if there are any, they have not affected the religious life of that community. "We always receive reports of strange events immediately, such as the apparition of the Virgin some 8 years ago, but we have no reports of encounters between residents and aliens," said Carmen Zel Chuc, parish secretary.

The event became widely known when the recording reached the hands of Jaime Maussan, who broadcast it on his television show. The recording spread immediately from cell phone to cell phone, over the Internet, and as no other, went on to become the most widely transmitted throughout the Yucatan, relegating to second place the recording made by a young sales assistant at a downtown department store, who stripped naked for her boyfriend in front of the camera phone...a recording he chose to disseminate over the Internet.

The video's main protagonist is David Espadas Dzib, 18, a computer student at Conalep and having residence at in that district.

The young man says that on the eve of the Spring equinox at 2:30 a.m. on March 20th, he was playing with his friends only a few steps away from his house when the ball fell near a street lamp.

One of the boys, Jose Herrera, was trying out his new camcorder-equipped cell phone that day.

At the moment when the ball falls near the CFE street lamp and David runs to pick it up, he shouts that something touched him. His friends rush to his aid and at that time an unknown silhouette peers out from behind the street lamp. The boys run away screaming.

"It wasn't until the next day that we checked out Jose's recording and saw that I was touched by a strange creature. We agreed to say nothing because we would be accused of being insane or pranksters. The fear didn't let me sleep for two days and my crew didn't return to that alley for two months," says David.

His neighbor Wendy Lopez Manzanero says that when she learned of the recording, she decided to never walk along that alley again.

"I didn't believe in those things, but the boys that suffered that strange experience are very sincere," says Carmen Dehesa Uribe, a local who claims to be the niece of author German Dehesa. Her niece, Naine Peraza Solis, says she's afraid to play with her friends at night.

Frightened neighbors aside, the young men involved in this event first suffered the mockery of other boys and some neighbors, and later, the disenchantment of being famous without any profit.

"Will we get something in exchange for this interview? Jaime Maussan asked me not to grant interviews without his permission. Everyone's getting rich at my expense--sensationalist magazines, radio and TV shows, and I haven't gotten a single peso," complains David.

He points out that when the video displaying the alleged encounter passed through the first inspections by specialists in ufology, Maussan promised him part of the earnings from the sale of the recording to a Japanese TV network. He took him to hold lectures and conferences on the subject. "All I've gotten is laughed at." — CREDIT: Carlos Martinez

December 23, 2005 — *www.analuisacid.com.mx* — Triangular UFO Over Mexico — A video was taken by Sergio Javier Mayen Cigarroa, whose camera recorded the passing of a triangular UFO over the Torre Blanca district of the Mexican capital.

The images were taken on December 16, 2005 and the 16 year old witness was in the company of his younger sister Melissa, engaged in a routine skywatch from the roof of his house.

He was recording a stationary flying object when he noticed that another UFO was crossing his field of vision, clearly identifying it as a triangular object.

The evidence was captured on a Sony Handycam, model DCR-HC15, at approximately 8:15 p.m.

It is important to note that on that same evening, various sightings were reported over Mexico City and that the "Hechos" news program on Television Azteca transmitted the image of four luminous spheres flying over southern Mexico City in real time. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

December 28, 2005 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — ARGENTINA: UFO OVER NECOCHEA — On the evening of December 26, several witnesses – Marcelo Pintacuda among them, as he performed various duties at the Port of Necochea-Quequen – noticed a large strange circular object, yellow in color, that flew over the skies of Necochea. He managed to capture the image on his cellphone.

The object vanished toward the west of the city after having been visible for several minutes.

Mr. Pintacuda was engaged in supervising the unloading of fuel oil from the Antares I vessel to the Necochea Power Station, property of Centrales de la Costa Atlantica SA, which employs this fuel for operating purposes.

The Necochea Power Station is located in the Port of Necochea next to the Quequen River and facing the sea.

Pintacuda is an agent for this branch and was engaged in fire watch activities at the time during the unloading of 8000 tons of fuel oil to the station.

The incident is currently under investigation and the images are being downloaded presently from his Motorola C650 cellphone. The month of December has been rich in UFO activity over Necochea. We should keep in mind the cases involving employees of the DYCASA company, who are working on the expansion of the breakwater in the port itself, which also faces the Necochea Power Station.

A considerable number of people saw this large object that vanished over the sea and toward the south. The cases involving a Necochean family that saw a similar round object as they returned home along the

coastal route, and another family that saw a similar object over the beach should not be discarded.
As we said, all cases are currently under investigation. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez

December 30, 2005 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — ARGENTINA: ANOTHER UFO SIGHTED IN SANTA ROSA by Salvador Valentin Carta, (Santa Rosa, La Pampa) — This event took place at 16:10 hours on December 24, 2005, when two persons in Santa Rosa (La Pampa, Argentina) noticed an object that drew their attention. Said object was "high" with regard to the witnesses, some 42 degrees from their perspective and from the ground, heading east, directly over our town's Hospital, from which the onlookers were 600 meters distant.

It turned out that the object, whose color was silvery, like burnished aluminum, remained there for approximately 10 minutes -- stationary over the medical facility -- and then slowly and steadily moved toward the northeast, coming closer to the witnesses and remaining at a constant altitude.

At that point, the object stopped some 75 degrees above the witnesses as it progressed toward the northeast. During that "stop," another object having similar characteristics went right past the initial UFO, but at a dazzling speed, from northwest to southeast, crossing between the witnesses and the static object. When asked if the object flew rapidly, etc., they merely replied that it "passed" [overhead], not giving them time for anything. I will provide you later on with the pertinent calculations to ascertain the velocity, considering that this happened in a split-second. It did not leave a wake nor any points of reference; it was identical to the stationary object.

After this, in a steady and constant manner, the "main" UFO headed northeast toward the airfield, according to the witnesses, until it accelerated and vanished from sight at a given moment.

I believe that the object would have been some 20-25 meters in diameter and was at an elevation of 300 meters. This conclusion is drawn based upon my inquiries from the witnesses, who used their outstretched hands and thumbs for comparison, stating that the object covered [an area the size] of a thumbnail. — CREDIT: Salvador Valentin Carta

January 2, 2006 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina and *El Once Digital* — ARGENTINA: NEW UFO CASE REPORTED IN VICTORIA — The print found resembles that of a web-footed creature. A local resident and a researcher claim that strange beings left prints in a swimming pool.

A renowned UFO researcher from the city of Victoria and a local resident claimed that strange beings left their footprints and traces at a swimming pool.

By means of a public complaint, the owner of a weekend home located on the outskirts of Victoria claimed to have found that the swimming pool had been drained almost by half in a matter of hours, and that several strange footprints could be seen inside it, resembling those of a palmiped creature.

Silvia Perez Simondini, a renowned UFO researcher, reported to the scene, expressing no surprise whatsoever and asserting that it is further proof of what has been occurring in this city for over 15 years, and which few people are ever willing to report.

According to the Victoria Noticias website, the researcher claimed that certain footprints could be seen within the pool, aside from prints similar to those of a palmiped, which were intact in spite of the water's movement, leading to the belief that an artifact unknown to experts had landed there.

The estate, located in a ranching area, would have "received the visit of [a] web-footed creature," to judge by the fact that the footprints resemble extremities with an inter-digital membrane.

Moreover, Perez Simondini's daughter entered the pool to ascertain if her own feet would leave similar marks to the ones found -- and which did not vary in spite of the water's movement -- and verified that her own vanished almost immediately. In this regard, Perez Simondini argued that this was due to "the energy of the beings that entered the pool."

Eyewitness accounts from those who saw the pool attest to the fact that the prints are nearly perfect and impossible to make deliberately under water.

Strange events involving UFOs have repeated periodically in this city since the early '90s. "Some of them are in the public domain; others have been concealed for fear of ridicule or to the remarks of those who remain skeptical when presented with the evidence gathered by those engaged in studying the UFO phenomenon in our city," said the researcher. — CREDIT: Guillermo D. Gimenez

January 3, 2006 — *www.infobae.com* and *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — ARGENTINA: Careful, there's a UFO on the Road — A bus traveling from Cordoba to San Luis was forced to stop due to the presence of a flying saucer on the road. A passenger says everyone got out to take a look at the phenomenon.

A woman claimed having seen a UFO last Friday on the route linking the province of Cordoba with San Luis, while she traveled as a passenger in a microbus belonging to the Andesmar Company.

The passenger said that during the night, the bus stopped along the highway, facing an enormous light and that other passengers and drivers got out of the vehicle to witness the event.

"The time was 21:45 and the bus suddenly stopped. Upon looking down the aisle, I noticed a huge light in the middle of the road. I immediately jumped out of my seat and saw something that I will never forget: a cone-shaped light in the middle of the road," the passenger told the *El Liberal* newspaper.

Later on, the woman said that she felt herself overcome by a sensation of peace and curiosity, to the extent that she began taking photos of the object with her digital camera.

"Suddenly, the object was enveloped in a bluish-white light and started to spin like a top and rise straight up, lighting the landscape like daytime. In the measure that it ascended, it issued colored lights in intense phosphorescent shades. It suddenly disappeared to become a glowing dot. I immediately began perceiving an odor of heated metal that blended with a very particular smell resembling sulfur," remarked the traveler. — CREDIT: Martha U.

The following is just in from Luis Eduardo Pacheco of *Proyecto Stratocat*:

The news item in question was published today by *INFOBAE.COM* reprinting what was published by the *El Liberal* newspaper from Santiago del Estero.

"It should be made clear that the ANDESMAR bus line has not issued at this time any communique, nor was one issued by the Cordoba or San Luis police authorities. It is not possible to conduct any further investigations because the information does not specify the exact place that the sighting occurred. In spite of this, I sent a message to the ANDESMAR bus line, headquartered in the city of Mendoza, asking if the crew of the bus in question had filed a report. As soon as this information is obtained I will pass it along.

"The only information available at the time is the account furnished by Miryan Coronel, a passenger

aboard the vehicle, who was heading toward the town of Loreto in Santiago del Estero, planning to spend New Year's Eve with her relatives. If anyone has any additional information, it would be interesting to have it made known in order to have more specific data on this sighting."

Inexplicata will continue to report any follow-up to this alleged UFO landing in Argentina.

Scott Corrales

January 3, 2006 — *Diario Parana*, Entre Rios, Argentina — Enigmatic Manifestations of "Imps" Return to Parana — Residents of the Antartida Argentina district reported with emotional credibility the strange manifestation of "imps," which according to their accounts, climb up and down trees and "hurl stones like white flower buds."

In the Parana neighborhood known as Antartida Argentina, in the northwestern area of Parana and close to the municipal dump, local residents reported to a Canal Once camera crew the appearance of "white imps" that began to appear on the afternoon of Thursday, December 29, 2005.

According to their bemused testimony, "the neighborhood children would throw rocks at them and these would be returned with remarkable swiftness." The "imps" replied violently with a barrage of their own. They pummeled the children and some other locals with not very severe bumps and bruises.

The phenomenon has been repeating itself every night from Thursday, December 29, onward. "It starts around 8 and ends around 2 in the morning."

It all began because [the locals] have a neighborhood Christmas tree that they put up every year. When they tried to take it down, the "dwarves" manifested themselves and expressed their disapproval. "When we turned off the lights, they would get angry and toss stones. They would calm down when they were turned on again."

At first, seeing that the strange "white imps" were living in the trees, they chopped down some of them but "the dwarves were enraged and began throwing stones. It was then we called the Police to do something."

According to a local resident, the phenomenon was witnessed by some "800 to 900 people who were there until 2 in the morning," among them a considerable number of children. When the Police arrived, the locals said that Patrolman 97, allegedly belonging to the 5th Sheriff's Office, was accosted by the strange beings. "He wanted to light up the area with his spotlight and the light was reflected as if by a mirror," said Ricardo.

Policemen began to fire their guns toward the place occupied by the "imps" and in return, these entities "began throwing stones. It was like a shower of them and only the police officers were being hit. Not even the locals and the kids who were there were impacted," he added. "There were so many stones that the cops had to go."

Neighborhood children consulted by Canal Once said [the beings] were "small, white and lolled their tongues. They looked like people and their hands were small," said a girl who claimed having seen them up close.

"There were seven of them. One was on the roof and jumped onto a tree," added the girl, with a broad smile and showing no fear.

"We cleared off the area completely in order to get them out of the trees. We surrounded them. Some had them close enough at hand to grab," said a neighbor. "We felt somewhat of a chill, because they didn't hit us with stones, but they hit the police a lot. The kids provoked [the creatures], threw rocks at them and had them returned. If you threw a brick, they'd throw it back," he explained with concern.

The aggression by the "white imps" against the neighbors were not significant, although some said that the children emerged "with bumps and bruises [from rock impacts]; they were scared and even the boldest of them took off running."

"This isn't a gag by somebody. This is real. No one made it up. The kids are scared and I tell them not to be frightened, since [the creatures] could be angels," continued the neighbor, noting that "many people have said prayers about this."

"It's as though they wanted to play, because of the number of rocks thrown, there should have been blood and no one was injured." The neighbor explained that the entire place was weeded out and some trees were chopped down to ascertain "what was hiding in the place."

Other neighborhood children told Canal Once that "we saw them running across the treetops and the way they returned the stones we were throwing at them." They added that the stones were thrown by "imps like wide flower buds falling from the trees, and the very same stones we threw were coming out of that location."

The youngest girl finally added that "they were in the trees and mocking us." — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

January 5, 2006 — *El Once Digital*, Argentina — Exorcism Requested in Imp Manifestations — A mentalist provided some explanations about the manifestations of imps that residents of the Antartida Argentina neighborhood claim to have witnessed in the area near the municipal dump of Parana.

Ricardo Pereira, a mentalist from Parana, told Canal Once that "the origin of these imps is German and they are normally mistaken and given different names in different religions: They are known as Kiumba in the Umbanda religion; Judaism normally refers to them as the Egreo (sic), and they are entities that are unable to tell the difference between good and evil. These imps may adopt a given form so that children in particular can see them."

Pereira told Canal Once that "one must be very careful with them." Most people who claim having seen the white imps in the Parana neighborhood are kids and grownups claimed to see the tree branches swaying, but didn't see them. With regard to this, Pereira argued that "kids are more receptive than adults, since during the day, the latter are too worried about money, social problems and raising the family. On the other hand, kids are more open to play and dialogue. For that reason children can see them and adults cannot."

Regarding the reasons for this phenomenon, the mentalist suggested the possibility that "perhaps some rituals of a given religion were performed in the area where the imps are appearing, and certain offerings may have been made to attract their attention in order to use them for both good and evil, as these imps do not distinguish at all between good and evil," said Pereira. With regard to this characteristic of imps, the mentalist added that "if an imp sees that amusement may be had in striking a child or tugging his/her hair, it will do so. Wherever imps play, they have fun, since they cannot differentiate between good and evil."

Mentalist Pereira said that "the relationship between imps and children can be very dangerous, in fact", hastening to add: "We are not talking about angels - they're imps. While children can see them wearing the clothing and aspect of small clowns, this does not make them good. They are bad, and great care must be taken in the way they move and how they act."

Pereira related the practice of dark rituals to the phenomenon's manifestation. "There are people who summon these entities to do harm, in the same way we appeal to our faith to heal a sick person."

As to the origin of the phenomenon being witnessed by residents of Antartida Argentina, the mentalist explained that "someone opened a small portal. Human beings are from the third dimension, and for this reason we need a great deal of effects to be able to visualize them. The white imps are from the second dimension and cannot distinguish between dimensions. Someone opened a portal and has allowed them to go from one dimension to the next; if it isn't closed, these [events] will continue to occur."

Pereira says the following about the episode involving police in which--according to neighbors--law enforcement was injured by stones thrown by the garbage dump's imps after shots were fired against them. "If the imps are met with violence, they will retaliate with violence. They cannot be harmed regardless of how intense the police attacked them, because they are from another dimension that brushes against our own."

Regarding the Parana police department's decision not to issue an opinion or report on the subject, the mentalist said that "it seems logical, as the police does not employ its specialized qualities and knowledge in dealing with this type of phenomenon. It is only fitting that no report should be issued, as they should be aware of what it is they are dealing with."

In closing his dialogue with Canal Once, Pereira advised resorting to the Church in confronting the apparitions of imps, and requested that the area be exorcised of all manifestations. "I believe that the best thing to do is to have a priest visit the site of these events, as it is the best way to close down these portals. Today, I would recommend Church involvement, because there are priests at the Cathedral who can easily perform an exorcism." — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

CREDIT: Jane Thomas Guma

January 14, 2006 — *La Gaceta*, Tucuman, Argentina — SIGHTING — STRANGE FLYING OBJECT HAS BEEN PHOTOGRAPHED — A group of residents in San Luis claim they saw a UFO, a boy said he photographed it and a rancher says he discovered a mark in his field

San Luis - A teenager photographed a strange round object that was crossing the sky over the city of Villa Mercedes in San Luis, and this is now being investigated.

The strange sighting was apparently shared by several neighbors of that hilly tourist city, according to today's report.

Besides, the connection is being investigated between this sighting and the report from the owner of a field who said he had discovered a round mark on the ground with burn traces.

The event, published in today's *Diario de la Republica* of this city, happened last Saturday around 07:30 PM, when the youngster, whose identity was protected by his family, was having fun taking photos of the clouds from the patio in his home, in the 9 de Julio district.

At that time the boy could see a "strange object" slowly moving in the sky and focused on it, taking the photo. (Translator's note: this newspaper did not publish the photo.)

After the object was photographed, and described as 'similar to a ball', it kept moving until it was lost in the sky. According to the information provided by the local meteorological service in the Villa Reynolds area, they had no record of planes or other objects flying at that time.

Once the photo was enlarged, it shows an irregular sphere light in color, slightly elongated on its base with two appendages hanging down.

At first the incident was only kept as a family anecdote but when a local radio station mentioned the strange story of the owner of a nearby field, the father decided to go public with the image.

According to what the rancher said, he discovered a circle on the ground with traces of it having been burned in the rural property that he owns in the southern part of the city. That is why the link between the sighting of the object and this episode reported by the owner of the field is now being investigated. (NA - Noticias Argentinas)

January 16, 2006 — *La Nueva Provincia*, Bahia Blanca, Buenos Aires province, Argentina — 11:02 - Neighbors claim having seen a UFO in Villa Mercedes — Seventy-two hours after a teenager photographed a strange round flying object in the tourist city of Villa Mercedes in San Luis (province), several local residents claimed having seen a similar phenomenon from a much closer distance, it was reported today.

The new testimonies include one from a woman who said she was startled by an intense white light that filled her room and blinded her, and when she went outside she saw a strange flying object that gave off light beams at very low altitude.

This sighting was shared by another family and a group of teenagers in the same block where the woman lives, in the Libertad district. (NA)

January 21, 2006 — *www.infobae.com* — THEY CLAIM A UFO FLEW OVER THE PAZ MARTINEZ RECITAL — The well known artist was singing his romantic songs in a Puerto Deseado property. Witnesses said that when the show was about to end a strange object flew over the area.

It all happened on Saturday, January 21 st, during a recital by singer Paz Martinez in Puerto Deseado, north of Santa Cruz.

According to the Patagonian newspaper *elordendeseado.com*, mentioned by *Primiciasya.com*, a UFO flew over the estate where the recital was being held.

"During the last part of the author and singer's recital, a luminous object, very easy to see because of its size, was suddenly seen in the sky over the left side of the stage, flying towards the river mouth (it looked like a star, but larger)," witnesses said.

Two local residents dismiss that it may have been a satellite "because they fly in orbit and it's easy to follow them. It suddenly changed its course and very quickly turned into a small light that could be seen until it disappeared at very high altitude," they said.



Franklin County's Wild Crypto Zoo

by Tal H. Branco
guest writer

During the past four years the RFP Research Project has received numerous reports from residents of Western Arkansas concerning wild animals they have seen that did not resemble any known native or exotic species.

One such report was received from a life-long resident of Franklin County in early August of this year. On August 17 the writer drove to Ozark to meet the witness. It was a coincidence that Lucille Elder's "Barnes News" column in *The Spectator* that day mentioned another sighting of an enigmatic animal by a Cravens resident. Mrs. Elder herself had seen one of the animals about a year ago, and wrote about the encounter in her column dated Sept. 15, 2004.

The witness the writer had arranged to meet in Ozark is Harley Edgin who lives northeast of Ozark on the north side of Hwy. 352. The property consists of about 200 acres which is used for cattle ranching. In the fall of 1991 Edgin and a friend were driving across the property checking on the cattle when they observed two animals standing in the field watching the vehicle. Edgin stopped the truck and looked closely at the animals. He and his passenger had initially thought they were seeing two coyotes, but they soon realized they could not identify the animals.

The animals sat down on their haunches and nonchalantly watched the vehicle for a few minutes. During that time Edgin picked up his binoculars and looked intently at both animals for a short time. He then passed the binoculars to his passenger. The animals then ran to a barbed wire fence along the north side of the pasture and stopped beside it. At that time the animals were about 100 yards from the vehicle. The animals stood for a few minutes as the witnesses alternately continued to watch them through the binoculars. After a few minutes the animals turned and ran under the fence and into the woods.

Edgin stated the animals were unlike any he had ever seen. He said that one animal was about five inches shorter than the other - the larger being about three feet tall at the top of its shoulder. Both were the color of a bobcat, with heads that seemed oversized for the bodies. The head and nose were noticeably more like a canine's than a feline's.

According to Edgin, the most noticeable feature on the head was the animal's ears. He stated the ears were unusually large for the size of the head. The ears were reportedly mule-like about

six inches long with tufts of hair growing from their tips. He noted that the neck was also thick and muscular. He stated the animals had tails that were cat-like but longer than a bobcat's and shorter than a cougar's. He particularly noted the tails were rounded on the ends and not pointed like a dog's.

He said the animals possessed massive chests and very muscular front legs. Their back legs were noticeably shorter causing the back to be sloped like that of a hyena. When the animals ran, he states they "pushed off" using their front legs, landed on all four feet, and continued their travel in that springing fashion.

Edgin stated that on three other occasions, from 1995 to 1997, he saw one of these mysterious animals. He said that two of those sightings occurred on a tract of land south of the road from Watalula to the junction of Hwy. 219. On each occasion he was driving across the open field on that property and had a different passenger each time. Each time the occupants of the vehicle had an unobstructed view of the animal and it appeared to match in all respects the animals previously seen by Edgin.

During one of those encounters, the passenger saw the animal first and initially thought it was a deer, then decided it was a coyote, and finally decided he could not identify the animal. Edgin attempted to run the animal down in the open field with his truck and came within 20 feet of the animal but was unable to hit it. After the animal ran away, the passenger was still in awe of what he had seen and quietly told Edgin, "There ain't nothing right about that thing."

During Edgin's third encounter with one of the unknown animals on the same property, it was standing at the edge of the woods beside the pasture. He and a passenger watched it for about three or four minutes before it walked into the woods.

Edgin left and came back with another friend who brought along a gun. They reportedly found the animal's tracks in loose soil and leaves, inside a cedar glade. The three men noted that the animal's front paws left tracks that were generally round like a cat's and were about three inches in diameter. The back feet left similar but smaller tracks. Edgin stated the tracks were unusual in the fact that the front paw tracks were about 12 to 14 inches apart in the side-to-side direction, while the rear paw tracks were only about half that distance apart.

Edgin's last sighting of the animal occurred in 1996 or 1997 when one of the animals crossed Hwy. 219 in front of his truck just north of I-40.

Edgin previously arranged for this writer to meet with other area residents who also have seen animals they could not identify and this writer spent two days interviewing them.

The close encounter that Geraldine Wyers described was ominous and frightening. Her detailed observations portrayed an aggressive animal that has been similarly described in reports from Montgomery County and from LeFlore and McCurtain counties in Okla.

Wyers stated that in mid-summer of 1994 or 1995 she drove alone to a small branch below a stock pond dam on the parcel of land on which Edgin had previously seen two of the animals. She went to the property to destroy a beaver dam on the branch and kill the beavers. She said she parked her pickup truck at the edge of the field within about 20 yards of the dam. When she exited the truck she left the driver's side door open. She stated she destroyed the beaver dam and went back to the truck to get a .22 semi-automatic rifle which she loaded with ammunition.

As she walked upstream away from the truck to find a place to conceal herself and wait for the beaver to return to the dam site, she heard a strange bird-like sound coming from across the branch. As she slowly walked toward the sound, she began to hear loud moaning sounds. She thought the sounds were coming from some kind of animal in great pain. As she walked slowly and cautiously toward the sounds they diminished in volume.

When she reached a point about 20 yards from the truck, she saw an animal crouched and watching her from the other side of the branch. She was less than 10 yards from the animal at that time. The bizarre and intimidating appearance of the animal reportedly caused her to freeze in fear. She said the animal's description generally matched those given by Edgin.

She stated the animal's head was in fact massive, but it had upper canine teeth that extended two or three inches outside its mouth and saw blood on them. She stated she could clearly see the animal was intently watching her and it was poised as if ready to spring in her direction. She had the distinct impression that the animal was in no way afraid of her or the rifle that she was carrying at her hip in both hands and pointing forward. She momentarily considered drawing the gun to her shoulder and emptying the 19-shot magazine of long rifle shells into the animal, but she quickly decided the animal was too large and too close for her to ensure she could get off enough shots to kill it before it reached her in a full

charge.

She began to carefully and slowly walk backwards toward the truck without taking her eyes off the animal. She was moving a few inches at a time and it seemed to her she would never reach the safety of the truck. When she finally did reach the truck, she stepped inside and slowly placed her right foot on the floor board. Only then did she briefly take her eyes off the animal and reach for the door handle. She grabbed it, sat down on the seat and drew her left leg inside the cab and slammed the door shut. The second the door closed she heard and felt the animal's impact against the outside of the door. She frantically started the engine and raced through the property to the main entrance gate. She opened the gate and hurriedly drove to Edgin's home, not remembering whether or not she had closed the gate to prevent the cattle from leaving the pasture. She then found the driver's side door was bent from the animal's impact.

The ferocious appearance and lack of fear of humans which Wyers observed were noticed by an Ozark businessman who had a close encounter with one of the animals in Johnson County.

The man stated he was in his pickup truck and stopped at a highway intersection north of I-40 when one of the animals walked closely past the driver's side of the truck, around the front of the truck and back down the other side. The animal reportedly stopped just past the end of the truck where it was brightly illuminated by the truck's taillights and brake lights where the driver was able to see it in his passenger side mirror.

According to the driver, the animal remained at the rear of the truck for nearly a minute, but would turn its body to shield its eyes from the vehicles that were passing on the highway in front of the truck.

This particular witness stated he clearly saw upper and lower canine teeth outside the mouth of the animal. He said the animal's body and head were massive and the jaws appeared to be wide and powerful. He stated the top of the animal's head was just below the bottom edge of the window openings as it walked past his truck. His description of the animal generally matched those given by Wyers and Edgin, although there was one notable exception. This witness estimated the animal's weight to be close to 500 pounds. The animals seen by the other witnesses were estimated to weigh about 250 pounds. This witness was, by his own admission, very fearful of the animal even though he was inside his truck with the windows up during the encounter.

On a spring day around 1991, an animal similar to the

ones described by the witnesses was also seen near the Belt Cemetery north of Ozark by two local women. Ruby Tolton and a relative had gone to the cemetery to do clean-up work when they saw a deer run from the woods into an open field behind the cemetery. When the deer reached the center of the field they saw an animal burst from the woods in hot pursuit. The women were very puzzled because they could not identify the obvious predator. They could plainly see that it was not a dog or coyote, although it appeared to be some sort of canine rather than a bobcat or mountain lion.

A similar animal was seen by an employee of a local utility company when it crossed Hwy. 219 about three miles north of I-40. The witness stated the animal ran across the road toward the creek on the west side. The man stopped his vehicle and got out of the truck to try to get a better look at the animal. He saw it standing and watching him from about 100 yards away, but the man could not identify the animal. As he watched, the animal sped across the creek and with apparent ease and agility, scaled the steep bluff on the other side and disappeared into the woods above it.

One of the witnesses vividly recalls driving to a local farm with her small children in the 1980s to pick purple hull peas

and being told by the farmer (now deceased) to park close to the pea patch and to watch her children closely. When she asked why, he told her he had recently seen a large aggressive animal he could not identify near the pea patch. He said the animal was intimidating and showed no fear of him.

In the Cravens area northwest of Ozark the local residents have also reported seeing enigmatic quadrupedal animals, although the description of the animals seen in that area are basically the same, the descriptions are significantly different in some aspects from those previously recorded. The most pronounced difference is in the length and size of the neck and the angle of the neck in relation to the body when the animal is standing alert.

Lucille Elder, her son and another relative who have seen the animals in that area at close range report that the animals' necks are disproportionately long for the size of the animals' bodies. Mrs. Elder's son, who saw one of the animals at night on two occasions, particularly noted that the animal's long neck was held in a very upright and somewhat awkward looking position when the animal stood watching him. He stated the neck was very thick and the head was "fat." He estimated the top of the animal's head was about three feet from the ground when it was watching him.

One resident of the Cravens

area reported that the animal he saw had long ears. The animal seen by Mrs. Elder was reported to have "mule-like" ears.

Anecdotal reports from this area indicate the strange animals have been recently seen by other residents. One rancher reportedly saw such an animal resting on a hay bale in his pasture.

According to some residents, these animals have been seen in the area for generations.

Based on the variations in the description of the animals seen in Franklin County, it seems there are either two separate types of enigmatic animals in the area or there is one species that manifests very unusual

changes in its appearance while growing to maturity.

The animals will probably never be accurately identified - or properly classified if they are in fact an unknown species - until their DNA profile has been examined by professionals in that field. While DNA can sometimes be obtained from a

wild animal without it being killed, the odds are in this case that one of the animals will be shot by a farmer or rancher, or will be run over and killed while crossing I-40. If such an event occurs and the animal still can't be identified upon close inspection,

the preserved carcass would be of great interest to science and the world in general.

The Reclusive Forest Primate Chronicles

by Tal H. Branco

As many people in this part of Northwest Arkansas already know from their own personal experiences, some of the remote and inaccessible areas of Arkansas are inhabited by the large enigmatic, unclassified, hirsute primates which are commonly called Sasquatch or Bigfoot. And, they have occupied the American continent for over 30,000 years.

These animals have been known to all the major Indian tribes throughout the country for untold generations. The presence of the animals was also well known to the early European settlers. Very old newspapers in Arkansas and in adjoining states have documented encounters between these animals and earlier Arkansas residents.

The Western half of the State of Arkansas is part of a larger area which roughly encompasses the Southern part of Missouri, the Eastern half of Oklahoma, the Northeastern corner of Texas and much of Northwestern Louisiana which has a sizeable population of these animals.

This column is not intended to try to convince anyone of the existence of these animals. It would take a newspaper as thick as the Little Rock telephone book to present the results of all the studies and reports of field research by professionals, and all of the reports from hundreds of credible witnesses, to convince a skeptic that such animals do in fact exist in many parts of the world. The skeptical reader who is convinced at this point that the writer is nuts may want to turn to the sports page now. What follows is likely not

going to alter that opinion. The rest is for those people who have an open mind and who are patient enough to wait a while for the inevitable front page articles in this and other publications which will carry official confirmation of the existence of these animals.

The fact is that any person who hunts, fishes, hikes or drives in Western Arkansas may have the rare opportunity to join the ranks of thousands of other people in this country who have seen or heard one or more of these animals. The experience will either be frightening or awe inspiring. The real purpose of this column is to provide the reader who does not know much about these animals with some information about their characteristics, habits and traits so that an encounter will not be traumatic.

The adult males of this unclassified species are huge. The largest reported in Arkansas and nearby McCurtain and LeFlore counties in Oklahoma are about nine feet in height. In some areas of the country males have been reported that are 10 feet tall. A few years ago two males, each about nine feet tall, were seen fighting or rough-housing on the slopes of a mountain in central Arkansas. The mature male animals are estimated to weigh as much as 750 pounds.

The animals are somewhat ape-like in appearance and usually walk upright, although they sometimes walk on all fours (quadrupedal) as do gorillas. The animals are covered in long hair, usually reddish-brown, except for their faces, palms and soles of their feet. There have been numerous reports of animals that show signs of old age and are gray in color. Many people report the hair to be of different colors under the arms and down the insides of the legs. The hair on the chests of mature males is sometimes grey, and the grey areas create unique designs by which the particular animal can be identified. In the North and Northwestern part of the country, and in Canada, the hair is commonly black.

Their neck and shoulder muscles are massive. Many people have reported that the upper torso of the males makes them look like professional weightlifters. The width of the shoulders of adult males is typically reported to exceed three feet. Because of the large neck and shoulder muscles the animals appear to have no neck. Witnesses typically report that the animals cannot turn their heads to look to the side without turning their entire upper torso. Nearly all reports indicate their hands are basically shaped like that of a man, just three times larger. The animals generally walk in a somewhat stoop-shouldered fashion. Most people report that the arms are very long with the hands reaching nearly to the knees. The torso of the males is usually reported to be tapered to the waist, with the legs being long with very muscular thighs.

DAILY WORLD, Aberdeen, WA
Nov. 7, 2005

Loch Ness monster in Grays Harbor? Am I losing my mind?

Loch Ness monster in Grays Harbor? Am I the only one who has seen him out there? He is green with a tall neck — looked to be about 6-feet tall and I think I saw at least three humps.

Last week he was at the end of the bay closest to Hoquiam High School. Saturday I spotted him again up in the west end of the bay at the base of the hill.

Am I losing my mind? Please someone tell me you have seen him too.

Debbie Holmberg
Ocean Shores

The Reclusive Forest Primate Chronicles

by Tal H. Branco

In the last column hundreds of eyewitness descriptions were used to present a typical or composite image of a mature male "Bigfoot." Descriptions of the females and their offspring are not as plentiful in the eyewitness accounts as those of the males, although there are numerous descriptions from eyewitnesses of these other family members.

The mature females are not as large as the mature males, and the credible close-up sighting reports suggest the average height of the adult females range from six and one half feet to eight feet. The females are usually identified by their breasts, which are in part hairless. The breasts of mature females are usually reported to be noticeably pendulous. The exposed skin on the breasts of the females and the exposed facial skin on both the males and females is usually reported to be dark gray or nearly black, and having the appearance of leather.

All of the animals' heads are shaped similar to that of a gorilla. The top of the heads of mature animals is somewhat cone shaped. The skulls have a very pronounced brow ridge, and the eyes appear to be deeply recessed. The eyes are typically brown, although there have been reports of blue or gray eyed animals in Northern Tennessee and Southern Kentucky. The animals are generally nocturnal and their eyes are very reflective in natural and artificial light. The color reflected by the eyes appears to be somewhat dependent on the light source. In moonlight or other "soft light" the eyes are usually reported to "glow" with a reddish color. Many people report that the eyes reflect a yellow or greenish-yellow in a bright light.

The females are typically reported to have wider hips with less muscular legs. Because of their body size their feet are of course also large compared to that of a man, hence their common name. The tracks of some of the larger males have been measured to be nearly 24 inches long and over seven and one-half inches wide across the ball of the foot. The feet are usually

man-like, with five toes, although there have been many reports — usually from swampy locations in Louisiana and other deep south areas — of animals with only three or four toes. Many professionals believe the abnormal conditions of the feet are the results of interbreeding of closely related animals. Others believe the lack of five toes may be the results of injuries or snakebite.

There have been numerous reports of sightings of smaller immature animals ranging in height from one and one half feet tall to five feet tall. In some cases witnesses have encountered these smaller animals that appeared to be wandering alone. The animals appeared child-like and showed no real fear of the witnesses. In nearly all cases the witnesses were afraid to attempt to interact with these apparently benign creatures because they sensed that the mothers of the "babies" were close by and watching.

Because of their size and build, the adult animals can move extremely fast, even through thick brush. When enraged or frightened their passage through dense brush and timber produces sounds like that of a massive boulder being turned loose down the side of a mountain. When they see or smell a human they can, as many people have described it, melt into the thickest vegetation without a sound. The animals are primarily nocturnal. They are without a doubt the most secretive, stealthy and reclusive animal in the world.

Most professionals who have devoted time to the research of the animals believe they are the descendants of the giant ape, *gigantopithecus blacki*, whose skeletal remains were found in Asia, and were thought to have become extinct 300,000 years ago. The animals are omnivorous and generally utilize natural food sources from the wild and relatively inaccessible areas they have inhabited for generations. Because of the continuous encroachment on some of these wilderness areas by mankind, the animals have adapted somewhat and forage on orchard-grown fruits, garden vegetables and various animal

feeds in the developed areas. The animals hunt, kill and eat many wild animals as well as domestic cattle and hogs. They have been seen hunting in small organized groups as they stampede deer, wild hogs and domestic livestock into well planned ambushes. Recently a hunter watched through a rifle scope from a tree stand as an adult female ambushed and killed one of our wild hogs feeding as a group in the Sabine River bottoms in Northeast Texas. His detailed account of that event vividly documents the hunting skills of this animal.

In some highly developed areas of the country their home range has been restricted and the animals have had to forage close to populated areas, often raiding garbage cans and other garbage disposal containers. A few years ago the animals gained nationwide attention when they routinely visited the community garbage dump near Honobia in LeFlore County in Oklahoma. In most states more and more reports of close encounters with these animals are being filed as subdivisions are intruding into their home ranges. There is an ongoing case in Virginia in which a group of these animals have been interacting with people to obtain food.

It is not a good idea for anyone to begin feeding the animals near a residential area. Many people over the years have done so and lived to regret it. When one member of a group finds a food source, the other members soon know about it. Before long the entire group is waiting for hand-outs, and when the food supply is cut off, the situation gets out of hand. Near Honobia, Okla., just a year or so ago a woman and her children were reportedly driven from their home by a group of animals that had been inadvertently fed by the husband who later cut off the food supply. Other similar cases have been reported from Arkansas, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama.

ASIAN PACIFIC POST, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Jan. 5, 2006 CR: G. Conway

Sasquatch may have a Malaysian cousin

The Pacific Northwest's Sasquatch may have a Malaysian cousin.

Malaysia's wildlife department has said it would investigate claims that man-like beasts are roaming the 800-square kilometre Endau Rompin National Park in the country's southern state of Johor following claims by fish farm workers that they saw two hairy beasts about three metres tall and a smaller, apparently younger one.

They alerted their employer, who photographed

what appeared to be footprints measuring up to 45 centimetres, said Lim Teong Kheng, the chairman of the Malaysian Nature Society in Johor.

The *New Straits Times* newspaper printed one of the photographs. It showed what appears to be a triangular depression in the undergrowth.

The director of the wildlife department's Biodiversity Conservation Division, Siti Hawa Yatim, said her office would examine the prints.



Bigfoot's print

She said: "If we cannot work out from the evidence what it is and we can see the footprint is still there, and there is the possibility of something other than ani-

mals, then maybe we would put camera traps."

"Bigfoot" is the name most commonly given to ape-like creatures seen in the forests of the western United States and Canada, where it is also known as Sasquatch.

In Nepal, there have been reported sightings of a similar creature dubbed the Yeti, or the Abominable Snowman.

VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

Ray Crowe, Bigfooter

There are a couple of pluses for my living in Forest Grove, Ore., for the summer months: One is certainly the Bigfoot tracker, Ray Crowe, of nearby Hillsboro, who publishes a monthly (except November and December) newsletter relating sightings and other Bigfoot-related matters.

Crowe will be remembered by local Bigfoot people for the time he and his wife, the late Leatha Crowe, stopped in and visited with us at one of the weekly Bigfoot sessions at the Blue Mountain Mall. The Crowes were at the time doing some northwest Bigfoot research and made an overnight stop here at a time when the creature was getting a lot of attention.

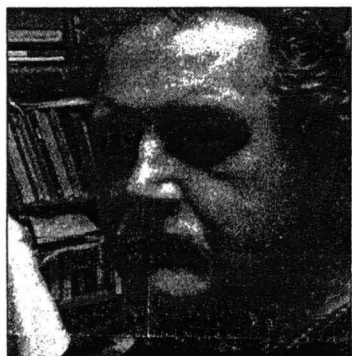
I have renewed the friendship struck up from that first meeting in Walla Walla and we have had a couple of luncheon meetings in Hillsboro. Another Bigfoot tracker, one who is out in the woods a lot as he seeks to pin down this elusive being, is Joe Beelart of West Linn, Ore. Beelart is no stranger to many Bigfoot buffs across the United States, since he takes an active interest in the subject by way of the Bigfoot Yahoo forum on the Internet.

Crowe's observations about the Bigfoot matter coincide with much of what I have concluded following many years of local research. One point sure is that of "why no bodies?"

We agree if something dies in the woods, a lot of other somethings out there consume the evidence in short time. The devouring somethings include most everything alive, from insects to other animals.

But, Crowe also holds the viewpoint that if a Bigfoot dies, others pack off the body. I'm not a bit sure of that one, but I

do recall the late Paul Freeman's having said he saw "one or two others" when he had his 1982 and later sightings. So, that being the case, one could certainly believe other Bigfoots likely would be near by and come carry off their deceased relative.



Ray Crowe
— Submitted photo

Crowe gives all-comers a shot at the printed page when they bring forth their stories of sightings, he says. "I give 'em all a fair shake." Crowe became interested in the Bigfoot story in 1991 when he was running a used book store in Portland. A friend told him of the Indians' having long time belief in the creature's presence. And, like so many others, Crowe was at first dubious. Finding tracks, hair and broken tree limbs on his first search pretty well started him on the road to being convinced something's out there in the woods.

Crowe maintains a scientific approach in his dealings. He doesn't have a college degree, but has studied the Missoula floods which saw melting glaciers in the north sweep through all of eastern Washington thence down to the Willamette and up it. He has presided over the prestigious Geological Society of the Oregon Country and heads up currently the International

Bigfoot Society.

Another Crowe theory with which I completely agree is that Bigfoot is a nocturnal creature, living for the most part in the dark of night, although occasionally spotted in daylight hours. Which reminds me, many of those reported sightings are in my two books, "Bigfoot of the Blues" and "The Walla Walla Bigfoot," available at Earthlight Books, 321 E. Main, or at the Ft. Walla Walla Museum gift shop.

Reports of Bigfoot sightings are springing up all over the eastern U.S. and Crowe is giving these reports a lot of space in his "The Track Record" newsletter. If interested in subscribing, here is Crowe's address: 225 NE 30th, Hillsboro, OR 97124. His email: RayCrowe@net-zero.net.

Subscribing to the "Track Record" will surely keep one well posted on the Bigfoot matter.

While on the subject of Bigfoot, I am reminded of my recent book-signing stint at Fort Walla Walla Museum, where the two Bigfoot books named above plus a couple others were the focal point. I had an opportunity to discuss books and the region with several people, making it an enjoyable afternoon. One who took up most time was a man who was an outspoken skeptic of the whole Bigfoot matter and went on at length, although I believe I refuted most, if not all, of his skeptical assertions.

Addressing this skepticism in most adroit fashion, was the following excerpt from a discussion in the Bigfoot Yahoo forum on the internet. The writer was Chris Loudon of Ardmore, Louisiana.

"If these animals are out there, and I believe they are, they are obviously very

intelligent. They have learned to adapt and stay away from humans.

"If they have observed humans for any amount of time, they realize that we (humans) are a pretty destructive bunch. Likely the first time they encountered mankind, people were ripping

up trees and tearing up ground to build something.

"They may feel their very existence is in jeopardy. We tend to steamroll our way through wilderness areas in the name of "progress" and leave housing developments, strip malls, and whatever other ugly boxes we can come up with."

Bigfoot offer rescinded

By J.D. Cash

So you've been up your tree stand all week with a digital camera, just waiting to make an easy million bucks for a picture of Bigfoot. Well, the offer to pay you the money has just been rescinded — at least a little bit.

Retired Maine professor Loren Coleman had said he would announce a \$1 million Bigfoot reward at the end of the month, but now says he won't be after all.

It turns out the huge bounty for Bigfoot or the Loch Ness Monster is being deep-sixed before it was even officially announced.

Coleman says Wizards of the Coast, which produces the Duel Masters Trading Card Game, is pulling the plug on the idea of sending people out to capture one of the creatures alive.

The reason for nixing the idea is being blamed on greedy trial lawyers.

It seems officials of the Hasbro Toys subsidiary feared a would-be monster hunter might get hurt and sue them for inducing them to get into a fight with old-Sasquatch in order to collect under the original offer, which required the winner to actually capture the beast.

The latest idea is to offer Bigfoot hunters five-grand for photos or other evidence of the legendary creature's existence — no capture will be required to collect your money.

Back in the tree stand hunters.

NEWS, Buffalo, NY - Nov. 12, 2005

SWEDEN

Mythical lake monster taken off endangered list

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — A mythical monster, believed by some to have lived for hundreds of years in the murky depths of a Swedish lake, is now fair game for hunters — if they can find it. Authorities have agreed to lift its endangered species protection.

Hundreds of people claim to have spotted a large serpent-like creature in Lake Storsjon in the northwestern province of Jamtland, and in 1986 the regional council put it on a list of endangered animals.

But a government watchdog challenged the decision, saying such protection was hardly necessary for a creature whose existence has not been proven.

The regional council agreed to remove the listing this month, but declined to rule out that a Storsjon monster lives in the 300-foot deep lake.

Crew of Flight 19 honored decades after vanishing over Bermuda Triangle

WASHINGTON (AP) — The disappearance of Flight 19, a Navy mission that began the myth of the Bermuda Triangle, is still unexplained but not forgotten 60 years later.

The 27 Navy airmen who disappeared somewhere off Florida's coast on Dec. 5 1945, were honored in a House resolution Thursday. Rep. Clay Shaw, R-Fla., said he hoped the gesture would help bring closure for surviving families.

What happened is the question that has befuddled, entertained and tormented skeptics and believers in the Bermuda Triangle, a stretch of ocean between Puerto Rico, Bermuda and Miami that many believe is an area of supernatural phenomena.

"There's just so many weird things here that experienced pilots would have not acted this way," Shaw said. "Something happened out there."

Five U.S. Navy Avenger airplanes left the Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station on a routine training mission over the Bahamas. The five pilots and nine crewmen, led by instructor Lt. Charles Taylor, were to practice bombing and low-level strafing on small coral shoals 60 miles east of the naval station. They were then to turn north to practice mapping and then southwest to home. The entire flight, which Air Station pilots took three or four times a day, should have lasted three hours.

From radio reports overheard by ground control and other airplanes, the compasses on Taylor's plane apparently malfunctioned 90 minutes into the mission.

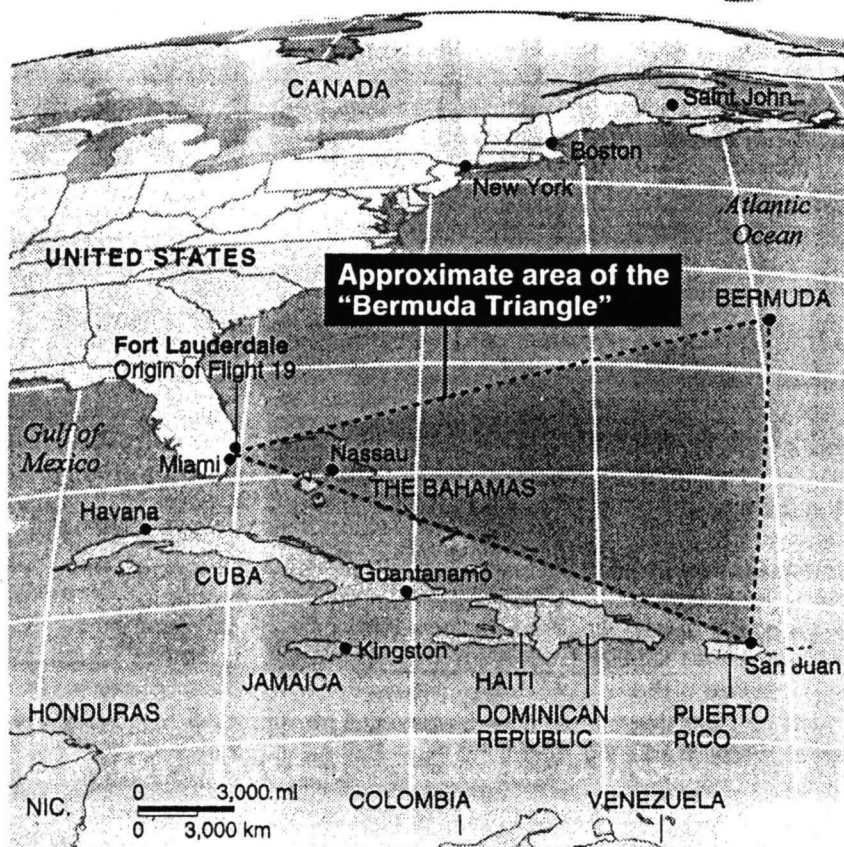
With no instruments to guide him over the open ocean, Taylor thought the flight had drifted off-course and was actually south over the Florida Keys. As a result, he directed the planes to fly due north to hit land.

"He was not in the Keys, he was out in the end of the Bahama chain," said David White, who at the time was a flight instructor stationed at Fort Lauderdale.

Remembering the 'Lost Patrol'

The legend of the Bermuda Triangle was sparked 60 years ago when Flight 19 vanished without a trace somewhere off the coast of Florida.

Detail



SOURCE: Naval Historical Center, Dept. of the Navy

AP

"When he went north, he was going out to the wide ocean."

Just about the time the squadron was to have landed back at Fort Lauderdale, a last radio message from Taylor was received: They would keep flying "until we hit the beach or run out of gas." Due to weakening radio signals, no reading could be made on the direct location of the planes.

Radio messages show that some of the students wanted to fly east, said Allan McElhiney, president of the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Historical Association.

Yet military discipline overruled.

"You stay with the leader, that's the Navy way," McElhiney said.

The mystery deepened when a few hours later a Navy rescue airplane, a Martin Mariner with

13 crewmen, also vanished. Though a passing ship reported seeing bright lights in the sky indicating what could be an in-air explosion, no evidence of the Mariner was ever found either.

The next morning, White became part of one of the largest rescue missions in American naval history. Civilian vessels and units of the Coast Guard, Army and Navy scoured an area of more than 250,000 square miles, but no wreckage was ever found.

"In all the times I remember we never had one plane missing," White said. "Five all qualified pilots missing at one time? I couldn't believe it."

Even the official review offered little explanation. The Navy Board of Inquiry report concluded, "We are not able to even make a good guess as to what happened."

Bigfoot leaves a mark in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Reported sightings of a "Bigfoot" in southern Malaysia's jungles could be used as a tourist draw, officials said, as they planned another

expedition to track the mythical beast.

Malaysian media have been gripped by "Bigfoot" fever ever since some fish farm workers reported seeing three giant human-like hairy beasts in November at the edge of the Endau Rompin National Park

forest.

The workers also claim to have seen a gigantic footprint, which they photographed and gave to local newspapers.

No plans have been made yet on how the story could be used to attract tourists.