

UFO

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RURAL MISSOURI, Jefferson City, MO - Oct. 2005 CR: B. Soetebier

by Jarrett Medlin

Jennifer Lunsford stands on a moonlit country road south of Joplin and peers through the night sky. She lays a cigarette on the road and tosses out a piece of beef jerky.

"We were raised understanding that there are spirits on this Earth and they are here to help us," says the White Mountain Apache tribe member, explaining her actions are a sign of respect but not any official American Indian tradition. "Offering food and tobacco lets the spirits know we haven't forgot them."

She stares down the road to the next hillside. Several other cars sit on the shoulder of the road while their occupants wait patiently in the dark. They have come here late on a Friday night to see the fabled Hornet Spook Light, a strange glow that has appeared for more than a century.

Over the years, people have traveled from all over the country to observe the mysterious light. Scientists, researchers and seekers of the unknown have observed the Spook Light and proposed a myriad of theories — from car lights to ghosts — but the light's source remains a mystery.

"Some things are just not explainable," says the 34-year-old, who has seen the Spook Light many times over the years. "Personally, I believe spirits are here."

She abruptly stops talking and exclaims, "There it is!" On the far hill, a dim glow rises above the road. It appears an eerie shade of orange and yellow, about the color of the lit end of a cigarette, as Jennifer describes it. The glow looks unlike anything else in sight. It flickers through the trees and dances from side to side.

Over the next two hours, the Spook Light bobs and weaves, splits in two and changes in intensity. Those watching say they feel an odd sensation, but no one senses any cause for alarm.

As Jennifer watches, a group of college students from Tulsa, Okla., walks up and asks about the light's source. "You're going to hear everything," she replies. For the next 15 minutes, Jennifer explains the history and mystery surrounding the Hornet Spook Light.

The Spook Light's first documented sighting was in 1886 on a lane near Hornet, Mo., though American Indians told tales of the light long before that time. The light reportedly spooked horses, causing a number of carriage wrecks during the turn of the century and earning the road its nickname, "The Devil's Promenade."

Legends began to form around the mysterious glow. The best-known tale says the light is the spirit of a young Quapaw brave and his bride who plunged to their deaths from a nearby bluff to avoid facing punishment from their tribal chief, who forbid the marriage. Other legends say the light is the lantern of a miner, searching for his severed head or his abducted children.

More rational explanations for the light include fox fire (a luminous fungus), plasma, swamp gas,



Photo by Gibson Studios in Grove, Okla.

A group of teenagers observes the Spook Light during the 1950s. The light has been seen for more than a century.

For more than a century, the Hornet Spook Light has brought mystery to southwest Missouri

Seeking the light

Jennifer Lunsford waits along Spook Light Road to see the Hornet Spook Light. An American Indian from Miami, Okla., Jennifer has seen the light many times since she was a kid. On this night, she sees it not long after arriving.

sunspots, ball lightning, optical illusions caused by headlights on Interstate 44 and lights flashing atop a distant water tower. Yet none of these theories have been proven.

For decades, experts have tried to solve the puzzle. In 1942, a group of students from the University of Michigan camped in the area.

After two weeks, the frustrated scientists shot at the light to no avail. Since then, many others have attempted to solve the light's mystery. The list includes the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Geographic Society, the National Bureau of Standards, the North American UFO Organization, the University of Arkansas, the Midwest Research Institute

of Kansas City, a writer from *Popular Mechanics* and a crew from the NBC television show "Real People." Still, no one holds a definitive explanation.

Dale Kaczmarek, president of the Ghost Research Society and author of "Illuminating the Darkness: The Mystery of Spook Lights," has visited the road a half dozen times since 1982. On one occasion, he crept within 100 feet of the light before it suddenly "took off and left a twinkling, phosphorescent sparkle" in its wake. "It was almost like the light knew we were there," he says.

Dale insists the eerie glow is not caused by car lights, fox fire or any other proposed theory. "I can't come up with anything that fits the bill," he says. "I would say it's some sort of ghost or spirit."

In the 1950s, another enthusiast of the paranormal named Arthur "Spooky" Meadows ran a museum and observation deck at the end of the light's road. As the light's self-appointed public relations manager, he regarded the strange glow with great affection and even carried pictures of it in his wallet. Visitors from all over the country recall visiting the museum and looking at old newspaper articles and photos on the walls. Eventually, Meadows sold the building to Garland Middleton, who ran the museum until it finally closed in the mid-1980s.

During the late '70s and early '80s, the Spook Light attracted hundreds on some weekend nights. Teenagers would park and party all along the dark, gravel road. Mark Rountree, a citizen of Pittsburg, Kan., and a member of Mensa, the international high IQ society, remembers visiting the light back then. The first time he saw it, he thought it was just a light pole. When he approached, however, he realized it was more than just a



The Hornet Spook Light appears as a yellow-orange ball of light atop the road. The light, which contrasts with a red light on a nearby telecommunications tower, is known to change colors, move, split and vary in intensity.

typical light.

In recent years, Mark revisited the area but never saw anything. "Things have changed so much that I hardly recognized the place," he says. "It seems to me like people lost interest. There was a point in the late '80s where no one saw anything. Then, in the last 15 years, people have started going again."

Mark goes on to list a number of possible scientific causes before admitting he doesn't know the light's source. "I have no idea what I'm looking at, and I don't really care," he says. "That's what makes it fun."

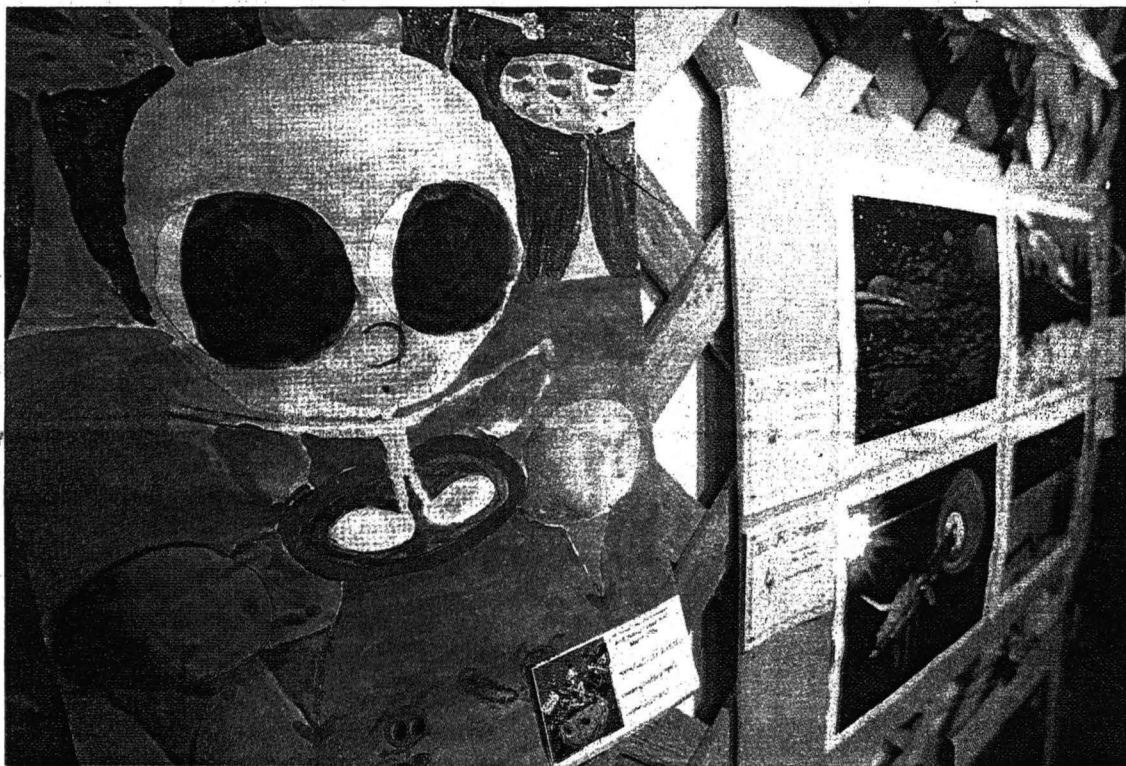
Now, all that remains along the road are a few cars. It is 1:30 a.m., and Jennifer finally decides to call it a night. She says goodbye, climbs in her car and starts home to nearby Miami, Okla.

After she's driven beyond sight, a blue and silver truck still rests on the hillside where the light appeared most of the night. The truck's three passengers stand on the road and wait patiently. From Jennifer's vantage point, the light seemed to glow right next to them for the past several hours. Strangely, however, the men say they haven't seen a thing. Like so many other times, the Hornet Spook Light remains as elusive as ever.

➔ To find the Hornet Spook Light, take I-44 west of Joplin to the Highway 43 South exit. Go south until you see BB Highway and take a right onto Iris Road. Continue west to Stateline Road and take a right. Go about 1.5 miles to E-50 Road and make a left. Park at a high point along the road and wait.

For more information on the Spook Light, visit www.geocities.com/hypno_raygun/Spook-Light.

Vistors from this world and beyond



Allen-themed artwork made by 10-year-old Katia Diochenko of Israel and computer-generated space scenes made by Piedra Vista High School Students decorate the Aztec Public Library on Monday in preparation for the 2006 Aztec UFO Symposium.

Dave Watson/The Daily Times

Aztec UFO symposium continues to draw people from around the world

— By Debra Mayeux —
The Daily Times

AZTEC — At 5 a.m. March 25, 1948, an unidentified flying object was spotted on a military radar. It was reportedly flying over Northern New Mexico, before crashing in a field in Hart Canyon north of Aztec.

It was a saucer-shaped ship, 100 feet in diameter, and there were small charred bodies inside, according to eyewitnesses — military personnel, locals and police officers.

This is the stuff legends are

made of. But for some Aztec residents and big-time ufologists, this had the makings of a story that would put Aztec on the map.

Leanne Hathcock, Aztec librarian, and Scott Ramsey, a friend from North Carolina, began the Aztec UFO Symposium nine years ago with the purpose of propagating the story and the small town it hailed from.

This year the symposium will feature big names in the

Symposium raising more interest than money

— By Debra Mayeux —
The Daily Times

AZTEC — It began as a forum of discussion with a small price tag for admittance. The money raised by the Aztec UFO Symposium was earmarked for a new library in Aztec. Now, the new library is built, but the symposium goes on.

So how much was raised over the years?

Symposium founder and Aztec Librarian Leanne Hathcock said she really couldn't put a dollar amount on how much has been raised in nine years, but she said it has been a plus for the community.

"It has basically, broke even, and it has made some money over the years," Hathcock said, adding that the worldwide publicity for the event has been worth a million.

"The political influence is more than the money raised," she said. "I'm hoping that (at) some point it hits."

The symposium has garnered attention for both the library and the town of Aztec. In January, the Aztec Library was featured on the national WebJunction Internet site for libraries. It detailed the technological aspects of the new library, but it also focused on the UFO crash of 1948 and how Hathcock used that to raise interest in the library.

"They're interested in all the things we're doing -- bridging the digital divide as a rural library," she said.

WebJunction is sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which has also invited Hathcock to speak at a national library convention about how other librarians can use similar models to raise interest and funds for their libraries.

In addition to the WebJunction, there was a documentary filmed at the symposium and ufologists from across the world have been talking about Aztec for the past nine years. There have also been a number of articles in national and international magazines, she said.

As the symposium continues, and it will, Hathcock said she hopes it will someday be a big moneymaker. When it is, she said the money will assist in the development of a mountain bike trail near the crash site, an archaeoastronomy center for universe studies and an arts in public places project.

"We have a lot of things on the plate," Hathcock said.

Information: (505) 334-7658 or www.aztecufu.com

DAILY ASTORIAN, Astoria, OR - Jan. 20, 2006

What's your UFO story?

Did you see something unusual in the sky near Svensen the morning of Dec. 30? The Mutual UFO Network wants to hear from you.

JERRY SHIFMAN, a "field investigator" for the Colorado-based group, which describes itself as "dedicated to resolving the scientific enigma known collectively as unidentified flying objects," is seeking witnesses who saw anything unusual at about 6 a.m. Dec. 30 about eight miles east of Astoria.

Shifman has already spoken with two people about the strange sight they say they encountered in the pre-dawn darkness. He won't identify the witnesses or what they saw — he wants independent reports, not someone repeating what they've read elsewhere, he said — but did say the two were "absolutely straightforward, salt-of-the-earth" citizens, one of whom told him he had always dismissed UFOs as a hoax — until that day.

"You can't be 100 percent certain, but I am 99.9-percent sure these people were telling the absolute truth," he said, noting that both gave similar accounts and one drew a diagram of what they saw. "This is one of the most interesting cases they've asked me to look into."

A retired engineer who recently moved to Oregon, Shifman said he's had a lifelong interest in the UFO phenomenon. He remembers as a boy hearing the original radio news reports of a crashed "flying disc" in Roswell, New Mexico in 1947 — the famous incident that sparked the modern fascination with UFOs — and even then scoffing at the government's explanation that the object was merely a weather balloon.

In his 10 years as a volunteer MUFON investigator, Shifman has officially reviewed only a handful of purported UFO cases. But even though he's never had a sighting of his own, he said there are far too many credible eyewitness accounts to be dismissed.

"I have not resolved it in my own mind, but it's perfectly clear there is something very weird going on."

Shifman can be reached by e-mail at jerry@mcn.org



fields of ufology and the paranormal, and it will be held on the 58th anniversary of the purported crash — March 24-26 at the Aztec Public Library, 319 S. Ash.

Ramsey of Charlotte, N.C., has dedicated all of his spare time to researching this alleged crash. He has 3,400 pages of declassified documents from the U.S. military and the FBI.

"It's all there in black and white," Ramsey said. "That's a lot of (pages) for an event that didn't happen."

Ramsey, who will speak at this year's symposium, said he recently discovered proof of photographs being taken at the crash site.

"According to the FBI file, someone was trying to sell them to the Baltimore Sun," Ramsey said, adding he will share 19 years of his research at the symposium.

"I will take my research and go back 50 years and take every skeptic and critic of the Aztec incident and prove them unequivocally wrong," Ramsey said.

In addition to Ramsey's speech, the symposium will also feature lectures from former State Rep. Andrew Kissner, who will discuss documents that former Congressman Steve Schiff had declassified.

"The public will see documents for the first time ever on the Schiff investigation and other phenomenon," Ramsey said. "He's got some stuff that will blow your mind."

The late Schiff, when in office, urged the federal government to declassify documents pertaining to the famous 1947 UFO crash in Roswell.

Also speaking is Linda Moulton-Howe, an award-winning journalist; Stanton Friedman, a nuclear physicist and renowned ufologist; Dennis Balthaser, a ufologist specializing in the Roswell crash; Frank Feschino, author of the book "Braxton County Monster;" and Scott Littleton, a professor, who has studied UFO sightings in Los Angeles in the 1950s.

Suzanne Ninos-Ramsey, formerly of Farmington, will be the emcee. She became involved with the symposium as an event planner, and then ended up marrying Scott Ramsey after winning a date with him through the symposium.

She said the dedication to research from the speakers is what has impressed her most about this symposium.

"What I have seen with the speakers is if it is not documented, it doesn't exist," Ninos-Ramsey said. "Everything is thoroughly documented."

She has traveled across the country with Ramsey as he attempted to gather evidence from eye witnesses and their families. She said it has been an interesting and eye-opening experience.

"People are interested in getting to the truth," she said.

Those wanting to learn more about the alleged crash and other UFO sightings are invited to attend, Ramsey said, adding that law enforcement and military personnel, firefighters and emergency medical technicians and their families are admitted for free.

Information: (505) 334-7658 or www.aztecufu.com.

Debra Mayeux:
dmayeux@daily-times.com

40 years later, mystery still surrounds area's fallen object

Many questions still unanswered



Witnesses, including Bill Bulebosh, second from left and Jerry Betters, had reserved, front row seats at Saturday's 40th anniversary gathering of the Kecksburg 1965 sighting. Betters recalled seeing a truck and actually seeing the object, uncovered on the bed of the truck.

Struble introduced Stan Gordon, who has been researching information on the Kecksburg UFO case for many years and is convinced that something of government interest did occur which triggered the military to respond so quickly. According to Gordon, the event has attracted international attention of late. There are still so many unanswered questions.

"Witnesses have been coming out as years go by," Gordon added. "After 40 years, why will the government still not come clean about what came down that day?"

According to Gordon, the official explanation is still: "Nothing found."

In the '80s the event gained national acclaim because of exposure on an Unsolved Mysteries production. Gordon recanted the findings he has uncovered in his 40 years of research. He also recalled the experiences of several witnesses like Bill Bulebosh and Jerry Betters.

"At the time there was major media coverage. A flat bed truck was observed leaving the crash site in the woods, yet it has never been

December 9 was like any Thursday in Mount Pleasant back in 1965. The Mount Pleasant Journal that week featured front-

page stories about the first Christmas program at the new senior high and the school board announced the officers for the 1966 year with William Potoka as president. Samer's Candyland deluxe assortment was \$7.50 for a five-pound box. An Old Spice gift set was just \$2.50 at Burn's Drug. Christmas trees were only \$2.50 at Mount Pleasant Floral and a like-new 1965 Chevy Impala could be purchased at Shaffer Chevrolet for only \$2,795.

Little did Journal readers that afternoon know, specifically in the Kecksburg area, that just after 4 p.m. that day, something, in the shape of a fiery red ball, would pass over the community and land in a secluded wooded area of Kecksburg. Something, that would be called "nothing" by military and government officials for the next 40 years, yet observed by thousands across the United States.

"It was no mistake, something did happen," said Kecksburg volunteer fireman Ron Struble about

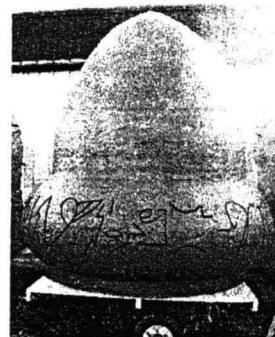
the mysterious fallen object that landed in Kecksburg on December 9, 1965.

Struble, a co-chairman of the Kecksburg VFD UFO and Festival Committee, welcomed visitors to the crowded hall. All 350 seats were filled and the total attendance for the afternoon was estimated at over 500 people.

"It's about time," Struble simply stated, when asked why now.

Struble went on to explain that officials and members of the Kecksburg Volunteer Fire Department decided the time was right, on the 40th anniversary of the landing of an unidentified flying object in Kecksburg, to move forward and take advantage of an opportunity to not only raise funds for the fire department but to also establish a site where visitors can come to find out about the 1965 incident. He informed the crowd that the acorn-shaped replica, originally created for a televised Unsolved Mysteries presentation would have a new location platform being developed.

"This is not an investigation, we will let that up to the experts," added Struble. "The Kecksburg



This replica of an unidentified flying object that landed in Kecksburg was created for a televised movie of the 1965 incident. Kecksburg firemen Barney Leeper and Rich Comp, along with other firemen, restored the acorn-shaped object just in time for the 40th anniversary of the incident. A special viewing area will be developed including a new base and informational markers, describing the events of that day in 1965.

Volunteer Fire Department is simply embarking on a project for badly needed funds for the fire department."

Stan Gordon, according to Gatty. "It was covered up, NASA even acknowledged a cover up. Government records have been mysteriously lost," Gatty informed. "Hopefully, current efforts will get to the bottom of this."

Journalist Les Kean, representing the Freedom of Information Act group, participated in research for the recent SCI FI publication. Kean informed the group that an archeologist said it could not have been a meteor because witnesses recalled a slow descent and a sharp u-turn by the object and that it was not a crash. Now, all of a sudden, after years of pursuing information including a law suit, NASA released information, just two days ago, that the object appeared to be a Russian Satellite, according to Kean.

"How do they know this, if there was no records on it, as indicated previously," questioned Kean. "That, in and of itself, is proof that something did happen."

Now, forty years later, as witnesses slowly come forward with more and more information, it is most certainly obvious that people are interested in finding out what happened that day. The 500 plus curiosity seekers and witnesses that attended the event are proof of that. And as for the fundraising efforts of the fire department, t-shirt sales were brisk with a total sell-out midway through the four-hour presentation. Orders for nearly 100 additional t-shirts were taken and plans are in the works to add other memorabilia to the offering.

As for responses from the witnesses about all of the attention, Bill Bulebosh says it is a good thing. "It brings everyone together, finally," he added.

A 24 year-old Paul Mondock was on his way home to Norvelt after visiting his aunt in Mammoth. "The object came right over the top of my car. I will never forget it. It was just as the others have described it," he said. "Maybe, one day, our great grandchildren will know the real truth."

Mabel Mazza was a receptionist at a local radio station at the time. She took hundreds of calls from people who saw the object in the sky that day. "Finally it has been recognized that it did happen," she said.

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(continued on page 4)

This article appeared on the front page of the December 17 Journal, just one week after a smoldering object fell to the earth in Kecksburg. Local high school students stood curiously by observing the scene. Perhaps you will recognize someone in the photograph.

MANY QUESTIONS STILL UNANSWERED

Mystery Surrounds Area's Fallen Object

Mount Pleasant township, more specifically a wooded hillside east of Kecksburg, shot into the headlines last Thursday after seven area residents reported seeing a smoldering object crash to the earth.

Their report followed thousands of reports from individuals across the United States, including airplane pilots, weather observers and coast Guard personnel, of an orange ball of fire flashing through the sky.

Air Force officers, state police and area scientists combed the 75-acre area Thursday evening as curious onlookers (estimates ranged up to 400 persons) joked about "little green men" and flying saucers. In spite of the fact that the area had supposedly been sealed off by police and Army officials, the winding roads in the area were jammed.

The immediate area where the unidentified object was reported to have fallen was roped off, on the possibility that if something had fallen, it might contain radioactive material.

Mrs. Arnold Kaip of Acme, R.D.1 and her two children, were among those who reported seeing an arc of blue light, descending into the secluded wooded area.

The initial search, which disclosed nothing but some shredded foil, ended at 1 a.m. Friday. At dawn searchers resumed their work. By Friday evening, the area had been thoroughly



A Journal photographer took this picture of the crowd, many of them students, at about 11:30 p.m.

scoured by police, military authorities, scientists with Geiger counters and other volunteers.

The final report: neither sight nor evidence of fallen object. State police Captain Joseph Dussia, commander of Troop A headquarters, said "We're satisfied it was a meteor." Other reports verified the possibility of the fireball having

been a Geminid meteor. A shower of meteors from the Gemini constellation had been predicted for Friday.

Not everyone, however, is satisfied with the reports; some questions remain unanswered. Why have U.S. Army officials, hastened to the scene, issued no statement on the results of their search? And why, with reported sighting from many

others areas, were so many official concentrated in the search here?

Reports continue to circulate that an object was removed from the woods in a large drum, perhaps cement-lined. Several astronomers have noted that meteors usually leave some evidence of their fall. Clarification of this mystery would ease the minds of many area residents.

Bill Weaver thinks the gathering of witnesses and people who are interested in knowing more about the event was a success. "It is great to get more people out here to bring out their stories," he commented.

What ever happened, the people of Kecksburg, who were unwillingly made a part of it that day, are now part of the incident's legacy. As they come forward and speak

out, their hope is that they will be treated with the dignity they deserve. It is the hope of many, that the subject that caused much dissension in the past, will come around to be the one thing that helps to promote the continued financial success of a hard working volunteer fire department whose main goal is to provide safe, efficient support in times of emergency for the community.



UFO and Festival co-chairman Ron Struble introduced the 40th anniversary speakers, including Stan Gordon (left), who organized the event that was held at the Kecksburg Fire Hall on Saturday, December 10.

Journal photos



Witnesses to the Kecksburg incident on December 9, 1965 came forward at Saturday's meeting for a group photograph. Some offered recollections of what they saw that day, 40 years ago. First row, from left: Stan Gordon, George Latz, Robert Gatty, Mabel Mazza, Robert Bitner, Second row: Michael Polloch, Bill Weaver, Jerry Betters, Bill Bulebosh, Dean Campbell, and Paul Mondock. Some more reluctant to share the spot light, remained in their seats. One visitor, a rocket scientist from California asked the witnesses to describe the characteristics of the smoke they observed that day. She and several others sought out the witnesses to discuss in detail their part in the famed incident in Kecksburg.

HERALD, Circleville, OH - March 21, 2006 CR: J. Fry

2005: A year in review for UFOs

The end of 2005 marked 17 years of the Roundtown UFO Society's existence. It was started in Jan., 1989 by the three founding members, Pete Hartinger, Jon Fry and Delbert Anderson. Together, we have over 120 years of UFO research. Slowly, it is being accepted as a serious phenomenon, to be investigated and researched. I know some people are afraid of this subject. As a great leader once said, "the only thing you have to fear, is fear itself." After all the UFO phenomenon has been around for years.

One witness to a UFO event, stated, "you think about all that you have learned, been taught and believed, and yet we don't know what is real anymore."

The Firefighter's Guide for Disaster Control was copyrighted in 1992. In chapter 13 it refers to Enemy Attack and UFO Potential. It was co-written by Dr. William M. Kramer. He is listed as a Professor of the University of Cincinnati and was also a District Fire Chief for the city. The other author was Charles Bahme, an author of many fire service articles and books, including the Handbook of Disaster Control.

MUFON of Ohio newsletter are now being sent to the Pickaway County Library. They are included in a binder. This is just another addition to the information you can gather at our local library.



Pete Hartinger
RUFOS

On January 9, 2005 there was a sighting of a strange formation over Ashville. The witness stated there was a formation of several UFOs when one peeled off and then came back into the group.

Peter Jennings headed an ABC News Special on Feb. 24, 2005. It lasted two hours with the first hour being positive toward the existence of UFOs. It even had an Air Force case with a good description of the UFO from air-crew and ground observers. There were some negative comments in the second hour. UFO Center in Seattle, Washington had some 1400 UFO sighting reports in the first month after the ABC telecast. Normally, they receive between 250 to 500 per month. One report was from around Christmas time of 1925! Sometimes it takes compelling evidence for people to talk about their own sightings.

Tim Hammond, a former VA police officer, from Chillicothe, reported at a RUFOS May meeting of a UFO he had seen. This had occurred on Nov. 26, 1983 while he was on duty at the VA Hospital in Chillicothe. A beam of light from the UFO had shone down on his patrol car early in the morning. A fellow officer was with him. His story made the Chillicothe newspaper this past year, as he has written a book about the experience.

There have been over 2200

atomic bomb blasts on planet Earth. Many UFO sightings have occurred near nuclear facilities.

Another quote was noted, "any panic that might take place because of UFO disclosure is because of the lack of knowledge."

The Brazilian Air Force on May 20, met with civilian UFO investigators, as they opened some UFO files. This was very uncommon, as not many countries have done this. Perhaps in the near future other countries will open up their UFO files.

On July 14, at our regular monthly meeting we had a special speaker. John Timmerman, a retired banker from Lima, gave a talk about the hundreds of UFO reports from the various people he had personally met. He put on a UFO display for some 12 years while representing the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies based in Chicago. He has probably interviewed more UFO witnesses than anyone else in the country. His lecture was televised on our local community channel.

It was discovered that Harold Hoffman has one of the earliest UFO sightings on record from a Pickaway County resident. While on guard duty in the U.S. Army, he observed strange objects over Long Beach, California on Feb. 24, 1942. This was the same night of the famous "Battle of Los Angeles." The government has never explained what these objects were, even though hundreds of rounds of anti-aircraft were fired at them.

RUFOS had UFO displays at the local library on July 23 and at the Old Village Days in South Bloomfield on Aug. 20. Both events drew people interested in

the subject.

In the September MUFON Journal, Stanton Friedman, a nuclear physicist, stated that "yesterday's paranormal is tomorrow's normal. We need to recognize our ignorance rather than saying something is impossible."

Former Canadian Deputy Prime Minister, Paul Helyer, said that ET is here.

Michael Swords, a retired professor from Western Michigan, made this quote, "This question of whether there really are UFOs should have been set aside as a no-brainer almost as soon as the phenomenon began flapping in 1947."

I gave a talk about the UFO phenomenon to the DuPont Retirees' group on July 11 and the Chillicothe Lions Club on Nov. 29. Both talks were informative and were based on more facts than speculations.

UFO sightings were still being recorded all over the world. Two more were added to my Pickaway County Sighting List. One occurred near Mt. Sterling on Oct. 17 and the other was a daylight sighting of a saucer shaped disc near Darbyville that was seen around 1972. In both cases the witnesses said that I could use their names as the UFO phenomenon is becoming more and more accepted. I commend witnesses who are willing to do this, as it attests to this phenomenon. Their names are on file with RUFOS.

If you have any questions or would like to speak to me about this subject just phone me at 477-6252; or write me at P.O. Box 52, Circleville; or e-mail me at rufos@columbus.rr.com. Our Web site is www.roundtownufosociety.com.

'UFO' mystery still haunts some

1966 Dexter sightings by residents, officer called swamp gas by U.S. government

BY JO COLLINS MATHIS
News Staff Reporter

Forty years ago today, for a brief but interesting time, Washtenaw County became the flying saucer capital of the Midwest.

It started when a Dexter farmer named Frank Mannor and his 18-year-old son, Ronald, told the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department that a strange flying object appeared and landed in a swampy area at

Quigley and Brand roads.

Frank Mannor, 46, told authorities that night that the two went out in search of the object moments after they saw it touch ground. He said it appeared to be brown, with a "quilted" effect on the surface. It was flat on the bottom and cone-shaped toward the top, with two small lights on the outer edges emitting a glowing blue-green color that intensified and turned red at times. When it became brightly lit, the entire object was light yellow, with the light running horizontally between the two outer running lights.

According to the police report, Mannor said: "We then heard the sound of a whistle — something like a rifle bullet

'We haven't solved the mystery. This case is 40 years old. We still don't know the answer.'

Harry Willnus

makes when it ricochets off something. Then this object went up in the air, passed directly over us and disappeared."

Patrolman Robert Hunawill of the Dexter Village Police Department reported then that he saw what appeared to be the same object after he parked his car near the area. He said it

suddenly appeared over his patrol car at a height of about 1,000 feet, that it had white and red lights on it that at times had a bluish tinge, and that it hovered over the car before continuing sweeps over the swamp.

Hunawill reported that he watched the object for a few minutes before it was joined by three others that flew in formation, with one set of two flying high above the other two. They then disappeared into the sky.

Professor J. Allen Hynek, a Northwestern University astrophysicist who consulted with the military, came to Dexter to investigate, and then reported his findings at the Detroit Press Club.



ROBERT CHASE, THE ANN ARBOR NEWS
Harry Willnus visits the area near Brand Road and Quigley Road where a UFO was reported to have landed 40 years ago. Willnus wrote a story about the incident that ran in a British magazine.

"It was like a mob scene," said Bill Trembl of Ann Arbor, the Ann Arbor News reporter who covered the story. "Then (Hynek) said: 'As near as I can tell, what we're seeing is swamp gas.'"

"I remember (Mannor) saying, 'I was in the Army and we were down in Louisiana and there was swamp gas all the time; this was not swamp gas.'"

Trembl is convinced the Mannors and Hunawill saw something that night.

"Frank Mannor wasn't a nut case," he said. "He wasn't a guy who had wishes of grandeur. He was just telling what he saw. I'm sure he didn't dream it up. He died thinking that was some kind of UFO, either Air Force-connected or from another planet or something."

Trembl said he thinks that something was manmade.

"I'm sure the Air Force has secret files about all their experiments with rockets or whatever," he said. "Sometimes the high officials are so stupid, they think, 'This will create a panic.' That's their alibi for not saying, 'Hey, we had a rocket ship go round the moon, or something come down.' Each administration continues the charade."

Douglas Harvey, Washtenaw County sheriff from 1965 to 1972, agrees with Trembl that the Mannors clearly saw something.

And he's never believed the government's official stance on what that something was.

"Dr. Hynek was sent in from

the U.S. government. He came into my office. We went out to the site where supposedly this object came down on the ground. Dr. Hynek in the car said, 'There is something. We just can't put our finger on it. We've been investigating this for quite a while.'"

They returned to Harvey's office, where Hynek asked to use the telephone in private.

"He was on the phone for quite a while, which I found very enlightening," Harvey said. "He came out and I said, 'Well, Dr. Hynek. What do you think?' He said, 'It's swamp gas.' He tells me one minute he has no idea what it is. And then he makes one phone call to Washington and comes out and gives a statement that it's swamp gas. Very strange."

"And then the Mannor family really caught a lot of flak, which was very unfortunate."

He said soon after that, a man who was out running in Brighton reported a sighting.

"And then that was it," Harvey said. "It just kind of died away."

Harvey doesn't know what to think about it.

"They did see something," he said. "I'll believe this to the day I die. Somebody has kept something quiet, and nothing more ever materialized. So we don't know if it was the government experimenting, or was it really a UFO. I don't know."

Harry Willnus of South Lyon, the former state director of the Mutual UFO Network, has investigated the sightings and

wrote a feature article about it for UFO (UK edition) magazine two years ago.

Willnus has a copy of the police report from that night, and said there's no way that it was swamp gas.

"For instance, it mentions that the object was observed to rise to an altitude of approximately 500 feet, and then return to the ground," he said. "Swamp gas doesn't do that. It only goes off the ground a few feet. It mentioned when it took off, it sounded like a rifle shot in a canyon. Again, swamp gas doesn't do that."

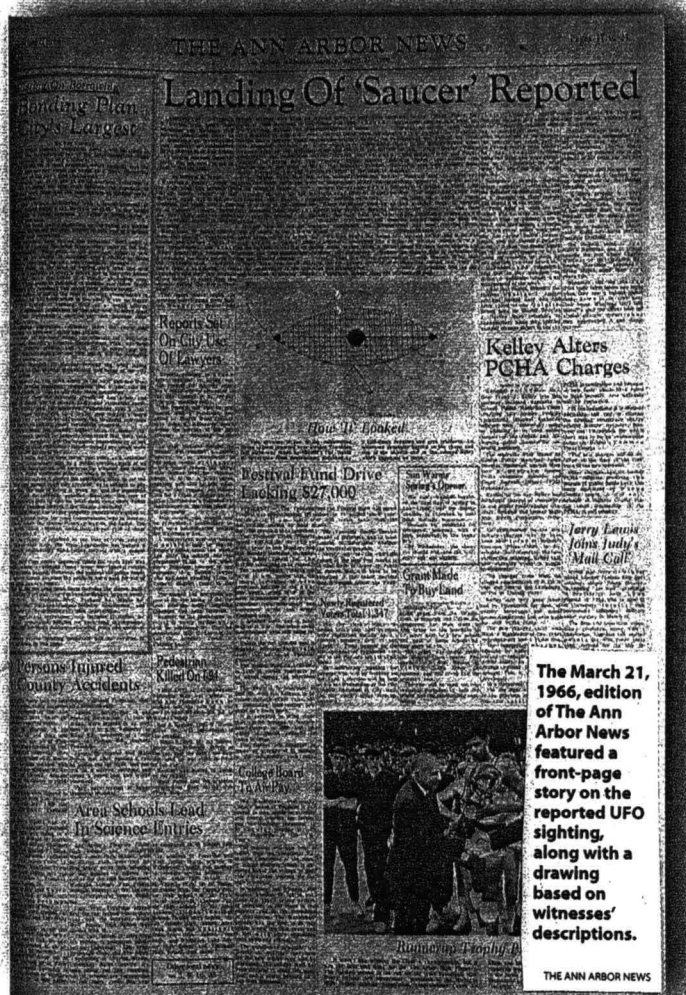
So what was it?

"We can't be sure," he said. "It was, I think, either a craft that came from off the earth, an extraterrestrial, or some kind of one-dimensional device. And I'm starting to use the word multi-universe rather than universe ... Some kind of one-dimensional craft, perhaps, that came into our realm and then left."

Willnus, who is retired from teaching in the Romulus school district, worked for a while as an investigator for Hynek after Hynek started The Center for UFO Studies.

"We haven't solved the mystery," Willnus said. "This case is 40 years old. We still don't know the answer, and yet it still continues to occur, with sightings every day around the world."

Jo Collins Mathis can be reached at jmathis@annarbornews.com or 734-994-6849.



The March 21, 1966, edition of The Ann Arbor News featured a front-page story on the reported UFO sighting, along with a drawing based on witnesses' descriptions.

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 argument 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."

Farewell to flying saucers

UFO expert Fawcett is retiring, but he hasn't lost his enthusiasm

LINCOLNTON — That NASCAR Hall of Fame announced in Charlotte this week sounds great, says UFO expert George Fawcett.

He's got an idea, too.

Why not a UFO museum in the Queen City?

After all, North Carolina ranks fifth in the U.S. for flying saucer sightings. Sightings are up worldwide. So is interest.

It was time to check on my old friend. I hadn't seen him since 1998 when he'd just donated most of his Sauceriana Collection to the International UFO Museum in Roswell, N.M.

That's it, I figured. Fawcett had been collecting UFO materials since the subject hooked him in 1944. Maybe he'd finally let it go. Maybe he'd take up golf or stamp collecting.

I should have known better.

Funny thing about those empty UFO files, Fawcett said as he showed me into the living room. They'd filled up again. People from all over the world keep sending him books and videos, research papers and photos. He gets journals from England and Australia and subscribes to a national UFO clipping service.

Fawcett is pretty much the same as ever. He still likes to talk about his wife, two chil-

dren and grandchildren. He's big on Duke basketball and pancakes. He remains active in St. Luke's Episcopal Church, singing in the choir and serving on the vestry. And his passion for UFOs is still hotter than a down-to-the-finish race at Lowe's Motor Speedway.

When I stopped by, he was boxing up another load of UFO materials for the Roswell museum, where he's an honorary board member. He ships at least two boxes a year.

"George is a major benefactor to our library," museum director Julie Shuster told me. "We rely on the generosity of people like him."

I've never seen a UFO. Not that I know of. Those strange lights I spotted in the night sky once were probably shooting stars or aircraft of some kind.

Fawcett has seen only one UFO. That was in 1951, on the

surgeries and lengthy therapy. At times, he didn't think he'd make it.

I've known Fawcett, a Mount Airy native and retired YMCA director, for more than 20 years. Last month, I spotted a notice about his upcoming "farewell address" at the 58th meeting of the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina at Pfeiffer University.

Fawcett is founder of the N.C. Chapter of MUFON, a group that tracks and researches reports of UFOs.

According to the notice, Fawcett was retiring from active membership because of his health.

campus of Lynchburg (Va.) College, where he was a student. It was 30 feet in diameter and orange.

His interest in UFOs went back even earlier, to 1944, when he spotted an Associated Press article about "mysterious balls of fire" American pilots saw over Germany in World War II.

Fawcett has taught a UFO class at Gaston College, founded and advised five UFO study groups from New England to Florida, served as a movie consultant and written two books, one of which he recently revised and enlarged.

You can hear him speak in April at the Lincolnton Rotary Club. I hope he tells the story of how he met a Man-in-Black in 1974. Sometimes called MIBs, these mysterious figures try to intimidate witnesses to UFOs or other strange doings the government is trying to cover up,

according to UFO circles.

Fawcett may hit the highlights of the conclusions he's reached after years of study.

Fawcett believes UFOs are real, controlled by a clear intelligence, and that extraterrestrials could be responsible. The government knows all this, but keeps the information hidden from the public while considering UFOs a threat to national security.

That's it in a nutshell. His research continues.

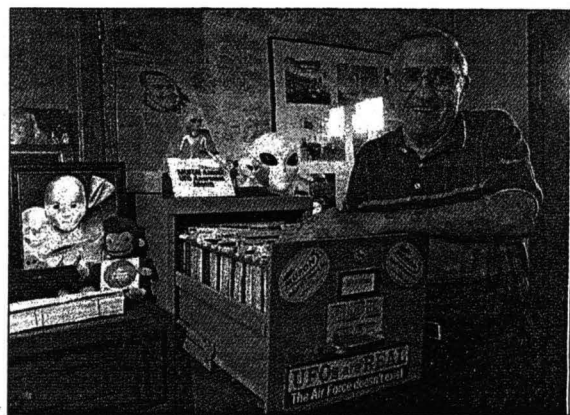
Wading deeper and deeper into UFOs isn't my thing, but Fawcett keeps probing. I admire the depth of his curiosity. And he's got a neat philosophy: "Keep an open mind and not an empty head."

So rest easy. Don't worry about the night sky. The UFO man is still on the job.

Joe DePriest: (704) 868-7745; jdepriest@charlotteobserver.com

IN MY OPINION

Joe DePriest



ROBERT LAHSER - rlahser@charlotteobserver.com

George Fawcett, dean of N.C. UFO investigators, is sending books and other materials to the International UFO Museum in Roswell, N.M. He's retiring from active membership in the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina, which he founded, because of his health.

Want to Know More Lore?

■ For information about George Fawcett's revised "Human Reactions To UFOs and UFOs Worldwide 1940-1983" and "What We Have Learned From UFO Repetitions 1947-1984," call (704) 735-5725. Or write to Fawcett at 602 Battleground Road, Lincolnton 28092.

■ For information about the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, N.M., call (505) 625-9495 or go to www.ufoinfo.com.

Sonora paralegal looks for the paranormal

By AMY LINDBLOM

Paralegal Mark Olson spends most days hunched over a desk scanning books and paperwork — firmly grounded in the law.

But at night, Olson turns his attention skyward. Olson looks for UFOs.

His interest goes beyond mere passing, however. He and his brother regularly videotape what they say are strange lights in the night air, and post their evidence, plus other theories, on their Web site: sonorasightings.com.

"I'm often asked why I watch the sky, and I reply 'Why don't YOU watch the sky?'" he said. "There are amazing things in the sky."

Olson, 39, said he is not ready to chalk up what he sees to space aliens. He's coined the term Unidentified Aerial Phenomena to differentiate

his interests from those of garden variety UFO theorists.

"Maybe they belong to the military, I don't know. But I see them and say: 'Oh my God, what was that?'"

Olson, who refers to himself as Dr. Olson, encourages others to contact him via his Web site and send him their photographs and videos.

He said he has received e-mails and photographs from all over the world.

A regular contributor to his Web site, he said, is a man he calls "Johnny Anonymous."

Olson said all he knows about Johnny Anonymous is that he lives in the Modesto area. The two have met several times and compared notes, photographs and theories, Olson said,



Union Democrat photo by Amy Alonzo

MARK OLSON (left) and his brother, Jed Freed, say they don't believe in aliens, but nonetheless keep an alien planter named Marge in their kitchen.



Union Democrat photo by Amy Alonzo

MARK OLSON watches for what he's dubbed "unidentified aerial phenomenon" from his backyard in Sonora. Olson and his brother maintain a Web site cataloging their sightings.

adding that he doesn't know Anonymous' last name.

Olson said more than once that he doesn't want people to think he is a "nut case."

"Long ago, people thought the world was flat and anyone who questioned that was thought to be crazy," he said. "So how is this any different?"

Olson hasn't confined his interest in the universe to UFOs.

He's also curious about religion — becoming an ordained minister with and receiving a degree from the Metropolitan Community Church in Modesto. He performs weddings for friends and friends of friends.

He normally wears a clerical collar to the legal office where he works, he said.

"I've gone to lots of other churches — Mormon, Catholic, Baptist. They all believe in basically the same thing, but they fight with each other. Look at the wars, they are all over religious beliefs," he said.

"I think whatever you want to believe is all right as long as you don't harm anyone else. I believe in one thing: love."

Olson moved to Sonora in 2000 from San Jose, where he worked a variety of jobs.

He is a native of El Paso, Texas, and was raised

by his grandmother, a Tarahumara Indian from Chihuahua, Mexico who married a man Olson described as a "good-old Texas boy" — Olson's grandfather.

It's from his Swedish father that he gets his strawberry blonde hair and fair skin.

Olson said he moved to Sonora brother Jed Freed. He also wanted a slower-paced life.

He and Freed, 23, a ski lift operator at Dodge Ridge, share an apartment in the Sonora area.

They also share an interest in scanning the night sky.

The Olson-Freed apartment looks like any two-bedroom bachelor pad — TV, bikes, stereo and comfy chairs occupy the living room. But in the kitchen, next to a table, are binoculars and a video camera set up on tripods.

On most clear evenings, the two sit on the deck facing Bald Mountain, scan the heavens and talk about life. Much of the time they laugh.

Olson is rarely serious. He giggles a lot and breaks into song shamelessly.

He encourages everyone he meets to look at the sky and wonder about the universe, just like he does.

"I say: turn off your TVs and DVDs, go outside, watch the skies and watch the stars come out," he said. "You will see amazing things."



UFOs OVER THE WHITE HOUSE



HUSHED UP: Colin Bennett, above, believes the authorities have consistently foiled those investigating the UFO incident

One night in 1952, the skies above Washington DC exploded with mysterious lights - but ever since, the US government has insisted it was just freak weather. A new book now claims a vast cover-up has hidden the truth, as **MARCUS DUNK** discovers

IT WAS a warm Saturday evening in July, 1952, and in the White House, President Harry S Truman was in residence. His had been an eventful presidency, which had seen both the end of the Second World War and the beginning of the Cold War take place on his watch.

Yet what happened that evening in the skies above Washington DC would make his tenure even more extraordinary. Before the night had come to an end, a group of unidentified flying objects had appeared, leaving the military and the authorities scrambling to work out what was happening and then to stage a cover-up to prevent the truth being revealed.

The east coast of the United States had been awash with sightings of UFOs all summer. On July 10, the crew of a National Airlines plane flying over Virginia noted a light "too bright to be a lighted balloon and too slow to be a big meteor" near them, while a few days later, another crew flying 60 miles northwest of Washington saw a light beneath them which then shot up to their level, hovered for a few minutes, and then rapidly ascended out of sight.

The next few days saw a number of similar encounters, which eventually came to the

attention of Captain Edward Ruppelt, a United States Air Force officer who, from 1951 until 1953, headed project Blue Book, the unit in charge of UFO investigations. Neither a "diehard sceptic nor wide-eyed believer", Ruppelt was a war veteran who liked to keep an open mind. In the summer of 1952, his mind would be blown wide open.

Having heard rumours concerning the sightings, he spoke to a government scientist who was convinced that something big was coming. "You're going to have the granddaddy of all UFO sightings," the scientist told Ruppelt. "The sighting will occur in Washington or New York - probably Washington." Ruppelt did not have to wait long. On the night of Saturday July 19, one of the most significant

'Radar picked up seven targets over the capital'

events in the history of UFO encounters took place, right in Washington DC airspace.

"It is difficult to overstate just how significant this incident was," says British author Colin Bennett, who has written a new book on the incident. "On this night, two radars at Washington National Airport picked up seven unidentified targets flying

over the capital in prohibited airspace. Two of the targets streaked off at an amazing burst of speed, which was estimated at 700mph."

In the alarm, the decision was made to scramble fighter jets from Andrews Air Force Base. The only problem was that the runways at Andrews were being repaired and no plane could take off. "One would have thought that the capital city of the most powerful nation in the world at the time of the Cold War would have had good fighter cover," says Bennett. "That it had none of any significance was a very serious matter. It is a mystery to this day that there appeared to be no central RAF-style 24-hour 'fighter command' for the defence of the whole and entire American government and administration."

By this stage, orange and amber lights were flashing up all over the place. Numerous bases were picking up the signals on their screens but what was truly astonishing was what could be seen with the naked eye. Large orange and amber lights hung in the sky, with some darting back and forth. According to one control tower operator at Andrews Air Force Base, a "huge fiery-orange sphere" was hovering just south of the tower. Almost as quickly as they appeared, however, the lights disap-

(continued on page 8) **7**

(continued from page 7 -
DAILY EXPRESS, London,
England - March 4, 2006)

peared, leaving the authorities confused and bewildered.

On Monday morning, Ruppelt was called by a journalist about the sightings. It seemed that some sort of cover-up was already underway. Ruppelt flew straight to Washington and, after some wrangling, managed to be briefed at the Pentagon, which was already being besieged by the press.

"Intelligence officers were standing on their heads trying to think of what to say," says Bennett. "Despite 'evidence' from the incidents, they sure as hell were going to think several times before any announcement that intelligently controlled vehicles not of human manufacture had invaded the night skies of Washington. The situation was not about a possible new Russian aircraft, a new spy revelation, contractual fraud. No, this was an inch away from admitting an alien invasion. It is no wonder that men used to dealing with somewhat more mundane matters found great difficulties in coping with a situation straight out of a B-feature film."

A press conference was called and Ruppelt agreed to play along with a story that a "bizarre weather phenomenon" had occurred.

Out of the gaze of the media, however, he was determined to get to the truth of the matter. But when he attempted to investigate, he was frustrated at every turn. First of all, he was prevented from hiring a car, and told he should take the bus. "Forced to take the bus to investigate an alien invasion of earth!" says Bennett.

Then he was accused of being AWOL from his base, even though he was simply doing his job. When he did manage to get close to anybody involved, he was turned away. He went to speak to three of the tower control operators on duty that night but, when he arrived at the base, was greeted by the chief of staff of the air force who once again reiterated the weather line.

For weeks this went on, with more sightings followed by more denials by the authorities. For these men, eyewitness testimony and photographic proof meant absolutely nothing.

"Ruppelt was getting frustrated and was being worn down by his constant battling with his superiors," says Bennett. "Eventually he became disillusioned, and the following year he left the air force without ever getting an official acknowledgement about what had actually gone on that July night."

CONVINCED that the truth needed to be known, Ruppelt eventually wrote a book about his experiences which, although long out of print, has proved to be an invaluable resource. Although some might say that Ruppelt failed, Colin Bennett believes instead that he was a hero whose tireless work laid the foundation for much of the research into UFOs conducted since.

It is clear that Bennett sees himself as a similar sort of individual - a maverick whose dogged pursuit of the truth drives him on. "I believe that the universe is not as straightforward as scientists would have us believe," says Bennett. "I believe that there are hairline cracks in reality and that there is something out there trying to speak to us. We don't always understand the language but something is trying to speak."

For Bennett this is not just a theory - he also has first-hand experience of flying saucers. "It was 25 years ago that I saw my first UFO just outside that window," he says in the basement of his Notting Hill flat. "It was a Sunday night in 1981 and it turned out to be the most serious experience in my life."

"I had been out to the cinema and was just about to walk through the gate to my house when I saw a bright light. I didn't know what was happening so I called to my girlfriend, Karen, who was home. I thought, if she doesn't see what I'm seeing, then I'll have to see a doctor."

"Karen came out and was gobsmacked. We both just stood there with our mouths open. It was like a hypnotic disco light sitting right above the square. Suddenly we could make out through the light a Lancaster bomber sitting stationary in mid-air, and then it suddenly morphed into a triangular craft which vanished into the distance. We were shocked. We don't drink, we don't take drugs, and we didn't believe in this sort of thing, but it happened."

The pair stumbled inside their house, only to be confronted by another anomaly. "We walked inside, and there was a man in black on the settee. Apparently he'd turned up just before I arrived home, saying he was a friend of our neighbour, and asking if he could wait until the neighbour arrived home."

"Karen had invited him in but, as soon as we both walked back in, he

stood up, looked at us for a moment, and then walked out of the house."

Colin even described the strange man to his neighbour the next day, but the neighbour claimed not to know such an individual.

"Needless to say, Karen and I were both a bit stunned but there was more to come. I went upstairs to feed the cats, bent down to put the food in their bowl and then stood up again. It was then that I realised that that simple motion had taken me over 20 minutes. I'd lost 20 minutes of time and had no memory of where it had gone."

"After that night, I realised that not only was the universe a whole



CLOSE ENCOUNTER: Pauline Smith recounts her experience of a UFO sighting on Abbey Road, Barrow, in 1967

LINDSEY DICKINGS REF: 0295607

Woman saw UFO flying over town

A WOMAN has recounted the moment she saw a UFO flying over the rooftops of Barrow town centre during the swinging 60s.

Pauline Smith was a 17-year-old trainee hairdresser when she spotted a flying saucer hovering above Ramsden Square in 1967.

Mrs Smith contacted the Evening Mail after reading Saturday's story which featured the decline in extra terrestrial sightings in Cumbria.

Now 58, Mrs Smith, who works as an occupational therapist at Furness General Hospital can

By ROBERT JOHNSON
rob.wilson@nwemail.co.uk

clearly remember her out-of-this-world experience.

Mrs Smith, who lives in Dalton, said: "It was 7pm in the autumn and my sister Christine and I had just finished work."

"We looked up and saw a flying saucer with bright flashing lights. We were transfixed. We could not take our eyes off this UFO."

"It hovered above Ramsden Square for a couple of minutes before it shot up into the sky. I have never seen anything like this in my life, the UFO moved so quickly. We

just looked at each other, gobsmacked. We have often talked about that day and reading the UFO article in the Evening Mail and seeing a photograph brought memories flooding back."

Mrs Smith is adamant the craft was not man-made and believes it was an extraterrestrial craft.

"Before the incident I had been quite aware of UFOs. I had read a book which made me aware of sightings across the world," she said.

"When I saw the UFO it was so overwhelming. The speed the craft moved suggested to me that it was not man-made."

HERALD EXPRESS, Torquay, England - Dec. 22, 2005

Mystery light UFO investigation

MYSTERIOUS strange lights have been sighted in the night sky in rural South Devon.

Now UFO spotters are investigating to try and discover the source of the objects over the Chudleigh Knighton area.

David Gillham, chairman of the Cornwall UFO Research Group based in Truro, Cornwall said there were two witnesses, and he appealed for any other to contact him. A motorist had just come off the A38 onto the B3344 at

Chudleigh Knighton, when the passenger noticed what he thought was a shooting star.

"Then he realised it was something else because of the angle. The light was coming down, and at about 200 feet above the ground it stopped dead, then moved slowly to the left."

"The witness noticed there was a very large round light. The light

moved around, then the shape became clearer. It was like a very large boomerang, about the size of two houses."

"Then, to his surprise, five to eight blue or red lights came on towards the left of the main white light, with a similar number of red lights coming on, on the right."

Mr Gillham said the "boomerang" followed the car along the road, and then shot off in the Newton Abbot direction at a very fast speed.

Mr Gillham said "boomerang" shapes were becoming a frequent phenomenon.

"There have been quite a few in Arizona, USA, and some in Cornwall, the latest at Chacewater. This is the first I have heard of in Devon, and there is obviously something going on which we need to get to the bottom of."

He would be interested to hear from anybody else who saw anything similar at about 9.41pm on Monday. His number is 01872 276381.

lot more mysterious than I had imagined, I also realised that I needed to find out more about UFOs."

AND so began a lifetime quest that has seen this mild-mannered Englishman explore the farthest reaches of the galaxy, all from the comfort of his cluttered front room.

He has written books on thought control, scientific mavericks and conspiracies, all in an attempt to make sense of the strange events that occurred to him that night in

1981. But it is this latest book on the events in Washington in 1952 that is the true culmination of his years spent in pursuit of the truth.

For Colin, his firm conviction that the public needs to know the truth about alien life forms goes hand in hand with outrage at government attempts to obscure and hush-up the facts. "The US government said the sightings in 1952 were nothing more than a strange weather phenomenon!" says Colin, leaning forward with an arm raised. "Weather, for God's sake! How could they?"

His hope is that this book will open people's eyes, and help them to be less accepting of government

propaganda. Although he is still trying to understand what it was that happened to him on that strange Sunday night back in 1981, he is determined that his work will continue to uncover the truth.

● *An American Demonology*, by Colin Bennett, is published by Headpress, price £11.99. To order a copy, send a cheque or postal order made payable to The Express Bookshop to American Demonology Offer, PO Box 200, Falmouth TR11 4WJ, or telephone 0871 434 6091 or order online at www.expressbookshop.com. Delivery to UK addresses is free.

Mysterious object lights up night sky over Newcastle

BY CHRIS BUSH
THE NEWS BULLETIN

Mystery lights over Newcastle Island have left a Nanaimo man wondering what exactly it was he saw.

Cory Figura admits he got frightened when he saw several lights appear and hover in the sky above the island while he was sitting on a bench at the end of a break-water next to Nanaimo Yacht Club.

The incident, which occurred Jan. 24 between 8:30 and 9 p.m. troubled him enough that he sent the following written account to the News Bulletin:

"I saw an odd light appear in the sky over the Island.

"Having nothing better to do, I watched as it simply stayed motionless in sky.

"After about three or four minutes another light materialized in the sky off to the left. It just appeared and it too simply sat motionless.

"All of a sudden the first light began to move towards the second. After closing the gap between them by half, it stopped.

"Then another object appeared out of nowhere in the place the first object had started.

"Then, way off to the right, another object appeared and to me it looked like it broke into two separate objects.

"As quickly as that happened, a sixth and final object appeared near objects four and five.

"The number three object then began moving up into the sky and all of a sudden disappeared into the night sky - to where I have no idea.

"Three more suddenly vanished as well, leaving two bright objects in the sky. At this point a man came along and I pointed out the objects and we discussed the possibility of what we were seeing.

"Having not seen all six so menacingly lined up across the island like that, he was quick to believe they were simply airplanes.

"When those six crafts were all there just like that out of nowhere, I was astounded and scared, but I was also left wondering just what it was that I saw.

"Maybe you could tell me.

Figura also sent a drawing he made to illustrate his description.

In a subsequent interview Figura said he initially thought it was the Coast Guard Search and Rescue aircraft dropping flares while practicing over the Strait of Georgia.

"I've seen a million planes in my life and those cer-

'I've seen a million planes in my life and those certainly were not like any planes I've ever seen before.'

- Cory Figura

tainly were not like any planes I've ever seen before," he said.

He said the lights appeared to be low over the island and, from where he was sitting appeared to be about the size of a street lamp viewed from up to six city blocks away.

This is not the first time strange lights have been spotted over Newcastle Island.

On July 2, 2004 another Nanaimo man reported two "ball-like" objects low in the sky that appeared to be above Newcastle Island. They hovered side-by-side flashing red and white.

This continued for two minutes before one faded out. The other remained for another three minutes.

He had time to point them out to another man walking his dog before the remaining light also faded out.

Like Figura, he also initially thought he was looking at conventional aircraft until the light's behaviour suggested otherwise.

Most reported UFO sightings are witnessed by two or more people, according to the Canadian UFO Survey.

A spokesman at the Nanaimo Airport air traffic advisory tower, in Cassidy, attributed Figura's report to a Boeing 747 airliner on approach to Vancouver International Airport in Richmond.

photos@nanaimobulletin.com

'It did not move at all, it stayed rock solid' Mystery in sky

By ELGAN HEARN

AN unexplained flying object was seen floating over the Menai Strait last week by a husband and wife driving down from Snowdonia to Bangor to do their Christmas shopping.

At 10.32am last Wednesday, retired educational psychologist, Dr Robert Turner and his wife Julia pulled their car into a lay-by at Ynys Iago near the Rhiwlas crossroads to watch the object for several minutes before it disappeared.

A shaken Dr Turner who lives at Penybryn cottage, Capel Glascoed, near Penisarwaun, said: "I'm not prone to seeing things, I'm a fairly rational sort of guy.

"This exceedingly bright light was over the Menai Strait as you looked towards the Great Orme an Llandudno.

"I used to be with the mountain rescue and RAF, so I can judge height and distances quite well. I'd say it was 1,500 to 2,000 feet in the sky.

"It did not move at all, stayed rock solid.

"I know that even if a helicopter is hovering trying to rescue someone from the sea then there would be some movement.

"We stood watching it for a couple of minutes, it was like a powerful halogen light.

"As I fiddled trying to find my binoculars in the car, it disappeared."

Retired teacher Mrs Turner said: "If it



Strange sighting: Have any of our readers seen something they can't explain in the sky?

ZZHH121205ufo-2

had been the morning star/Venus, it would have moved, we just wonder if anyone else saw this?"

A young woman from Bangor, who did not wish to be named, recalled seeing a similar sight a few years ago in the city's Hirael area.

She said: "I could not sleep and walked down to the garage on Beach Road at 6.30am one morning.

"I saw this strange object in the sky.

"A man saw it as well and we both must have stood near Dickies boat yard watching it for 15 minutes before it disappeared.

"Neither of us said anything to the other,

we both just walked off, I suppose it was unbelievable."

An RAF spokesman Wing Commander Field said: "It wasn't one of our Hawk jets was it?"

"Our policy is not really to comment or record UFO sightings.

"They're only checked out if there's an aircraft close by. To be honest we don't pay much attention to these sightings."

□ If you have experienced a similar sighting please write to the Caernarfon Herald at 14 Eastgate Street, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1AG or e-mail us at caernarfon.herald@northwalesnews.co.uk

GAZETTE, Whitby, England - Dec. 20, 2005

Base says no UFO sightings recorded

by Tim Readman

THE truth is still out there.

Military officials from RAF Fylingdales early warning station say there are no alien craft flying in low orbit around the Earth.

But UFO enthusiasts and paranormal investigators remain convinced they have seen spaceships.

The statement from the radar base follows a request for documentation and reports on unidentified flying objects under new legislation contained in the Freedom of Information Act.

Squadron leader Andy Richards said: "Any object in Low Earth Orbit is detected, tracked, identified and catalogued by RAF Fylingdales and has been since 1963.

"There are no unidentified objects in Low Earth Orbit.

"The radar is configured in such a way that any object that is not in Low Earth Orbit - hovering over a field or flying through the atmosphere - would not be detected by RAF Fylingdales personnel."

Last year there were some 50 sightings of UFOs on the coast between Scarborough and Filey - dubbed the UFO capital of the UK - and since the beginning of this year there have been close to 100.

Most recently, people have reported seeing flying triangles flying over the North York Moors and there have been multiple sightings of fleets of small UFOs flying in formation around Scarborough.

And in October, an object seen

flying at 20,000ft over the East Coast was labelled a UFO - though there was a suggestion it could also be a top-secret American spy plane called the Aurora.

Official records of UFO sightings in Yorkshire date back as far as 1290 when William of Newburgh mentions in his family chronicles the sighting of a round silvery object flying over Byland Abbey near Helmsley.

UFO enthusiast and paranormal investigator Russ Kellett said he did not expect RAF Fylingdales to confirm the existence of UFOs.

He said: "There's a lot going on but Fylingdales aren't going to say anything because the truth is they can't stop these things coming.

"These things have been seen to land and I have spoken to people who have had close encounters."

KINGSBRIDGE, SALCOMBE & SOUTH HAMS GAZETTE, England
Sept. 23, 2005

'I watched UFO for an hour'

AN unidentified flying object was sighted off the coast at Bolberry near Kingsbridge last Friday.

A very bright, quite large, circular object was seen hanging in the sky for more than an hour without moving. The sun was setting and there was a very red sky, which reflected off its shiny, metallic-looking surface.

After hanging over the sea for an hour, the object became smaller then simply disappeared. It displayed what appeared to be a jet of flame at the top left hand part of the sphere prior to vanishing.

Malborough resident Pamela Howitt was looking out to sea at about 8pm when suddenly she saw the object in the sky.

"I was curious what it was because nothing stands still like that," she said.

"I got my binoculars to get a better look and could see it wasn't a plane, a helicopter or a balloon. It became more defined

through the lenses but I still couldn't make out what it was. It still had rays of lighting coming off it with a flame jet at the top left side.

"I watched it for more than an hour and it didn't move. When it went, it didn't just shoot off, it grew smaller then suddenly disappeared."

The National Coastwatch Institution lookout point at Prawle Point could not substantiate the sighting as it had closed at 5pm that evening.

Ms Howitt, who has lived in the area for nearly 30 years, is convinced she saw something out of the ordinary.

"We've seen a lot of similar things over the years. There have been plenty of UFO sightings in the area," she said.

"I'm not senile, I know what I saw and it wasn't a hot air balloon, a helicopter or a plane. I think it could only have been a UFO."

GAZETTE, Whitby, England - Oct. 18, 2005

Mystery of lights in the sky

MYSTERIOUS lights were seen in the sky on the Whitby to Guisborough Road on Thursday.

A local man, who wishes to remain anonymous was driving on the A171 near Bunnyland when he noticed a light flashing in the sky towards the coast.

He thought it was just a commercial jet but he said that suddenly the lights formed the shape of a square in the sky - there was a light at each corner of the square and a couple more in the centre.

He said: "I don't believe in UFOs particularly but it was just weird. "It didn't look like aircraft flying in formation and there was no sound.

"They weren't the usual lights

you see from a commercial aircraft."

The lights were moving in a straight line but after driving a little further and stopping to look back, the man said they had vanished.

Wg Cdr Phil Cox, station commander at RAF Fylingdales, said the radar had not picked anything up but the beam doesn't form until it is 400 miles from the station.

But he said the phenomenon could have simply been an aeroplane.

He said: "The navigation lights on aeroplanes are often confused for squares in the sky and in the dark, the perspective would make them look as if it was vertical."

UFO was 'probably a plane ad banner'

By HENRYK ZIENTEK
Business Reporter

A FIREFIGHTER believes he has solved the mystery of a UFO spotted over Huddersfield.

The Examiner reported on Thursday how Crosland Moor resident Teresa Millward snapped images of a strange triangular object from her window last Monday afternoon.

She was unable to explain the slow-moving object and wondered whether any other readers had seen it.

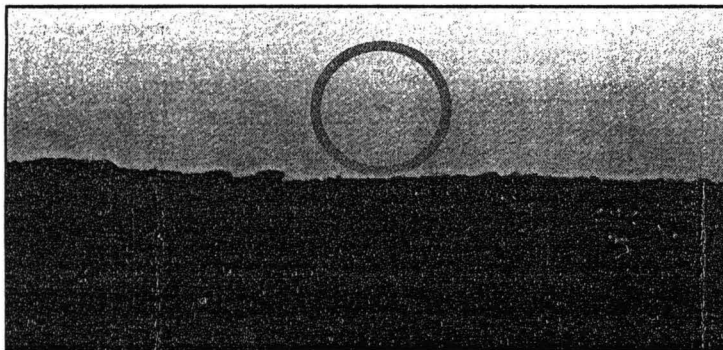
Now Outlane man Will Basnett, a firefighter based in Halifax, believes he has the answer.

He said: "While training at the rear of the fire station my colleagues and I spotted the large object making its way across the horizon.

"Just as we were about to prepare ourselves for an 'Independence Day' style invasion by some alien force, one of the lads pointed to a very faint object to the right of the 'spaceship' which appeared to be some sort of light aircraft.

"We presume the object in question was some sort of banner that was being pulled by a plane.

"Maybe one day a spaceship, but



■ IN FLIGHT: The 'UFO' spotted over Paddock earlier this week

See the full video of the mystery object on

www.ichuddersfield.co.uk

not this time, I'm sorry to say!"

Another Examiner reader, who was out walking in Holywell Green noticed the same strange shape.

The reader said: "With the use of binoculars, it looked like some sort of advertising kite and it was being towed by an aeroplane."

Examiner reader Andy Ringrose, from Longwood, came up with the same answer.

He said: "The shape is very similar to a very large banner that I saw being towed over the skies of Manchester by a helicopter on Monday morning.

"There was a cable to the chopper from the top left corner and a weight at the bottom left — so maybe not aliens."

But one couple who saw it say they were amazed and are now more open-minded.

Betty Heptonstall and husband Philip were at Birdsedge on Monday when they spotted the object.

Philip is a member of Huddersfield Astronomical Society.

Betty said: "It was like an enormous kite.

"We watched it for about 10 minutes through binoculars.

"It was moving quite slowly then picked up speed and disappeared.

"We're usually pretty sceptical but this has seen us become more open-minded.

"I can't explain what happened and I'm not sure what it was but plenty of other people must have seen it."

Meanwhile, reader Mike Smith, of Birkby, said he saw a glowing light in the skies above his house on Tuesday evening.

He said: "It was similar to a piece of glowing firework debris and travelling at about the same apparent speed. There were, however, none of the other pyrotechnics or noise associated with fireworks."

He said: "At the moment, it is the peak period for the Geminid meteor showers and it could possibly have been a larger than usual meteor burning up and slowing down in the process to something less than the usual swift speed.

"The Geminid is a regular annual shower which might explain any multiple sightings and timings that may have been reported."

The video of the UFO's flight on the Examiner's website has proved highly popular with more than 500 hits.

henryk.zientek@examiner.co.uk

ORBS EXPLAINED BUT THERE ARE OTHER LIGHTS

What about ghost light phenomena?

WHILE I do enjoy John Rippin poking fun at the materialists who stick rigidly to their "science" and who do not ever entertain any notion or fact that may weaken their own brand of religion (ie scientific materialism), I must gently pull him up on some of his wilder excesses.

In his View Point John spoke about the orbs that he had photographed when visiting Rothley Station.

Such orbs, or balls of light, are only ever captured on photographs and their common mention in literature and TV has been apparent only since the mid-1990s with the huge increase in digital cameras and nightvision video cameras.

Many claim these orbs to be spirit manifestation but sadly few are convincing enough to lay claim to this explanation.

More logical explanations - and which would keep the Windmills happy (and all serious ghost hunters) - are that they are the result of flashlight striking particles of pollen, spore, dust and moisture droplets close to the lens.

Several respectable parasience organisations who study paranormal phenomenon have conducted field tests and showed amounts other things that the cheaper the camera the more likely an orb would be captured.

The smaller the camera again more likely an orb image would be obtained.

Dust has been deliberately blown in front of the cameras that show that the orbs captured in this way are exactly the same as unexplained spirit orbs.

However, the phenomenon of Ghost Lights is different, and these luminous phenomenon usually in the form of balls or irregular shaped lights.

These lights have been seen by witnesses without the aid of optical instruments and are frequently responsive to noise and light.

They appear randomly at particular sites and may be active for years or become dormant.

Charnwood is one area where Ghost Lights have appeared and seem to be connected with seismic activity (mini-earthquakes).

In the last major earthquake in Charnwood in 1957 such earthquake lights were seen in the sky.

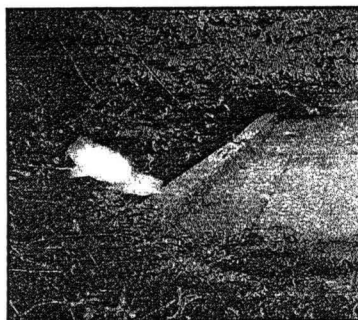
This phenomenon seems to be produced by natural geological forces deep within the earth and is a subject that is being investigated by scientists all over the world.

In the past such Ghost Lights were thought of as being spirits of the dead or angels/demons.

In more recent times such lights have been interpreted by witnesses as UFOs.

But what we may be dealing with is an undiscovered natural phenomenon.

So let us try and not to scoff too much at those who have seen strange



phenomenon as is often the case the witness is genuinely reporting what they have seen.

Such narrow-minded arrogance of the scientific materialist is akin to the religious zealots who used to burn heretics for their beliefs.

Likewise, we must seek to avoid interpreting everything strange that we experience as unexplainable or belonging to the realms of some quasi-spiritualist belief.

But at least John Rippin is open to new experiences and ideas that may not necessarily fit in with his preconceived world view, unlike others who sit and sneer from their academic ivory towers and condemn others whose experiences and world views may be different to theirs.

I look forward to further reasoned debate between John Rippin and the Windmills.

Clive Potter

Crop circles researcher claims three-week vigil was a secret success

After 15 years I can tell truth of marks made by UFO



Giving up crop circle research: Colin Andrews, who has put his collection of photos, videos, books, sketches and reports on eBay

By Tristan Cork
t.cork@bepp.co.uk

A WEST crop circle expert has lifted the lid on a previously long-forgotten chapter in the bizarre history of the West's 1990 crop circle mystery.

Colin Andrews revealed to a coast-to-coast audience in America the goings-on under the cover of a summer night 15 years ago.

Mr Andrews, who left his West home for the US a decade ago, said that, far from being an embarrassing flop, the three-week vigil on the hilltops of Wiltshire was an astounding and secret success.

Listeners on US radio heard claims yesterday that the British Army watched and filmed a UFO making a ground-breaking crop circle near Silbury Hill while the world's media were camped 20 miles away.

Back in 1990, it was the high point of the crop circle hysteria gripping the world.

Dozens of volunteers, a host of foreign TV cameras, the world's foremost crop circle experts and the British Army launched a round-the-clock vigil from the famous white horse above Bratton, near Westbury, in a bid to spot a crop circle being made.

And within days it appeared Operation Blackbird had been successful - night vision cameras spotted something in a field below, and, sure enough, a new crop circle could be seen as dawn broke. For a few hours, the

world reported the crop circle mystery as solved - but operation leader Colin Andrews soon realised he had been hoaxed and the figures on night-vision cameras were not aliens but local mischief-makers.

According to Mr Andrews, however, across Wiltshire a more mysterious and sinister event was happening, which has remained top secret ever since.

He said: "The public knew but half of what was going on at the time. While the media present at Operation Blackbird were looking at the right hand, they did not see what happened with the left."

"The British Army were looking at a secret site and a very important place nearby."

Strange things did happen at the Operation Blackbird HQ in Bratton - a strange hum, odd bass noises in the dead of night, and people seeing flashes of energy in the night sky.

"While, above Bratton, there was a formation appearing in front of the cameras which was supposed to convince the world of a hoax, the Army filmed a UFO at the secret site, and crop circles appeared next to the hill."

"The crop circle story will not be complete until Operation Blackbird is fully understood and why, and who, is behind the larger plan" added Mr Andrews.

Why he has chosen now to reveal more information now might have something to do with him winding down his research into the crop circle phenomenon. He recently put his entire collection of photos, videos, books, sketches and reports up for sale on eBay.

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Grimsby, England - Dec. 10, 2005

Did you see the UFO that flew over Donna Nook?

WONDER if any readers can help me with any details about an incident said to have occurred in October 1970, when a UFO flew over the air base and was captured on photograph or film by members of an observation post, under the command of Capt Robert Miller (USAF).

I first learned of this incident as a result of contacting retired Police Sergeant Tony Dodd, who has been researching UFOs for years.

Tony tells me he is able to examine certain documents relating to the incident, including photographs.

Following my own retirement from the West Midlands Police, I have been cataloguing UFO reports and experiences covering the UK going back to 1940, a project that has taken me nearly 11 years and I am only half way through!

I have always believed in a rational and scientific approach to UFO investigation, and can say with some knowledge of the subject that the majority of sightings brought to my attention will

RETIRED police officer JOHN HANSON has an unusual request for help from Bygones readers. He wants to know more about a UFO incident at RAF Donna Nook.

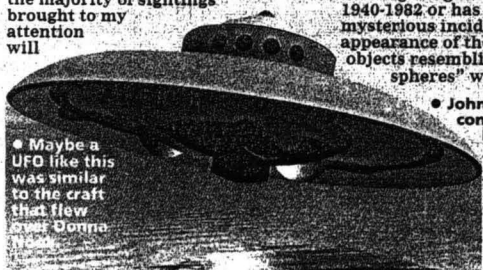
have occurred near to or by ancient sites, or Roman roads... food for thought.

Though I have come across what I believe to be blatant hoaxes, involving the "alleged landing of alien craft and their bizarre occupants" on British soil, I have no reason to disbelieve what Mr Dodd has told me. His reputation precedes him.

I'm hoping that somebody might be able first of all to identify which RAF squadrons were based at Donna Nook in 1970 and whether anybody has anything on UFO sightings covering the period 1940-1982 or has heard of this mysterious incident involving the appearance of these strange objects resembling "glass spheres" with a blue haze.

• John Hanson can be contacted at: 31, Red Lion Street, Alvechurch, Worcestershire, B48 7LG. Tel 0121 445 0340 or email: john.dawn@hanson.holloway.fsnet.co.uk

• Maybe a UFO like this was similar to the craft that flew over Donna



Lights were UFO, says fisherman

STRANGE lights have been spotted off Holland-on-Sea.

A fisherman said he would never have believed in the existence of UFOs before the sighting - but is now convinced.

The Clacton man was fishing level with the Kingscliff Hotel on the seafront at 1.30am on Sunday when he saw something flying with red, blue, white and green lights.

He said: "It was moving about quite rapidly, and it definitely was not a plane or a helicopter. It was right there and it was dead calm, but there was no engine noise whatsoever."

UFO group seeks source of lights

UFO spotters are trying to discover the source of mysterious lights sighted in the night sky over Chudleigh Knighton, near Newton Abbot in Devon.

David Gillham, chairman of the Cornwall UFO Research Group, said there were two witnesses, and appealed for any others to contact him on 01872 276381.

He said a motorist had just come off the A38 on to the B3344 at Chudleigh Knighton about 9.41pm on Monday, when his passenger noticed a light shaped like a boomerang, about the size of two houses.

"Then, to his surprise, five to eight blue or red lights came on towards the left of the main white light, with a similar number of red lights coming on the right," Mr Gillham said.

The "boomerang" followed the car along the road, then shot off in towards Newton Abbot at speed. Mr Gillham said "boomerang" shapes were becoming a frequent phenomenon with some sightings in Cornwall, but this was the first he had heard of in Devon.

WALLEN INVASION

MoD probes new UFO sightings

WALES is being invaded by little green men, with the Ministry of Defence probing a new UFO sighting every six weeks.

MoD records handed to Wales on Sunday show 28 official reports of UFO sightings over the past three years.

They include objects with legs spinning over the Valleys, a flying disc over Newport and a large black object hovering above Rhyl.

The MoD says there are probably "rational explanations" for the sightings, but it would be a waste of money to examine further.

But alien experts say many of the sightings cannot be explained so easily and need examining.

The figures, released under the Freedom of Information Act, show seven sightings in 2002, eight in 2003, four in 2004 and nine so far this year.

All but one were spotted in the south of the country - a large black object sighted over Rhyl in March 2004.

EXCLUSIVE

By MATT WITHERS

Julie Monk, director of air staff at the MoD, said they examined UFO reports only to check if foreign aircraft had entered UK airspace.

She said: "Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the UK from an external source, and to date no UFO report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each

facilities available to probe the sightings.

He said: "Some of them I think straightaway sound like it's misidentification of planes, but some of them sound quite interesting. "Some of them, possibly most of them, could be explained away."

"The people who pilots report sightings to are called UK Airprox, who are staffed by a mixture of civil and military experts in their fields, so they actually have got the facilities to look into these things."

"There are credible sightings. And either these are ours, which mean we've got technology far more powerful than the ones we know about, or they're somebody else's. I don't know more than that."

Earlier this year it emerged a spate of UFO sightings in Wales prompted a secret Ministry of Defence investigation.

The clamour around the possibility of aliens visiting Pembrokeshire forced Government officials to look into the situation in the late 1970s.

But Cardiff-based UFO boffin Chris Fowler said there were



sighting reported to us.

"We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MoD to provide this kind of aerial identification service."

"It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so."

But Cardiff-based UFO boffin Chris Fowler said there were

mean we've got technology far more powerful than the ones we know about, or they're somebody else's. I don't know more than that."

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SIGHTINGS INCLUDE...

□ November 11, 2002: Two objects of different colour were spotted moving up and down above Cardiff docks.

□ January 15, 2003: A large round disc "slightly smaller than the moon" was seen over Cowbridge in the Vale of Glamorgan. It was creamy white, before changing to green.

□ July 12, 2003: Two round black objects with legs were sighted spinning over the Rhondda Valley.

□ February 18, 2002: A "large black object" was seen in the sky above Rhyl at 4pm.

□ January 31, 2005: An orange ball of light with "spiderish legs" spotted over Port Talbot.

FIVE GREAT UFO FILMS FOR WALES

1. Return of the Beddau
2. Star Trecoo
3. Men in Blackwood
4. Crwys Encounters of the Third Kind
5. The X-Pyles with Mold and Sully



WOS SAYS

ONLY an alien abduction would convince us there is life on another planet.

So here's an open invite to the little green men out there: why not start with abducting the All Blacks on Saturday!

BARKING & DAGENHAM RECORDER, England - Nov. 24, 2005

'ET' moves south in latest UFO sighting

ANOTHER UFO has been spotted in the skies over Redbridge.

Jindy Singh, 23, from Ilford said he saw a strange flashing light low in the sky around midnight on Thursday.

The light began as a triangle-shaped object, but became rounder and flashed red, blue and white, he said.

Mr Singh's sighting follows a spate of similar reports from seven people living in Hainault in September.

Readers contacted the Recorder after seeing unexplained bright lights, which formed a line and then a triangle, before they faded away.

The release of Thai lanterns over Leez Priory near Chelmsford, Essex, was one suggested reason for the reports of red and orange lights over Redbridge and

REPORT: JOANNA MATHER

joanna.mather@ilfordrecorder.co.uk

other parts of Essex at the time.

Roy Lake, chairman of London UFO Studies, concluded the lights were probably the work of extra-terrestrial beings.

Mr Lake, of Barking, said he had seen the triangle formation before.

He ruled out the possibility that the strange lights might have been balloons or flares because "they don't behave like that".

He said: "If it's not some secret project by the government, then you have got some other intelligent life behind it, which is likely to be extra-terrestrial."

Mr Singh, of Henley Road, Ilford, said he was

walking his dog in Loxford Park when he saw the mysterious lights.

He said he went home and told his sister and called a friend who lives in nearby Sunnyside Road to make sure he had not imagined his sighting.

"It was a clear night and I thought it might be a plane or a helicopter," he said.

"When I went back home, my sister and I stood outside to see if we could hear an engine, but it was quiet."

"We watched it for about 10 minutes."

"It was really bright and low over the sky in the direction of Loxford Park."

● Have you had a similar experience to Mr Singh? Email newsdesk@ilfordrecorder.co.uk.

GAZETTE, Whitby, England - Nov. 1, 2005

UFO sightings 'at a high level'

WHITBY has had an unbelievable amount of UFO sightings recently.

Russ Kellett of the British Abduction and Contactee Group in Scarborough said there had been three sightings reported in three weeks.

He has had reports of an orange ball of light coming out of the sea and towards the A171 and of a silver metallic disk floating down the same road.

"The amount of sightings on this part of the north east coast is just unbelievable," he said. Anyone who has seen anything strange can contact Russ on (01723) 514700 or visit www.ufo-paranormal.co.uk.

TIMES, Oxford, England - Oct. 7, 2005

Didcot builder claims to have spotted UFO over county

A BRICK-SHAPED UFO with flashing red and white lights was seen hovering in the south Oxfordshire sky by a Didcot builder.

However, his claims have been greeted with scepticism by experts.

Howard Jarman, of Richmere Road, said he was astonished when he saw what he believed to be an alien spacecraft floating in the sky above Benson.

The object caught Mr Jarman's attention after he got up at 6am to wake his son Craig, 21, for work.

The builder said: "I opened the curtains and saw an object in the sky with bright lights in the distance over the Benson area."

"There was a strange humming noise like pylons make. I called my wife June and we stood for three-quarters of an hour watching."

He ruled out the possibility that the object was a plane or helicopter from nearby RAF Benson and said: "At first I thought it was an aircraft but this was something else. It was



■ Out of this world... the pictures Mr Jarman, middle, says are of a UFO over Benson



different. We stood there for a long time and as it started to get light, the lights disappeared one at a time.

"I wasn't worried, I just felt excited."

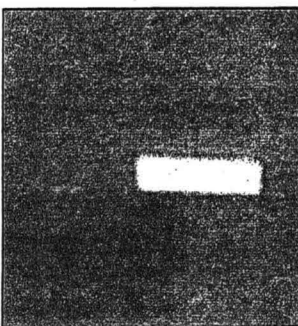
"Craig spoke to a taxi driver when he was buying a paper at the shop and he said he had seen the same thing."

Mr Jarman, who took photographs of the bright disc,

said he last saw a UFO in 1974 over Upper Heyford airbase.

Geoffrey Ambler, vice president of Contact International, which carries out research into UFOs and other unexplained happenings, said there was a 50 per cent chance that the object was an alien spaceship.

He said: "If it was flashing lights it tends to be an



aeroplane, and there is a base there. It is difficult to say really. A lot of them are completely silent. It sounds like it was a helicopter, but if it was sitting there it couldn't have been a plane. I'd give it a 50-50 chance."

Mr Ambler added that there had not been many major UFO sightings in Oxfordshire in the last few years.

However, a Ministry of

Defence spokesman said the mystery object was probably just a plane or light reflecting off clouds.

Commander Trevor Field said: "If people report these kind of incidents we will look into, but we do not keep UFO statistics."

"If it was near a military establishment at night it could have been reflections of light off the clouds or aircraft, or elements of it could have been obscured by the cloud giving it a halo effect. It really could have been anything."

Thames Valley Police said it had not received any reports of a UFO in the south Oxfordshire area during the early hours of October 27.

It is not the first time that Mr Jarman has appeared in the local press for unusual reasons.

In 1974, Mr Jarman spent two weeks in Angola, southern Africa, as a front-line mercenary after he saw a newspaper advertisement for the job.

Despite having no formal military training, he applied for the position.

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.]

January 4, 2006 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — Argentina: Bus Drivers "Unavailable for Comment" — [The following is the text of the reply provided by the Andesmar Bus Line with regard to the "landed UFO" reported by Miryan Coronel a few days ago]:

"In reply to your letter, we inform you that we have made the corresponding inquiries due to the publication of *Infobae* and *El Liberal* news items on January 3 regarding a sighting of lights in the middle of the road, and in which our company is mentioned as the transportation service employed by Mrs. Miryam (sic) Coronel.

"Endeavoring to corroborate this information, we contacted the drivers of the unit, who are on the road and will return to base (Mendoza) in a few days. They claimed not to be aware of the story given by the passenger to the media.

"We are expecting the drivers' arrival in Mendoza to interview them in a personal manner. We regret not being able to furnish more detailed information in this regard, but this was the information given to us over the phone. Should any new data come to light, we will contact you as soon as possible." — CREDIT: Luis Eduardo Carreno

January 18, 2006 — *CIUFOS/LaPampa*, La Pampa, Argentina — Argentina: The Water Keeps Vanishing — Toward late December 2005, some 28,000 liters of water vanished from a swimming pool in a country home in Santa Rosa, La Pampa.

According to Daniel _____, the property's owner, he and his wife Silvia were in the pool until 1 o'clock in the morning with their two daughters, trying to find relief from the intense nocturnal heat. He clearly remembers that the pool held the same volume of water, which is to say, it was only 15 cm from the very edge of the pool.

The swimming pool in question, measuring 9 meters long by 4.5 meters wide, with depths ranging from 1.70 [meters] at its deepest to 1.30 [meters] at its shallowest, showed a missing amount of one meter of water, measured vertically.

The property owner realized this when he woke up the next day and endeavored to clean debris from the pool. He immediately checked for the possibility of a leak or water filtration, without finding anything that would corroborate this assumption.

The witness, faced with a lack of evidence to justify the lack of water, was thoroughly surprised. He now wonders at the lack of answers to such an unusual event. Mr. Daniel _____ lives on Calle Vaira in the Malvinas Argentinas district of Santa Rosa, La Pampa. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

January 20, 2006 — *www.analuisacid.com.mx* — SPAIN: UFO FLOTILLA PHOTOGRAPHED OVER SPAIN? — On Thursday, January 5, 2006, a fleet of spheres was recorded over Madrid, Spain.

The witness, identifying herself only as "Fortuna," mentioned that she was taking a walk in Madrid's northwestern section, photographing the landscape and some of the contrails left by passing airliners.

"The sun was behind me and I was looking north. I saw an airliner go by and suddenly I saw a group of elongated things coming in from the East. At first I thought the airliner itself had ejected something, but then I concentrated my gaze on them and forgot about the aircraft.

"I had the sensation that they [the unknown objects] were elongated objects flying in formation. There was a large number of them and I thought they could be birds, only to realize that this was not the case -- they were small brilliant spheres that blinked and flew in two separate groups, heading west.

"They were not flying in a straight line, only making very small movements. I was stunned. It all took place very quickly, no more than a minute elapsed from the moment I saw them until I stopped seeing them.

"Both groups traveled swiftly and at a near distance; it could be clearly seen that they flew together." — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid and Pablo Dessy

January 27, 2006 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina, and *AFP Digital* — EL SALVADOR: POLICE CHIEF AND 17 OFFICERS CLAIM HAVING FACED STRANGE LIGHT — A strange event is under investigation by the police. The deputy chief of the San Salvador police force and 17 of his men were witnesses to what still has not been given a rational explanation - they allegedly came across a powerful silent radiation that enveloped them for several minutes.

AFP DIGITAL - In the early hours of Tuesday morning, police cruisers came across a powerful silent light that lit them up and vanished after several minutes without a trace.

The deputy chief of the San Salvador police, Amir Methey Doret, told *Uno* that "we experienced the curious event when we were returning from a police operation in the rural area north of our Department."

"That's where all 18 of us witnessed a light in the sky that glowed with great intensity. It amazed us that the light seemed to be aimed toward one side," he added. "That powerful light wasn't a floodlight, with which I am well acquainted, nor was it any other device or aerial optics. I do not think it was a helicopter or airplane either."

After a few minutes of exposure, explained the senior officer, "the silent light began to rise to a considerable height and velocity, until it suddenly vanished, leaving a significant glow or white cloud that began to dissipate like smoke."

"The light, which we could see from a considerable distance, was moving sideways (sic) and was suddenly gone, leaving a cloud behind."

When asked if it could have originated from an aircraft, Methey Doret said pointblank: "I don't think so, because at first we thought it might be an aerostat, but we later realized this wasn't the case, as the light was so strong."

"As the hours go by, those of us who were there wonder what crossed our path," reflected the deputy police chief.

Later on, he reported that "the police cruisers continued running and at no point were communications between the units ever interrupted."

Finally, the deputy chief remarked that other residents of San Salvador saw the strange light headed toward the Villaguay region. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero

February 1, 2006 — www.omnia.com.mx — MEXICO: UFOs OVER CHIHUAHUA? — "What's that? It's not a plane, a bird or much less the public safety or municipal helicopters." Those were the first utterances from a group of onlookers staring at an unidentified figure that can be seen in one of the photographs of the Angel of Liberty.

Armando Mar, who works for a local TV station, took some photos of the statue located in Plaza Mayor, and upon reviewing them, became aware of a particular detail.

The photo taken this Wednesday noon before the statue on Calve 11 shows a small circle with apparent velocity which appears to break off from the same figure. But the clear skies in another photograph show that this is not the case.

Could this be an unidentified flying object or merely a bird? Many have been left wondering. Some of the people who saw it are left with the doubt, as it wasn't a helicopter, since not a single one was in evidence at the time. If it was a bird, like a pigeon, according to the proportions of the statue, it would barely be visible or a "wing" would be noticeable. In any event, the viewer must be the judge. Experts will figure it out.

The question remains, as several stories exist regarding the presence of flying saucers. Some say they can be seen toward Cerro Grande; others say toward Villa Juarez. — CREDIT: David Cervantes, *Fundacion Cosmos*

February 7, 2006 — Argentina: UFOs Over Necochea 2005 — UFO ACTIVITY OVER NECOCHEA (ARGENTINA) IN THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2005 by Guillermo D. Gimenez — Once more, the city of Necochea, located in the southeastern end of the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, was the scene of several events related to the presence of UFO phenomena during the months of November and December 2005, with several witnesses to these events and photo evidence in one of them, secured by means of a cell phone, as confirmation of these events.

At 23:40 hours on Sunday, November 20, 2005, a crew of workers from the DYCASA corporation, engaged in expanding the breakwater located in the Port of Necochea, observed with wonder from the tip of the breakwater how an enormous circular object hung over the sea, heading toward the south.

It was a spectacular evening. The skies were clear, windless and it had been a very warm day, for which reason hundreds of Necocheans milled along the coastline enjoying a lovely night. It should be noted that workers are on duty 24 hours a day, working 12 hour shifts.

The object was large and circular, issuing multiple shades of blue, red, yellow and white without making any sound at all. The object or ball of light was suspended over the sea facing the city, heading southward over the waters.

Numerous witnesses on the coast observed the silent transit of this object, but perhaps the privileged witnesses of these events were the workers on the breakwater, whom as we have already said, were engaged in the remodeling and extension work for the 842 meter-long Southern Breakwater, extending it 400 meters into the sea and assembling a headland.

"While we worked on the breakwater's tip, we saw the object that issued multiple lights over the sea. All of us were excited. Finally, after several minutes of observation, the object lost itself toward Punta Negra in the dark of the night," says machine operator Carlos Franzoni, one of the witnesses to the phenomenon who saw the UFO along with other astonished co-workers.

It should be noted that Punta Negra is a coastal site in the city of Necochea, located some 10 kilometers from the beach's central district, so-called due to the color of its iron-enriched sands. It is a region consisting of broad beaches, a common characteristic to all of the city's beaches, rocky areas and cliffs.

When the local airport was consulted, we were told that no aircraft flew over the area and much less at that time of night. We ourselves witnessed the maneuvers of that object as it vanished southward. We saw it as a luminous object of an intense red color that vanished into the dark of the night.

December 2005 – A New Incident

A new incident took place on Friday, December 16, 2005, at 23:30 hours approximately when Oscar Salveran and his family were driving along Route 86. Only a few kilometers from the city of Necochea, their son noticed a large object suspended only a few meters from the ground on the side of the road and at a considerable distance away from them. The object was perfectly round and of considerable size.

It was their son who first saw the object and alerted his parents, leading them to believe that it was the Moon rising, but the son answered: "No, Dad, the Moon's on the other side and high up. Totally amazed and slowing down the vehicle's speed, with Necochea almost in sight, the family noticed that the object appeared to be changing colors constantly and brightly. It was large and circular, resembling a massive lit-up balloon. Many other vehicles noticed the object, which after several minutes picked up speed and vanished toward Necochea.

Oscar Salveran works as a planner for the CARGILL corporation and has an upstanding reputation within the firm.

The multicolored object vanished silently in the night, to the amazement of all witnesses.

That very same evening, another family noticed a large object plowing the clear and star-filled skies over Necochea at 23:00 hours while having dinner in their yard, located in the city's beach district. The family of C.M. witnessed a large object flying silently as it left a wide luminous wake in its path. The observation was brief as the object vanished toward the sea.

Two UFO incidents were recorded in the city of Necochea on Friday, December 16, 2005 with multiple witnesses to said phenomena. But the UFO activity of the city of Necochea does not end here. There still remained a further episode with photographic evidence obtained by a cell phone, which would be added to the local UFO case histories.

On Monday, December 26, 2005, several people located in the Port of Quequen-Necochea sector and on the coastal region of the latter became witnesses to the transit of a yellowish-white circular object moving silently over the city.

Marcelo Pintacuda, an agent for Central Electrica Necochea de Centrales de la Costa Atlantica SA, a company devoted to generating electric power and located in the Necochea port district facing the sea and alongside the Quequen River, that separates the cities of Necochea and Quequen, was working overtime in his duties as a fireman overseeing the unloading of 8000 tons of fuel oil for the plant from the Antares 1 vessel out of Buenos Aires, moored at the Necochea docks. The fuel is employed, along with gas, to feed the station's boilers. Through his Motorola C650 cell phone, Pintacuda was able to take three photos of a highly luminous and circular object that appeared unexpectedly over the port district, flying over ships, barges, businesses and high-voltage wires leading to the Necochea beach district. The main witness managed to take three photos whose description became the basis of our interview: how a circular, yellow-white object had flown noiselessly over the port. We have also found other witnesses to these events who confirm them; most of them live in the city's Port district.

The photos were taken at 21:23 hours on Monday, December 26, 2005, and are the record of a new UFO

incident over the Necochean airspace.

There can be no doubt that the months of November and December, 2005 were active with the presence of unusual aerial phenomena and also due to the large number of witnesses in all of these cases, finding commonalities in all of them: circular, silent and multicolored objects flying in a southerly direction and over the city of Necochea, Province of Buenos Aires. These new UFO cases are added to the UFO case histories with new photographic evidence confirming the sightings.

February 7, 2006 — *www.lacalle-online.com* — Uruguay: Strange Circles of Burned Grass in a Field — For some days now, residents believe that events of a supernatural nature have been taking place in our province.

At midnight on Monday, January 23, there were people in San Salvador and Crespo who claimed seeing strange lights in the sky. At Nandubaysal Beach in Gualaguaychu, several people claimed having seen a light they couldn't describe, although it remained in the sky for over two minutes.

A mysterious event took place in our city yesterday morning, alarming several residents of the rural outskirts. The time was around 3 AM, when Enrique Hurtado, who lives 400 meters from the bridge of the El Colman creek on Route 15 with his mother, Edith Moneda, felt that someone touched his arm and face as he slept. He woke up with a start, but did not find anyone in the room. He also looked out the window without finding anything strange. Her mother was asleep in the other room. In the morning, they were both astonished to find the grass in front of their house burned in the shape of two rings. Both circles, measuring 15 paces in diameter, approximately, presented a nearly perfect curvature. "We didn't hear or see anything strange," Edith told *La Calve* newspaper, "only the barking of dogs over a considerable part of the night." Around 19:00 hours, a flock of birds startled them as it flew quickly away from a nearby copse as though frightened by something.

Before returning from the site, at sunset, we surveyed the sky with the remote hope of seeing something unusual, but only saw the stars that began to fill the Uruguayan skies. — CREDIT: David Cervantes, *Fundacion Cosmos*

February 7, 2006 — *FUNDACION COSMOS* — MEXICO: UFO OVER SAYULA — A UFO was seen again over Usmajac, Municipality of Sayula, State of Jalisco.

Sayula, Jalisco (Juventud) - Diego, a student at the Centro de Bachillerato Tecnológico Agropecuario No. 19 who lives in the Usmajac Precinct, municipality of Sayula, became aware of the presence of a strange flying object commonly known as a UFO (acronym for unidentified flying object), precisely at the same place where only months ago some people had seen one, in the vicinity of El Cerrito.

The sighting, which occurred during daylight hours, came about when Diego said he saw a UFO whose characteristics were not terrestrial, but rather like those appearing in TV programs such as Jaime Maussan's, which come from outer space.

This is the second UFO that makes itself known in the vicinity of El Cerrito de Usmajac. — CREDIT: David Cervantes

February 12, 2006 — *www.analisisacid.com.mx* — Multiple UFO Sighting in Nuevo Leon, Mexico — Several UFOs were recorded in northern Mexico. The evidence was filmed by Efrén Saucedá Tello using a Sony Digital TRV380 camcorder on February 12, 2006.

The witness says that a total of 4 sightings took place and that all of the cases involved very shiny objects that descended along the slopes of the Topo Chico hill until they lost themselves in the thickets. He says that he was unable to record the last UFO, as the glare of the sun kept him from doing so.

Efrén Saucedá was at his uncle's house in Colonia Fomerrey 36, Escobedo, Nuevo Leon.

Times that the recordings were made: 2:41 p.m. – 3:38 p.m. – 3:41 p.m. – 3:51 p.m.

Witnesses' statement: "I can tell you that they weren't spheres, since as they descended, they showed a mass movement, as though changing shape, but with a very bright light. I wasn't the only one who saw them. Several of my cousins were among the witnesses."

"I believe that the most interesting feature of these recordings is that we not only possess a video of three unknown objects, but we also managed to record the time at which they reached their destination."

It should be recalled that in 2005, Efrén Saucedá presented interesting evidence of tubular UFOs, making him one of Mexico's most experienced skywatchers. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

February 13, 2006 — *Archivos Forteanos Latinoamericanos (AFLA)* — VENEZUELA: MYSTERIOUS LIGHTS OVER CARACAS — Residents of the Polvorin community, parish of La Pastora, Puerta de Caracas sector, reported the sighting of a strange luminous object in the skies over this Venezuelan locality to the north of the capital city. The unusual event took place on Wednesday, February 8, at night by a group of local residents while the object sped in a south to north direction.

Leonardo Duque, who was with his family at the time of the event, said that the object was orange in color and had a circular shape. He also added that the clear night skies and "total absence of clouds" enabled visual contact by the witnesses.

Carmen Pérez, moreover, stated that at first everyone believed that it was "an airliner" flying over the area. However, Mrs. Pérez indicated that this hypothesis began losing credibility when after a few seconds, the object appeared to divide itself in equal halves, giving the appearance of two large "sources of light." Other residents, who did not wish to provide greater details on what had occurred, expressed their doubts regarding the manifestation of this sort of phenomenon and claimed that it could have been any other object -- but not an airliner, "unless it is a new model."

According to the eyewitnesses, the UFO managed to conceal itself almost immediately behind Cerro El Ávila after having crossed the capital area's airspace for a period of approximately 2 minutes. It was likewise reported that its movement was not linear.

Venezuelan agencies responsible for weather forecasting and determining atmospheric conditions did not report any anomalies in their daily reports. Nor was any photographic evidence obtained by the witnesses. — CREDIT: Liliana Núñez Orellana

February 14, 2006 — *CIUFOS/LaPampa*, La Pampa, Argentina — ARGENTINA: UFO AT SIERRA DE LA VENTANA — A photograph was taken at Sierra de la Ventana, Province of Buenos Aires, in an effort to take a photo of the hole that gives its name to this system.

Prior to taking the photograph, the witnesses heard a strong, whistling and penetrating sound and tried to see if there was a jet aircraft in the area, but were unable to locate it.

Subsequently, they found an oval, reddish figure making a turn to the left in the upper part of the image and therefore, the mountain range.

The image was taken with a Vivitar N3000 camera and a roll of ASA 200 film. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

February 15, 2006 — *Prof. Ana Luisa Cid* — Camera Picks Up UFO in Chihuahua, Mexico — Photo taken by Mr. Demetrio J. Ramirez on October 18, 2005 in Chihuahua, Mexico — According to the witness, he was traveling by bus across the Mexican state in question on his way to a wedding. The bus crossed the village of Creel toward the region known as Divisadero in Barrancas del Cobre. As a panoramic view of the landscape can be obtained from a lookout on this tourist attraction of the Sierra Tarahumara, he decided to take some photos with his Sony DSC-P150 digital camera.

Lacking an additional digital card, he said that on that very same evening of October 18, he rented a computer in Creel to deposit the photos into files on his Yahoo account. It was not until November 3 that he had access to the Internet and realized that an object suspended in mid-air was visible in one of the images - an object not visually perceived by Ramirez and his party.

Eyewitness Account of Mr. Demetrio Ramirez: "I really don't know what it could be, as the object appears to be at a certain distance ... I don't believe that it's a tree leaf, since it appears to be very high up, nor insects, given the apparent distance. I'm also dismissing the possibility of a spot or dust on the camera lens, since it does not appear on the other images we took on that date."

"Unfortunately, we erased the photos from the camera's memory, since we needed space for the following day. I say unfortunately, as some have said that it's a trick photo or that the object was superimposed."

"I didn't submit the photo earlier, since I don't believe it to be of great significance when compared to other materials ... in any event, regardless of its nature, I am sharing this image with Prof. Ana Luisa Cid, leaving the matter to her respected discretion."

Ana Luisa Cid's Opinion: "For the time being I believe the photo to be real and that it probably suggests the transit of an unidentified flying object over the Sierra Tarahumara, cautioning that this material was received by me on January 31, 2006."

"Applying my basic knowledge of photography, I have been unable to find any digital alterations to the image and the automatic data put forth agree with Mr. Demetrio's account, adding that the image was taken at 1:17 p.m., according to the date, employing a normal exposure setting and an ISO 100 speed."

"The eyewitness's objective stance, as well as his openness toward research, lead me to think that this could be a genuine case."

March 4, 2006 — *El Diano de La Pampa*, La Pampa, Argentina — ARGENTINA: "Something's Going On" — GENERAL PICO - The disappearance of policeman Sergio Pucheta summoned the presence of a number of researchers, among them renowned Santa Rosa researcher Quique Mario, who has been studying the UFO phenomenon in the province of La Pampa for some 30 years. "Evidently something is going on that merits the attention of the public and the authorities, in order to understand the phenomenon better," he said yesterday during a press interview.

Mario, who followed police combing operations closely in the attempt to find Pucheta, contacted sources at the Centeno Hospital, highlighting that from the onset "there was something strange going on with the officer's disappearance." Meanwhile, he added that after the officer was found, he managed to speak with Pucheta himself, who was "in a state of very deep emotional shock."

"We visited him with Sheriff Roberto Ayala, the Chief of UR II, and asked him to relax by means of breathing exercises. He began to loosen up and then began to tell his story," Mario explained.

Likewise, the ufologist indicated that Pucheta could not explain "what happened to his gun, his cell phone and his handy," adding that "he was chased by two people with striking characteristics, shorter than he and with red eyes."

Mario remarked that Pucheta's trail "reached some 2700 meters away from the site where the episode occurred" and that the young man "has no idea how he arrived" at the location where he was rescued. Meanwhile, physicians did not find "strange marks on his body." He was expecting Pucheta's improvement in order to go deeper into his experiences.

Finally, Quique Mario stated that the vicinity of La Barrancosa "was one of the few areas of the province in which strange lights appear that I am not familiar with," remarking that "there are many places in which [people] are seeing strange lights of unknown origin."

Thus, he pointed out that "something is going on that merits the attention of the public and the authorities in an effort to understand this phenomenon. There are recent recordings and many photos taken in broad daylight over General Acha, Santa Rosa, Macachin, Riglos and Parra. Evidently something's going on." — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

March 6, 2006 — *La Arena* [www.laarena.com.ar] — ARGENTINA: UFOLOGIST TO VISIT POLICEMAN IN DISAPPEARANCE CASE — ***Policeman recovers and confirms having seen aliens. "I don't want to be taken for a nut," the officer told a friend. Two days ago he claimed seeing two beings with large red eyes who gave him telepathic commands*** — GENERAL PICO (Agencies) - Corporal Sergio Puchetta, visibly recovered from the odyssey he underwent for over 18 hours in which he claimed to have come in contact with aliens, ratified all of his statements yesterday and through close friends asked that "he not be taken for a nut."

Puchetta remains hospitalized in a ward of the Medical Clinic of the city's Centeno Hospital, indicating that he may possibly agree to newspaper requests for an interview on Monday.

The provincial police corporal responded negatively to this newspaper's request to speak to him and obtain his version of the experience he underwent. Through a friend, Puchetta indicated that he preferred to be released from the hospital before getting in touch with the press, although he also expressed his concerns about having to publicize his experience.

"I don't want to be taken for a nut," he told his friend, who in turn informed the press that he is "assured and convinced" of Puchetta's mental health.

Other sources indicated that on Saturday, the officer was visibly more tranquil and when asked about the subject, he repeated the story given on the previous day without changing any details whatsoever. [...]

Renowned ufologist Fabio Zerpa took an interest in the policeman's case and announced his intention to travel to [the city] early this week.

Another acknowledged researcher of the UFO subject, Oscar "Quique" Mario of La Pampa, reached the site where Puchetta vanished on Thursday morning and did not conceal his satisfaction at having secured the officer's testimony shortly after he was found.

Mario, who does not conceal his skepticism until having secured solid elements that allow him to validate the experimenter's account, highlighted the credibility of Puchetta's statements which are further qualified by the nature of his employment. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*



EVENING NEWS, Ada, OK - Dec. 29, 2005

Is Bigfoot living in the Sulphur park area?

By Derek Frazier
Staff writer

Could Bigfoot reside in Oklahoma? And, is it possible that he's just a community away? According to Dr. Charles Hallmark, there is good indication that he is.

Dr. Hallmark was the guest speaker at the weekly Rotary Club meeting held Wednesday, and in his presentation, he offered up startling evidence an ape-like creature roams freely through the Chickasaw National Recreation Area in Sulphur.

He began to research Bigfoot in 1998 and the hobby has continued seven years later. Hallmark, along with others in the area, are currently setting traps to entice the creature.

"One of the things that we're trying to do now is to bait garbage cans, because they eat garbage," he said. "If y'all live in town and you hear a garbage can rattling at 3 in the morning, you can be sure that 95 percent of the time it's going to be Bigfoot."

According to Hallmark, the simian-like being enjoys junk food, in addition to the usual amount of

garbage.

"They love Snickers candy bars, cheeseburgers and burritos," Hallmark said. "They're just like us. They're omnivorous, they eat a lot of vegetation, just about anything."

Hallmark produced several items of evidence that the beast is alive and well in the area. He brought paper cups which allegedly have Bigfoot's fingerprints on them, a

cow bone that shows teeth marks that are assumed to belong to the creature and even a few photos. He estimates that the Bigfoot he photographed is approximately 8 to 9 feet tall.

Hallmark also noted Bigfoots are very much used to people.

"We have proven and documented that they recognize people," he said. "They get used to you and look at your house and stuff like that."

While Hallmark did offer items that raise the question of whether such a creature exists, no solid evidence, such as a body or remains, have been found.

"We have a problem with finding anything, like a body or skeleton, because the varmints are gonna take

"They love Snickers candy bars, cheeseburgers and burritos."

**— Dr. Charles Hallmark
Bigfoot expert**



"Bigfoot" expert Charles Hallmark speaks at the Ada Rotary Club December meeting at the Aldridge Hotel Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2005. (Photo by Richard R. Barron)

it apart within three or four days," he said. "If you haven't happened onto it, you're not gonna happen onto it because it'll be gone."

He also said he wasn't allowed to research further in the park, due to restrictions by park officials.

"Where I was feeding them regularly, I don't have any electricity there and the park won't give me any," he said. "If the park would give me electricity, probably in 45 days, we'd have so much footage of Bigfoot walking around and everything that it would be unbeliev-

able."

Hallmark also said not one, but groups of families of the creature are within Oklahoma.

"I figure there are more than 300 in Oklahoma," he said. "There's probably around 45 or so around the National Park area in Sulphur. We've identified five different family groups down there. We're not sure how many are in each one but at least three in each one."

Hallmark is currently slated to start taking more photos of the elusive beasts in March.

INQUIRER, Philadelphia, PA - Nov. 24, 2005

Once suppressed, interest in the supernatural and paranormal is rising.

New prosperity gives Chinese the time to look for monsters

By Andra Ang
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAKE KANASI, China — They have come by the tens of thousands over the years — skeptical scientists, curious tourists — answering the lure of the mysterious Kanasi Huguai, creatures that are China's version of the Loch Ness monster.

The outings, in which most visitors fly thousands of miles to Xinjiang province and then are driven 15 hours to get to the remote lake near China's remote northwestern frontier with Central Asia, shows how far 40 years of economic reform have taken China and how much more time and money people have to explore interests that were squelched as superstition, an offense to communist dogma.

In today's Chinese society, myth-making and -chasing are a big business, and the supernatu-

ral and the paranormal are no longer taboo.

Reports of a Chinese "Bigfoot" have been picked up by the official Xinhua news agency, and tourists have

Reports of a Chinese "Bigfoot" are picked up by the official media. Sightings of UFOs are being treated seriously.

searched for the Xiao Yeren, small wild men. UFO sightings are treated with great seriousness. A conference on the topic was held in September, and UFO buffs claim support from eminent scientists and liaisons with the country's secretive military.

Yuan Guoying, a researcher at the Xinjiang Institute of Environmental Protection on a trip to Lake Kanasi, handed out Monster T-shirts, and on the bus the passengers watched state television's elaborate, three-part documentary on the myth of the beasts that supposedly have dragged sheep and cows from the shore and devoured them.

It opens with a dramatized scene of a man stopping his horse-drawn cart by the lake on a foggy night. With a loud splash, something emerges from the water and the screen darkens ...

Yuan's photos of the creatures flash across the screen. One, taken from a distance, features several blurry forms clustered close to shore, some looking as long as nearby fir trees. Grainy footage filmed in

June by a tourist from Beijing shows frenzied bubbling in the water.

Yuan, a cheerful 66-year-old with an unlined face and penetrating voice, is featured in several interviews, along with other scientists and people who have witnessed the creatures.

Some describe enormous shapes and shadows as big as trees and boats, sometimes tinged with red or white. In 2003, when an earthquake struck the area, witnesses in a boat reported seeing a silhouette as long as 70 feet leap out of the water.

"I said it was rubbish at first," Yuan said. "The next day, I saw them."

"It's fish. Giant fish, some about 15 meters [50 feet] long."

Lake Kanasi is 200,000

years old, roughly 15 miles by a mile, and more than 4,000 feet up in the Kanasi nature reserve in Xinjiang's northernmost tip, where China, Mongolia, Russia and Kazakhstan converge in snowcapped mountains. It is 603 feet deep at its lowest.

In 1980, Yuan was part of a team of 150 experts who launched the first scientific study of the lake's environment and its flora and fauna.

It was then that he met Chinese Mongolians living in the area known as the Tuwa people and heard the ancient legend of the monsters in Kanasi. Few details were available; most of the villagers fell silent when pressed.

Five years later, still intrigued, Yuan headed another team to study environmental protection for the lake — and to search for the creatures of the Tuwa myth.

Within a day, he had his first sighting.

"They looked like tadpoles coming up for breath," Yuan recalls. "Their eyes were huge. Their mouths were gaping."

After weeks of study, Yuan and his team discovered dozens of huge red fish, each 30 to

(continued on page 18)

(continued from page 17 - INQUIRER, Philadelphia, PA - Nov. 24, 2005)

50 feet long and weighing more than four tons, living in the lake.

In 1989, scientists concluded that the fish — a type of giant, freshwater salmon that thrives in frigid, deep waters — were in all likelihood the monsters.

Despite that conviction, there remains a niggling doubt.

Yuan says the largest Taimen salmon that scientists have captured is just 12 feet long and weighs 220 pounds. The biggest caught in Kanasi is 4 feet, 9 inches long, according to the documentary — a flat-headed specimen with a mouth full of razor-sharp teeth.

So are the lake monsters really the giant salmon? Or something completely different?

"There is no doubt the so-called lake monster is a kind of fish, the Taimen salmon," said Jiang Zuofa, a professor at the Heilongjiang Aquatic Research Institute in northeastern China. He says he has seen up to 50 of them — some more than 12 feet long — from the top of a mountain.

"The species is big and ferocious and lives in cold, fresh water," he said in a telephone interview. "We believe it is possible for them to eat chickens, geese and sheep, but it is impossible for them to eat cattle."

The People's Daily, the sober mouthpiece of China's ruling Communist Party, weighed in recently.

"Scientists say with certainty that there simply can't be so-called 'lake monsters' in the world," its Web site said.



Yuan Guoying looks out over Lake Kanasi, in China's remote Xinjiang region, hoping to catch a glimpse of the mysterious "monsters" spotted in the milky green waters. Yuan has spent two decades studying the "monsters," which are supposedly up to 50 feet long. GREG BAKER / Associated Press

SISKIYOU DAILY NEWS, Yreka, CA - Aug. 5, 2005

New Bigfoot statue erected

By Marilyn Townsend
Daily News Correspondent

HAPPY CAMP — During most of the 20th Century the resident Bigfoot statue in Happy Camp was a chainsaw-carved statue made from a single tree

trunk, standing about six feet tall. Originally he stood outside a prominent business in town, for many years the drug store. After a few mornings when he turned up in the wrong place, Bigfoot was finally bolted to the front of the



PHOTO BY MARILYN TOWNSEND

The new Bigfoot statue stands at the intersection of Highway 96 and Davis Road.

U.S. Post Office on Davis Road.

With the coming of the 21st Century, Happy Campers decided to use the findings of a river clean-up campaign in 2001 to construct a new Bigfoot. It became a community project. With the help and guidance of Ralph Starritt of Yreka, a metal artist of renown, a metal Bigfoot was welded and erected at the intersection of Highway 96 and Davis Road.

Standing over 12 feet tall, it took four years to finish. The most detailed activity was bending and welding on each of his individual hairs.

At one stage a cherry-picker type basket was

needed for the welders to attach his hair.

Dedication to the completion of the work was provided by Cheryl Wainwright, according to Wilson Forbes.

A recent gardening workshop finished the new Bigfoot's home, with new trees and native shrubs planted around him in the raised bed formed from river rock. On July 30, the community celebrated both Bigfoot and an art show opening. He is officially done.

The old and new Bigfoot statues share the main street. If they could move, they could wave to each other. Who knows what they do at night?

BEE, Modesto, CA - Aug. 28, 2005

Bigfoot Museum adds to Santa Cruz mystique



By CHRISTINE DELSOL
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

FELTON — It's hard to explain why I had to go to the Bigfoot museum. It could be all those twilight drives with my grandparents as a child, taking to Northern California's back roads to spot white deer

(success rate: 50 percent) and "maybe even Bigfoot" (success rate: zip).

Just as likely, it was a reason to drive through the Santa Cruz Mountains on a glorious summer weekend.

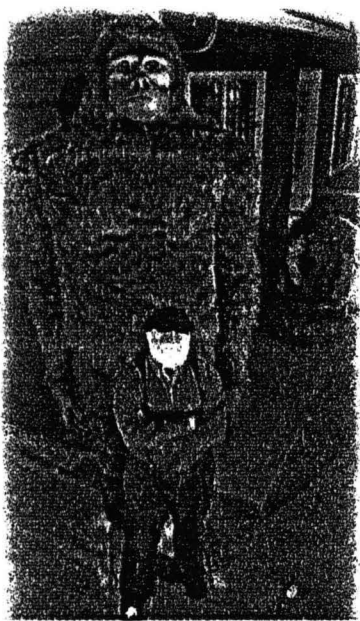
Yes, that's the Santa Cruz Mountains, not the Siskiyou or the Trinity Alps. The northern counties are infamous for Bigfoot reports, but Michael Rugg, who began researching huge, hairy bipeds after newspapers ran the first photos of abominable snowman tracks on Mount Everest in 1951, happens to live in Felton. Rugg knew when he decided to turn his former arts and crafts studio into a museum that the area had generated numerous reports of Bigfoot encounters up until the 1980s.

When he began working on the museum, he heard of numerous sightings — there was one in Boulder Creek a week before my visit this summer. Sunlight strobed

through redwood boughs as we drove past forested mountain panoramas burnished by golden monkey flowers and sprinkled with blooming buckeye.

Except for the landscape's tendency to slide onto homes during prolonged rainstorms, these woods don't seem especially mysterious until you consider that the Mystery Spot, whose unexplained phenomena have lured droves of the skeptical and the curious for 55 years, is just 9 country miles from Felton's new Bigfoot Discovery Museum.

The museum's entrance, on Highway 9 across from Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, is a shrine to kitsch, displaying board games, Sasquatch beer and magazines, including the Weekly World News' incomparable headline, "World's First Bigfoot Hooker Tells All!"



PATRICK TEHANSAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

Mike Rugg and his 'life-size' model of Bigfoot.

The back room is Rugg's domain. In two hours of conversation among the artifacts and books, he came across as a rational, open-minded man who majored in art at Stanford and abandoned a second major in paleoanthropology because he was promised a failing grade if he researched Bigfoot.

He has since been a folk artist, dulcimer maker, digital graphic artist and, since last summer, museum curator.

While not buying in to the hoaxes, he argues persuasively that a creature found throughout American Indian history and reported by settlers since the early 1800s warrants further investigation.

"Bigfoot was not created by a clever Chinese taxidermist," Rugg says, referring to Europe-

an naturalists' dismissal when a duckbilled platypus was first presented to them in the late 1700s.

His evidence is in the footprint and bone casts, the DNA analyses, the academics who set out to debunk the legends and became believers, the eyewitness reports — including a Tennessee farm family who says a Bigfoot family has lived on their property since 1947. Of the local sightings, an impressive number come from just up the canyon around Zayante, the first settlement in these mountains.

Most dramatic is a digital analysis of the controversial 1967 Patterson/Gimlin film, shot in Humboldt County, of what appears to be a female Bigfoot with an injured thigh.

(continued on page 19)

Though still unaccepted by most mainstream scientists, the enhanced film reveals details of the peculiar gait — veering off from the hip, calf rising parallel to the ground — that would seem all but impossible for a man in a gorilla suit.

The museum won't necessarily turn skeptics into believers, but it will give them something new to chew on. It certainly added a different perspective when my boyfriend, Ken, and I retreated for the night to the Felton Crest Inn, in the hills above town.

With redwood branches brushing picture windows on two sides, our room could have been a cave in the woods rather than quarters in an elegant, two-story home. While Ken dozed on the deck, I followed a trail through the trees. Dusk quickly became night in the forest, and I turned back without getting very far up the steep hillside.

The most alarming creature I encountered in the waning light was a banana slug.

There was no question of leaving the area without stopping at the Mystery Spot, a 1950s-style roadside attraction where, as the slogan goes, The Laws of Physics Do Not Apply.

Within this 150-foot-diameter circle, balls roll uphill and people appear to tilt, grow and shrink.

Following Sean, our wise-cracking guide, up an ostensibly modest hill left me panting and my heartbeat pounding in my ears. I watched six people stand in order, from 6 feet 2 to 5 feet 2, then switch places and appear to be all the same height.



Tabloids on display at museum

Numerous scientific explanations have countered the theories of buried UFOs or asteroids. In 1998, a UC Berkeley psychology professor determined that it's all perceptual illusion, magnified because both the body and the surroundings are tilted.

I think I believe the professor, though I'm not sure how his theory explains all the trees bowing in toward the Mystery Spot.

More important, I don't care. All weekend, these mountains raised cosmic questions that never tease my brain during days filled with commute traffic, housework and unpaid bills.

The answers may forever remain a mystery, but I'm confident none of them involve Chinese taxidermists.

SUNDAY SUN, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Feb. 12, 2006

China closes Bigfoot park temporarily

SHANGHAI, China (AP) — China has temporarily closed parts of a nature reserve that attracts scores of people each year hunting for evidence of an ape-like Bigfoot creature, a park official said recently.

Sections of Shennongjia Nature Reserve will remain closed for at least three months to allow its natural attractions to recover from the wear and tear of visitors, said Wang Yong, an official from the park.

"During this period, we are going to do some research on

how to improve the attraction of Shennongjia," said Wang. Proposals included a possible airport in the area to facilitate tourist arrivals.

Located deep in the remote mountains of Hubei province, the park has long been renowned as the home to the elusive creature known in Chinese as the "Yeren," or "Wild man."

Scientists say there is no scientific evidence the creature exists, but scores of people claim to have seen it roaming the park, about 1,075

km southwest of Beijing.

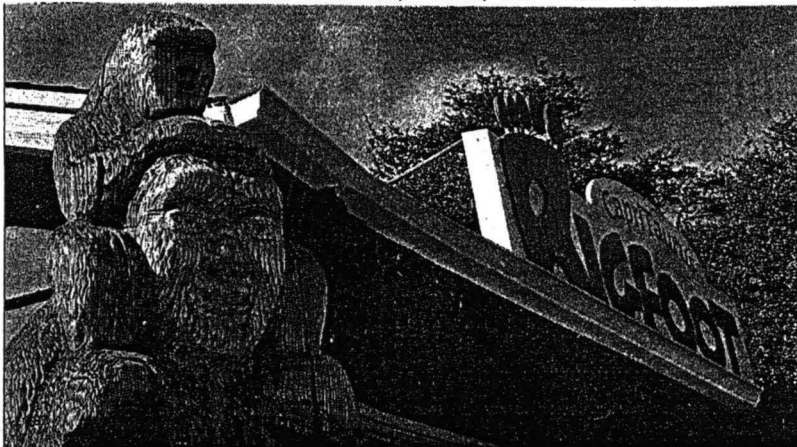
Sightings of a similar yeti-like creature have been reported in Tibet, though its existence hasn't been proven either.

China's government has previously urged tourist agencies to cut down on creature-hunting safaris in Shennongjia, saying they were misleading and could harm the environment.

However, the park itself has sought to lure tourists with a \$60,000 reward for the Yeren's capture.

CR: G. Duplantier

SCOTTS VALLEY BANNER, Felton, CA - Nov. 9, 2005



Lucjan Szweczyk/Press-Banner

MEETING PLACE: The Bigfoot Museum in Felton is home to monthly meetings of a group that studies the species.

What's tall, hairy and walks upright?

By Tessie Kennedy
For the Press-Banner

Over the years, folks have talked about sightings they call the Ben Lomond Dump Monster or The Dump Dweller. Most sightings have been in Zayante, with others in Scotts Valley, Boulder Creek and the outskirts of Santa Cruz.

In September, a woman driving home to Bonny Doon said she saw a 6-foot-tall, hairy, gray creature that stood upright. She told her family when she got home and wanted to call the sheriff. But her family said, "What will you say? 'I saw Bigfoot?'"

Most people hesitate to admit to authorities that they've seen the monster. Instead, they visit the Bigfoot Museum in Felton and tell the curator how glad they are to have a place to share their experiences.

Michael Rugg and Paula Yarr are co-founders of the Bigfoot Discovery Project. The Bigfoot Museum opened

At a glance

■ **WHAT:** Bigfoot Study Group
■ **WHEN:** 6 p.m. Nov. 20
■ **WHERE:** At the Bigfoot Museum, 5497 Highway 9
■ **INFO:** 831-335-4478

Parade with Nathan Blanchard, Yarr's son, wearing a Bigfoot costume. He also wore it as he walked in the background while Rugg was interviewed for a Croatian TV production on Bigfoot.

What's considered the first sighting here was reported in 1870 in the San Francisco Post when campers in Felton said they heard a wild man's screams.

More than 20 similar encounters have been reported in Scotts Valley and

the San Lorenzo Valley. A Zayante man walking his dog in September told people he had heard blood-curdling screams, which sent Felton residents to the museum to ask, "Did anyone else hear the screams last night?"

The creatures seem to follow rivers, creeks and old railroad tracks, according to members of the Bigfoot Study Group. A path follows the river into the hills in Felton, and neighbors say they've heard the screams and something passing through their backyards. As it passes, one porch light after another goes on. Rugg says this happens frequently, according to the stories people tell him at the museum.

Recently, in an isolated ravine, a Felton family found a structure like a hunter's blind constructed from broken branches. The Bigfoot Study Group has talked about putting a campsite there to observe the creature in case it goes by.

Search for Bigfoot reaches county with program at COM

FOLKLORE: 'Bigfoot, Sasquatch at COM' set for Friday before Halloween

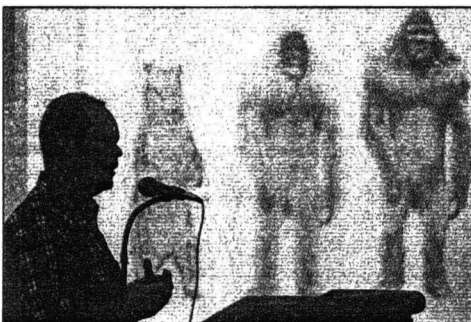
By GREG BARR
Correspondent

Credit union bankers such as Daryl Colyer deal with hard, cold facts. When Colyer closes the books on his predictable world of mortgages and loans, however, he opens the door to a very different realm. He puts away his calculators and loan applications and dons camouflage gear and night-vision goggles and, in the dead of night, tromps through the middle of the woods hoping to stumble upon a 7-foot-tall hairy beast.

Colyer is a Bigfoot hunter, a description that invokes disparate reactions.

To some folks, he is completely off his rocker. But others, including his wife, regard him as a resourceful amateur scientist whose intimate knowledge of the nocturnal primate, also known as Sasquatch, legitimizes the creature's existence.

Still pumped up from the annual Bigfoot con-



The Associated Press

Daryl Colyer, lead field researcher for the Texas Bigfoot Research Center, delivers the kickoff presentation Oct. 15 at the Texas Bigfoot Conference in Jefferson. Hundreds gathered at the Fifth annual Texas Bigfoot Conference to look at casts of footprints and hear about the latest sightings and other evidence they say proves Bigfoot exists.

ference held less than two weeks ago in Jefferson, Colyer and Craig Woolheater, director of the Texas Bigfoot Research Center in Dallas, will pro-

vide a history of Bigfoot on Friday during a Col-

lege of the Mainland lecture. Despite their unwavering dedication to their goal of providing irrefutable evidence that the creatures are real, they are somewhat guarded during interviews. It's tough being a Bigfoot aficionado when your theories are often ridiculed.

"I have an advantage over the skeptic in that I've seen this animal," said Colyer, who lives in Lorena, just south of Waco. "The skeptic is the one who is just taking a wild guess. He's not out

(continued on page 20)

there in the woods. He hasn't seen biped tracks in the mud or heard their vocalizations. The skeptics propel and drive me to prove these animals do exist."

Woolheater, who owns a family plumbing business in Dallas, said interest in the creature has never been higher, evidenced by the nearly 400 people and national media attention focused on the Bigfoot conference.

The research center's Web site, www.texasbigfoot.com, has had more than 2 million hits in the past 19 months, and Bigfoot sightings are reported regularly to the center's hotline from in and around the fringes of the state's 12 million acres of forest.

"There is a long history of Bigfoot sightings in Texas, and thousands of people have reported seeing these creatures around the country," said Woolheater. "Now some could be lying, and some could have had a prank played on them, and some could be misidentifying them. And some really could have seen what they saw."

Theories about Bigfoot's origin have been around as long as the reported sightings. Woolheater laughingly dismisses those who believe Bigfoot is an extraterrestrial being or some kind of ghostlike spirit or monster. Some believe it is a missing link, a descendent of prehistoric apes that once roamed the landmass that developed into North America.

The most well-known and controversial evidence in the world of Bigfoot is the Patterson-Gimlin 16-mm color film shot Oct. 20, 1967, in northern California that clearly depicts an ape-like animal striding away



COURTESY DRAWING/Texas Bigfoot Research Center
A sketch of a creature seen in Bowie County, as reported to The Texas Bigfoot Research Center in Dallas.

from the camera. Bigfoot enthusiasts say the film is dramatic proof of the creatures' existence, while some members of the scientific community suggest it is merely a man in a monkey suit.

The most famous Texas case, Woolheater said, surrounds the "Lake Worth Monster" sightings in 1969 near Fort Worth, when repeated up-close encounters with a Bigfoot buzzed around the area. As for the creature's proximity to Galveston County, well, the center's Web Site includes one only 40 miles north of Houston (Cleveland, 1995).

Colyer and Woolheater travel around the state gathering eyewitness reports. Before sitting down, however, they conduct a phone interview to weed out crank calls, which amount to about eight of every 10 contacts.

If a particular region is subject to numerous sightings, Colyer and his buddies will don their night vision goggles and haul infrared cameras, CD players and

speakers into the woods in the middle of the night to play primate vocalizations at full blast in hopes of luring Bigfoot from its lair.

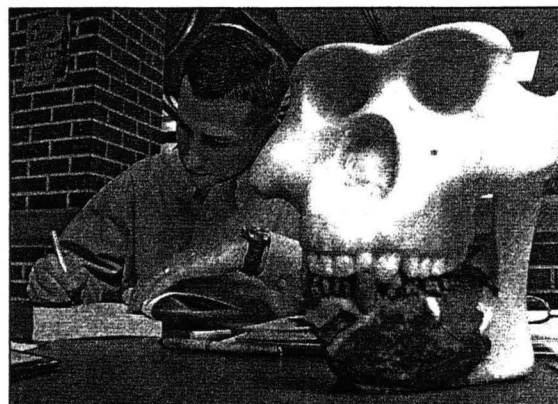
"A lot of these legitimate reports come from ministers and law enforcement officers or members of the military, people who I believe would have no motivation to create a false story," Colyer said.

Woolheater said that many of the sightings reported today are from people who claim to have had encounters decades earlier.

"It's traumatic when people see these things, and it's cathartic for them to finally be able to tell their story to someone who won't just call them names," he said.

Woolheater and his wife were traveling through Louisiana in 1994 when the headlights revealed a 7-foot hairy creature standing upright at the edge of the woods along the highway.

"I wanted to get out of the car to take a look, but my wife refused to stop," he re-



TOP: Novelist Eric Penz of Seattle, Wash., signs one of his books for a buyer Oct. 15 at the Texas Bigfoot Conference in Jefferson.
ABOVE: Joedy Cook, director of the Ohio Center for Bigfoot Studies, talks to a visitor to his booth.

called. "Seeing is believing, and it changes your whole outlook on reality."

As for Colyer, his two encounters were more nerve-rattling, the kind of stories suitable for a campfire at Halloween. The most recent was in September when Colyer's team of 10 sleuths combed a section of Big Thicket National Preserve in southeast Texas in response to recent sightings.

Colyer said the team was playing gibbon vocalizations through loudspeakers after dark when something he claims was a Bigfoot answered back 150 yards from camp. Several hours later, at 3 a.m., Colyer and a team member awoke to

what he describes as blood-curdling growling noises from the woods near their tent being answered by one of their tracking dogs. When the team members started yelling, the growling stopped.

With his wife a few yards behind him, Colyer said, he got the shock of his life in Liberty County a year earlier on a trail at dusk when he saw a "reddish-brown hairy creature" accompanied by a pungent musky odor. The animal quickly bounded away, though that memory is constantly on his mind.

"I know they are there," he said. "The discovery of the century is just beyond our fingertips."

Bigfoot sightings

There have been more than 2,550 reported Bigfoot sightings in North America in the past century. British Columbia had the most with 362.

These are the states with the most reported sightings:

- California 343
- Washington 286
- Oregon 176
- Florida 104
- Ohio 95
- Montana 74
- Texas 63
- Colorado 60
- Pennsylvania 58
- New York 53

—Source: The Associated Press; "Meet the Sasquatch" by Christopher Murphy, citing data from Canadian researcher John W. Green and the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization.

*Editor's note: The Texas Bigfoot Research Center's Web site, www.texasbigfoot.com, documents 252 sightings in Texas.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - July 20, 2005 CR: G. Conway

Sasquatch soiree has residents of tiny Yukon town buzzing

Some swear a bigfoot came calling one quiet night, but others aren't so sure

BY NATHAN VANDERKLIPPE

TESLIN, Yukon — It was a quiet night in Teslin when the woods began to crackle and the dogs started to howl.

Melvin Harper heard it, and saw a figure flitting near a neighbour's light post, then through a forested island next to log houses in this Yukon town of 400.

"It was something big, about eight feet tall [2.4 metres]. It's black, hairy muscular. It was huge," he said. "He was like teasing us, making noises in the bush, coming back and forth."

"It was like a sasquatch," said Tom Dickson, who also saw the creature. "Like how you see it on TV, how they advertise it — the same image. You can't see no eyes, nothing, just black, but it was mov-

ing pretty fast. It was a shocking feeling, like if you see a bear."

Roger Smarch heard it, too, and went to look the next morning. It's at least the third sighting of a bush creature in Teslin in a year, leading locals to surmise that perhaps a sasquatch — or a family of them — has migrated from more typical haunts in northern California and the Interior of British Columbia.

Looking in the woods near the place where the creature was last heard, Smarch found crushed meadow flowers and small trees snapped in half more than two metres up their trunks. And he discovered a track, more than 30 centimetres long and printed deep into the mud.

"I think it's bigfoot," he said, as he pulled back the rubber mat and wooden crate that he placed over the print to protect it, more than a

week after the strange night. Some of the town's hunters have said it looks like a print left by a moose that slipped in the mud, but Smarch won't hear of it.

"It's not a bear, not a moose. It's definitely something," he said.

Smarch also found something else, a tuft of dark chocolate-coloured hair on the forest floor that he says was left behind by the creature.

On Tuesday morning, Philip Merchant picked apart the tuft of hair in his lab at the Yukon Environment Department, measuring it and inspecting it beneath a microscope.

The hair isn't hollow, ruling out moose and caribou. It's too long to be horse, and the sample also includes a downy underfur, which rules out humans — and perhaps other two-footed creatures.

"If underwool is a bovid, cervid thing in mammals then we probably can rule out primate," said

Merchant, a wildlife technician. "But I don't know. Are sasquatches primates?"

That leaves a few options: grizzly bear, muskox and bison.

Merchant plans to run a few tests on the hair over the next few days, but it may be impossible to know its origin for certain without DNA testing — and at this point, the Yukon government isn't exactly eager to spend taxpayer dollars on the search for bigfoot.

Edmonton Journal