

# UFO

## NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

May 2006  
Number 442

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Lucius Farish • #2 Caney Valley Drive • Plumerville, AR 72127-8725 USA

MID-COUNTY POST, Capitola, CA - March 7, 2006  
HISTORY

### The Great UFO Scare of 1896

by Phil Reader

No, the date in the title is not a misprint. At the time of the incident in question, Wilbur and Orville Wright were still repairing bicycles in their little shop near Dayton, Ohio. Charles Lindbergh's parents were still dating and John Glenn's grandparents were farming in the Midwest. It was back in a day when men were rarely little and never green.

The story began slowly, hovering almost unnoticed in the back pages of the local papers. Sailors in the dives of San Francisco's infamous Barbary Coast began to talk about glowing spheres and saucer-like machines that they had seen rising out of the waters of the Sea of Japan or the China Sea, hovering and thence flying off. Saloon keepers and patrons of these dives were not at all surprised, "considering the quantity and quality of whiskey being passed across the bars," according to the *San Francisco Call*.

Though the Wright brothers' historic flight at Kitty Hawk was still seven years in the future, by 1896 public imagination was already receptive to the prospect of flight by powered aircraft. Jules Verne had written of ships of the air, just as he had submarines and sending men to the moon. German engineer Otto Lillenthal, whose work inspired the two brothers from Dayton, had already successfully flown in a hang glider. And Samuel P. Langley, third Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, had recently managed to get his Aerodrome No. 5, an unpiloted, engine-driven, heavier-than-air craft, airborne.

By the Thanksgiving holidays of 1896, the wild sailors' story had made its way to the front pages of the newspapers

in bold and brazen print. Sightings of the mysterious "airship" reached feverish heights when on Tuesday, Nov. 17, word came of sightings by "hundreds of people" in the Sacramento area. It was described as a series of electric arc lamps propelled by a mysterious force.

Reportedly traveling from north to south, it could be seen for nearly an hour. Observers speculated that the "airship" was apparently directed by some intelligent force, as it reportedly rose and descended to avoid roofs and steeples.

Not to be outdone, San Francisco had its own rash of sightings four days later. Among the large crowd that witnessed the arrival of the "airship" were policemen and firemen — just the sort of peo-

personally claimed to have been aboard the vessel and said it was made of metal, about 150 feet long and capable of carrying 15 people. He also told of watching the ship ascend and descend in

edly announced the citizenry had been treated to a "bright light arcing through the air," which appeared first in Pacific Grove and then moved on to Salinas and Watsonville. It was

seemed to be in direct proportion to the amount of alcoholic beverages recently consumed. It is perhaps enlightening to note that the overwhelming number of those sightings by the "airship clan" were in the airspace above the Front Street saloon and brothel district.

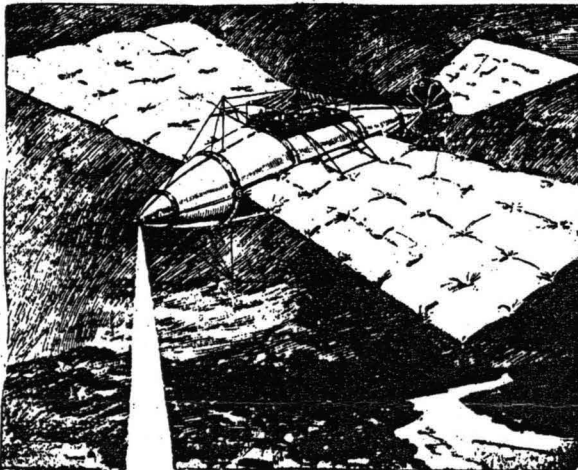
Duncan McPherson, long-time publisher of the *Sentinel*, glibly announced that it appeared to him that this strange new vessel was powered solely by alcohol. This sparked a verbal tiff with the competing *Surf* newspaper, each editor contending that other shared the same fuel source, and that his rival's family tree had been darkened by a streak of lunacy.

Even the local judiciary became involved in the question. Superior Court Judge Lucas Smith ordered a hooligan named Jack Brodie to exit the County and remain in banishment until the "airships" return. Needless to say, Brodie was never seen in these parts again.

With an eye on the future, journalists of the day busied themselves with explanations which will seem thoroughly modern to present-day skeptics. Among these were Earth-based balloons, prepubescent pranks and, of course, the scapegoat planets Mars and Venus.

There was also one unique to Santa Cruz — the reflection of moonlight off of schools of sardines bouncing up to the cloud cover. Original indeed!

During the month of December, the airship hysteria of 1896 slowly faded. Not surprisingly, no definitive explanation for the mystery was ever found. But just over 50 years later, an equally elusive appearance was made in the night skies over Roswell, New Mexico, proving everything old is new again. ■



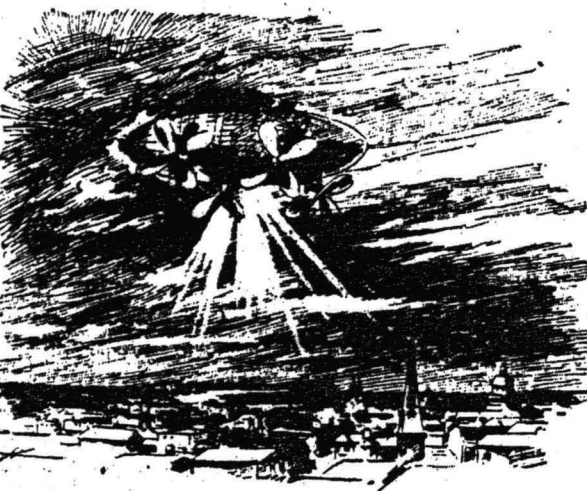
Drawings of the mysterious "airship" appeared in newspapers in 1896.

said to have conveniently bypassed Hollister, "which was a temperance town."

In Watsonville, an excited resident rushed into the newspaper office shouting that he had seen the airship. But this development was dashed by friends jealous of his sudden attention. They contended that he had merely seen one of "those big owls which have their home high up in the steeple of the Presbyterian church."

The next evening, Santa Cruz was to get its long-awaited chance. The strange light put in an appearance in the skies above the coastline, hovering for a period of time over the Cliff Drive. Moments later the "craft" was reported to have crisscrossed town several times before slowly fading from sight.

As elsewhere, with the Santa Cruz County witnesses it was said that the luridness and detail of their observations



ple not generally supposed to be given to hysteria or prevarication. Even Mayor Adolph Sutro got into the act, claiming that he too had witnessed "lights carried by airship." Soon all eyes were turned skyward, with the large daily papers carrying lurid details of events breathlessly reported by "reliable" observers.

An attorney even came forth claiming to know the inventor of the wondrous machine. He

an almost vertical fashion.

Barristers in those days inspired the same instinctive mistrust as now, and the announcement quickly came under overwhelming scrutiny. Yet in spite of the fact that the barrister's story was eventually proven untrue, the airship craze continued to grow.

On the night of Nov. 26, the unidentified flying object finally reached the Monterey Bay region where newspapers excit-

#### Explaining the unknown

I enjoyed your UFO article. "Seeing is believing?" and noticed the negative feedback (letters, Feb. 1). It is normal for us humans, if we observe something we can't explain, to expand on possibilities. This is the basis of investigation and the foundation of all science.

It is also normal to fear the unknown, to create a dogmatic explanation and attempt to frame what has been observed into known or assumed parameters.

Where, then, is the truth? The answer is found in this paradox: Everything that humans observe is relative — concepts that we have created to explain the nature of our existence, like time,

motion, speed, states of matter and energy. The truth or reality we perceive is constructed of concepts that we as yet do not fully understand.

Ponder these points of interest: 1. Roswell, N.M. After all these years, why are there hundreds and hundreds of pages of "known" classified documents on just a weather balloon crash? Why was

the crash area completely excavated? Why were the workers sworn to secrecy, with threat of imprisonment?

2. If it walks like a duck, talks like a duck and acts like a duck, it might be a duck. But what we call a duck, 200 light years away, could be somebody else's sister.

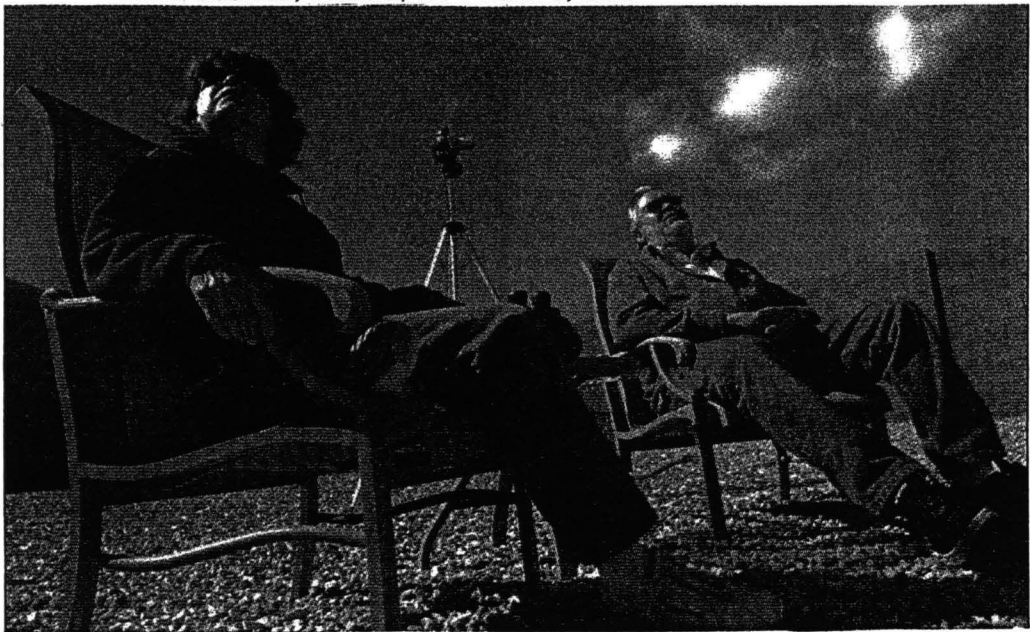
3. If beings from outside of this solar system have visited our

world, they are likely to be highly advanced, technologically. Our ability to detect and observe them is probably limited and faulty.

Gary V. Moretti  
Chesapeake

VIRGINIAN-PILOT, Norfolk,  
VA - Feb. 6, 2006

# EYES ON THE SKY



Mike and Nannette Fortson simulate the way they watch the skies from the backyard of their Prescott Valley home.

Courier/Les Stukenberg

## *As ninth anniversary nears, Prescott Valley man still looking for answers on Phoenix Lights*

By CINDY BARKS  
The Daily Courier

PRESCOTT VALLEY - Night after night, Mike and Nannette Fortson lounge in lawn chairs in their backyard, their eyes glued to the sky.

After years of sky watching, they say, the locations of the stars and planets are second nature to them. However, for the Fortsons, the constellations are incidental - mere points of reference for something bigger.

What they really hope to see is a repeat of the show they glimpsed from their Chandler home nearly nine years ago: a mysterious, slow-moving craft that became known worldwide as the Phoenix Lights.

The Fortsons were among the perhaps thousands of people in Arizona who reported witnessing a series of lights advancing silently from near Paulden, through Prescott Valley and over much of metropolitan Phoenix. Because the Hale-Bopp comet was making an appearance at the same time, many people were outside that night, with their eyes on the sky.

For Mike Fortson, it was a chance encounter, one he attributes to "dumb luck." Even so, that warm night, March 13, 1997, changed his life forever.

"Yes, it is a passion," Fortson said recently from the Viewpoint home into which he and Nanette recently moved. "I think about it all the time."

Since moving to the tri-city area and becoming a licensed real estate agent, Fortson said he has met many local people who remember seeing the lights. However, for the most part, the media and investigative attention at the time focused on the Phoenix area.

Ultimately, officials dismissed the lights as flares from military aircraft. Fortson maintains that two events occurred that night, and while the second one (at about 10 p.m.) may have been flares, he contends that the 8:30 p.m. event was something else altogether.

With the ninth anniversary of the lights sighting approaching on Monday, Fortson said he would like to focus local attention on that 1997 night. "My pur-

pose is that nine years ago, this happened in this area. I'd like to hear what people saw," he said. (He asks people with information on the lights to e-mail him at [satmike@cableone.net](mailto:satmike@cableone.net))

In fact, he said, the huge network of people interested in the Phoenix Lights has long circulated an "urban legend" that someone in the tri-city area videotaped the event.

The Fortsons say that getting the event on film or tape was the last thing on their minds that night in 1997. Mike Fortson recalls awakening from a brief nap at about 8:30 p.m. As he went to close a window, he noticed "three huge, bright white lights angled down and very low to the ground."

He shouted to his wife to come outside, and the two of them watched what they describe as a giant boomerang, a V-shaped craft that may have been a mile long.

"When you see something like what we saw - something that is not supposed to exist, it's just too big - we didn't think to move our feet," Fortson said.

These days, the Fortsons are more prepared. They keep a variety of cameras and tripods on hand to record any unusual sightings from the backyard of their Prescott Valley home. Although they do notice plenty of unexplained things, they have yet to see anything of the magnitude of the Phoenix Lights.

"Anyone who has spent any time sky watching out here in the daytime or nighttime has

probably seen something that will cause them to do a double take," Fortson said.

The Fortsons have noticed plenty of balloons and satellites. After their years of practice, they can identify most things in the sky.

Nanette Fortson, who admits that while she enjoys the sky watching, her level of interest does not match her husband's, is getting a bit impatient. "I'm tired of satellites; I want to see the big one again," she said.

Mike Fortson's passion for the Phoenix Lights has made him a bit of a celebrity in UFO circles. Since the 1997 sighting, he has served as a source for more than 50 news stories and telecasts.

That includes appearances in well-known documentaries such as "Out of the Blue," "The Phoenix Lights" and the ABC special "Seeing is Believing," featuring the late news anchor Peter Jennings.

Fortson's amiable persona lends an instant credibility to his story, as he faces the camera to relate what he saw. He also speculates that the fact that he has never received payment to tell his story made him more believable to news outlets. In addition, he said, "I was available."

Just the fact that Fortson was so willing to talk openly about what he saw made him somewhat unusual at the time.

Former Phoenix City Councilwoman Frances Barwood, who now lives in Dewey-Humboldt, recalls that many people were unwilling to talk publicly about the sighting, for fear of being the subject of ridicule or scorn.

In fact, Barwood was caught up in a media maelstrom when she asked during a televised City Council meeting why the City of Phoenix was not looking into the matter. After her question made it into a story in the Arizona Republic, Barwood said she was received a flood of telephone calls from people who saw the lights.

"It was overwhelming," Barwood says now. "We were nowhere prepared for something like that."

During the days and weeks after the story ran, Barwood said she received more than 700 calls - many from people in the Prescott/Prescott Valley area.

(continued on page 3)

Mike Fortson points to a photo in USA Today from March 2000 of the object he saw flying at night near Chandler/Gilbert. Fortson hopes to find others in the tri-city area that also saw the unidentified object.

Courier/Les Stukenberg





## 'Outer space' metal crash is a mystery

The crash happened just minutes after a couple of handy-men had fixed Bob Amchir's Wilma-ravaged pool patio Wednesday.

Amchir ran outside his Davie house and found that a 2-inch by 3-inch, 2-pound piece of scorching metal had torn through his roof and smashed his tile. He thought it might be from a satellite. Or a plane.

Late Thursday afternoon, FAA spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen told The Miami Herald that the mystery object could not have fallen from a plane and the agency's probe was over.

As news of the mystery metal spread, those who look to the skies for a living pondered what it might be.

Suresh Atapattu, education coordinator at the Buehler Planetarium & Observatory at Broward Community College's Davie campus, said a meteorite the size of the metal would have likely been noticed as it entered the atmosphere.

"We are constantly bombarded by little particles," he said. "A piece of that size coming in would probably have a significant flash."

Jack Horkheimer, director of the Miami Space Transit Planetarium, said it didn't look like a meteorite to him.

He said meteors that fall to Earth aren't warm to the touch, like Amchir said the metal was. Horkheimer said it sounded more like a piece of "space junk" such as a piece of an old satellite.

NASA officials said, however, that they had registered no orbital debris — space junk — reentering the atmosphere in the area Wednesday.

She remembers one call from a Prescott Valley man who was having a Hale-Bopp party at the time. He and his more than 20 guests all saw the unidentified object.

A number of Barwood's calls also came from people who admitted to seeing the lights but who did not want to go public.

"To the media, it was a big joke," Barwood said, adding that she was the brunt of many of the jokes, becoming known as the UFO council member.

Although Barwood did not witness the March 13 event herself, she said the impassioned accounts she heard from people made her want answers. "I've always been curious my whole life, just by nature," she said. "I would love to know what it was."

Barwood, who knows Fortson, said she admires the way he has continued to dig for information. "Mike has taken it seriously," she said. "He's trying to get other people talking about it, and maybe get some answers."

Contact the reporter at  
cbarks@prescottaz.com

Courier/Les Stukenberg

Mike Fortson simulates the way he watches the sky and, when he spots something, uses binoculars.

MORNING NEWS, Dallas, TX - April 2, 2006 CR: K. Wilson

# Pair's trick has California town seeing

## UFOs

Men say nighttime light show is good marketing for their flying saucer

By LYNN DOAN  
Los Angeles Times

ALISO VIEJO, Calif. -- Move over, Roswell. South Orange County is recording its own share of UFO sightings.

Several residents have reported the sightings to the Orange County Sheriff's Department in recent months. And word has even reached a Canadian UFO researcher who has posted information about the sightings on his Web site.

In one case, witnesses reported seeing glowing disks zigzagging through trees and hovering above the Aliso Viejo Town Center at night. About a yard in diameter and studded with flashing lights, the four UFOs dance around one another in the night sky.

These flying saucers aren't a top-secret military project. But they aren't being piloted by Martians, either.

The saucers are made in the garages of Gaylon Murphy and Steve Zingali, who get their kicks by shocking people and hope to earn a few bucks hawking their remote-controlled saucers. After all, a few UFO sightings can only be good for business.

"We fly them in formation. It's pretty funny," said Dr. Murphy, a cardiovascular surgeon and Aliso Viejo resident. "People stop, people scream, one cabdriver ran his car up off the road."

Nick Peterson was stunned when he saw one of the disks fly



KEN HIVEY/Los Angeles Times

Steve Zingali (left) and Gaylon Murphy hope to drum up sales — and a few laughs or screams — by flying their remote-controlled saucers through Aliso Viejo, Calif., at night.

past his girlfriend's upstairs apartment.

"I thought, 'That can't be a UFO, can it?'" he said. "It's pretty weird."

The disks are made of foam and weigh about a pound. Each runs on a 7.4-volt lithium battery and has a propeller.

On weekends, Dr. Murphy flies the disks in Aliso Viejo, Newport Beach, Mission Viejo and Laguna Niguel. He and Mr. Zingali, a facilities engineer and Mission Viejo resident, have sold four of the gizmos at \$1,000 each and concede their streaking light show is part

hobby, part promotion.

"It's good marketing," Dr. Murphy said.

The Canadian UFO Web site, which logs oddities from supposed saucer sightings to alleged alien abductions and offers an assortment of paranormal literature, indicates that the homemade disks have captured the attention — and the imagination — of both the skeptical and the true believer.

The disks sparked a confrontation between Dr. Murphy and Erik Strong, a manager of an Aliso Viejo restaurant and bar. Mr. Strong said Dr. Murphy was spooking his

staff by hovering his disk near the restaurant.

"It looked like something right out of a movie, a little too real," Mr. Strong said. "I wouldn't say I made the determination that they were actual UFOs, but it did pique my curiosity enough to see where it was coming from."

Mr. Strong followed the UFOs to nearby Grand Park, where Dr. Murphy and Mr. Zingali were standing with their remote controls. He told the pair they were going to create hysteria if they continued to fly their disks around Town Center.

Dr. Murphy told Mr. Strong he should be more concerned about his bar patrons getting rowdy. But the restaurant manager said he hadn't seen a disk since.

Dr. Murphy confessed that he'd also had a few encounters with law enforcement.

He attracted some local notoriety in November when one of his saucers got stuck on the roof of the Barnes and Noble. Dr. Murphy asked shop owners if he could climb up to retrieve it, but they resisted because "they thought he was crazy," according to the sheriff's deputy's report.

When the deputy showed up, the store manager allowed Dr. Murphy to retrieve his toy, said Lt. Richard Paddock, police services chief for Aliso Viejo.

Lt. Paddock said deputies couldn't do much about complaints.

"To my knowledge, this man has violated no law while flying this craft in Aliso Viejo," he said.

Newport Beach Police Sgt. Bill Hartford also said Dr. Murphy wasn't breaking any laws.

Scanning a list of city ordinances, Sgt. Hartford said: "You can't hit golf balls on a public park. You can't skateboard on a public tennis court. But I don't see anything specifically that would forbid him from flying his UFOs."



By Becca  
Bacon Martin  
THE MORNING NEWS  
BMARTIN@NVAONLINE.NET

**W**hen Ozarkers want to take a little trip into the past, they might choose a museum, a Civil War battlefield, a cemetery or a theme park like Silver Dollar City.

Paul Von Ward thinks that for some "advanced beings," Earth might be that kind of destination.

"Some of them are trying to help humans — to give us good information," says Von Ward of the visitors he calls "ABs." "Some continue to try to manipulate humans for their own ends. And for some, I think it's just plain observation, like our anthropologists and biologists study other species — just to see what's happening with us."

If Von Ward's theories are

correct, ABs helped make humans what we are today. They are not only the "gods" of myth and religion, but our ancestors: The speaker, researcher and author of "Gods, Genes, and Consciousness: The Case for Nonhuman Intervention Throughout the Ages" believes ABs mated with early humans to advance the development of the species. And he thinks they remained intimately involved with mankind until their own squabbling forced them to leave Earth — or to be less open in their presence here.

"I think the significant story is not that there are a few UFOs or a few aliens around, but that they have always been here," says Von Ward, who will speak April 14-16 at the 18th annual Ozark UFO Conference in Eureka Springs. "It's all part of the natural universe we ought to be studying."

Von Ward might seem the least likely proponent of a theory that elevates alien visitors to the status of gods. He started graduate school as a Southern Baptist minister who wanted to combine a career in religion and psychology "to be helpful to young people."

But, he counters, he was always interested in the big metaphysical questions: Who are we? How did we get here? What are we doing here?

"In graduate school, I became more and more inter-

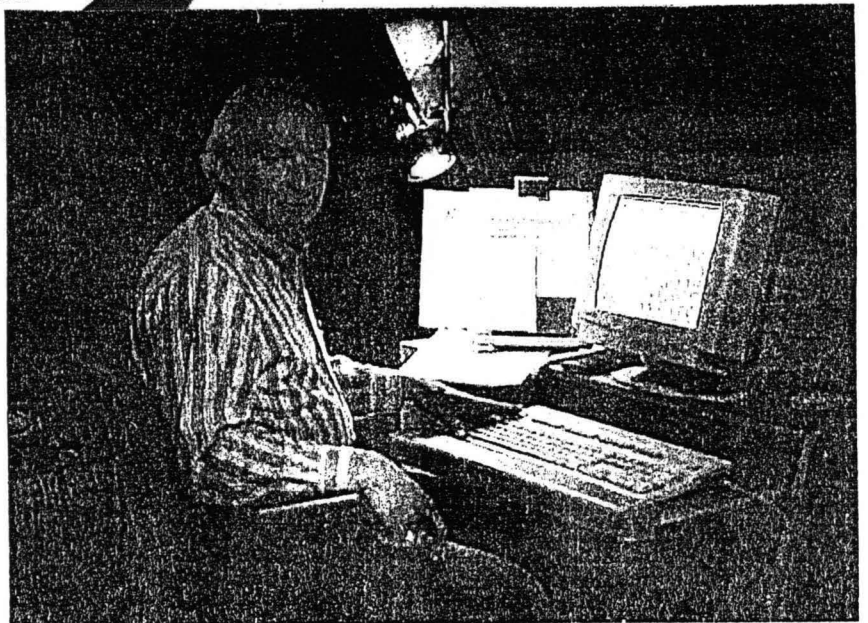
ested in parapsychology, precognition, telepathy — things outside both the religious perspective and the academic perspective," he says. "I dropped out of grad school in the middle of my doctoral program to go into the Navy and get a different perspective for myself."

"The more I traveled and worked in different parts of the world, the more I discovered that humans around the world see reality in many different ways," Von Ward goes on.

"So my comfortable Southern upbringing was pretty much shattered. And once you break Humpty Dumpty, you can't put him back together again."

Von Ward admits he did have his own experiences — "I don't call them paranormal,

(continued on page 5)



Paul Von Ward earned graduate degrees in public administration and psychology, served in the U.S. Navy and in the U.S. Foreign Service and was the founding chief executive of Delphi International. He'll speak next weekend at the Ozark UFO Conference in Eureka Springs.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL VON WARD



GASTON GAZETTE, Gastonia, NC - April 17, 2006 CR: G. Fawcett

I call them natural" — and he was reminded by his parents of visits from ABs — beings he called "Woke" and "Wokem" — when he was a child. But it was study of world cultures that convinced him that "humans have been impacted by ABs from the beginning."

"If you look at every culture — whether it's the Genesis story in the Hebrew tradition, Sumarian creation myths in Mesopotamia, the Hindu stories of the gods shaping human life — around the world, it's the same story," he says. "Beings more advanced than humans came down from the sky and created life."

Other stories refer to the time when the "gods" lived on Earth with man. "Then," says Von Ward, "the stories stop talking about direct con-

(continued from page 4 - MORNING NEWS, Rogers, AR - April 7, 2006)

tact. My hypothesis, which is not unique to me, is that the gods, for their own reasons, pulled back from direct rule of humans about 4,000 years ago.

"If you look back into Middle Eastern history, about 2,000 years B.C., you see the decline of all the city-states," he goes on. "Conventional historians call this period from about 1500 B.C. to about 500 A.D. 'the dark ages of Mesopotamia.' All of those civilizations deteriorated because the gods who had been keeping everything in order left — the same thing that happens in developing countries when the more advanced society pulls out."

However, says Von Ward, "the kings who had been given authority and the priesthoods

that had grown up around the ABs wanted to keep their power and influence. So they just kept saying the gods would come back."

He thinks they do, regularly.

"Reality is not what they teach in school or the way we talk about it in church," he says.

"When we tell the story, we need to take into account all of these pieces."

Dan Bogey, writing for Fore-Word magazine, agrees.

"Whether or not one believes that 'advanced beings' even exist, let alone play a vital part in human evolution, 'Gods, Genes, and Consciousness' will prove to be a thought-provoking ... interpretation of human events."

"If you look at every culture — whether it's the Genesis story in the Hebrew tradition, Sumarian creation myths in Mesopotamia, the Hindu stories of the gods shaping human life — around the world, it's the same story. Beings more advanced than humans came down from the sky and created life."

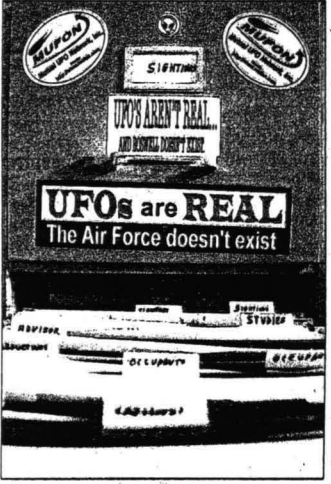
PAUL VON WARD, Author



UFO expert George Fawcett of Lincolnton sits in his home office talking about his years of research on the subject. Below is one of many file cabinets full of documents that Fawcett has gathered on the subject of UFOs.

# UFO sightings

## Lincolnton man spends years documenting activity



**By AMANDA MILLARD**  
Gazette Staff Reporter

**LINCOLNTON** — A newspaper headline caught George Fawcett's eye at age 15.

"Silver Balls Floating in Air Nazi's Newest War Device" detailed what people thought was a German weapon during World War II.

"In 1944, UFOs over Paris were seen over the warfront by soldiers on both sides of the war," said Fawcett, 76. "That's probably how I got started being Curious George of UFO land."

With his interest in UFOs peaked, Fawcett began keeping track of sightings and reports. He may have researched thousands of UFO

**What do you think?**

Do you think the government has kept any secrets in regard to UFOs?

See Page 2B for details on how to submit Feedback on this issue.

**& Want more?**

George Fawcett's latest book about UFOs — "Human Reactions to UFOs and UFOs Worldwide 1940-1983" — can be purchased by calling Fawcett at (704) 735-5725 or by stopping by or writing to 602 Battleground Road, Lincolnton, N.C. 28092. Books cost \$10 each with \$2 added for shipping and handling.

reports, but Fawcett said he's only seen one UFO. That incident occurred in 1951, while he was studying at Lynchburg College in Virginia.

"As I walked around the campus, I looked toward the Lynchburg administration building. I saw what first looked like an orange globe," Fawcett recalled. "I was able to see under closer observation that it was brilliant orange against the dark blue sky. It began to move up and down like a yo-yo on a string."

The object took off at a 45-degree angle, Fawcett said. No

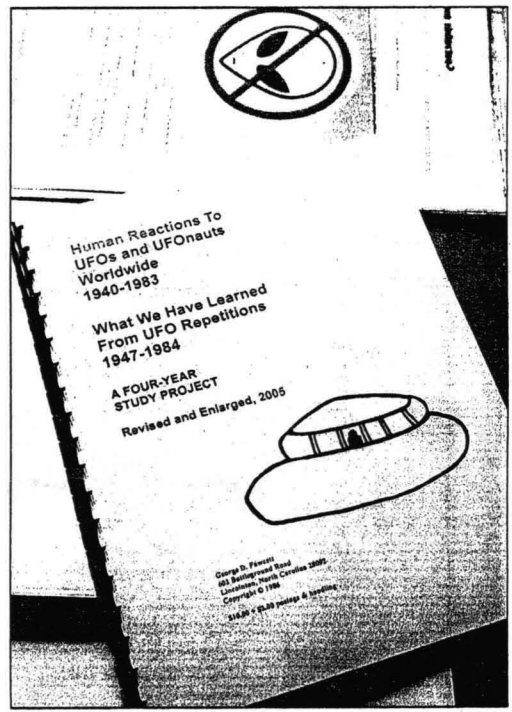
one else on campus reported seeing a UFO, but reports from nearby towns and throughout Virginia emerged soon after.

Fawcett maintains that what he saw was a UFO.

"I've seen lights at night, which could be anything," he said. "I've seen balloons and rockets."

Researching and speaking about UFOs sometimes means not being taken seriously, Fawcett said. That doesn't seem to bother him.

"In the early age, you had a lot of ridicule," Fawcett said. "I've been called a kook and a



Seen is a copy of the second book written by UFO expert George Fawcett of Lincolnton.

crackpot. I think having a sense of humor helps."

Fawcett's dedication to UFO research has also brought him opportunities. He's met with astronauts and lectured to many groups about his findings.

Fawcett held positions as a newspaperman and YMCA director but continued researching UFOs, filing information about reports into labeled folders.

"I used to have 35 filing cabinets and 30 of them went to Roswell," Fawcett said.

Many of Fawcett's records were shipped to the Roswell Museum and Research Center as space in his home diminished. In 1998, he sent his 20,000-item Sauceriana Collection of scrapbooks, photographs of strange phenomena, bulletins, magazine articles, newspaper clippings, and numerous books to the museum.

What records he still has remain in gray filing cabinets that rest against the far wall in Fawcett's den. Magnets containing sayings about UFOs cover the cabinets and give an indication about the drawers' contents.

On top of the drawers, Fawcett has poster boards with pictures of UFOs. A green alien

head rests on a nearby shelf with a small pile of books about UFOs, including two that he wrote and published.

At another corner, Fawcett has covered a wall with memories. Many of the pictures show him and his twin brother in sports uniforms with the rest of the Mount Airy sports teams. His original World War II clipping rests in a small black frame and a few plaques outline Fawcett's UFO accomplishments — honorary board member of the Roswell Museum and Research Center and founder of the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina.

Fawcett still receives reports from people who claim to have seen a UFO.

"If you give people a chance to tell their story without ridicule, you'll get the facts," Fawcett said. "It's not jumping on the band wagon. It's finding someone you can tell about it."

Fawcett may have slowed down, but he said it's too hard to stop researching a topic that's held his interest for more than 60 years.

"If I had to do my life over again, I'd do it again," Fawcett said. "I have no regrets."

You can reach Amanda Millard at (704) 869-1839.

Peering through bifocals at the sky over Northern Lights shopping center, Frank Panzanella sees nothing but a gray, cloudy swath and a stray bird or two.

Fending off the chill of an early-spring morning, he's wrapped in a brown leather jacket, his white hair tucked beneath a ball-cap. He's standing on the smooth asphalt outside Red Cap Cleaners in Conway.

It's exactly where he stood 40 years ago Monday, in the early hours of April 17, 1966.

Then, the cleaners was an Atlantic service station, and Panzanella wore the navy blue uniform of a Conway police officer. Then, when he looked toward nearby Northern Lights, the sky wasn't so uncluttered.

"It was over there," Panzanella says, repeating the story he's told his fascinated grandchildren many times. Above the shopping center parking lot, he says in his deep rumbling voice, that's where he saw it. The UFO.

# Unidentified

What they saw 40 years ago is still a mystery

STORY BY SCOTT TADY | TIMES ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

A half-football shaped metal object beaming down an intense cone of light. It was about the size of a three-bedroom ranch house hovering about 100 feet off the ground.

A thought flashed through Panzanella's head at the sight: I'm gonna pretend I didn't see this; nobody will believe me.

But that option vanished as two patrol cars came racing southward on Route 65, smoke pouring from the balding tires of one car. They squealed to a halt beside the two gas pumps next to Panzanella.

Three Ohio lawmen jumped out. Do you see that, they excitedly asked Panzanella. He said, "See what?" Then he reluctantly admitted he did indeed see it.

We've been chasing it for 86 miles, the lawmen told him. Their pursuit started near Akron. At times, they were rocketing up to 100 mph, they said, and the thing seemed to be leading them along.

The story they would tell is probably what inspired the nighttime police chase scene in Steven Spielberg's blockbuster movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

It would lead to UFO infamy, another in a long line of government denials.

The decision to chase the object from Akron to Conway also would dramatically affect the Ohio men's lives and possibly cause one to suffer a breakdown.

But Panzanella, now 73, still believes.

"Whatever we saw, the government didn't want people to know about it," Panzanella said. "They had to cover it up."

## The chase begins

In the final full hour of darkness on the clear, mild morning of April 17, 1966, Portage County, Ohio, Deputy Sheriff Dale Spaur, 35, radioed a dispatcher to report a remarkable sight — a huge silver object hovering 50 to 100 feet above the ground.

Spaur had been driving Car 13, with sheriff's deputy W.L. "Barney" Neff, on a routine patrol of Route 224, near the rural town of Randolph, east of Akron.

Shortly after 5 a.m., they had pulled over to investigate an abandoned red car. Examining the 1959 Ford, Spaur noticed walkie-talkies on the seat and on the outside was painted a triangle-and-lightning bolt emblem with the words "Seven Steps to Hell."

Moments later, Spaur heard a loud hum, much like an electrical transformer. Turning around, he spotted a flying object rising from the tree line. Neff, too, was out of the patrol car, and the two men stood frozen as they watched the approaching object, which they later estimated to be 40 to 50 feet long and 20 feet high.

Topped by a dome with what looked like a protruding antenna, the object flew directly above them, beaming a cone-shaped shaft of white light so intense it made the deputies' eyes water. Spaur looked at his hands and clothes to make sure they weren't burning.

After nearly a minute of standing motionless in disbelief, the deputies snapped to their senses, sprinted to their car and radioed a dispatch center in the Portage County seat of Ravenna.

Dispatcher Bob Wilson confirmed similar sightings had begun pouring in from residents near the Mogadore Reservoir outside Akron and from six or seven police departments in Portage County and neighboring Summit County.

"Shoot it," advised Wilson, prompting Spaur to warily draw his gun before desk Sgt. Henry Shoenfelt got on the radio worried the object might be a weather balloon. He ordered Spaur to lower his weapon and keep the object under surveillance until another officer could arrive with a camera.

The UFO started to soar eastward, so Spaur slid behind the wheel, and Neff piled into the passenger seat.

The deputies began their pursuit.

An April 18, 1966, front-page article in The Times, and testimony Spaur and Neff gave to an Air Force official a month later, provide the following account:

The object accelerated quickly, and soon the deputies were speeding 85 mph southeastward on rural Route 14 in Ohio to keep pace.

"Spaur said the object didn't make any attempt to get away, and it followed the main highway almost as if it knew it," Times reporter Tom Schley wrote.

Having heard Spaur's radio dispatches, East Palestine patrolman Wayne Huston was ready when the chase crossed Columbiana County. Spotting the object 800 feet in the sky, Huston joined the pursuit, following Spaur's car as the chase crossed into Pennsylvania down Route 51 through Darlington and Chippewa townships. Both drivers clocked the flying object at 103 mph.

(continued on page 7)



NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE  
ON AERIAL PHENOMENA  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

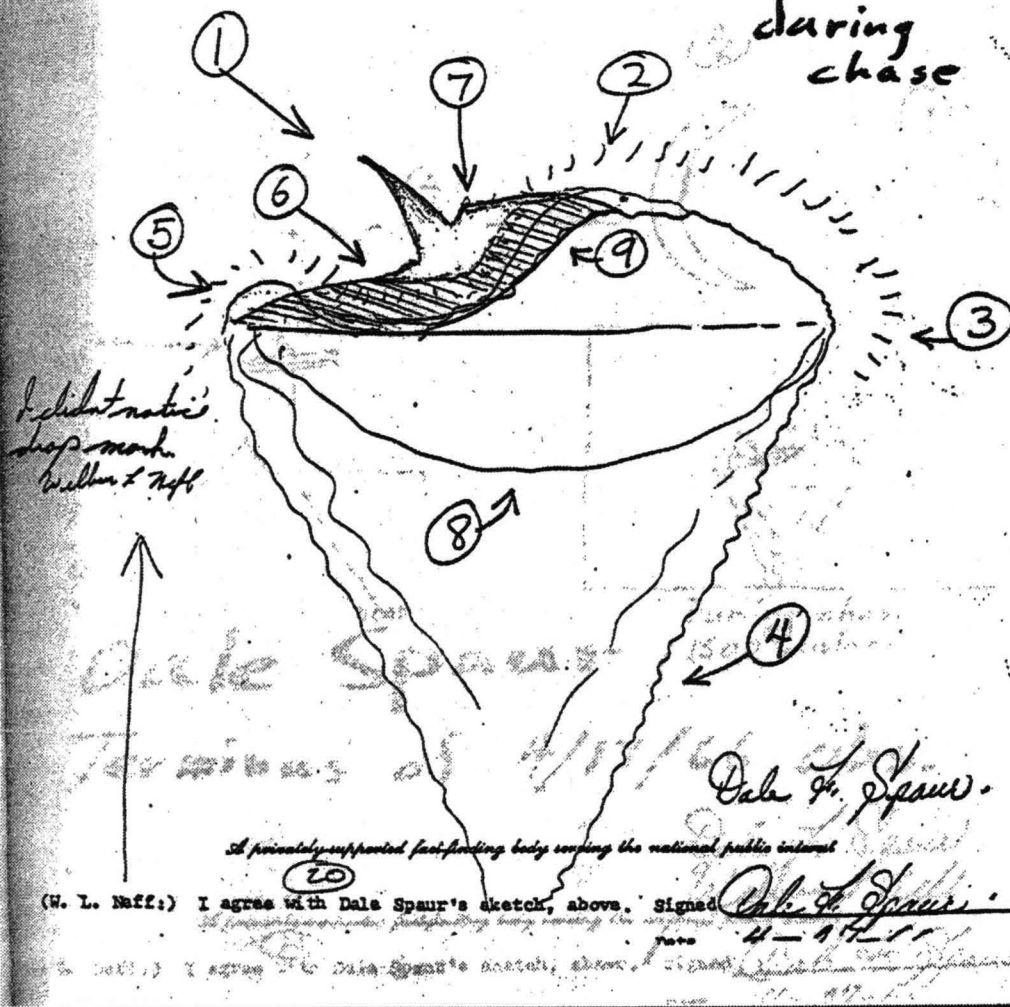
TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-9434

CABLE ADDRESS:  
SKYLIGHT

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOF  
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:  
1536 CONNECTICUT AVE. N. W.

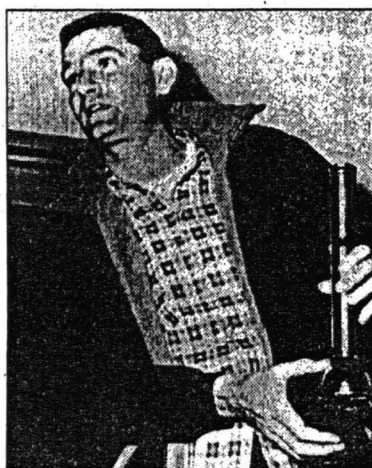
April 23, 1966  
Dale Spaur  
Sketch of U.F.O.  
during chase



### SKETCHING THEIR SUBJECT

Descriptions of the Dale Spaur and William Neff drawing of the UFO:

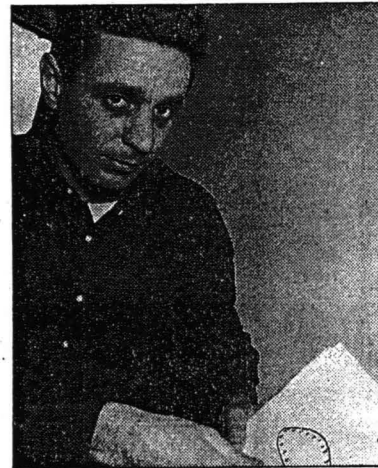
1. Projection, tilted from the rear (trailing edge) 18 feet long, tapered to tip
2. Dome-shaped top; partly metallic, partly self-illuminated
3. Glowing front (leading edge)
4. Cone-shaped light underneath
5. Glowing tip of trailing edge
6. Metallic surface
7. Sharp "drop-off" (Neff disagrees; remembers more rounded here)
8. Rounded "undercarriage"
9. Line separating metallic from self-illuminated portion



SPAUR



HUSTON



PANZANELLA

The patrol cars got stuck behind slow-moving trucks near the Bradys Run Park entrance, and the lawmen didn't see the flying object again until they reached Bridgewater.

Interviewed later, Spaur said it was as if the object had waited for the officers above Rochester, allowing them to catch up and continue the chase.

By 6:25 a.m. the chase had reached Conway. The sheriff's car was running on fumes and balding tires, so Spaur screeched into an Atlantic service station, where the deputies encountered Panzanella, the Conway policeman.

With his shift nearly over, Panzanella, 33, had decided to take one more lap through town. Climbing 11th Street Hill, he spotted a strange light in his rear-view mirror, which he suspected was the land-

ing lights from a low-flying jet. Fearing a plane crash, he did a U-turn toward Route 65, pulling into the Atlantic station where he watched, in bewilderment, as the brightly lit object hovered above the Northern Lights shopping center parking lot.

"I rubbed my eyes three or four times but didn't say anything to anyone for the time being," Panzanella later told investigators.

Told by the Ohio men of the high-speed chase, Panzanella radioed a police dispatcher in Rochester and asked him to notify the Greater Pittsburgh Airport tower in Moon Township. By that time, the Ravenna, Ohio, dispatcher also had contacted a Youngstown airport.

The police officers and deputies watched what appeared to be fighter jets soaring to intercept the

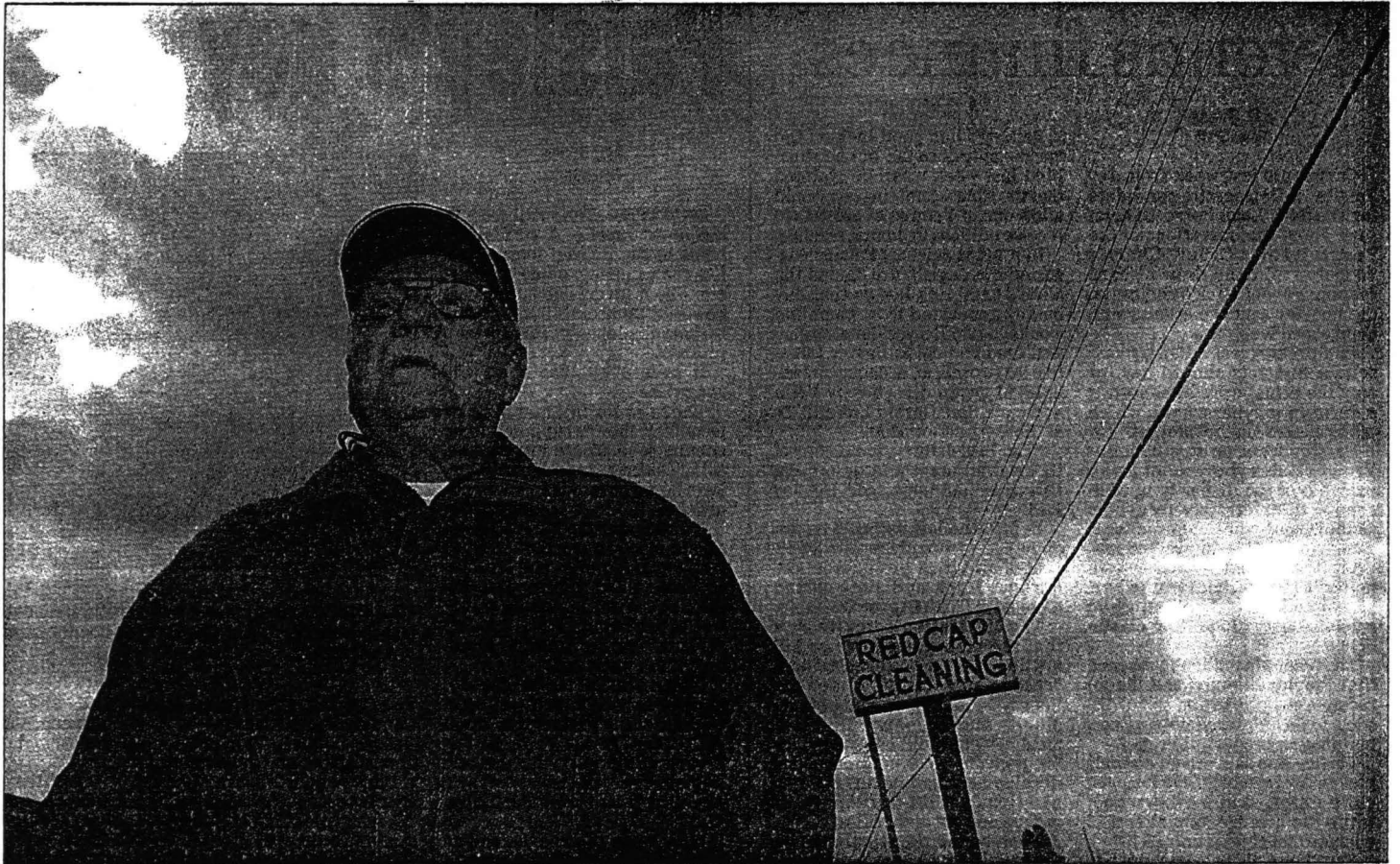
flying object, which the men then estimated to be 3,500 feet high. Spaur and Panzanella said they heard chatter on a police radio indicating military pilots were chasing the craft.

Police officers in Salem, Ohio, later reported they, too, had monitored radio reports of jets chasing a bright object toward Beaver County.

But Air Force officials later insisted that no military planes had been dispatched.

Standing shoulder-to-shoulder in Conway, Spaur, Neff, Panzanella and Huston saw a plane they assumed had taken off from Greater Pitt fly about 1,000 feet directly below the unidentified flying object.

(continued on page 8)



The Times/SALLY MAXSON

**FORMER ECONOMY POLICEMAN FRANK PANZANELLA** stands in the spot where he saw the UFO 40 years ago. In 1966, the land was the site of the Atlantic gas station. Now, it's the site of Red Cap Cleaners on Route 65 in Conway.

Meanwhile, piqued by Panzanella's radio report, Economy policeman Henry Kwiatkowski drove to a hillside vantage point along Route 989 near Shafer Road to see what was happening.

Kwiatkowski spotted two commercial jets trailed by a "squashed football-shaped" UFO, as he later told investigators in a typed report.

Spaur, Neff, Panzanella, Huston and Kwiatkowski — five men representing four law enforcement agencies — watched moments later as the UFO rose straight up and out of sight.

"The last I saw it, it was the size of a pencil eraser," Panzanella said. "It shot straight up in the air, and that was the end of it."

Only one of them would ever claim to see it again.

### Investigation

The incident made national headlines, coming several weeks after a series of UFO sightings in Michigan (and 18 days after the Pentagon and U.S. Defense Secretary Robert McNamara felt compelled to issue a formal statement saying there weren't any flying saucers).

As they did in Michigan, federal officials withheld comment initially. Then a few days later, without visiting the Portage-to-Conway chase route, an Air Force leader announced his investigation had concluded the skyward object clearly was not visitors from outer space.

From his desk at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, Maj. Hector Quintanilla, head of Project Blue Book, the government's UFO investigation agency, said the deputies must have been chasing a routine satellite, or due to an optical illusion caused by "atmospheric conditions" had mistaken the planet Venus for a flying object.

Nonsense, said Spaur and Neff, who insisted to reporters the flying object had moved vertically and horizontally in a way a satellite simply couldn't.

Portage County Sheriff Ron Dustman supported his men, reminding Quintanilla that many residents also had reported seeing strange lights in the sky.

Gerald Buchert, the police chief in Mantua, Ohio, hoped to verify his fellow officers' claims with three photographs he snapped that April 17 morning.

His photos turned out to be overexposed, except for one that showed a dark, disc-shaped object surrounded by a ring of light to the right of the crescent-shaped moon. Buchert offered his film to the Cleveland FBI, which forwarded him to Quintanilla in Dayton. At Quintanilla's insistence, Buchert sent the negatives to the Dayton air base, where Project Blue Book was opened in 1952.

Quintanilla wasn't swayed by the evidence, writing that Buchert's film was "severely fogged" and the disc-shaped dot was a processing defect.

Buchert still believed he saw a UFO, commenting to the Cleveland Plain Dealer newspaper, "I feel like an idiot saying this, (but) it looked like a saucer, like two table saucers put together."

### Taped testimony

With the public sniffing a government cover-up, and the law enforcement witnesses sticking to their

UFO claim, U.S. Rep. William Stanton of Painesville, Ohio, demanded the Air Force conduct a more thorough investigation.

So Quintanilla came to the Portage County Courthouse on May 10, and with a Norelco reel-to-reel tape recorder rolling, interviewed Spaur and Neff. Also present were Sheriff Dustman, radio dispatcher Wilson, Times reporter Schley, Ravenna newspaper reporter Carol Clapp, and William Weitzel, of an independent, Washington D.C.-based UFO investigation agency, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena.

The recording of that hour-plus interview, later put on cassette tape, is available from the Maryland-based Fund for UFO Research.

Throughout that recording, Spaur and Neff sound lucid, displaying moments of self-deprecating humor, but remaining firm in their belief that what they saw was no satellite or planet.

At the beginning, everyone but Quintanilla and the lawmen are asked to leave the room as the deputies recount their story. Spaur chuckles and says, "You're not going to believe it. ... The thing was like a three-bedroom ranch house."

But the mood grows tenser and Quintanilla sticks to his stance that the lawmen initially had spotted a routine satellite, and in the course of their chase had mistaken Venus for a flying object.

"I know damn well I wasn't chasing a satellite," Spaur, a former Air Force gunner, says.

As the interview formally ends, Weitzel, the UFO investigator, is let back into the room. With the tape still rolling, Weitzel, a Pittsburgher who nine months earlier investigated a UFO sighting in Brighton Township, implores Quintanilla to reconsider the evidence.

"You seem to be skeptical about the physical reality of unidentified flying objects," Weitzel says.

"I'm not skeptical about anything," Quintanilla says. "I look at people's statements and the information that is given to me."

Quintanilla revealed that Project Blue Book listed more than 10,200 cases of "misinterpretations of conventional objects and natural phenomena" dating to 1947.

"Do you think there is any common denominator among the reports?" Weitzel asks.

"No, there isn't," Quintanilla replies. "There is no parallel whatsoever."

As Weitzel continues his pointed questioning, Quintanilla says, "Look, young fella, I'm finished with you," before leaving the room.

"It is incredible to me that anyone familiar with the details of the sighting could believe Maj. Quintanilla's explanation," Weitzel, a philosophy instructor at the University of Pittsburgh-Bradford, later wrote in his NICAP report. "He either rejected or ignored portions of the testimony, which make a satellite-Venus explanation ridiculous."

Weitzel's report included testimony from Northwestern University astronomer J. Allen Hynek, who said Venus had risen at 3:35 a.m. that day and thus would have been too high in the sky to have been mistaken for a flying saucer.

Hynek, founder of the Center for UFO Studies and the man who coined the phrase "close encounters of the third kind" to describe human contact with space aliens, was hired in 1977 by filmmaker

Steven Spielberg to be the technical adviser for the same-named movie that includes an Indiana-to-Ohio police chase scene said to have been inspired by the Ohio-to-Conway chase 11 years earlier.

Meanwhile, Spaur and Neff bristled at Quintanilla's ruling.

"He seemed to have his mind made up before he got here," Spaur said after the interview. "I don't believe for an instant that I was following Venus."

But the deputies soon piped down, as did the other witnesses.

Their lives would never again be the same.

### Aftermath

Six months after the April 17, 1966, sighting, the Akron Beacon Journal published a story showing the heavy emotional toll suffered by the Ohio witnesses as public support turned to skepticism and then ridicule.

Portage County Sheriff's Deputy Neff refused to be interviewed. His wife said he had stopped talking about the incident because he was tired of people poking fun at him.

Also reluctant to talk was Buchert, the Mantua police chief, who tried to play down the incident to the Akron reporter.

Shortly after the UFO sighting, Wayne Huston, a seven-year veteran of the East Palestine police force, turned in his badge, changed his name to Harold Huston and moved to Seattle to drive a bus.

"Sure I quit because of that," Huston said. "People laughed at me, and there was pressure. ... You couldn't put your finger on it, but the pressure was there. The city officials didn't like police officers chasing flying saucers."

No one was more emotionally damaged than Portage County Sheriff's Deputy Spaur, the driver of the lead chase car, whose marriage and career crumbled.

Two months after the sighting, Spaur was on another routine patrol when he looked up into the nighttime sky and saw it again. Radioing the dispatcher, he whispered, "Floyd's here with me."

Floyd was the code name the sheriff's department had come up with if someone saw a UFO again, but didn't want to alarm citizens listening to police scanners.

Feeling Floyd's presence above his patrol car, Spaur pulled over and lit a cigarette. He stared at the floorboard, reluctant to look out the window. After 15 minutes, he warily looked skyward, concluded the UFO was gone, and drove away, this time not in pursuit.

Four months after that second sighting, newspapers nationwide published the Akron article written by John de Groot, a future Pulitzer Prize-winner for his coverage of the Kent State shootings. De Groot described Spaur as alone and bitter, subsiding on cereal and sandwiches in a Solon, Ohio, motel. Having left the police force, Spaur had lost 40 pounds and had to walk three miles to his painter's job.

Spaur said he often awoke in a sweat, reeling from nightmares that relived that April 17 morning.

"My entire life came crashing down," Spaur, said. "Everything changed. I still don't really know

(continued on page 9)



what happened, but suddenly it was as though everybody owned me."

Unsolicited letters from around the world arrived at his house. Some offered advice on what to do if space aliens tried to contact him; others urged him to stay away from flying saucers.

Spaur's wife, Daneise, a waitress, said he was never the same after the sighting and chase.

"He came home that day, and I never saw him more frightened," she told the Akron newspaper. "He acted strange, listless. He just sat around. He was very pale. Then later, he got real nervous. And he started to run away. He'd just disappear for days and days. I wouldn't see him."

"Our marriage fell apart. All sorts of people came to the house, investigators, reporters. They kept him up all night. They kept after him, hounding him, and he changed," she said.

Spaur reached his emotional breaking point on another night soon after, when he returned home after an unannounced absence and allegedly grabbed Daneise and began shaking her violently, deeply bruising her arms. She filed assault-and-battery charges, and Spaur was thrown into jail, which became a big story in their small town.

The day he entered jail, Spaur turned in his badge.

In one of his last known interviews, with de Groot, Spaur expressed regret about the morning of April 17, 1966.

"I have done in my life. To everyone I am Dale Spaur, the nut who chased a flying saucer," he said.

A few months after the sighting, Spaur's father ended years of silence between the two feuding men by telephoning his son.

"Do you think he called me to ask how I was?" Spaur said. "To say, I love you, son? To see if I wanted to go fishing or something? Hell no, he wanted to know if I'd seen any more flying saucers."

Spaur tried finding solace by going to a new church.

"The minister introduced me to the congregation (by saying), 'We have the man who chased a flying saucer with us today,'" Spaur said.

Reflecting on the troubled path his life had taken after the UFO sighting, Spaur said, "I would change just one thing, and that would be the night we chased that damn thing. That saucer."

#### 40 years later

Spaur lived reclusively in subsequent decades.

A great-nephew, Jody Spaur of Portage County, confirmed two months ago that Dale Spaur moved to West Virginia a few years ago and dropped out of contact with family members.

"He is in poor health," said Michael Nelson, a former Portage County sheriff's deputy writing a book on the incident. Nelson contacted Spaur last week, but Spaur refused to publicly comment on the incident.

"Dale will not speak directly with the media," Nelson said. "He was not dealt a kind hand by newspapers in the past."

If Dale Spaur wanted to vanish from public life, he achieved his goal.

Neff, too, keeps a low profile in northern Florida.

"He's out in the pasture right now," said his wife, answering the phone a few months ago. "I'll tell him you called, but he probably won't want to talk about that," she said of the UFO incident. "When that came out, he went through a lot of ridicule."

Indeed, Neff never returned a phone message.

The Cleveland Scene, an alternative weekly, also failed two years ago to contact Spaur or to get Neff and Huston to share their thoughts on the UFO sighting.

"When I left Ohio, I got away from it all," Neff told the Scene. "I just want to forget."

Huston, the East Palestine officer, said, "The chief of police and I didn't get along, (and the incident) didn't help. I really don't want to go further than that."

Huston has since died.

Quintanilla, the lead Air Force investigator, died in 1997 after a golf cart accident.

Buchert was still the Mantua police chief in 1986 when he died from a brain aneurysm. His son, Harry, took over the post, and keeps a scrapbook of accounts from that April 17, 1966, incident.

"He believed he saw a UFO, and always claimed

that he did," Harry said. "But he was glad when the incident was over."

That leaves just the two Beaver County police witnesses who don't mind sharing their memories.

#### They'll talk

"I remember it pretty clearly," said Kwiatkowski, 62, the former Economy policeman. "I saw a jet plane and something behind it that was shiny."

For Kwiatkowski, whose name didn't make the initial newspaper accounts, the matter soon died down, though not until he endured several weeks of razzing.

"There were some people then who were a little sarcastic, who thought you were a nut when that first came out," said Kwiatkowski, who later left police work for a railroad job, from which he's semiretired.

Forty years later, he still isn't sure what he saw in the sky.

"You could have told me it was anything. It could have been another plane, I don't know," Kwiatkowski said.

Yes, he said, it could have been a UFO.

"We've always wondered that," said Kwiatkowski. "Everybody has wondered about that."

With amazement and a touch of amusement, Panzanella, the former Conway policeman, has thought a lot about the incident lately, now that his granddaughter Sarah is mesmerized by the story.

Now 73 years old and a shuttle driver for Friendship Ridge nursing home, Panzanella said a UFO remains the best possible explanation.

"I still think it was something from out there," he said. "It's got to be."

"Unless one of the other countries had something we didn't know about," he said. "We weren't sitting too good with Russia then."

The weeks after the incident were chaotic, Panzanella recalled.

Strangers relentlessly tracked him down, even calling his unlisted phone number to ask him about the UFO. Two nuns from Philadelphia mailed him a pin bearing a message that the Lord would take care of him. He wore it inside his police jacket.

Air Force investigators came to his home in Ambridge twice to interview him. The second visit occurred, unannounced, at 2 a.m., with uniformed Air Force officials pounding on the door.

"I said, 'Why did you come here to ask me these questions again?'" said Panzanella, who by that time felt the government owed him some answers.

Panzanella thinks they picked a time when he would be asleep, hoping he would groggily change his statement, which he never did.

And while he long ago stopped being bitter about the government's skepticism, he said, "I wish the heck I could have found out more."

Like the Ohio deputies, Panzanella endured teasing, primarily from fellow policemen. But they also told him they believed him.

Weeks after the incident, Panzanella tried to contact Spaur at the Portage County sheriff's office, but the sergeant there sounded reluctant to leave the message, so Panzanella gave up, and never spoke again to Spaur.

But he still thinks about Spaur and feels sorry for him.

"He cracked up," said Panzanella, who many years ago refused to be interviewed for a book about the incident because the author didn't plan to give any book proceeds to Spaur.

"I said if you can't give him some of the money, then I'm not going to do it," Panzanella said.

Panzanella speculates that the razzing became too much for Spaur to handle.

"Some people can't take it," Panzanella said. "They take it to heart, and in his case, he cracked."

#### So what happened?

As far as the federal government is concerned, the incident is over and done.

"The case was closed and never reopened," said Brian Seese, a paranormal researcher from Hopewell Township, who includes the incident in his new book, "Unexplained Events in Beaver County."

In late 1966, Weitzel, the NICAP investigator assigned to the case, delivered his final report to his Washington, D.C., supervisor, Richard Hall.

"I personally hand-carried a copy of Weitzel's very thick and extremely well-documented report to Dr. Edward Condon," Hall recalled last month.

Condon, a scientist, was in charge of a UFO study conducted by the University of Colorado under the sponsorship of the Air Force.

"Years later, I learned to my astonishment that he never turned over the case to his staff, and it gathered dust in his personal files," Hall said.

And so when the Air Force turned the Colorado report over to Congress, the Ohio-to-Conway incident wasn't mentioned.

"Maj. Hector Quintanilla tried to pass it off as a sighting of the planet Venus and an earth satellite, which was quite preposterous," said Hall, who wrote "The UFO Evidence, Vol. II: A Thirty-Year Report," published in 2001. "I think he may have changed it to an unexplained case later on."

According to the files of a leading UFO researcher, Brad Sparks, the Air Force ultimately did categorize the case as "unexplained" and probably left it at that, Hall said.

Project Blue Book files would show the final status of the incident, Hall said.

But trying to get someone to share Project Blue Book details isn't easy.

The feds closed Project Blue Book in 1972, ending at least publicly the Air Force's role as a UFO investigation agency.

Representatives of the U.S. Air Force Historical Research Agency contacted last month said documents from Project Blue Book are kept at the National Archives and Records Agency, though two representatives at that agency said they couldn't confirm the status of the case, ultimately transferring a reporter's phone call to a third person who never returned the call.

"Getting someone from the government to talk is almost impossible," said Leslie Kean, an investigative reporter who, backed by cable's Sci-Fi Channel, sued NASA under the Freedom of Information Act to see files on a UFO sighting Dec. 9, 1965, in Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland County.

NASA maintains the "fireball" that dozens of witnesses spotted that night was a remnant of a Russian satellite that disintegrated after re-entering the atmosphere. But official documents from that investigation were lost in the 1990s, NASA claims.

As for the Conway sighting, Kean speculated the Air Force proclaimed that matter dead after Quintanilla's ruling, or once the University of Colorado-Air Force report didn't list it.

UFO investigators claim that Air Force report "was a totally bogus thing" anyway, designed from the onset to debunk UFO theories, Kean said.

In the first few years after Project Blue Book ceased, UFO sightings continued to crop up nationally, including a six-month span from 1973 to 1974 that included separate sightings in Center Township, Ohioville and West Mifflin. Gradually, the phenomenon faded away, and recent years have been devoid of similar reports.

"The UFO sightings may have appeared to slow down," Seese said, "but these may only be reported sightings. As a general rule, most people do not report what they observe."

"According to veteran UFO researcher Paul Johnson, the Internet changed the way people report their sightings," Seese said.

"Instead of contacting the state police or local researchers, they can now send their report directly to the Internet and remain anonymous and not have to deal face to face with an investigator initially."

The Internet certainly has kept the Conway-to-Portage incident alive.

Dozens of sites, many suspecting a government cover-up, recount the morning of April 17, 1966.

Meanwhile, the men who saw the flying object are left with their own unique perspectives.

"I don't know what I would have done if it had landed," Panzanella said. "I don't know if I would have run or not."

JOURNAL NEWS, Yonkers, NY - April 9, 2006 CR: P. Greco

## For UFO believers, things are always looking up

They are true believers. If you're receptive, they'll gladly preach the gospel of "what's out there."

Just don't hoot and imitate the weird opening music of "The Twilight Zone." They've heard all the jokes before. It's the tiresome ridicule that makes them cautious, even a bit resentful.

That explains why a gathering of the UFO Roundtable on a recent evening at first seemed, well, like a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Not a few of the 20 or so people who came to a conference room at the Grinton I. Will Library in Yonkers introduced themselves with their first names



Phil Reisman

only — e.g., "Hi, I'm Phil, and I am here because I believe there is life on other planets and that extraterrestrials are visiting us in spaceships."

Let's face it. Attaching a full moniker to such a bold assertion takes a certain amount of courage in a skeptical world.

The UFO aficionados, or hob-

biysts, meet to swap stories, exchange information and, perhaps most important, lend support to each other. "We are not alone in the universe" is the group's message, but the underlying idea is that you are not alone in believing it.

A woman gave an account of an unidentified flying object that she saw hovering over Yonkers at night. The sighting frightened her, she said. Everyone listened to her story with rapt attention, though after a while it sounded to this outsider that what she actually observed was a commercial blimp.

But this wasn't a meeting for

#### If you go

The UFO Roundtable meets the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Grinton I. Will Library on Central Avenue in Yonkers.

doubters and debunkers.

Dan Travers, who lives in Montrose and is one of the roundtable organizers, enthusiastically seized on the woman's story.

"You said you didn't want to see it again," he began excitedly. "If I saw it, I'd say, 'OK, boys and girls, a few more times would be just

fine.' I'd want to see it again and again and again until the mainstream press gets the message. And I'd want some power failures at the same time."

Travers talks the UFO talk with a TV evangelist's zeal. He comes armed with a notebook crammed with facts and data. He shares with many an abiding frustration that the government has been actively engaged in covering up the existence of visitors from outer space since 1947, when a mysterious aircraft crashed in Roswell, N.M. The story that it was only a weather balloon is derided by the UFO

(continued on page 10)

hobbyists. The general theory for the coverup is that the public can't handle the truth of the existence of higher life forms and would panic, but Travers has a long list of other possible reasons.

You get the feeling that Travers is living for the day when the government's alleged secrecy is pried open so he finally can tell the non-believers, "I told you so."

There's simply too much evidence, he and the others of the roundtable said. Too many credible witnesses like astronauts and Air Force pilots. Something is out there. It's not all the wild illusions of kooks and druggies. And not all of it can be explained away as helicopters, secret military aircraft, orbiting satellites, meteor showers, Fuji blimps and balloons.

"Just because we Earth people — and I'm going to say this until I'm put in the casket — don't have the technology to go to other solar systems, that does not mean another species doesn't have the technology to come here," Travers told the group.

"I mean, who died and left us the highest form of technology in the galaxy? You never heard it from me and you never will."

All week Travers has been e-mailing me long files of evidence to support his beliefs, much of it having to do with the testimony of UFO witnesses whose accounts were gathered by the so-called "Disclosure Project," a nonprofit research effort that was unveiled at a highly attended press conference in Washington five years ago.

But he wasn't the only roundtable participant who generously shared his materials. At the meeting, a woman gave me a stack of UFO magazines and printed information she downloaded from the Internet. A young man handed me a sealed envelope containing three compact disc recordings of the radio program, "Coast to Coast" which explores supernatural themes.

John Jordan, a jovial resident of Mohegan Lake, insisted I take a couple of photographs of a UFO he took on Aug. 20, 1995. To me the image looked like a harmless

pale moon suspended against a deep blue sky, but who knows? Sometimes pictures don't do justice to UFOs, or so I've been told.

Especially curious was a videotape brought by Paul Grecco, a 47-year-old artist and roundtable moderator from Yonkers. The tape showed a series of purported UFO sightings from around the world, including one startling view of a strange craft flying near the World Trade Center towers. It hovered for a moment and then shot off into the distance at the hyperspeed of a video game asteroid.

Grecco said he saw a UFO while driving on the FDR Drive on June 21, 2001. It was a large orange disc spotted at daylight above some buildings.

"I couldn't go as far to say that it was an alien spacecraft, but it was definitely something unusual," he said.

If the online National UFO Reporting Center is any guide, the metropolitan region is a hotbed of UFO activity. It's filled with eyewitness reports, some of them more believable than others.

A personal favorite of mine is a

Sept. 9, 2004, posting from a Peekskill man who testified to seeing a "metallic/silver/red" object that flew over Annesville Creek. Noting the proximity to the Indian Point nuclear power plants, he concluded, "I grew up in this area and this place is and always will be weird."

Grecco isn't sold on every reported sighting. "It's so hard to know what to believe," he said. "Even for me, I constantly go back and forth with this stuff."

It may be possible that the UFO belief factor is directly proportional to the anxiety that things aren't so hot here on Earth. Is it really that crazy to have faith that there's something better out there in the vast universe? That question may be answered best with a question.

At the roundtable, a woman from Yonkers introduced herself with her full name.

"I'm Bernice Joseph," she said. "And I'm interested because ... who knows?"

Reach Phil Reisman at  
preisman@lohud.com  
or 914-694-5008.

CHRONICLE-TELEGRAM, Elyria, OH - April 9, 2006 CR: J. Fry

## UFO researcher brings campaign to Northeast Ohio

Chris Powell  
The Chronicle-Telegram

OBERLIN — UFOs are real, and the federal government has spent trillions of dollars denying their existence, renowned UFO researcher Richard Dolan said Saturday at Oberlin College.



Dolan

"The reality of UFOs is this: They're real," Dolan said during an afternoon speech to about 125 people inside Oberlin College's Science Center.

"The problem with UFOs isn't that their existence is classified because the government doesn't think we can handle it. The problem is they're classified because of proprietary issues," Dolan said. "They don't want us asking them, 'Where's the money, where's the technology?'"

Dolan, who has extensively researched the topic, authoring the book "UFOs and the National Security State: Chronology of a Coverup, 1941-1973," contends the federal government has covered up the existence of UFOs and funded secret operations for the harvesting of extraterrestrial technology.

"UFOs are the most highly classified subject in the United States government, and the secrecy surrounding them has been the knives in our backs for decades," he said. "It's something that needs to be brought into the mix and discussed, not continually silenced by academia, the government and the media."

Scott Santa of Cuyahoga Falls agreed, and said more needs to be done to educate the public.

"People need to be aware and seek out information on their own," said Santa, a former U.S. Coast Guardsman who said he spotted a UFO as a college student.

"UFOs are all over the place, day-to-day, county-to-county and state-to-state," Santa said. "This needs to be at the forefront of conversation, not shelved as simple tabloid giggle material."

Josh Rzepka, 21, a senior trumpet performance major who also says he spotted a UFO, said he decided to attend the lecture after reading

STANDARD-EXAMINER, Ogden, UT - Feb. 4, 2006

## Extraterrestrials may have taught humans

First, I believe evolution, not intelligent design, should be taught in science classes.

An anomaly exists regarding the appearance of modern man and evolution. Cro-Magnon was on earth for over 50,000 years, yet he never progressed past stone tools and the bow and arrow. Why? Because no one taught him writing, math, science, farming and astronomy.

Then 7,000 to 10,000 years ago, men from other galaxies or solar systems began educating humans. Clay tablets from the United Kingdom and Babylon stated that people from the stars descended and taught the people.

Hopi Indians claimed to have been taught by men descending from the sky. Egyptians claim that men came from the sea and taught them after their land sank

into the ocean.

The Bible said that when the sons of God came into the daughters of men, they bore children unto them.

In the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' text, "The Pearl of Great Price," the claim is made that God dwells on a planet near Kolob.

God and the sons of God who visited the earth and had children were extraterrestrial beings. They educated man and taught him science, farming, astronomy, mathematics, etc.

Ponder this: When I visited Australia last year, I saw Aborigines who were doctors, engineers and teachers. Yet, 300 years ago, they were the most primitive people on earth, living in the stone age. What took place? They were taught!

Dennis J. Dalton  
Ogden

Dolan's book during a recent class.

"What I saw was completely unexplainable," he said of his sighting aboard a cruise. "A lot of people have similar stories, but no proof. You can make your own decisions about that, but I know what I saw and won't ever forget it."

But many things must happen before the government will make such a public statement, said Dolan, a Rochester, N.Y., resident who has befriended former astronauts, politicians and scholars.

"We've basically forgotten our rights as Americans and learned to just accept what the

czar tells us," he said. "Americans have to wake up from their stupor and realize there's value in challenging the norm. Only when that happens will the level of openness needed for such a disclosure occur."

For more information about Dolan and the Cleveland Ufology Project, which sponsored his visit, visit [www.keyholepublishing.com](http://www.keyholepublishing.com) and [www.clevelandufo.com](http://www.clevelandufo.com).





WESTERN MAIL, Cardiff, Wales - Nov. 16, 2005

# They're out there ... dozens of UFOs reported over Wales

DOZENS of UFOs that the Ministry of Defence cannot explain have been sighted in Wales in the past three years, the release of confidential papers has revealed.

The MoD confirmed that a green, circular object seen hovering in one position over Mumbles in January 2002 was classed as a UFO.

And another bright object seen hovering over West Swansea in January of this year is also being put down as a UFO.

However, Julie Monk of the Ministry of Defence's Directorate of Air Staff made it clear a UFO classification simply meant no rational explanation for a sighting could be found, not that it was extra-terrestrial in origin.

MoD figures show 28 reports of UFO sightings in Wales in the past three years cannot be explained.

The close encounters include a black object hovering over Rhyl, a flying disc over Newport and a spinning craft with legs spotted in the skies above Rhondda.

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

Whitehall-based Mrs Monk said, "The MoD examines any

Robin Turner

robin.turner@wme.co.uk

Objects are just 'unexplained', says Ministry

reports of UFOs it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance.

"That is, whether there is any evidence the UK's airspace might have been compromised by an unauthorised aircraft.

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

Mrs Monk said rational explanations could be found for such sightings but it would be "an inappropriate use of defence resources" to go into great depth on each report.

Instead, a number of the reports are simply classed as UFOs and a database of sightings in Wales has now been built up from 2002 onwards.

Because of the large number of reports before 2002, the MoD says



SCANNING A UFO spotter checks the night sky over Swansea

Picture: Trevor Waters

the cost of examining, logging and placing them all on a database would be too expensive.

The MoD holds reports of UFOs in Wales going back 25 years.

Cardiff-based UFO researcher

Chris Fowler said, "There are credible sightings of unidentified objects in the sky.

"Either these are our craft, which means we've got technology far more powerful than the ones most of us know about, or else they're somebody else's. I don't know more than that."

There have been a number of UFO watching groups in Wales including the Welsh Federation of Independent Ufologists.

The strangest report given to the federation involved a family travelling by car to the Great Orme on November 10, 1997.

They could not account for several "lost" hours when they suddenly became aware of resuming their journey, according to investigator Margaret Fry.

She was told of their account by a friend of the family.

Margaret says the couple and their children were driving on the Bodfair/Landernog road when they found their car engulfed by a purple triangular craft.

The next thing they remember is the purple craft had gone.

She said, "But they could not account for considerable hours of time lost."

"The father was having trouble afterwards with a top molar tooth and he had to go to the dentist."

"A black unknown object fell out while he was at the dentist ... but he had no fillings."

There was a raft of "cigar-shaped object" sightings in Pembrokeshire in the 1970s which prompted an RAF inquiry.

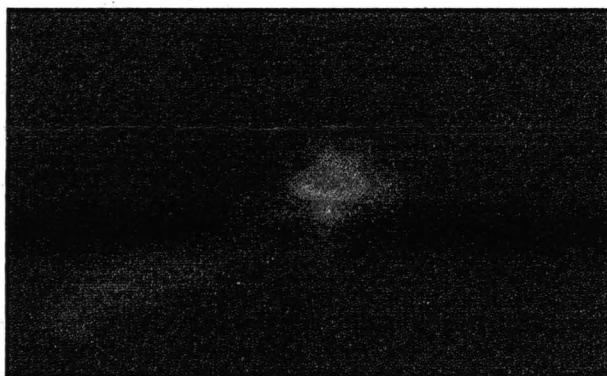
And in January 1974 there were reports a spacecraft "as big as the Albert Hall" landed in the Berwyn Mountains.

Last year, Alison Moore, 26, took footage of a floating disc in the sky above her Trehafod, Rhondda, home.

Although astronomer Mark Griffiths said "it could have been Venus" he said the incident deserved further investigation.

## PROOF?

An image taken by the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SoHo) of a spacecraft a million miles from Earth observing the sun, claimed to be proof of alien UFOs

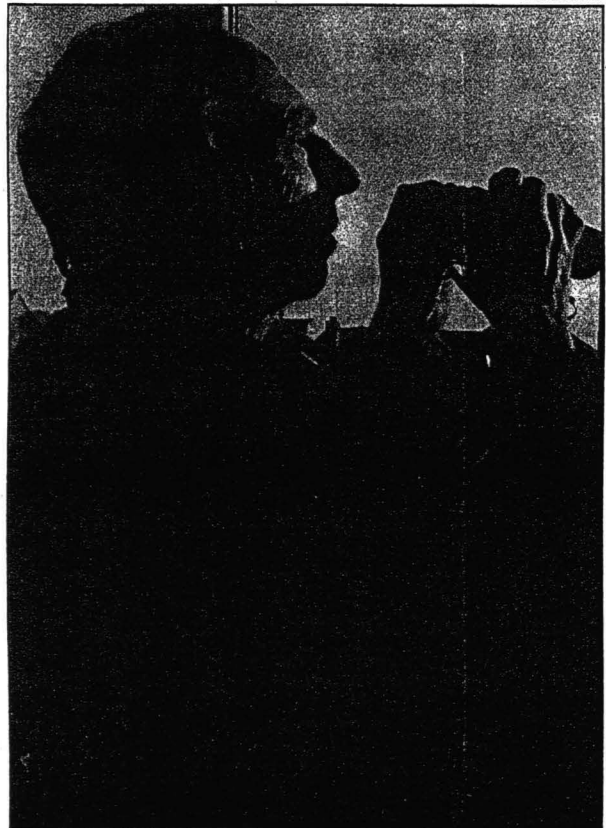


THE WHARF, [City Unknown], England - Nov. 17, 2005

## Residents are baffled by strange sightings in the evening

PICTURE: TERRY APPLIN

TA211105-A3



SATELLITE VISION: Artist Barry Hinchcliff has spotted unidentified objects

# Mystery of lights in sky

by ROWAN DORE

MYSTERIOUS red and white lights have been spotted in the skies above Sussex.

The lights, which have been described as possibly from a silent aircraft or surveillance satellite, have been seen over Rottingdean, Saltdean, Devils Dyke, and Brighton's Palace Pier.

They have been spotted in the afternoon, early evening and late at night by residents across Brighton and Hove over the last week, moving slowly and in formation.

Pensioner Peter Worsfold, 76, of Lenham Road West, Rottingdean, is one of those baffled by the UFOs, which he has seen for two nights in a row.

He said: "It could be some sort of aircraft or spy satellite. It has two red lights on the top and two white lights on the bottom and it has been stationary almost directly over my house."

Mr Worsfold saw the lights when his wife was driving him home from Lewes at around 5pm on

Thursday. He said they were hovering a few hundred feet over the pier but not moving or making any noise. When he got home he saw another one over Rottingdean.

He checked again on Friday and could not see it in the daytime but at night he saw them again, this time over his house.

He said: "I would just like to know what they are, I wouldn't want it to be some kind of surveillance aircraft. It is all very science fiction. There is a possibility someone from Europe is sending something over."

Artist Barry Hinchcliff, who lives next door to Mr Worsfold, said: "I first saw the lights from my studio about a week ago. They sometimes appear during the day. There are two objects, one in the southern sky and one in the eastern sky. There are two white lights with a second above them. The light above is red in the east and white in the

south. They both move in the course of an evening. They seem to be satellites working together."

Jamie Elms, 33, a retail systems support officer, was looking out of the window of his flat in Buckingham Place, Brighton at 3pm on Saturday.

He said: "I saw several lights high up in the sky in a line formation. There was quite a distance between them."

Mike Feist of the Fore-down Tower Astronomy Group based at Portslade said: "Venus is very bright at the moment and it could be Venus appearing over the lights of the Southwick Power station. Mars can be seen in the South East and Venus in the South West."

"No satellite in the hemisphere, apart from the International Space Station, stands out."

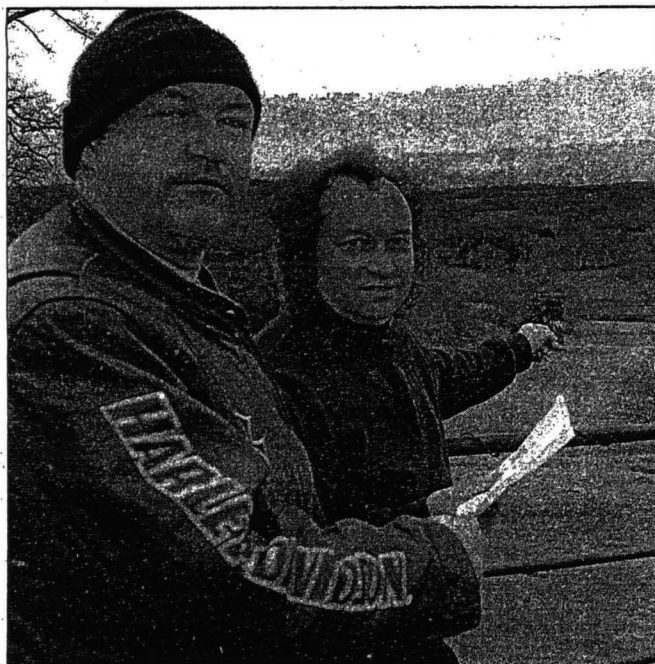
Police at Brighton said they had no reports of any strange lights.

rowan.dore@theargus.co.uk

# MYSTERY OF THE 'SHOT-DOWN UFO'

Info plea over second incident

By DAN SHIRES



■ INVESTIGATORS Russ Kellett and Win Keach, who believe a UFO crash-landed near Llangollen

INVESTIGATORS looking into North Wales' very own Roswell incident have claimed a separate unidentified flying object may have been shot down over Llangollen.

Ufologist Russ Kellett, 42, from Filey, Yorkshire, has been investigating the possibility a UFO crashed in the Berwyn Mountains, between Llandrillo and Llandderfel, in 1974, and now believes it was the first of a number of unexplained phenomena to occur in the area over next four years.

He has evidence which suggests an unidentified object was shot down and destroyed over Llangollen on February 7, 1974, just 15 days after the first reported incident in the Berwyn Mountains on January 23, in which a UFO reportedly crashed after a lengthy chase by military planes. Five occupants were reported to have emerged from the craft, before being taken away by the military who converged on the area quickly.

Russ said: "I've been told that the events on the evening of January 23, 1974, may have just been the start of more that was to come for another four years after the original event in the Berwyn Mountains. I've been told that after the first incident more objects were brought down."

"We believe that another craft was actually destroyed near Llangollen just over two weeks later and landed on one of the mountainsides near the town."

"One of the military sources I have spoken to said he was in the area at the time because of the incidents, and were around for quite a long period because of them. A lot of the facts he has described are only things he could know because he was part of the team that was here."

"My military sources have also told me the Berwyn Mountains incident represented a technological breakthrough at the time because jump jet technology that could hover over mountain ranges and had the ability to jam radar signals was being used. That could certainly be used to hide from any incoming craft."

## Myth

Russ said he was looking for anyone who might remember anything out of the ordinary in or around Llangollen on February 7, 1974 to contact him. He said: "We're continuing with our investigations. This amazing occurrence happened just over two weeks after the first incident, on January 23, so we're keen to find anyone who may have seen anything on that date."

"The Berwyn Mountains incident is somewhat of an urban myth, but this is completely new, so anyone who remembers anything I urge them to contact me on 01723 514700."

daniel.shires@nwn.co.uk

# Marking 25 years since UFO spotted

CURIOUS sightseers and ufologists joined a walk in a Suffolk forest yesterday to commemorate the 25th anniversary of one of the world's most famous UFO sightings.

In the early hours of Boxing Day, 1980, it was claimed that members of the American 81st Security Police Squadron encountered a small, triangular-shaped craft at Rendlesham Forest, near Woodbridge, that moved backwards through the woods before silently taking off.

The sighting took place close to the east gate of RAF Woodbridge, where the American air force was stationed.

A walk took place yesterday afternoon to visit the places linked with the unexplained sighting.

A UFO trail was set up by the Forestry Commission and Friends of the Sandlings Forest in the 2,200-acre forest earlier this year.

The three-mile route takes walkers on a tour of important sites, including the spot where the craft supposedly landed.

Simon Leatherdale, beat manager at Rendlesham Forest, said: "We get visits from ufologists from all over the world and there's no denying it's a major part of our history. Whether you are a believer or not it's still a part of the culture of the place."

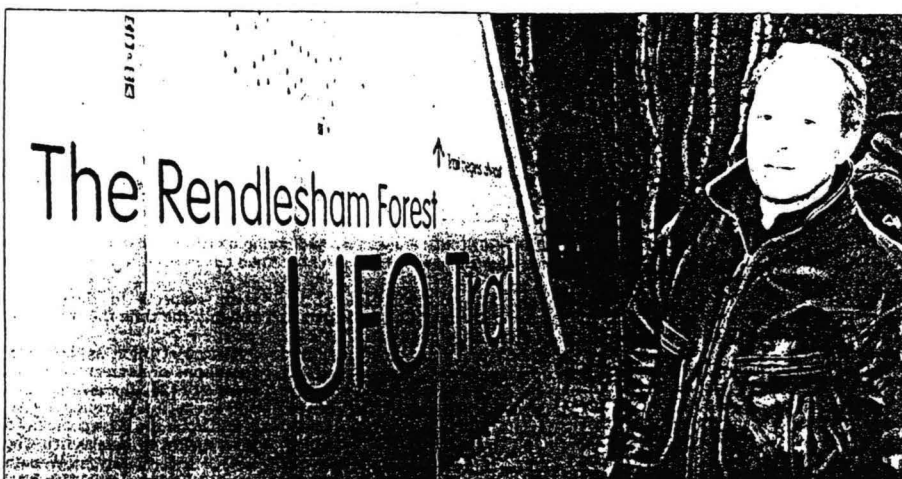
"The landscape is nothing like it used to be, much because of the big gale, but the prime sites from the story are still there. People who are sceptical, like myself, can still enjoy the event. We walk people round all the interesting sites and tell people both the facts and rumours from the story."

Brenda Butler, from Leiston, who has co-written two books about the sightings and visits the forest frequently to search for and record other signs of extra terrestrial life, said: "Things are still happening down there which are fascinating. We regularly take pictures of orbs and streaking lights - it certainly wasn't a one-off 25 years ago."



CURIOUS: Above, Jim Smith prepares to lead a 25th anniversary UFO walk in Rendlesham Forest, while, below, author Peter Robbins examines the UFO trail map before the start of the walk

Photographs: LUCY TAYLOR





# 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.]

February 15, 2006 — Summary of UFO Cases in Puerto Rico - 2006-02-15 — Reported to or Researched by OVNI.NET and/or its collaborators — Compiled by: Lucy Guzman, OVNI.NET [www.ovni.net] — Updated on: 2-14-06:

## JANUARY

### Ponce, Puerto Rico: Low Flying UFO Reported

Type: 1

Date: 01.08.06/04.03.05

Time: P 6:27 pm

Place: Ponce, P.R.

Evidence: None

Summary: "I would like to report the strange movement of an object flying over Ponce last weekend on 01.08.06 at 6:27 pm. The object was dark and made erratic movements on its axis. Its forward movement was very slow. At first it resembled a balloon, but its flight path was orderly. Given its altitude, it is unlikely that it could have been a conventional remote-control plane. I can more or less place the elevation at 1000 feet. I love aviation and am planning to take courses to obtain my license, as I have studied aircraft since middle school fifteen years ago. As far as I'm concerned, it was neither a Cessna or Tiger small aircraft - the observation lasted some three minutes as it moved from west to east at between 15 to 30 MPH. It flew behind OfficeMax and Wal-Mart; once it was over this last store, it made a left turn of some 100 degrees and headed toward Playa de Ponce. That's where I lost visual contact with the object. I don't know if you've received a report from anyone else, so I'm informing you just in case. I began looking at other drivers, but as you can imagine, they were all staring straight forward as though they were sleepers awake. My wife managed to see a silver detail to the object, but since I was driving, I was limited to seeing it as dark. I couldn't see a tail rudder or wings."

Case referred by: The witness himself to Andrew Alvarez at <http://www.andrewalvarez.net> and Lucy Guzman de Ovni.Net Source: Andrew Alvarez de <http://www.andrewalvarez.net> and Ovni.Net <http://www.ovni.net>

### Yauco, Puerto Rico: Low-Flying Aircraft Flies Over Urban Area Dropping a "Spray" from its Wings and Causing Allergies, Respiratory Problems in Local Residents.

Type: 1

Day: Either Wednesday, January 25 or Thursday, January 26 2006

Location: Yauco

Time: 10:00 to 11:00 A.M.

Witnesses: Rafael - father of Rafy; schoolteacher; Rafy himself.

Evidence: None

Summary: "My father told me a story that has caused many to phone in regarding a C-130 Hercules that flew over the entire area last week as it dropped a "spray" from its wings (not from its engines). Papi told me that he saw it and its color was nearly black, flying well under what is normal for an urban area. I asked if he managed to notice any distinguishing features in its tail, but he said nothing could be seen. In Yauco there has been much talk about respiratory problems: my cousin and his wife took ill on Wednesday or Thursday; I myself came down with allergies and chest complaints and a hoarseness that nearly clouded my voice. My daughter developed strong nasal allergies. But since Wednesday to the present, there haven't been any allergies. From my work place I was able to perceive the rumble of engines between Wednesday or Thursday. I was surprised that the object was flying so low, but I was dealing with students at the time and I was unable to leave the school library. It was between 10:00 and 10:30 am. One of the teachers told me she saw one in Yauco proper last week and that it was flying very low and engaging in maneuvers over Yauco. She said that it looked strange because it made many turns (coming and going many times) over the area. She was on her way to school, and told me that this took place before 11:00 am."

Case referred by: Rafy to Andrew Alvarez de <http://www.andrewalvarez.net> and Lucy Guzman de Ovni.Net

Fuente: Andrew Alvarez, <http://www.andrewalvarez.net> and Ovni.net <http://www.ovni.net>

### Guaynabo, Puerto Rico: Alleged "Alien" Says Anthropologist and Paranormal Researcher Andrew Alvarez is an "Extraterrestrial"

On Thursday, January 27, 2006, Puerto Rico's "El Despelote" radio show (on Mega Station 106.9 FM), [a call was received] from a woman identifying herself as "Marfa" who claimed to be an alien, owned a spaceship, professed to have the ability to hypnotize people, and spoke in an alien language, saying that Andrew Alvarez was a space alien; Andrew's mother had told her that her two children were the offspring of an alien father; Andrew had not learned his knowledge, but rather had it since the age of 3, and that she was a witness to this. She added that she was also writing a book in which she would discuss aliens and their languages. On Sunday the 29th, on the Marcano [TV] show, after Andrew spoke on terrorism, Marcano asked him if it was really true that he was a space alien. Andrew smiled, as this was the question he least expected. He listened to the recording of the woman's allegations (as Marcano played it for him) and said that he knew that her name was Minerva and that when he was 14 years old, she had been one of her mother's students. Boys, he added, would chase her in an attempt to rip her wig off, since she said she was an alien and had little antennae on her head. He, on the other hand, was thoroughly human!

Note: The woman has continued to phone Mega and other stations with the same story.

Source: La Mega Estacion, Marcano TV Program and Ovni.net <http://www.ovni.net>

February 16, 2006 — Summary of UFO Cases in Puerto Rico - February 2006 — Reported to or Researched by OVNI.NET and/or its collaborators — Compiled by: Lucy Guzman, OVNI.NET <http://ovni.net> — Updated on: 2-14-06

## FEBRUARY

Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico: UFO Photo

Type: 1

Date: Tuesday, 7 February 2006

Location: Juana Diaz

Time: 2:57 P. M.

Witnesses: Mr. ADC (Pseudonym)

Evidence: Two photos, one showing the UFO

Summary: "I am sending you a photo attached to this e-mail, as I found the results curious. The description of the event is the following. I was taking some sample shots of the sky to show the color difference when adjusting the 'white balance,' a common characteristic in digital photography. I took several sample shots and it wasn't until I verified them on a computer that I noticed that a mark appeared on one of the photos, in the clouds, and at least I cannot identify what it is. I know that it isn't a "sun flare" because they appear differently and are visible in the photos. I am dismissing the possibility of a dusty lens, as I had cleaned it prior to making the test. Seconds later another photo was taken without this "object" appearing. The photos are unretouched, only compressed to send them by e-mail. Should you have any use for them, I will gladly send you the originals on a CD. The photo data is as follows. They were taken on February 7, 2006. The first photo (IMG-3699) was taken at 2:57 pm from the camera in my hand, standing in the carport, pointing south with a slight inclination to the west. But you can still notice the same cloud composition in the photographed area. I included this photo because it shows the same clouds, but without the mark or object that appeared in the first photo. EXIF data for the photos is attached. You will find info on the focal length, shutter speed and lens opening. The camera used to take these photos was a Canon EOS 350D (Digital Rebel XT) 8.0 megapixel and a Canon 28-105mm lens USM. The lens has a UV haze filter on it at the time of the photo."

Evidence analyzed by: Alexander Rivera

Conclusions: Under analysis

Case referred by: The witness to Andrew Alvarez, <http://www.andrewalvarez.net> and Lucy Guzman de Ovni.Net

Source: Andrew Alvarez de <http://www.andrewalvarez.net> and Ovni.Net <http://www.ovni.net>

Moca: Another Low-Flying C-130 Hercules

Type: 1

Day: Thursday, 9 February 2006

Location: Moca

Time: [Not Given]

Witnesses: Anonymous

Evidence: None

Summary: "There's a C-130 flying at low altitude. I don't know if it's dumping anything, but I'll try to notice if it is. There are many strange things going on around here in the Ramey air base vicinity. Almost every day, you see an airplane circling around. Unless I'm mistaken, it's a military 4-engine plane."

Case referred by: the witness himself to Lucy Guzman, Ovni.Net

Source: Ovni.net <http://www.ovni.net>

Yauco: More Low-Flying Aircraft Over Urban Area

Type: 1

Day: Friday 10 February 2006

Location: Seen from Yauco Plaza

Time: 12:30 P.M.

Witnesses: Rafael's father

Evidence: None

Summary: "My dad told me that they saw the C-130's flying over the city of Yauco again. Today he was at Yauco Plaza when two Hercs flew over the area at low altitude. He told me that they fly exceedingly low and brushing the television and cell-phone towers on the hill that can be seen from Hwy. #2 in Barinas. One of them was completely black and the other olive green (this latter one had regular camo colors). He says that they turned in such a way that the wing tilted downward, almost touching the hillside. He says people phoned San Juan to report the presence of these vehicles over the area, and that it's becoming a weekly routine. I will keep you informed as the events continue to occur. Curiously enough, an island-wide display of Federal operations took place today."

Case referred by: Ruffy, son of Rafael to Andrew Alvarez, <http://www.andrewalvarez.net> and Lucy Guzman de Ovni.Net Source: Andrew Alvarez de <http://www.andrewalvarez.net> and Ovni.Net <http://www.ovni.net>

Lares, Puerto Rico: C-130 Sightings Continue Over Urban Areas

Type: 1

Day: Saturday, 1 February 2006

Location: Lares

Time: Daytime

Witnesses: An employee of researcher Alexander Rivera

Evidence: None

Summary: "Today (Saturday) one of my employees from Lares came to get his paycheck and out of the blue told me that there was a military airplane (which he believes to be the C-130) flying low over the house of his mother-in-law in Lares. The aircraft makes turns and then comes back."

Case referred by: The witness himself to Alexander Rivera and in turn, to Lucy Guzman, Ovni.Net

Source: Alexander Rivera and Ovni.Net <http://www.ovni.net>

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico: An Invisible "Something" Throws Coins and Stones at Elderly Couple

Type: Paranormal

Date: 13 February 2006 (From 2004 to the present)

Location: Adjuntas

Time: Various, but mostly in the morning, when the woman is making coffee.

Witnesses: The couple

Evidence: The change and the coins, which she keeps

Summary: The woman widowed in 2003. In 2004 she remarried a man 15 years her senior. She is a



farmer and he is a retiree. They lived on the lower floor of a two-storey house. Since they married, some invisible presence has pelted them with coins or river stones. There is a river 1/2 mile away from their home. They decided to move to another [house] 500 feet away from the first, where her children stay. They have also been pelted with stones and coins at this location, and also when she goes out to work the fields. No activity is currently taking place at the original home. The husband confessed that he underwent these experiences prior to the marriage, leading to the understanding that it isn't the woman's late husband who is tossing coins and stones, but something that the new husband "dragged in."

Reported, by: The woman's brother to Andrew Alvarez, by means of a cellphone call from Lucy Guzman

Researched by: Pending

Conclusion: Pending

Source: Andrew Alvarez <http://www.andrewalvarez.net> Lucy Guzman <http://www.ovni.net>

Caguas, Puerto Rico: Grandparents Accosted by Humanoid Ball of Light; Hear Voices in Unknown Language

Type: Paranormal

Date: February 13, 2006, but has occurred on other occasions.

Location: Caguas, Puerto Rico

Time: Mostly during the evening

Witnesses: The couple

Evidence: None

Summary: The couple sees a small, human-shaped ball of light. In one instance, the woman went outside and saw the ball. On another, the ball emerged from the bathroom; the husband went into the bathroom and the ball followed him, only to vanish. The woman has heard voices in a strange language. The air conditioner perspires by day and she has to place a bucket to catch the water, but does not do this at night.

Reported by: Her nephew to Andrew Alvarez, and by phone to Lucy Guzman

Researched by: Pending

Conclusions: Pending

Source: Andrew Alvarez <http://www.andrewalvarez.net> Lucy Guzman <http://www.ovni.net>

March 8, 2006 — *El Diario de la Pampa*, La Pampa, Argentina — Sergio Pucheta shares his UFO experience: "IT COULD HAPPEN TO ANYBODY" — Treatment: The police officer is currently under psychiatric care within the framework of a "confusional episode." "I'm feeling somewhat nervous; my head aches and my hands itch," said the law enforcement agent who was interviewed Monday by a Barcelona (Spain) radio station. He asked that society "believe his story, since this had never happened to me before, and I didn't believe in any of this before."

General Pico (Agencia) - Sergio Pucheta, the provincial police corporal involved in an alleged UFO experience, stated yesterday that "this could happen to anybody." It should be noted that the strange episode which had the officer as its protagonist, took place between the evening of March 2nd and early morning on Friday, March 3rd in the rural region of Dorila.

Pucheta, who was hospitalized at the Gobernador Centeno Hospital until noon Monday, only recently got in touch with the local press at his home on 104th and 25th streets where he lives with his wife (pregnant) and his in-laws.

First, Pucheta showed a video made during the first days of February at a site close to the one where last Thursday's experience occurred. The images taken by the police officer show a round light apparently rotating on its axis.

It should be noted that this video was requisitioned by Minister Tierno in the early hours of Friday the 3rd while the police combed the area searching for the missing officer, who finally "appeared" at around 16:30 hours -- benumbed and in a fetal position -- on a rural road near Quemu Quemu, some 20 kilometers away from the place where his disappearance occurred.

Moreover, the videotape was also requested by Pampan ufologist "Quique" Mario, who returned to General Pico yesterday to secure further details on Pucheta's ordeal.

Sergio Pucheta met with the media from General Pico at 09:30 hours yesterday, providing details of his experience for over an hour. "I was driving a motorcycle (a Honda 125cc belonging to the Cattle Rustling Division) and when I reached the wilderness area we call 'Las Cahas,' I saw a red light similar to that of a car," he explained, adding that upon reaching the site, the light vanished. "Then I got off my motorcycle to see if I could hear any noises. When I got back on the motorcycle and was about to put on my helmet, the red light appeared in front of me, against my face and very strong."

He followed by saying that the red light "stood in front of me and sort of hypnotized me," stressing that as a result of this contact he could "only move his hands, nothing else. I couldn't move the rest of my body... it was as if (the light) was going all over my body."

Later, he added that the light rose into the air and caused him "a considerable head and eye ache," a situation the officer tried to escape from, running away on foot into the fields, without recalling ever having dismantled his service pistol or the police walkie-talkie, which was subsequently found at the site together with other belongings, such as a cell phone which lost all of its stored phone numbers, except for the last call Pucheta made to his fellow officers, calling for backup.

The corporal explained that he has worked for the police force for some 8 years and that for the last two, he has served in the Cattle Rustling Division (Division Abigeato) engaging in patrols between 19:30 and 22:00 hours along the rural region of Dorila, Speluzzi and Trebolares.

Pucheta also noted that as he ran into the rural field "they were always behind me," in reference to two pursuing entities. He likewise added, "I can't recall if I was walking or running," and noted having remembered all of his life in a matter of seconds "from when I was little until now that I'm older, everything good or bad that ever happened to me."

Regarding the "entities" chasing him, he maintained that they "levitated" and described one of the figures as "being smaller than me, somewhat transparent, with a large head and clear red eyes ... the eyes were very red."

He explained that "they were utilizing my mind, as if they were performing tests," which he later described as "life tests" -- "For example, I reached a cornfield, and at a distance of some 10 meters saw a large figure that appeared to be chewing the corn cobs and was breaking something. I felt very scared and stood there staring at it. It was getting closer and closer and that's when I felt them tell me 'either you go forward or backward.' Then I stood thinking and walked right past the figure, and the fear sort of left me at that moment," he said.

When asked if the figure could be that of an animal, he said no, because "it was taller than me and much larger."

Meanwhile, Pucheta stated that throughout the experience he was "aware, because I was thinking about

my family, in my wife and [our unborn child]...this was something real that was happening to me," adding that he felt great fear throughout the experience, except for when "I began remembering everything I'd ever been through since childhood. That was the loveliest thing that happened to me."

He later said that he currently "feels very afraid about going out at night" and that the entities told him telepathically that "they were going to seize another fellow officer who also travels alone."

With regard to the place from where the police rescued him, he said that he had been "waiting there since the morning. I was there from 8 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon, sitting and waiting" in a place where "no one ever came by."

When asked why he hadn't decided to move away from that spot, he replied: "My feet were paralyzed ... I was numb," adding fearfully "they told me that if I spent the day there until the evening, they would come back for me again."

The police officer was unable to explain if the "entities" had taken him somewhere, but he explained that during parts of the distance he covered "it was as though I was in the air" and even remembered having gone past young bull calves "that didn't move," as if the animals were unaware of his presence.

Sergio Pucheta also made it clear during the press conference that his experience is just one of "many cases" recorded in the rural area.

"Previously, my partner and I have seen thousands of those red lights. We once chased one right to the blacktop highway. It was raining and then we never found any traces of it, only our pickup truck."

He added that some two weeks ago "a fellow officer was driving along the access road to Agustoni and saw a light in the middle of the road. He thought it was a car and flashed his headlights at it, but the light wouldn't budge. When he was about to overtake it, the light moved from one side to another and flew straight up." — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

---

March 9, 2006 — *CIUFOS/LaPampa*, La Pampa, Argentina — ARGENTINA: UFOs OVER PARERA — Police personnel from the Parera Sheriff's Office, located in the northern region of La Pampa province, detected strange lights in the rural area of this province in early morning hours on March 6.

One of the members of the police detachment traveling aboard a pickup truck told researchers that a powerful, shining light, traveling at the same speed as their unit, accompanied them on the outbound and return legs of their trip to the locality of Quetrequen, a few kilometers away from Parera.

Jorge Lastre noted that "what was most noticeable during the time in which the light stalked the police vehicle is that we lost all manner of communications. The police radio died and came back to life once we returned to Parera." — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

---

March 22, 2006 — *www.analuisacid.com.mx* — Mexico: UFO Over Mexico, 2005 — A Chance UFO Recorded on Video by Dr. Adalberto Dominguez Valdes by Prof. Ana Luisa Cid — On December 10, 2005, Dr. Adalberto Dominguez Valdes and his family were celebrating his son Carlos's graduation and held a party at the family home, located in the state of Mexico.

Precisely at the moment that the host addressed a few words to his guests, the cameraman involuntarily captured a black flying object that was not seen by anyone present at the time.

Dr. Dominguez only became aware of the event when he checked the video on his TV set, further noting that an elongated structure passed by his son's face at high speed.

Upon reviewing the original tape, which he kindly provided for my analysis, I noticed that the object is self-propelled and that on occasions, it appears to spin on its own axis with an ascending, irregular motion, since it remained static at times.

I performed electronic magnifications in slo-mo, reaching the conclusion that it could indeed be a chance UFO, invisible to the human eye, and seldom captured on video.

---

March 24, 2006 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — Fisherman Takes Cellphone Photos of UFO — The man, on the banks of the Atuel River, claimed seeing a fireball. He managed to take some photos using his cellphone.

GENERAL ALVEAR - A businessman fishing along the banks of the Atuel River managed to photograph a UFO that was suspended in the air for some 30 seconds before it took off in the general direction of the cordillera. The image shows a UFO immersed in a fireball, and it could well be considered a meteorite, although those who saw it say that "given its trajectory and movements, it could not have been one."

This curious event took place on March 6 when a renowned businessman from Alvear - his name is Ramon, but he preferred to withhold his surname - was fishing along the river in an area known as Paso del Loro, 20 km between the borders of this department and La Pampa province.

"We were fishing around 10:00 pm. I believe that some 40 to 50 meters away from us, no more than that, I looked up and saw an object suspended in the air, like a fireball some 30 meters up in the air. I can't tell you more because it was a dark night," said Ramon, 32.

According to his calculating, the object must have been suspended in the air some 30 seconds since "it gave me time to take two photos with my cellphone and a third one that didn't come out very well." All of this took place when they were fishing on this side of the river and the object was on the far side, over some hills in the area.

The businessman said that everything happened so quickly that "when I took the photo, it was hovering. Then it made an ascending motion toward the cordillera, but it wasn't abrupt. Then I took a third picture that didn't come out very well. What called my attention is that at the time we could see a shining light, and when we downloaded the photo to the computer, we noticed that it had reddish tones on the one side and bluish ones on the other."

He told his story with a sober demeanor and with a degree of reticence, concerned about the remarks that this experience may generate, since "if you talk about flying saucers, they say you're nuts." Ramon says he only told a friend and later saw the experience published in an Alvear weekly paper. In his opinion "it isn't a meteorite. It's something else, although I don't know what. It's the first time that this has happened to me. I was struck by the height at which the object was located and the fact that if you take a cellphone picture of a light source, it won't come out in the same way as this one did." — CREDIT: Mario Luis Bracamonte, *S.I.O. - Argentina*

---





OKLAHOMAN, Oklahoma City, OK - Aug. 7, 2005

## 'Something is definitely out there'



BY WILLIAM MOORE, THE OKLAHOMAN

A road sign that sits outside the Honobia Fire Department reminds travelers they're in Bigfoot country.

## Constant Sasquatch watch held in Honobia

By Ron Jackson, Staff Writer

**HONOBIA** — The stories are as alluring as the Kiamichi Mountains from which they spring.

Gigantic footprints embedded in the soil. Unfamiliar moans and shrills emanating from the forest. Hairy, ape-like creatures darting across remote creeks and roads.

Such accounts are told by seasoned woodsmen, reared on a lifetime of stalking wild game in the mountain ranges that surround their homes. Such accounts also are told by second- and third-generation loggers who are as hardened and rugged as the terrain they work.

Most, but not all, are reluctant to share

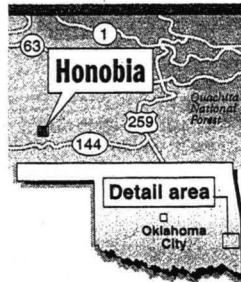
their experiences. No one wants to be ridiculed for relating the unexplained things they have seen or heard.

So, few admit they have encountered Bigfoot.

And yet stories of close encounters with this legendary creature keep tumbling into the mountain hideaway of Honobia like a never-ending rockslide.

"There is something out there," said Harold Yates, a Honobia resident who retired last week after 30 years with the state Forestry Services. "I don't know what it is, but something is definitely out there."

Yates hears the stories frequently from



neighbors who trust he won't laugh at their accounts. Yates would never think of laughing. He is still puzzled by experiences he had five years ago while building a log cabin on Little River, a main waterway that snakes through the valley cradling Honobia.

One day Yates was cutting planks on his saw, listening to the piercing sound of wood colliding with a saw blade. He says that's when he heard a creature seemingly answer him in a deafening sound that mocked his sawing.

On another occasion, in the stillness of night, Yates heard large rocks being slammed into the river below his cabin. The crashing sound continued for 40 minutes and unnerved his family.

"I don't know what could have made those sounds," said the soft-spoken Yates, 51. "That's the trouble. I don't know anything that can make those noises."

"I know a bear can't."

Logger Randall Wright, 43, tells of tracks he saw in the woods: "They were 15 1/4 inches long, 7 inches wide — with five toes."

"I know Bigfoot is out there," said Wright, born and raised in Honobia. Whispering, Wright adds with a devilish grin, "And if I see it, I'm going to shoot it, too."

Wright is serious. He carries a loaded rifle in his truck at all times.

Yates is left with speculation and wonder. He is far from alone in a valley where Bigfoot sightings and strange experiences also have been reported in the neighboring communities of Nashoba, Octavia, Ludlow and Watson.

The Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, which maintains a national database of purported sightings, has collected 58 such testimonials in Oklahoma since 1971. Nineteen of those eyewitness accounts came from the Kiamichi Mountains, which encompasses vast stretches of timberland in parts of Le Flore, Pushmataha and McCurtain counties.

Honobia sits on the Le Flore-Pushmataha county line — literally.

"On one side of the street is Pushmataha County," explained Honobia's postmaster Karen Pierce, 41. "Cross the street and you're in Le Flore County. Funny, huh? ... But I love it here. It's so beautiful."

Honobia's beauty is matched only by its remoteness. Residents, some of whom received electricity for the first time in 1952, drive 16 miles to the nearest gas station and 20 miles to the nearest ATM.

A trip to a grocery store could be anywhere from 55 to 70 miles, depending on which direction one travels. If they drive east on State Highway 144, they are traveling on the last unpaved highway in the state.

"There's only one thing wrong with Honobia," said Garland Cogburn, a Honobia resident who lives on Little River. "We're just so far from anything. Other than that, this place is perfect."

Honobia is nestled in the heart of the Honobia Creek Wildlife Management Area, which includes 130,000 acres of commercial timberland thick with cedar, oak, box elder, and pine trees. Wild hogs, bear, deer, and panthers are some of the animals that roam its rugged terrain. The land is owned by two private forest investment companies — the Hancock Natural Resources Group and Renewable Resources, LLC. — and is managed by the State Wildlife Conservation Department in a unique partnership.

The vastness of the forest is mindboggling; remote enough for a man to wander into and disappear forever. Or, as some would claim, immense enough for an unknown species to live with virtually no detection.

### A Bigfoot shooting?

Honobia's stature as Bigfoot territory grew in January 2000 when a local woodsman named Tim Humphreys claimed he shot at a Bigfoot in the woods behind his home.

Humphreys' encounter was documented by the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, which sent investigators to interview Humphreys and set up a surveillance at his home. Investigators learned the shooting culminated two years of alleged terror by "at least one Bigfoot," which had been prowling his property at night.

The avid Honobia hunter said the creature was stealing deer meat from an outbuilding freezer. As time passed, the creature became bolder by tapping on windows and even jiggling doorknobs.

"Tim and his family were genuinely terrified by this Bigfoot," said Wright, the logger. "And I have no reason not to believe him ... He saw it and he was armed to the teeth. He had loaded guns on the porch and in the house — everywhere. He had floodlights all around his house."

"He had just had enough."

Humphreys told investigators he shined a light into the face of a charging Bigfoot and fired his assault rifle at the massive creature from 70 yards away. The Bigfoot retreated into the woods and cut loose with eerie wails.

Soon, similar sounds were coming from other nearby creatures.

"Tim told me they were talking to each other in all kinds of grunts and gibberish," Wright said. "Tim said he was afraid to run in there after it. The next morning I went to the spot where the Bigfoot ran and I personally saw blood splattered on trees 9 feet high for about 200 yards. That's where it was carried away by two other Bigfoots."

"A logger told Tim later he was driving down the road with his truck when he saw two of these creatures carrying a third one across the road. He turned his truck around six times on that road because he couldn't believe what he was seeing."

The logger, like much of the physical evidence from that night, disappeared.

A heavy rain the next day washed away any traces of blood, and Bigfoot investigators found nothing more than a mutilated deer in the vicinity where the Bigfoot supposedly fell. Even the Humphreys vanished abruptly, leaving refrigerated food and furniture in their wake.

Neighbors tell conflicting stories about the family's whereabouts.

"Tim just grew tired of people laughing and he quit talking," said Charla Wright, Randall's wife. "I know this: Tim's wife was terrified and she wouldn't go back to that home after what she saw. And I believe her. I believe they saw a Bigfoot."

Television media crews and print journalists soon began appearing in Honobia, leaving a legacy of their own with campy or playful reports that made locals feel embarrassed.

"People will make fun of you," Yates explained. "I know I'll never go on camera again."

### A legacy of encounters

The sensational ordeal told by the Humphreys actually was a new twist on an old story around Honobia, where Bigfoot sightings date back hundreds of years. Choctaw elders who lived in the region have been telling legends of mammoth, hairy creatures roaming the Kiamichi Mountains for generations.

Charlene Cusher, a Choctaw from nearby Watson, remembered hearing one such story from her grandparents. They spoke of a little boy who wandered into the forest and got lost.

"When they found the boy he was fine," said Cusher, 54. "He said 'that thing' took care of him, referring to the creature ... As for me, I'd have to see it to believe it were true."

Fellow Choctaw Billy Ludlow of Honobia became a staunch believer in Bigfoot 54 years ago at age 11 when he encountered a gigantic, bipedal creature on Little River. Ludlow and two playmates were goofing around one Sunday night after church when they heard metal beams snapping on the unfinished bridge above.

"I looked up and saw this large, hairy animal stand up on two legs like a man," said Ludlow, 65. "I'd guess it to be 9 or 10 feet tall with broad shoulders and hair all over. I was always the slowest runner among my friends. But on that night, I was the fastest."

"We ran to my grandmother's cabin and slammed the door shut. It was chasing us. Something came and pushed the door two or three times, and then went away. I know they are out there."

### The proof?

Proof of Bigfoot's existence in these mountains — or at least proof of an unknown animal — might be on the way.

Ludlow hunter Odell Rose recently collected a fistful of fine, woolly brown hair on a tree he couldn't match to any known animals in the region. The foul-smelling hair intrigued Rose so

(continued on page 18) 17

much he has sent it to the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization for DNA testing.

Rose, 65, said he doesn't believe in Bigfoot. "Odell and I have lived up here for 20 years," said LaVelle Rose, 53. "We used to ride mules and horses all over these mountains, and we've never seen anything like a Bigfoot. My husband is one of those hard-core people who doesn't believe in much. He's from the old school.

"But he's never seen any hair like this before. He'd like to know what it is."

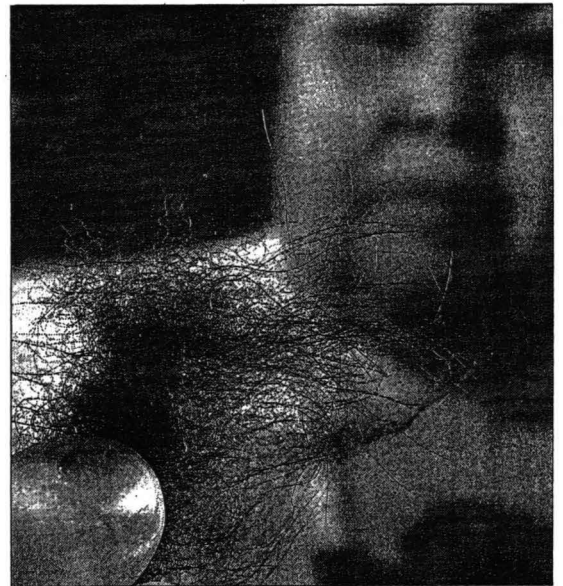
Rose laughed, "Maybe it is Bigfoot hair."



BY WILLIAM MOORE, THE OKLAHOMAN

**Above:** Harold Yates, a forest ranger who retired from the state Forestry Services last week, says he knows something's out there — he just isn't sure what it is.

**Left:** LaVelle Rose of Ludlow holds a clump of foul-smelling, fine, woolly hair found by her husband last month in the forest. Uncertain of its origin, the couple sent samples of the hair to the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization for DNA testing. Is it hair from the legendary Bigfoot?



BY WILLIAM MOORE, THE OKLAHOMAN



BY WILLIAM MOORE, THE OKLAHOMAN

Logger Randall Wright says he saw tracks: "They were 15 3/4 inches long, 7 inches wide — with five toes."

LEADER TRIBUNE, Laverne, OK - Feb. 15, 2006

### Bigfoot Festival Dates Set for 2006

Mark your calendars for the Bigfoot Fall Festival 2006, Honobia, OK. This year's festival will be for three days as follows: Oct. 6th - noon to 8 p.m., Oct. 7th - 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Oct. 8th - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., that's Fri., Sat. and Sun.

There will be added attractions, more things for kids entertainment, more shows and more booths than before.

If you would like information on booth rental please send e-mails to [honobiabigfoot@yahoo.com](mailto:honobiabigfoot@yahoo.com) or write Honobia Bigfoot, PO Box 5, Honobia, OK 74549. Please include a phone number where you can be reached.

SUN-TIMES, Chicago, IL - April 11, 2006 CR: CUFOS

## Large block of ice drops from sky, baffling experts

OAKLAND, Calif. — Even the experts are having trouble explaining why a solid block of ice fell from the sky, crashed and left a 3-foot hole in the grass.

The ice fell at Bushrod Park in Oakland when homeowner Jacek Purat was waiting to show apartments to prospective renters Saturday. No one was injured, police said.

### 'Whoosh!'

"It was totally amazing. . . I saw this flash, like a streak," he said. "Then I saw this explosion, like a big boom. I came over and it [the field] was all covered with ice. "Some were this big," Purat said, making a head-size circle with his hands.

Brooks and Judith Mencher

said they were standing on their back porch when they heard a sound like a rocket. "It kind of went 'whoosh!'" Brooks Mencher said.

The ice block was about the size of the hole — 3 feet wide and 2 1/2 feet deep.

The ice was pure water, so "it didn't come from a toilet on a plane or anything like that," said Lt. Charles Glass of the Oakland Fire Hazardous Materials Team.

Such incidents are not uncommon because ice can build up on airplanes and fall as they prepare to land, said Tony Hirsch, an aviation expert.

The National Weather Service said storms haven't been violent enough to hatch a gigantic hailstone.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - July 2, 2005

## A disservice was done

As the curator for the state of Arkansas for the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, or BFRO, I am appalled at the column your newspaper printed in regard to a Miller County bigfoot sighting and a witness named as Carl "Cooter" Scroggins.

The BFRO does not publish witness names and the person who submitted that report was neither named Carl "Cooter" Scroggins nor was he from Black Diamond, Ark., as the column stated. Anyone who submits a report to the BFRO may rest assured his name will not be released by the BFRO to the public for reasons demonstrated in the newspaper column.

For an impartial look at the BFRO, the Web site [bfro.net](http://bfro.net) is available and a much better resource than the Democrat-Gazette for information regarding the existence of an unknown species of primate here in Arkansas and across North America.

[Otus the Head Cat's] column has done a disservice to the BFRO and to the readership to suggest that someone submitting a sighting to the BFRO will have his private information broadcast publicly. Witness names and addresses are kept completely confidential and out of the public view unless a witness prefers otherwise.

The column regarding the BFRO and the Miller County sighting report was not representative of the organization, but of the newspaper that printed it.

**TERESA HALL Ashdown**

*Editor's note: The column in question was clearly identified as a "humorous fabrication."*

## Stories and tours to highlight event

By Ron Jackson, Staff Writer

HONOBIA — Katie Cogburn doesn't believe in Bigfoot. She believes in Honobia.

So when the concept of a fall festival popped up for discussion, Cogburn didn't hesitate in throwing her support behind a Bigfoot-themed event. Hence the birth of the Bigfoot Fall Festival, to be held Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 in Honobia.

"We knew there would be a lot of interest in Bigfoot by a lot of outside people," said Cogburn, 67, a retired nurse who serves as vice president of the newly formed Honobia Bigfoot Organization Inc.

"We've seen that interest already from all the people who come down here looking for Bigfoot," she said. "We just thought we would capitalize on that impression people have of this place."

The event promises to be something unique in this community of 350 people.

Visitors can hear Bigfoot stories and embark on Bigfoot site tours. There also will be an opportunity to take a picture with a "real Bigfoot."

"Some of the locals are against the festival because they think it makes us all look like a bunch of hicks," said Honobia postmaster Karen Pierce, 41, the organization's president. "But we're not asking people to become believers in Bigfoot. We're just saying that whether you believe or not, you can still have fun."

"And what isn't fun about a Bigfoot festival?"

Ron Jackson: (580) 666-2340, [rjackson@oklahoman.com](mailto:rjackson@oklahoman.com)

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada  
March 30, 2006 CR: G. Conway

## Malaysia to hunt Bigfoot

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's Johor state government is mounting a scientific expedition next month to track down a gap-toothed Bigfoot, or ape man, in the ancient rainforests near Singapore.

The hunt was sparked by reports last year of three strange creatures spotted walking beside a river by workers in Johor.

"Myths do not leave footprints," said Vincent Chow, a member of the Malaysian Nature Society, who has measured and photographed large prints at the sites of reported Bigfoot encounters.

— Bloomberg



# Falling ice perplexes scientists

Theories abound after 2 chunks land in state in a week

By Keay Davidson  
CHRONICLE SCIENCE WRITER

The skies are raining big chunks of ice, and experts ranging from scientists to federal investigators are scrambling to learn what's going on.

For the second time in a week, California was the victim of an aerial, icy assault, the latest being early Thursday when a chunk of ice the size of a microwave oven plunged out of a cloudless sky into the San Bernardino County town of Loma Linda. The ice punched through the metal roof of a recreation center, leaving a hole up to 2½ feet wide, then fragmented into opaque, brilliant white chunks, one as big as a bowling ball. No one was hurt.

Two tennis players were battling a ball around outside the Drayson Center at Loma Linda University on Thursday morning when they heard a strange sound, said Rolland Crawford, Loma Linda Fire Department division chief.

"They described it as the sound an artillery shell would make — shoosh, shoosh," he said. "They looked up. They didn't see the ice, nor did they see a plane."

A similar incident occurred last Saturday in Oakland, where a plunging ice ball plowed into a field at Bushrod Park on Shattuck Avenue and blasted out a crater up to 2 feet wide. Again, no one was hurt.

The simplest, least controversial hypothesis is that the ice was dropped from airplanes, but there's little direct support for that view. A few experts who study such phenomena have suggested that similar occurrences around the world owe more to exotic causes, perhaps even global warming.

The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the two latest cases under the theory that the ice fell from an aircraft, FAA spokesman Mike Fergus said Friday.

Such cases can be very tough to solve, he said.

In both cases, the ice was clear or whitish — not bluish, as one would expect of ice that had leaked from an airplane's rest-

room, for instance.

The agency has traced blue-ice cases back to aircraft, but Fergus said that is extremely difficult to do. One of the many reasons is that wind speed and direction can vary at different altitudes and often change suddenly. As a result, the otherwise smooth trajectory of falling ice can be radically altered.

For this and other technical reasons, investigators can't always be sure whether a particular piece of ice fell from a particular airplane even after they've reconstructed the probable plane's flight path, Fergus said.

Legends about plunging ice go back for centuries. They didn't begin to receive serious scientific attention until a few years ago, however, when Spain and other countries were pelted by the mystery intruders.

Possible explanations range from the mundane to the bizarre.

One theory is that ice is somehow forming on the outside of air-

craft, perhaps in areas that aren't protected by deicing equipment, said David Travis, a climatologist at the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater. Last year, he and 11 others co-wrote an article on the ice-fall mystery in the *Journal of Atmospheric Chemistry*.

Lead author Jesus Martinez-

the formation of hail inside thunderstorms but without a thunderstorm.

Inside a thunderstorm, hail forms like this: Extremely violent vertical winds can repeatedly blow water vapor up and down, like clothes inside a washer. In this process, moisture rises to a high,

"I've talked to a lot of pilots who tell me there are places on airplanes where the deicing equipment doesn't cover."

DAVID J. TRAVIS, climatologist at University of Wisconsin at Whitewater

Frias of the Planetary Geology Laboratory in Madrid and his colleagues have collected reports of 40 cases around the world since 1999 of puzzling falling ice, or "megacryometeors," as they call the strange objects.

Martinez-Frias hypothesizes that the ice forms in the upper atmosphere by a process similar to

cold altitude, where it freezes. Then its weight causes it to plunge back toward Earth — until new winds blow it back to a high altitude, causing it to gain an additional layer of ice.

The process occurs over and over again until the object falls to Earth as a hailstone, sometimes as big as a baseball and occasionally

bigger.

But how can ice fall from a cloudless sky? Martinez-Frias speculates that global warming is causing the lower part of the atmosphere — the troposphere, where we live — to expand and rise. This means that the tropopause, which is the so-called roof of the troposphere, is forced to a greater height, where it cools more than normal.

Thus, he suggests, the new, steeper temperature difference between warm and cold air in the upper atmosphere generates turbulent up-and-down winds that repeat the hail-formation process, without a thunderstorm.

Although he co-wrote the paper on megacryometeors with Martinez-Frias, Travis is leaning toward the aircraft theory for what happened in Oakland and Loma Linda. "I've talked to a lot of pilots who tell me there are places on airplanes where the deicing equipment doesn't cover," Travis said Friday.

Then there may be the conspiracy theorist who might suspect



Sources: ESRI, Geographic Data Technology

The Chronicle

the ice is falling off the kinds of supersecret spy planes that the military tests in the Southern California and Nevada deserts. But spokesman John Haire of Edwards Air Force Base in the Mojave Desert said any such theorists are all

wet: "We don't do test flights over Loma Linda or Oakland."

Chronicle staff writer Elizabeth Fernandez contributed to this report.

E-mail Keay Davidson at [kdavidson@sfchronicle.com](mailto:kdavidson@sfchronicle.com).

# Searching for Sasquatch

Harrison Hot Springs a  
hotbed of Big Foot sightings

**SUSAN POIZNER**  
Special to the Sun

**HARRISON LAKE, B.C.** — It's Saturday morning and I'm soaking in the healing, mineral-rich waters of Harrison Hot Springs Resort and Spa — a luxurious heritage hotel on the banks of Harrison Lake in British Columbia ([harrisonresort.com](http://harrisonresort.com)).

Just two hours' drive from Vancouver, this establishment in the tiny town of Harrison Hot Springs ([harrison.ca](http://harrison.ca)) has attracted visitors for almost a century.

One of the main attractions is the opportunity to enjoy the naturally warm hot spring pools. Fine dining, dancing and live music in the resort's 1950s-style dining room is also a draw.

But I'm not just here to satisfy my hedonistic desires. I'm here on a mission: I want to learn about the Sasquatch — a mythical creature that is said to roam in the surrounding mountains. The earliest sightings of the Sasquatch go back thousands of years.

After relaxing in the hot springs, I join Willie and Kelsey Charlie, members of the local Chehalis First Nations community, at the nearby public boat docks.

Their innovative company, Sasquatch Tours, ([sasquatchtours.com](http://sasquatchtours.com)) takes visitors on cruises to explore the

wildlife and cultural sites in and around Harrison Lake and river.

"There's so little knowledge of our traditions and our beliefs," Willie explains.

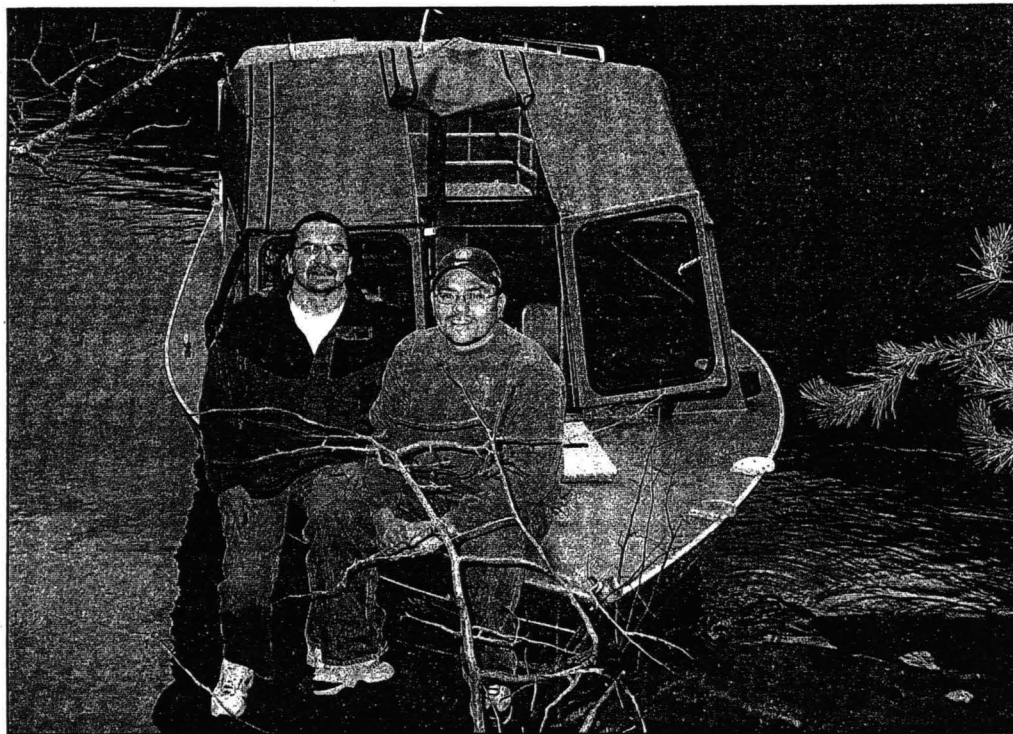
"There's been so much development in the last 15 years and a lot of our people's sacred sites have been destroyed. One of our goals is to share the knowledge, history and teachings and to bring awareness of these sites, so they might be protected and preserved in the future."

After sharing a welcome song — traditional aboriginal singing accompanied by handmade drums — the brothers bring us to places where their people carved or painted images over two thousand years ago.

Hidden in sheltered parts of the rock surrounding the lake, the images are still vibrant. We see pictures of a wolf, of a traditional burial. We see images of man, illustrated with a large head and a stick figure body.

And then we see the image of the Sasquatch painted in red ochre.

"You can see he's not depicted like a human," Willie explains. "He has a big hairy head, big hands and big feet. Many think he's just a big creature like a hairy ape. We believe he's a supernatural being. Some say he can vanish. We believe he has the ability to go from the physical



CLIFF CHANGOOR PHOTO

Brothers and Sasquatch Tours founders Willie, left, and Kelsey Charlie on their boat in Harrison Lake, B.C.

world into the spiritual world and back. So to us he's a spiritual being."

Willie's brother Kelsey is one of the many locals who claim to have seen this elusive creature. At the time he was working in the family and child services field and had to visit a remote home in the

forest when he and a non-aboriginal colleague saw two Sasquatch — a mother and a child — drinking water from a creek.

"I asked my colleague: 'Are you seeing what I'm seeing?' and she says 'Yes! Of course I am!' I've lived here all my life. I've sometimes heard the Sas-

quatch when I was fishing. But I never thought I would ever actually see one!"

During our tour, I didn't have the opportunity to see a real Sasquatch. But I did learn about the richness of the local aboriginal traditions.

I saw majestic bald eagles. I marvelled at the beauty of a

sparkling lake surrounded by ancient forests and seemingly untouched by cottagers. I witnessed the blessing of unspoiled nature.

May this type of tourism ensure that it remains that way for many years to come...

[susan.poizner@sympatico.ca](mailto:susan.poizner@sympatico.ca)

TRIBUNE-HERALD, Waco, TX - Oct. 30, 2005

## Texas' folklore subject of book

**By Michael Graczyk**  
Associated Press

**HUNTSVILLE** — This tale begins with a larger-than-life bronze statue of Christ, arms outstretched, resting atop a concrete pedestal above a family plot in the tree-lined gloom of the Oakwood Cemetery.

The statue's hands are palms up during the day. At night, so the tale goes, the statue's palms turn downward. And, the eyes follow any movement in the graveyard, home to the remains of Sam Houston, the father of Texas.

Known to locals as the "Black Jesus" because the bronze quickly weathered to ebony years ago, the sculpture marks the grave of prominent Texas lawyer Benjamin Harrison Powell, who died in 1960.

The yarn is featured in *Weird Texas*, a new book of legends, mysteries, oddities, haunted places and ghostly tales of the state.



Over nearly 300 pages, the trio of writers — Wesley Treat, of Arlington; Bob Riggs, of Austin; and Heather Shade, of El Paso — cover one end of Texas to the other in pursuit of unexplained phenomena, quirks and oddballs.

"Texas is an eccentric state," said Treat, who supplements his writing as a photographer and occasional actor. "Few people would disagree Texas has its own personality, quite

a few eccentric people, a lot of tall tales, a lot of braggers. So stories get around."

Stories like a lost gold mine near El Paso. The crash of an alien airship in 1897 outside Aurora, north of Fort Worth. Ghost lights at Marfa in West Texas and in the Big Thicket of East Texas.

"I don't like to write about things I haven't personally visited," said Treat, 31.

The book, an offspring of New

This recent photo provided by Heather Shade shows a bronze statue of Christ, arms outstretched, resting atop a concrete pedestal above a family plot in the tree-lined gloom of the Oakwood Cemetery in Huntsville. The statue's eyes are said to follow movement in the cemetery.

Heather Shade photo

Jersey publishers Mark Moran and Mark Sceurman, who turned their *Weird NJ* magazine into a *Weird U.S.* book, includes a disclaimer that says while the authors attempted to present a historical record of legends and folklore, many of the anecdotes couldn't be independently confirmed or corroborated.

"Some of it's complete myth, urban legends," Treat said. "But some have a ring of truth to it."

Some of the truthful weird sites and phenomenon are easy to verify — like the thousands of Mexican bats that fly out from under the Congress Avenue bridge over Austin's Town Lake during warm nights, or the famed Cadillac Ranch, where 10 classic Cadillacs are buried face down, tail-ends up in a wheat field near Amarillo.

Ghost sightings are plentiful in Texas, from the Lockhart firehouse, the railroad tracks in San Antonio, White Rock Lake

near Dallas to the ghost nun of Loretto's Tower in El Paso and the Ring of Ghosts in Brazoria.

Ghosts' apparently haunt Waco's Cameron Park, where supposedly a pair of horse thieves were hanged in trees by vigilantes, and at Arlington's Screaming Bridge tombstones reportedly glow in the Trinity River where a carload of teenagers were killed in 1961.

The book's section on "creepy crypts and telltale tombs" tells the tale about the glowing grave in Kilgore of Karen Silkwood, a whistle-blowing union activist and the subject of the movie *Silkwood* who mysteriously died in a 1974 traffic wreck in Oklahoma, and the concrete grave marker of a woman in a fetal position over a plot in the Old Fairview Cemetery in the Panhandle town of Memphis. What's weird about this one is no one's sure for whom the marker is intended.

Co-author Riggs is particularly familiar with East Texas, where he grew up.

"People who live in the big cities don't have any clue how weird it is out in the woods and swamps of East Texas," said Riggs, 60.