

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

July 2006
Number 444

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

SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN, Cape Girardeau, MO - June 6, 2006

PROFESSOR, RESEARCHER, AUTHOR

Area UFO expert Rutledge, 80, dies

In 1980 he published "Project Identification," which took a scientific approach to cataloguing UFO activity.

By TJ GREANEY
Southeast Missourian

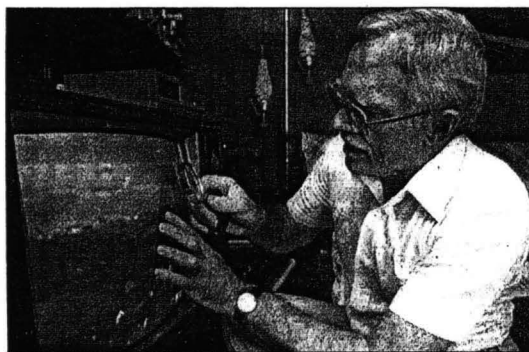
Dr. Harley Rutledge, 80, former chairman of the physics department at Southeast Missouri State University and UFO expert, died Monday at the Missouri Veterans Home.

Rutledge first joined the physics department at the university in 1963. He was department chairman there from 1964 to 1982. He retired from teaching in 1992.

Rutledge first gained national notoriety through an organization he launched in 1973 called "Project Identification." The project was a response to a flurry of UFO sightings near Piedmont, Mo. Over the next six years, Rutledge and crews of students, scientists and amateur enthusiasts spent 150 nights scanning the skies in Franklin County with cameras, audio recorders, telescopes and tools measuring electromagnetic field disturbances. The efforts were funded in part by the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

In 1980 he published a book also called "Project Identification," which took a scientific approach to cataloguing the UFO activity. He tracked the velocity, distance and size of the objects he caught on video and said he was careful not to let his own hypotheses get in the way of the data.

"I don't want to scare anyone



Southeast Missourian file

Dr. Harley Rutledge took some measurements off a videotaped image of an alleged UFO displayed on a television screen in this July 25, 1987, file photo. Rutledge had spent more than 120 hours analyzing the tape made by an amateur photographer in California in 1986.

and the one way not to do that is by trying to explain these phenomena," said Rutledge in 1979.

"I treat reports of UFOs like bottles of medicine without labels. I can't use the medicine without the label, but I can put it on the shelf until I get a label for it."

In 1989, Rutledge claimed to have seen 164 UFOs during his life. At the end of this research

His fame as a passionate investigator of the unexplained led him to be a featured expert on CNN.

he claimed to have 700 photographs of UFOs either taken by him personally or by associates.

His fame as a passionate investigator of the unexplained led him to be a featured expert on CNN and quoted in a Time-Life book on UFOs and an astrology textbook. He was also a lively interview subject featured on the radio talkshow circuit.

His unfulfilled dream, though, was to come face to

face with an extraterrestrial.

"I've seen just about everything there is to see, but I haven't seen one of those little creatures," he said in an interview in 1988.

Dr. Art Soellner, a friend and colleague in the physics department, remembered Rutledge's ability to simplify complex science.

"What I remember most was that he was a very good teacher," said Soellner. "He had a way of working with the students that stood out. I had an office behind his classroom, and he was teaching a physical science general education course, which usually means a lot of students aren't too interested. But he got them involved and I could often hear he got good chuckles out of them."

Soellner also recalled that Rutledge was integral in building up the physics department at the university from a faculty of four when he was first hired to nine when he left.

During the past three years Rutledge had been suffering from Alzheimers. He is survived by his wife, Ruth. They were married for 52 years and have five children.

tgreaney@semissourian.com
335-6611, extension 245

Dr. Harley Rutledge

Dr. Harley D. Rutledge, 80, of Cape Girardeau died Monday, June 5, 2006, at Missouri Veterans Home.

He was born Jan. 10, 1926, in Omaha, Neb., son of Earl and Irene Hoagland Rutledge. He and Ruth Lootens were married June 26, 1954, in Taos, Mo.

He served in the Army March 16, 1944, to May 3, 1946.

Dr. Rutledge received an A.B. from Tarkio College, Tarkio, Mo., in 1950, M.S. from University of Missouri-Columbia in 1956, and a Ph.D. from University of Missouri-Columbia in 1966.

He taught at Central College in Fayette, Mo., from 1957 to 1960. He was a professor of physics at Southeast Missouri State University from 1963 to 1992, and served as department chairman from 1964 to 1982.

Dr. Rutledge was a member of American Association of Physics Teachers, president of Missouri Section in 1967, Missouri Academy of Science president from 1971 to 1972, and president of Physics Section from 1967 to 1968, Science Teachers of Missouri, Sponsor of Southeast Missouri Science Teachers

Association from 1968 to 1970, and member of Sigma Pi Sigma physics fraternity.

Dr. Rutledge summarized his research in UFO Field Studies in the book "Project Identification: The First Scientific Field Study of UFO Phenomena."

He is survived by his wife of Cape Girardeau; a son, Mark Rutledge and wife Juliette of McKinney, Texas; four daughters, Susan Kemp of Cape Girardeau, Teresa Rutledge and husband Grant Wilson of Great Falls, Va., Jane Hampson and husband James of Herndon, Va., Sarah Holland and husband Sam of Niwot, Colo.; a brother, Steven Rutledge of Aurora, Colo.; seven grandchildren, Mark and Matthew Wilson of Great Falls, Truman, Raleigh and Clara Hampson of Herndon, Lance and Seth Holland of Niwot.

He was preceded by his parents.

Friends may call at Ford and Sons Mount Auburn Funeral Home today from 4 to 8 p.m.

The funeral will be at the funeral home Thursday at 1 p.m., with the Rev. Derek Swanson officiating. Burial will be in Cape County Memorial Park, with graveside rites provided by Missouri Military Funeral Honors Team.

Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 9374 Olive Street Road, St. Louis, Mo., 63132-3214.

OBSERVER, Rio Rancho, NM - June 1, 2006

Corrales Heights woman swears she saw UFO here

By GARY HERRON
Observer staff reporter

Charlott Motter has lived in Rio Rancho since 1975 but she hadn't seen an unidentified flying object since the mid-1950s, when she was at a park in the Washington, D.C., area.

Of course, she expects skepticism about her story.

Early last month, she said — and she can't recall exactly what time it was, just that it was dark — she walked out onto her patio.

"Don't ask me why I walked out," the 77-year-old Corrales Heights resident said.

"I saw about 6-8 white lights and it was hovering," she said of the object, or phenomenon. "It couldn't be a helicopter; a helicopter can hover but it's not quiet."

And a helicopter wouldn't be as close to the ground, estimating the object to be "about two houses high," maybe 25 feet aloft, as she guessed by the size of a nearby tree.

Motter said she thinks the object, which was west of her,

was about an eighth of a mile away.

"I could not detect a shape because of the darkness," she said of the silent object.

"I wish I could have remained outside longer but, knowing about abductions, I came inside, feeling very lucky having witnessed this phenomenon," she said.

The Observer would have been remiss if it hadn't asked if she had been consuming alcohol at the time of the sighting.

"Hell, no — I don't keep it here and I don't drink when I go to parties, because my tongue swells up. I wasn't on any pills or anything, either," Motter added.

"I want people to know (UFOs) are in Rio Rancho," she said. "It's the first one I've seen in Rio Rancho. I wish I would have looked at the calendar immediately; when I did (make a note), it was the third of May. It was at nighttime; it was dark. I go to bed about 3 in the morning sometimes."

SMOKY MOUNTAIN TIMES, Bryson City, NC - June 8, 2006 CR: R. Reid

County couple reports seeing strange lights

By Pete Lawson
Times Staff

A Swain County couple who reported seeing unexplained lights around their home last week were willing to talk about but could reach no conclusions about what they witnessed.

Arville (A.J.) and Vergie Walls are both Swain County natives who settled into jobs in the Gastonia area after World War II. They have enjoyed coming up to their vacation home on Bird Falls Road for the past nine

years, "every chance we get," says Vergie Walls.

Their modified manufactured home sits in a cool hollow at the foot of a steep bank and alongside a small branch. There are mature hardwoods in all directions and a small pasture across the lightly-traveled gravel road between Euchella and Wesser Creek.

On the night of Memorial Day, Mrs. Walls said she heard a plane pass over about 11:45 p.m. Not long afterwards, she looked out a window to see

strange lights outside and watched them for "about 15 minutes." She got her glasses and awoke her husband and they both peered out at the lights.

"They were about this big," said A.J. Walls, holding his hands to indicate a basketball size. He said they were round-appearing and white in color.

"We could see them through the trees, at ground level, at all different heights.

"Sometimes they would move, darting, like fireflies."

There was no noise at all

Close Encounters

of the Nevada kind



ET Highway doesn't guarantee 'sightings,' but it's worth trip

I thought I'd heard quiet before but I hadn't. Standing on the dotted yellow line in the middle of the two-lane Extraterrestrial Highway, watching it stretch out straight into the distance until it ended at a point in the distance, all I could hear was my own breathing. There was no wind in the miles-wide, flat valley that stretched out on either side of the highway, its floor turning from reddish brown to grayish black the farther I got from me. There were no leaves to rustle had there been any bushes — just some low brush and a few Joshua trees, their short, gnarled arms twisting heavenward.

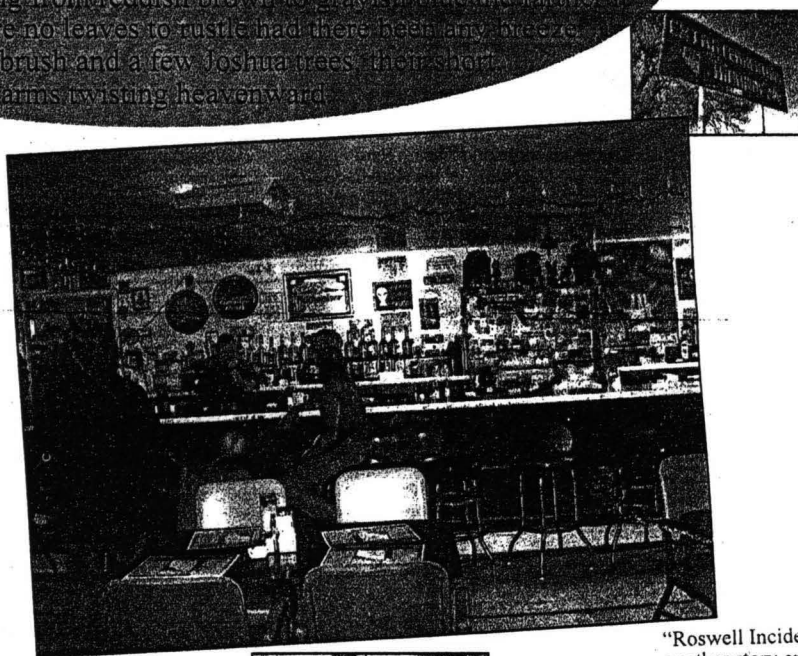
The sky was blue like deep water and virtually cloudless and the road was serenely empty, despite it being mid-afternoon.

It's so quiet, I thought, that if someone standing three miles down the road had cracked a knuckle, I'd have heard it.

But other than a handful of yellow diamond-shaped road signs warning us about "low-flying aircraft," and eating an "alien burger" for lunch (which tasted inexplicably like beef) we didn't catch any signs of visitors from other worlds — though, frankly, if we had, it wouldn't have seemed out of place in the least.

The Extraterrestrial Highway (formally Nevada State Route 375), at just under 100 miles long, lies about 90 miles north of one of the world's louder tourist destinations: Las Vegas. Aside from its otherworldly atmosphere and a widely held belief among ufologists that it's among the most "visited" sites in the world, the main reason Route 375 got its name is because it's the way to Area 51.

Story and photos by Jasmine Michaelson



"Roswell Incident" (which is another story entirely) have been stored and studied at Area 51.

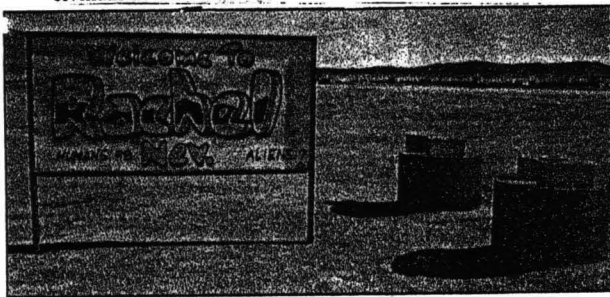
The story has its holes, yes, but anybody will give a conspiracy theorist this: The place is certainly shrouded in mystery. For starters, the U.S. government apparently neither acknowledges nor denies its existence. Signs within the

restricted area (where it is not recommended that you go) inform uninvited visitors that "photography is prohibited" and that "use of deadly force is authorized." Men in white SUVs and camouflage uniforms (those hoping to sneak a peak of the area refer to them as "camo dudes") prowl the hills with binoculars and guns. And

For the non-conspiracy theorist, Area 51 (more officially known as the Groom Lake Base) is a top secret government facility 60 miles square where military planes like the U-2 spy plane were developed and tested (The first stealth fighter prototypes were allegedly seen flying over the area by awestruck civilians in 1977 who

reported them as UFOs.) "The Ranch," as Area 51 is frequently referred to by the locals, is also used for weapons testing and training. The conspiracy theorist, however, will give you a different story about the desert compound. They believe that the UFO wreckage and alien bodies recovered from an alleged crash in 1947 on a farm in Roswell, N.M., known as the

Simply take the unmarked, stick-straight Groom Lake Road that juts off from the highway and disappears into white desert haze. The unusually manicured dirt road will take you behind the Groom Lake Mountains and eventually dump you into a dry lake bed where you'll find — well, most people don't know what exactly you'll find there and those who do would tell you but then they might have to kill you.



Clockwise from top: Nevada's Extraterrestrial Highway isn't a particularly busy road-way; the highway's sign has been decorated by many passers-by; several Rachel, Nev., residents chat at the local bar, the Little A'Le'Inn; alien head salt and pepper shakers are \$8.99 a pair at the Little A'Le'Inn; the Rachel, Nev., city sign gives the population of the tiny town, which is visible in the background; the sign for the Little A'Le'Inn welcomes earthlings.

(continued on page 3)

Are we alone? UFOs the topic

By DAN NAILEN
The Salt Lake Tribune

HAVE YOU SEEN ONE?

Talk of the Morning

In 1952, Navy officer Delbert Newhouse was driving cross-country with his family, a trip that took them through northern Utah the morning of July 2.

Around 11 a.m., Newhouse's wife reportedly noticed odd figures in the sky a few miles outside Tremonton. Grabbing his movie camera, Newhouse ended up with some striking images of the unidentified flying objects — images that persuaded the U.S. Air Force, Navy and the Central Intelligence Agency to investigate.

The government eventually concluded the "Tremonton tapes" simply showed some seagulls in flight.

Of course, what would you expect the government to say?

The Tremonton episode is one story in a long line of alleged extraterrestrial activity in Utah. It's one reason independent UFO researcher and lecturer Robert Hastings will make his fourth trip to the state Wednesday for a lecture at the University of Utah.

Of the Tremonton tapes, Hastings said: "If one looks, using modern, computer-based visual-enhancement technologies, those seagulls essentially were saucer-shaped. They were round, oval-shaped or disc-shaped, so clearly they weren't seagulls."

"That's one example of countless ones where the PR guys at the Pentagon have tried to explain away UFOs."

UFOs, extraterrestrials and all manner of unexplained phenomena are always the subject of uneasy debate between believers and nonbe-

lievers, government agents and private citizens. And UFOs are fodder for pop-culture fantasies, whether through sci-fi flicks of the 1950s or "The X-Files," a TV show in the '90s that rekindled talk that "The Truth Is Out There."

The 56-year-old Hastings has dedicated much of his life to formulating counterarguments to official dismissals of all things UFO-related, digging through once-classified documents, filing Freedom of Information Act requests, and interviewing people with firsthand knowledge of UFO sightings and the government's efforts to ignore them.

He's delivered his findings in lectures at more than 500 colleges and universities.

Most of his study involves the preponderance of UFO activity near America's nuclear weapons, and he has studied intently cases in Wyoming, New Mexico and Montana.

"There are FBI, CIA and Air Force documents going back to as early as December 1948 confirming that what the documents themselves refer to as 'flying discs' or 'flying saucers' have demonstrated an ongoing interest in our nuclear weapons sites," Hastings said, noting that since 2001, the release of sensitive, UFO-related documents by the government has slowed to a trickle. Much of his lecture Wednesday, "UFOs: The Hidden History," will involve the history and potential risks of alien life forms' interest in U.S. nuclear weapons.

Stephen Nielson, the 23-year-old speakers board chairman for the Associated Students of the University of Utah, booked Hastings' lecture at the U. Nielson said he believes in extraterrestrial life, but "I don't necessarily know if they've been to Earth."

"UFOs, everybody has some fascination with them," Nielson said. "The X-Files' made them extremely popular during the '90s, so the generation that's now in college kind of has that mentality."

employees of the establishment are sworn to secrecy, forbidden to discuss what they do and see there even with their own spouses. It's all certainly enough get the imagination swirling.

In 1996, sniffing a moneymaker in true Nevada fashion, the state decided to try to turn State Route 375 into a tourist destination by renaming it the Extraterrestrial Highway. The moneymaker scent spread to Hollywood where the creators of the then-yet-to-be-released-1996-summer-alien-invasion-blockbuster "Independence Day" (which "exposes" Area 51 as everything the conspiracy theorists had always hoped) and decided to

publicity-piggyback onto the highway's dedication. In addition to Nevada governor at the time Bob Miller and lieutenant governor at the time Lonnie Hammargren, the event was attended by "Independence Day" stars Jeff Goldblum, Bill Pullman and Brent Spiner (who also played Data from the "Star Trek: The Next Generation" series), among others.

The esteemed affair took place April 18, 1996, in Rachel, Nev., the only town on the entire 100-mile stretch of highway — and really its status as a "town" is debatable. Consisting of a clump of dusty trailers just off the highway, at its halfway point, the town sign reads "Humans: 98; Aliens: ?"

Sharon Taylor, who served us our lunch at The Little A'Le'Inn, the town's tiny diner/motel/bar/gift shop, said Rachel has no law enforcement, no mayor and no town council, and adds that, despite the town sign's claim, there have never been more than 75 residents. She moved to the place 24 years ago from San Francisco looking for a quieter, simpler life.

"I like people," she said, "but I don't like humanity."

She says she only goes into Vegas about once a month to do her shopping and can never wait to get back to little Rachel. Most of the town, she said, consists of retirees, employees of The Little A'Le'Inn, and a few Area 51 employees who, like her, are drawn to the place not by the stories of otherworldly travelers, but rather by the solitude. And the nights.

"At night the Milky Way is so intense that even if there's no moon, you can see your shadow," Taylor said. "It's like a blanket."

"You can see satellites appear," another waitress chimed in.

Right. Satellites. Whatever lets you sleep at night, darlin'.

On the net:

www.littlealeinn.com

www.alien-ufos.com

www.byways.org/browse/byways/2029

www.roadtripamerica.com/drives/Extraterrestrial-Highway.htm

If you go:

The Extraterrestrial Highway and Rachel, Nev., make a great daytrip from Las Vegas, but if you want to see the area's famous night skies and do some UFO hunting, stay the night. The Little A'Le'Inn in Rachel has accommodations, or you can camp. RV parking is available in Rachel or, according to a tourist brochure, pretty much anywhere along the highway. If you do stay the night don't forget binoculars and lounge chairs.

What you need to drive the Extraterrestrial Highway:

- a reliable car with a full tank of gas (Once you hit the highway, there are no gas stations till you reach the other side, but there are several small towns just before the highway with gas and supplies.)
- plenty of water and snacks
- sunscreen, hats, sunglasses,

etc. (It's not as hot as Las Vegas, but you're still in the middle of the desert and shade is virtually nonexistent.)

—some money for lunch and a kitschy souvenir like an alien head cookie jar at the Little A'Le'Inn

Directions to Extraterrestrial Highway from Las Vegas, Nev.

—Take I-15 N out of the city for about 20 miles.

—Take the US-93 N/Great Basin Highway exit, Exit 64, turn left and go about 85 miles.

—Turn left onto NV-318 and go for about half of a mile.

—Take a slight left at the fork onto NV-375 and be sure to snap a photo of the Extraterrestrial Highway road sign under the tree. Go for about 40 miles and stop for grub in Rachel (trust me, there's no way you can miss it).

UFO Festival looks into the world of aliens

Scientists, revelers and people who've been abducted come together in McMinnville

BY ANGELA YEAGER
Statesman Journal

Marius Dekker doesn't want to talk about his experience being abducted by aliens — even though he is giving a speech about the subject this weekend.

Online

Go to Statesman Journal.com and see this story for a link to more information about McMenamins UFO Festival, or go to www.ufofest.com

Vancouver, Wash., resident Dekker, 70, is a retired chemical engineer and scientist who will be speaking about his abduction experience at a workshop on UFOs at 10 a.m. Saturday.

"It is a very good possibility I was abducted. I can't go into it on the phone," he said, after being asked to explain his abduction experience.

"You'll just have to come see my talk. I'm not going to get into the whole story on the phone. It first happened in Holland, when I was 16. I suspect I was abducted. I am examining these things now."

Dekker's workshop is part of the McMenamins UFO Festival, which is Friday and Saturday in downtown McMinnville. There also is a preview event at 7:30 tonight at the Kennedy School in Portland, featuring a screening of the 1994 Showtime movie "Roswell."

The event is in its seventh year and brings the serious and the goofy sides of aliens and UFOs together. There are workshops and forums with speakers on UFOs and alien abduction, as well as more light-hearted events such as the UFO Costume Parade at 1 p.m. Saturday, which is followed by an Alien Pet Costume Contest at 2 p.m.

Dekker was selected to speak because of his research into abduction; he is one of the festival's many scheduled speakers.

Dekker is retired, but worked as a chemical engineer in Alberta, Canada, and as a math, physics and chemistry professor at Capilano College in Vancouver, British Columbia.

He said he started believing in aliens later in his life.

"I grew up as a scientist and a real nerd and had little use for UFO talk," he said.

the main elements that abductees find they have in common.

"It's the most telling sign," he said. "People wondering, 'Where have I been in the last three hours?'"

When asked if that could just be memory loss, Dekker explained: "People might think they just had a memory lapse, but there's usually more to it."

Another high-profile speaker at this year's festival is Jesse Marcel Jr., who will give the keynote speech to promote his new book, "Roswell: It Really Happened."

According to Tim Hills, the project historian with McMenamins Pubs, Marcel is a big name in the UFO community.

Marcel Jr. will speak at 7 p.m. Friday at the Mack Theater and



Statesman Journal file

Cindy Roberts got her daughter Marlee ready for last year's UFO Costume Parade in McMinnville. The parade draws a variety of otherworldly participants (below).

McMenamins UFO Festival

WHAT: Festival brings out-of-this-world workshops, speakers, costume parade and live entertainment to McMinnville.

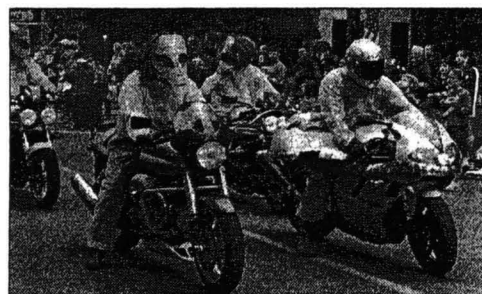
WHEN: 7 to 11 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday; preview event is 7:30 tonight in Portland.

WHERE: Downtown McMinnville

CALL: (888) 472-8427

"Over the course of many years, I have reversed my feelings about them."

This will be Dekker's first time attending the UFO Festival in McMinnville. He refused to give any details on what he will talk about for his speech, other than to say he will chronicle the "long story" about why he believes he was abducted. He would say, however, that "missing time" is one of



will follow his speech with a reception and book signing in a tent that will be set up next to the Hotel Oregon on Evans Street.

Aside from people giving serious speeches about UFOs and aliens, there are those who go to the festival as an excuse to paint their faces and put on pairs of antennas to parade through downtown McMinnville.

The UFO Costume Parade is one of the highlights of the event each year and is organized by McMenamins and the McMinnville Downtown Association. The parade will feature more than 24 entries this year, including floats and marching bands.

The Salem-area Star Trek club USS Destiny plans to participate in this year's parade.

Salem resident Craig Martin, a member of USS Destiny, said members dressed in officer's uniforms as well as others from a separate Klingon club will be on the back of a flatbed truck for the event.

"I'm going to be in a 'Next Generation' commander's uniform because I'm the commanding officer of the club," Martin said.

"We try to interact with other groups doing the same kinds of things we are. And it's a good way to advertise for new members," he said.

"Last year, we just had bales of hay on the truck. This year, the Klingons thought it would be cool to have a table in the middle with peace talks going on, which sounds like a lot of fun to me."

Mountain Mystery

This 10-second exposure lit partially by a flashlight, catches David Mull looking for the Brown Mountain Lights from Wiseman's View, near Linville Falls.

JOURNAL PHOTOS BY JASON ARTHURS

Lights, rarely spotted, spark lots of speculation

By Tim Clodfelter
JOURNAL REPORTER

LINVILLE FALLS — The Brown Mountain lights dance in the night sky, shimmering and mysterious ... at least that's what I've heard.

The lights — seen in the night sky over Brown Mountain — have been reported as far back as the 18th century. The lights will be the focus of the Brown Mountain Lights Heritage Festival this weekend.

On a recent trip to the Brown Mountain area, I didn't see any lights.

Sorry.

But I did meet several people who said that they have seen the lights.

David Mull, a scruffy, enthusiastic man in his mid-50s, has been fascinated with the mysteries of Brown Mountain since he was a child. In the early '60s, a folk song called "(Legend of the) Brown Mountain Light," performed by Tommy Faile, led to a boom in interest in the lights.

Mull was about 8 at the time. As the song grew in popularity, roadside lookout points — previously used for gazing at the scenery — became hot spots for gawkers hoping for a glimpse of the lights. One hotel owner charged people 50 cents a car to park in his lot. Mull's dad balked at the exorbitant charge, so they found another place to

(continued on page 6)

Laura Clark and her family (above) came from Old Fort and brought along her father from Texas. She said that she and her husband had seen the lights once in 20 visits.

Mull (right), who has made a couple of documentaries about the lights, has heard many possible explanations for them: — some supernatural, others seemingly scientific.

park. Mull has made himself an expert on the lights. He has produced two documentary videos, *The Brown Mountain Lights* and *The Mysterious Lights of Brown Mountain*, and touched on the subject in several other documentaries.

Mull said he saw the lights when he was a child and has seen them many times since. But sightings are still a rarity, even for him.

Mull said that it's hard to say what he does for a living. Mostly, he said, he sells videotapes of his documentaries, raises and sells carnivorous plants, and does odd jobs. He devotes much of his plentiful energy to the Brown Mountain lights and other local lore.

Mull offered to act as a tour guide. He met us in the parking lot of a Kmart in Morganton and led us to several of the best places to see the lights.

A pre-dusk visit to one of the most popular lookout points from the 1960s craze was a bust — trees had grown and blocked out the view. Besides, it wasn't dark enough to make out the lights — though Mull theorized that they are still there in the daytime, just harder to spot. Another stop at the lookout point several hours later turned up no lights other than fireflies.

A drive down Highway 181 into Pisgah National Forest and then up a winding, four-mile dirt road led us to Wiseman's View, a lookout point with a spectacular view of the Linville River Gorge, including the distant Brown Mountain. There were plenty of lights to be seen, especially with binoculars, but most of them belonged to houses, radio towers and the like. Two rock balconies overlooking the gorge provided an ideal vantage point — and for those with a healthy fear of heights, a bit of vertigo.

If you go

Linville Falls will celebrate the Brown Mountain Lights during the Brown Mountain Lights Heritage Festival, which starts this evening and ends Sunday.

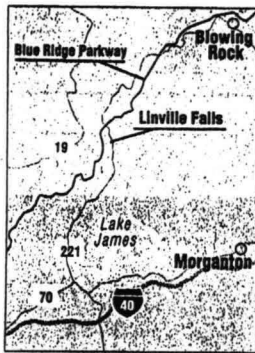
The highlight of the festival will be evening tours tonight and Saturday to Wiseman's View, one of the most popular sites for people hoping to spot the lights.

Tonight's activities will include a lecture from 6 to 7 p.m. by Joshua Warren from LEMUR, a paranormal research group that has studied the lights; a performance from 7 to 7:45 p.m. by the Linville Ridge Band; and a bonfire starting at 7 p.m. with an open-mike session for people to share their light stories.

At 7:30, festivalgoers will drive in their cars to Wiseman's View.

Saturday's activities will include music; craft, genealogy and exhibit tents; and speakers discussing subjects ranging from the lights to bear hunting. Shuttle vans to Wiseman's View will run from 7:30 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$2.

Sunday will start with breakfast, followed by car caravans to Wiseman's View starting at 9:30. An in-



terdenominational church service will be held at Wiseman's View from 10:30 to noon, followed by a gospel brunch.

To reach Linville Falls from Winston-Salem, take Interstate 40 to exit 86 at Marion.

Then go north on U.S. 221. Turn right at Highway 183. The Linville Falls Lodge and Cottages will be on the right. Many activities will be held in an exhibition building across from the lodge.

For more information, go to www.linvillefallsvillage.com

We weren't the only ones on the balconies that night. The Clarks — parents Josh and Laura, and kids Jesse, 8; Jenna, 4; and Justin, 14 — make frequent trips to Wiseman's View from their home in Old Fort to see if they can spot anything. Josh and Laura said they have seen the lights only once in about 20 visits, but the results were spectacular.

"The light comes on slowly and goes to a bright glow," Laura Clark said. "They move; they jump all around." She wasn't quite sure how to describe the lights. "Until you see it, it's hard to say what you saw."

On the night that we met her, her father was visiting from Texas and the family had turned the visit to the park into an excuse for a picnic. They left without seeing any lights. But shortly after their departure, Mull excitedly pointed in the distance — not toward Brown Mountain, but down in the Linville River Gorge, where the Clarks had their one sighting.

"There, did you see it?" he asked eagerly.

We didn't. Mull said he saw a burst of light, almost like an explosion, that was gone too quickly for him to take a photo. He talked about it the rest of the evening, though, and wondered

if it might have been a headlight. He decided that he would camp out there in the near future to see if he could see it again.

There are plenty of theories about the origins of the lights, Mull said.

The folk song by Faile said that the light comes from a spectral slave looking for his master. And other supernatural theories depict the lights as the ghosts of murder victims, Indian warriors slaughtered in some ancient battle, star-crossed lovers or the victims of a train wreck trying to find their way to safety.

Scientific theories hold that the lights could be a rare form of lightning called "ball lightning" or an energy discharge generated by quartz in the region. Some people say the lights are created by lithium, but Mull scoffed at that last theory.

"It's just B.S.," he said.

Jesse Clark had another theory. "It might be people walking around with flashlights."

Could the light be caused by the fire under moonshine stills? Or by the moonshine itself?

"Some people say you need a little mind alteration to see these things," Mull said with a laugh.

One of Mull's pet theories is that the lights are small time warps or "wormholes" into another dimension. And then there's the notion that they are UFOs, or — more specifically — aliens from the planet Venus who once abducted a local man, who later made a living selling books about his experience and running the now-long-gone Outer Space Rock Shop and Museum.

"I don't know if you can get much further out than that," Mull said.

Even though Mull came up with the wormhole theory — inspired in part by other theories, he said — he tries to keep an open mind about the origins of the lights. "It's better to hear new stories if you haven't got preconceived notions," he said.

But there's one theory he doesn't subscribe to. "The light may not even really exist — but it's hard to believe that's true," he said.

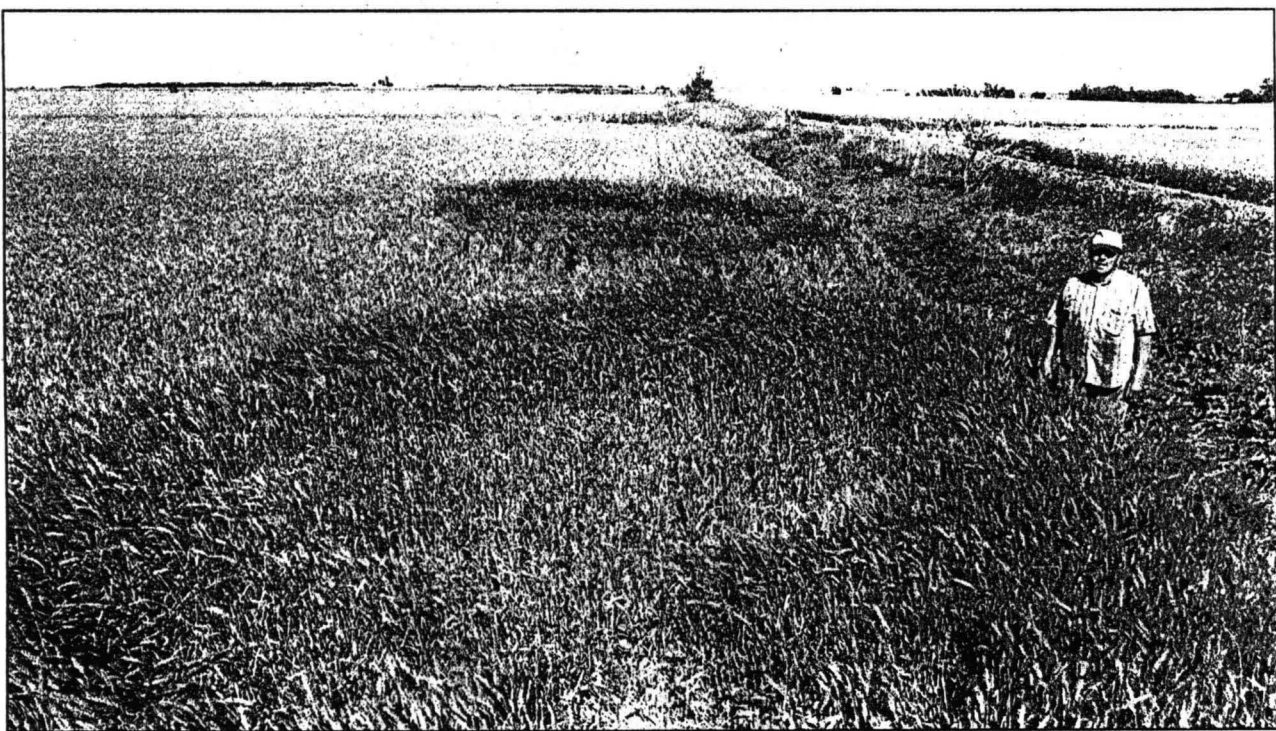
Although he has been studying the Brown Mountain Lights in earnest for more than 20 years, Mull said he hopes that no one ever solves the mystery of the lights' origin.

"It might make a person famous," he said, "But it might end the folklore."

■ Tim Clodfelter can be reached at 727-7371 or at tclodfelter@wsjournal.com

TIMES, Herington, KS - June 8, 2006 CR: J. Brown-Jacobs

Mysterious circles found in wheat field



—Times photo by Larry Byers

WHAT CAUSED THEM? Was there a UFO landing in this field a few months ago? Or was some prankster chemist at work during the winter? Or is there some other rare but logical and highly scientific explanation? Merle Ecklund of rural Herington would like to know. He found these two unexplainable cupped-out circles Friday afternoon in a wheat field on land he farms just east of 2800 Road, 1 mile south of U.S. 56, in western Morris County. Ecklund said he had never witnessed such an oddity in more than four decades of farming. Both circles were about 19 to 20 feet in diameter. The majority of wheat in the cupped-out portions of the circles stands only about 19 inches tall, but all of the plants have still headed out. Strangely, the wheat plants in the outer part of the circles stand about 1 foot taller than 30-inch tall normal-sized plants throughout the field. The two crop circles

might rank as another unsolved mystery in the history of western Morris County. The last major mystery developed in December of 1983 just a few miles from the Ecklund farm field when 68-year-old Julia Stoddard vanished from her rural residence near the Herington Regional Airport. Although intensely investigated by authorities for a long period of time, the Stoddard disappearance remains unsolved 22-1/2 years later. According to information available on the Internet, unexplainable crop circles have been experienced in many regions of the world. Conferences have even been organized in some locales to discuss such strange happenings. It is unknown if the newly-found Morris County crop circles might lead to any national or international attention.

E.T. true believers to descend on desert 'UFO-ville'

53 years after alleged sighting, alien 'contactees' among those returning to tiny Landers, Calif.

By Benjamin Spillman
USA TODAY

LANDERS, Calif. — "E.T." has been back home for years, and now earthlings claiming contact with space aliens are planning a homecoming of their own Saturday in a section of the Mojave Desert that looks a lot like the moon.

Nearly three decades after a free-thinking Californian named George Van Tassel hosted his final gathering to honor alien visitors, pioneers of the UFO culture are coming back to the site of the nation's earliest extraterrestrial rallies.

They will be coming to see the Integratron, a dome-shaped building said to have been commissioned in 1953 by creatures from outer space; to view the Giant Rock, site of the early rallies; to hear tales by those who say they've had experiences with extraterrestrials; to see demonstrations of "new technologies" by UFO experts; and to enjoy a UFO-themed opera and art exhibits.

"This is where the X-files were talked about before there was *The X-Files*," said Barbara Harris, who is organizing the first formal reunion of alien "contactees" at the site since Van Tassel died in 1978.

"I did not want this history to pass away," she said.

Harris, her husband, Rob, and those helping her want to rekindle the spirit that from 1954 to 1977 attracted thousands annually to this remote desert area about 150 miles east of Los Angeles.

Harris said the philosophy of peace and harmony with aliens fostered during the old rallies is an important counterweight to more recent portrayals of extraterrestrials as hostile invaders — E.T., of course, being an exception. Earthling contactees describe "alien people who were here to help humanity," Harris said.

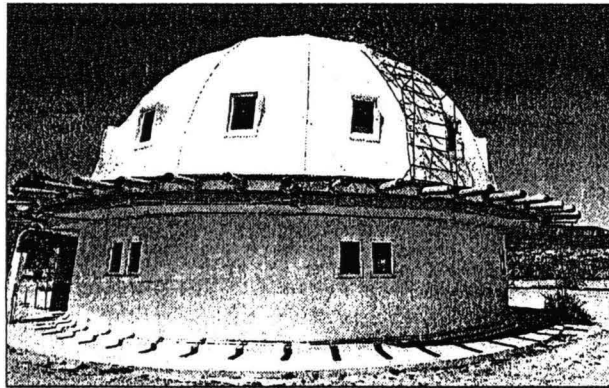
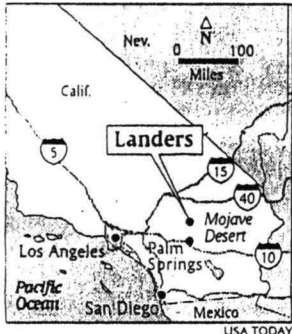
Harris said as many as 500 people — some from as far as British Columbia and Montgomery County, Md. — have registered for the reunion, which costs up to \$195 and will include a recording studio for early contactees to recount their experiences.

Van Tassel was a test pilot who left Southern California's booming aerospace industry for the desert in 1947. He and his family lived a simple existence in a home a prospector had dug under a seven-story-tall boulder called Giant Rock.

In 1953 Van Tassel claimed to



The Integratron: Barbara Harris and Bob Benson inside the structure built by George Van Tassel allegedly at the direction of aliens.



Welcome, earthlings: Outside of the Integratron in the Mojave Desert, where this weekend's UFO convention will be held.

have been visited by aliens who instructed him to build a structure aimed at extending human life to help people take advantage of the wisdom acquired through age. He called it the Integratron, and it became his mission for the next 25 years.

"The Mojave Desert has been UFO-ville since 1947," said Joseph Trainor of Attleboro, Mass. From 1996 to early 2006, Trainor operated a website about UFO sightings.

Trainor counted the Mojave Desert rallies and sightings among significant postwar developments that still influence UFO culture today. They include alleged UFO sightings in Washington state, Idaho and New Mexico in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

"Giant Rock, I would say, is probably one of the key UFO hot spots in the USA," Trainor said.

The highlights of the original rallies were speeches by Van Tassel and others who claimed not only to have seen extraterrestrials but to have communicated with them.

Witness accounts and TV documentaries indicate that at their peak, the rallies attracted as many as 10,000 people. Guests trekked to the desert by car or landed airplanes on a small strip called Giant Rock Airport.

There, Van Tassel and other speakers regaled audiences with tales of flying saucer rides and attempts to channel alien messages through their bodies.

"They came from all over. It wasn't just from the United States," said Robert Short of

Cornville, Ariz., who attended the early rallies, claims to have been in contact with aliens since the early 1950s, and will be on hand Saturday.

Short, a Christian minister who makes appearances to detail his alien claims, says the gathering Saturday is an important homage to early believers who by speaking publicly risked ridicule from others.

"A lot of them are gone now," Short said. "People are paying tribute to what took place out there."

"It is one of the best things that ever happened as far as an event in my life," Bob Benson, 60, of Wildomar, Calif., said of the reunion, which he plans to attend.

Benson lived near Giant Rock from 1972 until Van Tassel's death. He says he didn't see any UFOs but he believed in the healing power of the Integratron, which he helped build.

The reunion, Benson says, is validation that the work he and Van Tassel did is still relevant.

"You finally realize it is for people," said Benson during a recent visit to the building and Giant Rock. "It is for everybody, it is not just for myself."

The proceeds from the Retro UFO Space Convention will go to a local historical society and to preserving the Integratron, which despite being built without nails, survived a magnitude-7.3 earthquake in 1992.

In addition to raising money, Harris said she expects the reunion will bring new energy to the Integratron by highlighting its UFO past for a new generation of people who still want to learn about the phenomena.

Dan Woodman, 56, of Anaheim, Calif., says he's looking forward to the event.

Woodman, who has had five generations of relatives living full or part time in Landers, remembers Van Tassel and the early rallies.

"I'm seeing the next generation enjoying the story," Woodman said.

Spillman reports daily for *The Desert Sun* in Palm Springs, Calif.



Photos by Jay Calderon, The Desert Sun

Real-life X-Files: Barbara Harris is organizing the first formal reunion of "contactees" near Giant Rock, in rear, alleged site of an alien visit.

PEOPLE



KEVIN CLARK / The Register-Guard

Greg Barnes takes his work as a UFO investigator seriously, but he doesn't mind having fun with it. He is shown with a Geiger counter and disks that he plans to sell at conventions.

Sleuthing out truth on UFOs

*This skeptical investigator
of flying saucers admits he
could be seen as a nut*

By WINSTON ROSS
The Register-Guard

FLORENCE — Mike Johnson and his daughter Brenna were driving home to Woahink Lake from town that spring night in 1995 when Brenna turned around in her seat and saw a strange light hovering above the water.

The Johnsons knew exactly whom to call: Greg Barnes, regional UFO investigator — a self-taught expert in the field of "ufology."

Barnes began with his typical first question: "What do you see right

now?" Then, "How do you feel about it?" The latter query is nearly as important as the first, he said. It tells him whether the caller is panicked or calm, fearful or skeptical. That state of mind could affect a person's ability to report information accurately.

"A person who's awestruck responds differently than a person who's petrified," Barnes said. "The person who's afraid isn't so much interested in details; they just want the thing away from them."

Ultimately, Barnes drove to the Johnson house, not far from his own Woahink getaway. He missed seeing the lights himself, but wound up interviewing 11 people who claimed that they'd seen either the lights or the floating, silent object that carried them, before the object veered west and glided out towards the ocean, re-

portedly disrupting cable television signals throughout Florence in its wake.

Barnes knows his hobby and his

FLORENCE'S REGIONAL UFO INVESTIGATOR

Name: Greg Barnes

Age: 54

Equipment: Camera, binoculars, spotting scope, Geiger counter and the "Cutie Pie," which measures alpha, beta and gamma rays.

Web site:
www.oregonuforeview.com

business card adorned with a flying saucer place him squarely on the fringe. "You're easily branded a nut," he said. "I have to accept that, with this topic. What we have here is ordinary people seeing extraordinary things. A whole lot of what people see are obviously misidentifications; fishing boats, that kind of thing. People tell us 'Oh, that's just something that Lockheed made.' But I doubt very seriously the government would test their latest, greatest underwater machines in Florence."

Mike Johnson, for one, isn't sure if what he saw was of this planet. But he's willing to accept it might not have been.

"I think it would be extremely egotistical not to think there's other intelligent life out there, being that there are probably 100 billion stars in our own Milky Way galaxy and there have got to be hundreds of galaxies," Johnson said.

Skepticism doesn't bother 54-year-old Barnes, a Navy veteran, former Indianapolis 500 racecar mechanic, excavator and Florence auxiliary police officer. People need someone to

talk to about the strange lights they see, or the flying saucer they believe they just spotted.

He is happy to hear their stories; scour nearby hillsides for clipped treetops or the ground for impressions; take readings with his Geiger counter — or the "Cutie Pie" that measures alpha, beta and gamma rays — and pass his reports on to national UFO experts.

"Usually it's anomalous lights in the sky," Barnes said of the calls he gets from people who know his reputation. "If it's in the middle of the night, I say 'You just woke me up. This better be a good story.' Generally people thank me before they even say anything: 'I'm so glad I have someone to talk to that thinks I'm not nuts.' I say 'Well, I haven't determined that you're not nuts.'"

Often he reports findings to Peter Davenport, who runs the national UFO Center based in Seattle. Davenport says what sets Barnes apart from the hundreds of other "regional investigators" he hears from is his common-sense approach.

"He's very objective," Davenport said.

enport said. "He recognizes that most of the data, most of the reports in the media or in mainstream ufology probably can be explained by terrestrial events. You have to winnow out the schlock to get to the real material."

Barnes is still working with a distraught, elderly Florence woman who claims she saw a light outside her window one night. Soon she was overtaken by paralysis and two small creatures appeared before her, she said. She felt nauseous, she said, and then found herself floating out her bedroom window, towards some kind of disc-shaped light.

The woman doesn't remember what happened next, Barnes said. But when she returned, her bedclothes were buttoned incorrectly, she said.

Barnes also has seen his own blend of UFOs, he said. In September 1993, he was standing at the boat ramp at Westlake when he spotted a light out of the corner of his eye.

Barnes marked the spot with cedar cones and ran for his wife Wendy, a friend and a pair of

binoculars.

Ten or 15 minutes later, Barnes said, a smaller white light dropped from the bottom of the big light, circled around the top and flew off. Under normal circumstances, he said, he would have been compelled to remain, maybe even paddle out into the lake for a closer look. But the trio immediately and all at once lost interest, he said, as if something had convinced them it was time to leave.

Wendy, an escrow officer in Florence, has known her husband since they were children living across the street from each other in Torrance, Calif. She can't remember when he first started talking about UFOs, but it's never bothered her.

"I never had the feeling to be so arrogant that we're the only thing to exist in this universe," she said. "And he has a very healthy attitude about it. If somebody doesn't believe it, thinks you're nuts, he says, 'That's fine, that's your deal.' He doesn't feel like he has to try to convert them."



Is Huddersfield really a UFO hot spot?



■ THEY CAME FROM OUTER SPACE: How a saucer attack on Castle Hill might look ...

By **RICHARD PORRITT**
News Reporter

ARE aliens visiting Huddersfield?

It certainly seems so — according to the experts.

Previously top secret files have been passed on to the Examiner through the new Freedom of Information Act.

The Ministry of Defence reports detailed sightings of UFOs above our town.

Further research has shown Kirkstall is the most popular stop-off point in West Yorkshire for aliens.

Between 2002 and 2004 there were four separate UFO sightings in the skies above Huddersfield and one nearby in Heckmondwike.

There were 10 others across the rest of West Yorkshire including some in Leeds, Bradford and Todmorden.

The list includes only sightings the MOD cannot explain.

Shocked and amazed Huddersfield folk have described the UFOs as looking like "silver balls", "cigars" and even a "flying jellyfish".

And just this week another bizarre sighting has occurred.

Jon Lockwood, of Holme Moss, and his pal spotted some UFOs in the sky on Monday.

Jon said: "A friend and I saw two orange lights stationary for several minutes either side of the mast, too low to be stars."

"About an hour later we saw a brighter light in the sky again too low to be a star and it just disappeared in front of our eyes."

Around the Christmas period in 2003 several sightings of UFOs were reported in the Huddersfield skies.

Dawn Crossley even managed to capture some grainy footage on her camcorder but the MOD have not included these on the list which suggested there was some rational explanation.

Experienced star gazer Marcus Armitage is sceptical. The secretary of Huddersfield

Sightings in full

Huddersfield September 23, 2002, 5.40pm: One silver cigar-shaped object that split into six smaller silver balls.

Huddersfield January 6, 2003, 3pm: Three silver or white balls in the sky then joined by another two.

Heckmondwike September 13, 2003, 9.40pm: Two circular objects, about half apparent size of the moon, that were a very dull yellow.

Huddersfield January 12, 2004, 4.30pm: Round object with lights all around it.

Honley April 14, 2004, 8.27pm: Looked like a jellyfish flying in the sky.



■ SPOTTER: Dawn Crossley of Milnsbridge filmed a mystery object

Astronomical Society said neither he or any of the 50 members had ever seen anything that could not be easily explained.

"Often these sightings are large meteors or, as they are better known, fire balls," he said.

"In 20 years of looking up at the sky I have never seen a UFO. I am very sceptical that these sightings were aliens or spaceships."

richard.porrirt@examiner.co.uk

COMOX VALLEY RECORD, Courtenay, B.C., Canada - Feb. 10, 2006

Mysterious object lights up night sky over Newcastle

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The number three object then began moving up into the sky and all of a sudden disappeared into the night

sky - to where I have no idea."

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

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

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

"Maybe you could tell me. Figura also sent a drawing he made to illustrate his description."

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

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

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

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

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

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

He had time to point them out to another man walking

his dog before the remaining light also faded out.

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

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

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

— Nanaimo News Bulletin

CR: G. Conway

EVENING NEWS, Scarborough, England - April 25, 2006

UFO expert agrees not to burn alien 'evidence'

A UFO investigator who was threatening to burn valuable archives has made a U-turn - after last-ditch pleas from fellow enthusiasts.

Now Russ Kellert is facing a bidding war for the original files from the British Flying Saucer Bureau

Archives, which contain testimony from people who say they have seen UFOs.

Mr Kellert, 42, of South Crescent Road, Filey, who is no longer investigating and researching, had threatened to burn almost 20 years of research into UFOs because of the film *Alien Autopsy*.

He is angry that the movie, starring Geordie duo Ant and Dec, is being taken more seriously than "real" sightings of alien craft.

He had already burnt magazines and books on moorland near Whitby and was about to set fire to the archives along with video

footage of "flying saucers" when he

was persuaded to change his mind by other UFO investigators in several late-night phone calls.

He says the files will now go to the highest bidder but hopes they stay in the UK.

Among the paperwork that could have gone up in smoke were files pre-dating Roswell in 1954 described as "the best smoking gun testament out there".

Quest to find the truth 'out there'



MYSTERIOUS alien aircraft sightings over district skies this week prompted a Selby UFO-spotter to appeal for help analysing the images.

Abbots Road resident Tony Topping has charted a huge rise in alien activity in the past.

It was when the 35-year-old (left) was looking back through camera footage of unexplained lights in the sky over his home in 1999, he noticed similarities in light patterns to a well documented sighting.

"When I was looking back at my old tapes, I saw a definite triangle formation in the footage I had taken very similar to a sighting in Belgium in

March 1990.

"A formation was sighted over Antwerp by several hundred people and Belgium F16 fighters were sent out to intercept it but the craft was too fast."

Tony is now appealing for image analysis experts to come forward to help him with his discovery, while also looking to establish a local paranormal research group.

Selby Times revealed last year how the area recorded an unprecedented 33 cases of X-File phenomena in 2004 to shoot the district to third spot in the British UFO Hunters activity top ten.

One of the most significant incidents involved two indepen-

dent observations of an unexplained silent "boomerang-shaped" object hovering at an estimated 2,000 feet above Drax Power Station.

Witnesses reported how on April 19 and 22 last year they saw a fighter jet circle it several times before the mystery craft disappeared from view.

Tony is eager to talk to believers and sceptics alike on his extra-terrestrial findings. "I've had enough UFO experiences to fill a book, but I'm keen to hear from anyone else about their experiences."

Anyone wanting to help Tony can contact him via e-mail at wingmaker2@hotmail.com

BIG ISSUE, London, England, May 8, 2006

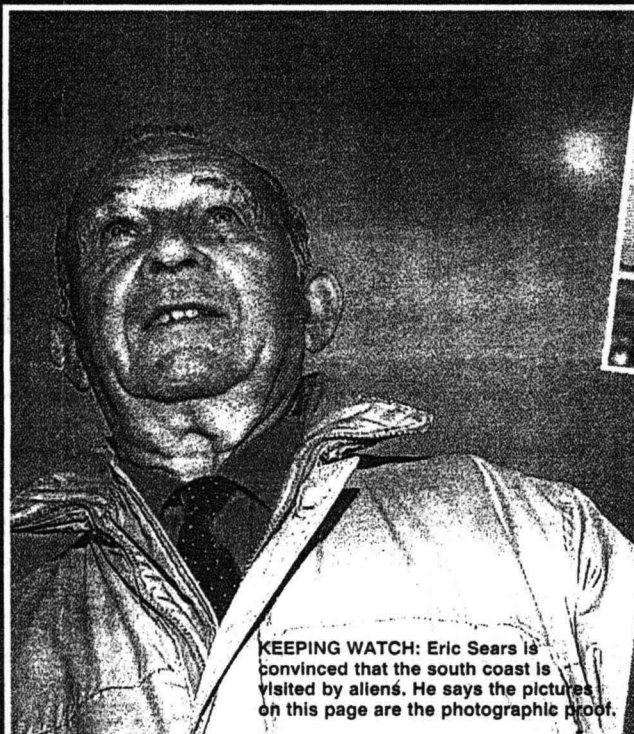
SOCIETY

Pleasantly green Putney, in London, was the location for a UFO sighting recently - at midday. Michelle Medhat was sitting in her office when she spotted a large pyramid-shaped silver object in the sky and beckoned colleague Peter Gardiner to look. "It glistened and had a strange pattern of movement," Gardiner said, "it was the size of a roof or even a house." But a spokesman for the Ministry Of Defence has said it had not been notified of the sighting. Medhat also claimed to have noticed several military helicopters over the area. But, she insists, the pyramid object was a "UFO." "It took my breath away," Medhat said.

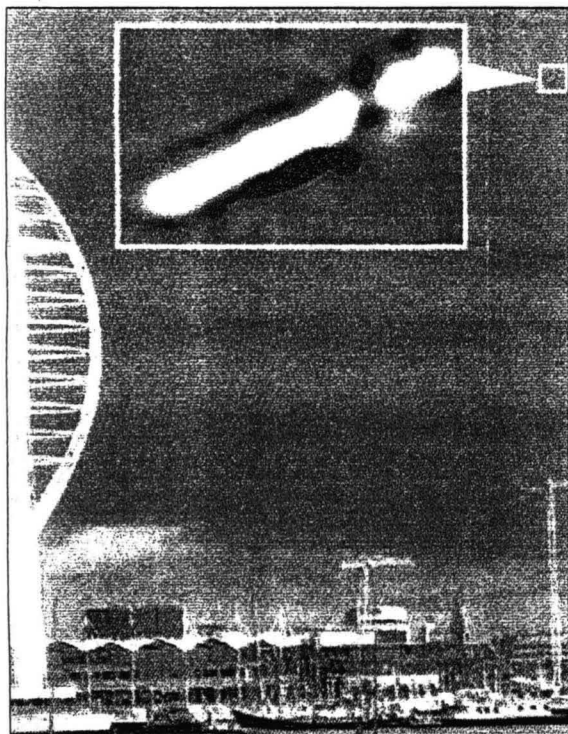
SOUTHERN DAILY ECHO, Southampton, England - April 8, 2006

Just what IS out there?

And is it attracted to the Spinnaker Tower?



KEEPING WATCH: Eric Sears is convinced that the south coast is visited by aliens. He says the pictures on this page are the photographic proof.



ATTRACTING ATTENTION: A strange item in the skies over the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth. Inset: The object magnified.

Alien Autopsy, the movie released yesterday featuring Ant and Dec, has rekindled interest in beings from outer space.

Vicki Green-Steel speaks to a man who has never stopped believing.

THE skies over Hampshire are busy - and not just with planes from the airport. According to Southampton UFO Group (SUFUG), aliens are investigating our county.

Of particular interest for them, strangely enough, is Portsmouth.

The pictures taken by SUFUG member Ernie Sears and his photographer George show the busy skies over the city - where UFOs regularly visit.

Or it may just simply be a flock of starlings.

In 2004, BUFORA, the main UK forum for skywatchers, ruefully admitted that UFO sightings have been in steady decline since the late 1990s.

Most striking of all, the British Flying Saucer Bureau has suspended its activities, because the number of sightings has crashed from a peak of around 30 a week to almost zero.

But for SUFUG, since August last year, UFO activity in the area has

increased considerably.

Mr Sears believes that the aliens have been drawn to the Spinnaker Tower out of curiosity.

"We have not seen anything quite like it before," said Mr Sears, 81, from Netley Abbey. "I believe that photograph shows a new kind of alien craft with very advanced technology."

"It seems to be a solid cigar-shaped raft, which is glowing slightly and separated into two sections by mysterious black globes, which is very unusual."

"We can only speculate but I think the Spinnaker may be attracting curiosity from alien life. They want to know why it has been erected and what it can do for them."

Mr Sears is no stranger to unidentified flying objects. His experiences go back to 1960 when he was in Gosport and saw an object in daylight above Portsdown Hill.

"This object was hovering and shining in the March sun. I just thought it was an airplane but half an hour later I heard the roar of jet engines when two Meteor jets

were scrambled towards this object," he recalled.

"The jets got near it and it lazily turned on end and disappeared, and the jets went round in circles."

"I went to a call box and found the number for Thorney Island, where the jets had come from, and asked what the object was."

□ (continued on page 11)

THE GREAT UFO DEBATE

Just what IS out there?

"I was told: 'You did not see any objects and you did not see any jets'.

"That started my search down various avenues."

Mr Sears even claims to have experienced close encounters of the third kind. He's been abducted too. And he's been on cosmic tours of the universe with aliens. Moreover, he and others have been used as part of breeding programme to create hybrids who live amongst us.

Let's get something crystal clear at this point. Mr Sears accepts people will raise eyebrows at his claims. That's part of the UFO watcher's territory and he's not bothered in the least.

It's solely the truth that interests him - and Mr Sears insists it's out there waiting to be discovered.

All of which brings us onto his abduction and a tale which could form the basis of the next episode of Channel 4's *Invasion*.

It's over to Mr Sears again:

"There was a report in the *Daily Echo* of a slow-flying object over Southampton. Everyone denied it. It was seen over the city three times in January 1978," he said.

"The third time I saw it with my then wife when we were in the back garden and that was the night I remember for the first time ever being abducted with my wife.

"I just found myself looking at this whacking great black thing going over the garden, very slow, very quiet. There was a window at the front with lights all round it and a light flashed down on me.

"I found myself up in the universe going past planets and I found myself on Earth again a while later.

"My whole outlook in life changed in a few seconds. I understood nature a lot more. I understood the world was in trouble and I had to help and inside a year I became a healer.

"I have been abducted about 12 times in all, twice in 2004.

"I woke up one morning with two puncture marks in my left knee.

"A few days after that I woke up, again after having a disturbed night's sleep, and I had a circle of puncture marks on my upper arm.

"I can remember going to the crafts but I can never remember much after that.

"I'm not concerned about what they do to me when they abduct me. They have told me before that they are giving me knowledge.

I know that I have hybrids floating about somewhere.

"Sometimes I have flashbacks of what has happened to me. I remember once seeing tanks full of water all piled on top of each other with what I thought were fish in them.

"But they weren't actually fish, they were the hybrids which were being incubated."

Mr Sears says he has some recollection of what his abductors looked like. "I remember the little grey ones. They were very short, less than five feet," he said.

"They have smaller ones that I have only encountered once. They are little blue ones in uniform, very dwarf-like.

"They are very round and jolly. They are the ones that push you and jostle you on the table.

"I remember once they jostled me to the window where the greys were looking in. The greys are very cadaverous but friendly.

"There they were outside the window, two of them, and I went through the glass. I know how they do that. They taught me. It is all the body molecules you break down. You can go straight through glass like going through a jelly.

"I remember going up towards this triangular object floating in the sky and I remember going through a jelly-like door. The next thing I can remember is them bringing me back. They do talk to me in English as such but it is all in your mind. They don't have mouths or ears as such. But they put things in your mind and you understand it perfectly.

Mr Sears insists has been strange activity over Portsmouth at least three times a week. "The skies over Hampshire are very busy, particularly Portsdown Hill. It's a hot spot," he said.

"I believe that there is something big coming up connected with the sightings over Portsmouth. It may be a fleet of them coming.

"We think they are appearing to us to warn us about the state of the planet. This is their way of warning us that unless we change we will be phased out as a species."

Strange sightings which have not been explained

Have you had an alien encounter or have you seen a UFO? Write to Vicki Green-Steel at *Southern Daily Echo*, Newspaper House, Test Lane, Redbridge, Southampton, Hampshire SO16 9JX or email vicki.green-steel@soton-echo.co.uk.

SEPTEMBER 1978: A collection of unexplained lights (circled) in the sky over Totton captured on film by a *Daily Echo* photographer.

THE first modern reports of UFOs in Britain were the wave sightings from airships which began in 1909 and continued until First World War.

However, earlier writers record a number of events which would certainly be categorised as UFO sightings today.

In AD664, according to the Venerable Bede, a light which "made the sun at midday seem dark" appeared at one side of Barking monastery before moving to the other side.

Another sighting by Bede sounds ominously like an alien abduction story as a nun watched a corpse being "carried upwards".

In the middle of the First World War in Aldeburgh, Suffolk, a woman saw a round platform floating ten metres off the ground.

It had a handrail running around its circumference and approximately ten "beings" on the platform each wearing blue uniforms and small round hats. It remained in view for more than five minutes.

In 1939 a grey, bell-shaped object was spotted hovering over a field in near Brockworth, Gloucestershire.

In 1954 there were a number of UFO sightings in the north of Britain - one of the clearest photographs of a "flying saucer" was taken in Coniston, Cumbria in February of that year.

Two weeks later a man claimed to have spoken to an alien near

Southampton UFO Group has kept a log of sightings across the county. Here is a selection of reports in recent years.

1999

February 2, Southampton, 6.15pm: Three yellow lights in triangular formation, low and silent.

July 10, Gopert, 23.55pm: Fuzzy, pink, spherical light travelling at fast speed.

July 14, Southampton, 3.45am: Oscillating sphere at around 1,000ft.

September 14, Southampton, 1.50am: Beam of light projected at

witness in park. Witness felt pins and needles (like an electric shock). Unable to move for ten minutes. Object made 90-degree turn and disappeared. Witness arrived home at 2.45am and unable to account for 25 minutes.

2000

April 8, Chandler's Ford, 11pm: Lozenge shaped, stationary object seen for ten minutes.

August, Lee-on-the-Solent, 1.30am: Bluish-grey, transparent object brushed tops of trees and hovered. Concentric beams point out from below the object which was as large as a house and 20-25 metres from

the witness.

2002

August 18, Calmore, 11pm: Ball of light, bursts of speed and change of direction.

2003

June 9, Eastleigh, 3pm: Woman taking in her washing when she saw a plane coming into Southampton Airport. Above it she saw a silvery colour disc flying in a straight path towards the Isle of Wight.

2004

July 24, Fawley, 1.05am: UFO seen hovering over the oil refinery by witness in Warsash.

September 12, Andover, 5am: Two rap-

idly flashing red and white lights moved slowly and silently at about 500 metres. Three more pairs followed.

2005

June 18, Fair Oak, 12.50am: An object appeared from the south-southwest. Initially appearing as a brilliant and fast moving light. Within a second or two it became a brilliant white light before dimming and continuing on its course.

June 22, Lock's Heath, 4.30pm: A round shiny ball that looked just like a balloon but it was far too high to have been that or an aircraft.

MOVIE FICTION - OR FACT: Tom Cruise in War Of The Worlds.

Lossiemouth in Scotland.

In 1957 a radar station followed a large UFO all over the west of Scotland. A huge flying saucer was seen by dozens of people over Wardle in Lancashire.

In 1960 a tramp who had gone missing from Carlisle, Cumbria five years earlier reappeared claiming he had been on a five-year voyage with aliens.

In 1972 a security guard in Oldham, Greater Manchester heard a humming noise. He turned round to see a UFO about 30 metres in diameter. It had a large window brightly

lit with a blue light.

After five minutes it turned on edge showing that it was saucer-shaped with a large dome. Then it shot straight up into the air.

At Tittensor, Staffordshire, in 1977 a cigar-shaped object was spotted. It was about 12 metres long with a small dome on top and was flying about 30 metres above the ground and was in view for about 30 seconds.

In 1979 a pilot flying over Bolton, Lancashire, saw a bright circular object about 12 metres across moving below him.

Minutes later he saw two more moving in the opposite direction at about 250mph.

In 1988 a stranded flying saucer was spotted at the side of the road near Kendal, Cumbria.

Probably one of the best known incidents of alien encounters in

the UK was the Rendlesham Forest incident.

At the end of 1980 there were a number of UFO reports near Ipswich, Suffolk. It was claimed that a UFO crash-landed in Rendlesham Forest - two miles from the US Woodbridge airbase.

According to investigators, an officer from the airbase claimed to have spoken to the occupants of the craft (they were about three feet in height) who asked for help in repairing the craft. The aliens managed to fix it themselves and then took off.

Soldiers who took photographs of the aliens and the UFO had their pictures confiscated.

In separate verification of the unnamed officer's account, Forestry Commission workers reportedly found a number of burnt trees in the area.

THE BLUES OTHERS

'They want me to see'

Dan Aykroyd has a new video on the market, but the ex-Conehead and one-time Ghostbuster says he's not the star: The UFOs are.

"My recommendation is to skip through me and get to the film footage, the digital images," he said yesterday, talking about the 90-minute *Dan Aykroyd Unplugged on UFOs*, from Union Station Media.

"This is where the whole thing starts to become more credible," he said of footage of unidentified flying objects from around the world. "This is the real stuff. I'm not alone on this. There are many, many people interested in UFOs," he said.

The DVD, which went on sale yesterday, is a conversation between Aykroyd and UFO expert David Sereda, interspersed with footage of unexplained objects in flight and comments from experts like former astronaut Gordon Cooper.

There are no jokes.

Asked if he was worried that a comic actor might not be taken seriously discussing an edgy subject like extra-terrestrial visitors, he said, "It's not a concern. 'Enough people know I've had an interest in this for years,' he said, speaking from

New York. "People know I'm interested in the paranormal."

Aykroyd said he has had two personal encounters with the unknown. One occurred on Martha's Vineyard, where he saw "high-altitude, glowing magnesium discs travelling at 20,000 miles [32,190 kilometres] an hour at 100,000 feet [30,480 metres] ... wing to wing, edge to edge."

Four people with him saw the same thing, he said, though one expert later told him it was probably a meteor formation of some sort. "I believe they were visiting the Earth, passing by on the way to somewhere else."

"The second was a telepathic experience," he said, which happened at a lake retreat in Canada. "I was asleep with my wife and I woke up about 3 a.m. wanting to go outside into a field and look at the sky," Aykroyd said he told his wife, "They want me to see. They want me to see." She told him to forget it. The next morning, he said, newspapers and radio reports from across the region were filled with eyewitness accounts from some of the estimated 12,000 people who saw a pink spiral in the sky. The military later said it was a Chinese rocket, Aykroyd explained, but he believes he was being summoned and regrets ignoring the call.

Reuters

Have UFOs visited Brid?

Report by
Dan Harrison

DID you spot something strange flying over Bridlington on Sunday?

Bridlington UFO fan Paul Sinclair spotted the object over Blackburn Avenue at around midnight and managed to get these photographs.

He said: "I cannot explain why or how but I sensed something and looked up into the sky. It was very dark with low cloud cover."

"I could see an orange light and a dark oval shape of some kind within the cloud."

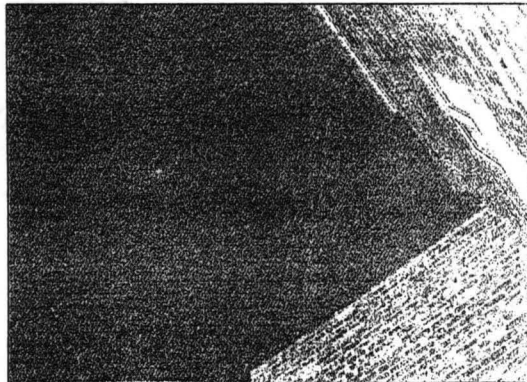
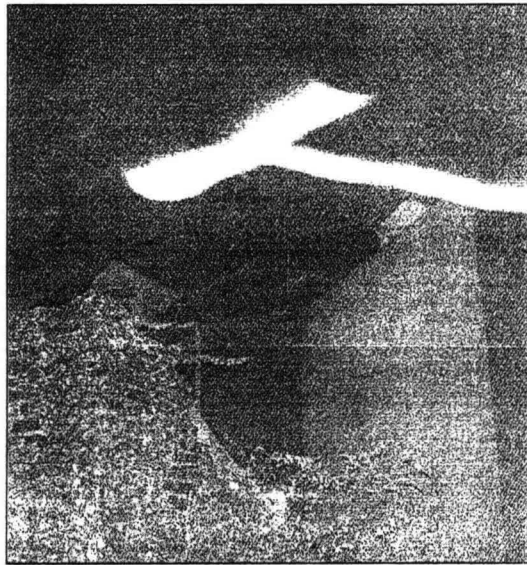
"I have to say it was strange knowing there was an object of some sort in the sky."

Paul runs his own UFO website which details other accounts of sightings in the area.

Anyone interested can visit their website at www.ILF-UFO.co.uk

Have you spotted any UFOs over Bridlington?

Write to the Free Press at 3 Prospect Street, Bridlington, YO15 2AQ or e-mail newsdesk@bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk to let us know.



CLAIM: teenagers saw red orb 'UFO' is sighted again...

BY SARAH DAVE

REPORTED sightings of a 'UFO' above Reading have led to a flurry of calls to the *Post's* paranormal hotline.

Reader Vicky Chapman, 17, called the newsroom after she and two friends noticed a glowing red ball in the sky as they walked through Whitley on Good Friday.

An incredulous Miss Chapman, who works in hair and beauty in Spencers Wood, said: "We thought we were going a bit mad."

"I'm not sure what we thought it was. I was just shocked. I'd never seen anything like this before."

The Whitley teenager, who saw the crimson orb while walking near Basingstoke Road at around 1am with friends Cherelle Maguire, 16, and Kirsty Bedwell, 17, added: "We

weren't drinking that night."

The girls phoned our UFO hotline after reading in last Wednesday's *Post* about Pip Neal who spotted a mysterious green ball in the sky over Southcote the week before on Friday, April 7.

Mr Neal couldn't sleep and went into his conservatory at around 2am for a drink and cigarette when he saw the emerald orb glowing steadily like a Roman candle firework.

He said it lasted about three seconds before disappearing behind some clouds and added he was too sober to imagine it.

Miss Chapman said: "When I got home I told my friend Ryan and my mum - they thought we were mad and hallucinating."

Have you seen any strange objects in the sky or inexplicable sights worthy of the X Files? Call the *Post's* paranormal hotline on (0118) 918 3009.

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.]

June 2, 2006 — *De Peso* #597, Yucatan, Mexico — CHANCE UFO PHOTOGRAPHED BY MEXICAN JOURNALIST — [An apparent photograph of a UFO was published in this issue of *De Peso*.]

According to the author of the image, reporter Ylmar Pacheco, he was taking photos of a senior citizen event in the Salvador Alvarado Sur district when he suddenly saw a Mexican Air Force helicopter fly past. Feeling curious at seeing it fly so low, he pointed his camera toward it and took several photos.

The witness did not become aware of the UFO until he examined the images; nothing unusual was seen when the photos were taken.

The researchers who made this story known are brothers Raul and Gustavo Aleman of Mexico's OVNIMERIDA group. They are trying to obtain the originals to these photos. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid and Raul & Gustavo Aleman

June 5, 2006 — *CIUFOS/LAPAMPA*, La Pampa, Argentina — The Strange Experience of Julio Oscar by Raul Oscar Chaves — Julio Oscar, 48, married, a resident of the province of Buenos Aires (Argentina), moved to La Pampa in the month of July 2005 to be reunited with his sister Rosa after a separation of over 20 years.

His body has been affected by his hard life of farm labor. A lung operation was necessary due to his work venting in grain silos, his right leg underwent surgery to correct a limp caused by a permanent muscular contraction. The surgeries had taken place in Bahia Blanca's Penna Hospital.

In his relative's house one day, watching the TV by himself in the dining room, a sudden blackout occurred followed by the sudden appearance of a sphere of light measuring some 10 cm in diameter on the wall beside the television set (which was mounted to the wall). The brightly-hued orb vanished in a matter of seconds and the power was restored; an intrigued Julio Oscar had dinner and continued watching TV before going to bed. The time was approximately 22:30 hrs.

A few days later, while removing wallpaper from the top of a ladder, his body began to experience tremors which persisted until dinnertime. This caused him to take to his bed. The time was 22:00 hours and he was alone again. The cause of the tremors: unknown.

He turned out the light on his nightstand. An intensely bright light measuring 40 cm across appeared over the windowsill at that time. It diminished in size as it placed itself over his body, only centimeters from his skin, scanning it, moving up and down from head to toes. Thoughts entered his mind, expressions such as, in his own words: "me querian llevar" ("They wanted to take me away").

The next morning, Rosa approached his bed, concerned about his silence, as Julio was an early riser. She ascertained that he was motionless and unresponsive to external stimuli and questions, presenting a very high temperature.

After a while, Julio was able to open his eyes. Trying to articulate a coherent sentence, he told his sister: "...they came to take me away, they wanted to take me and you weren't there..."

Skeptical by nature, he did not understand the experience he had undergone nor did he remember details that would allow him to reach one conclusion or another.

Trying to forget the event, Julio returned to his everyday activities, walking more frequently and for longer distances, also riding a bicycle.

It should be mentioned that the muscular contraction in his affected leg kept him from walking normally, and his pulmonary insufficiency only allowed him to cover the length of a block in two or three installments, during which he would stop to catch his breath and regain strength.

He gained weight, his movements became normalized and only a slight limp could be observed.

Visiting First Aid Center, he decided to return home on foot, covering a distance of over 40 city blocks in an hour and a half, stopping only once to regain his strength. Three months later, Julio returned to his hometown with his body restored, and a visible change in personality from considerable skepticism and total lack of faith to the permanent use of a Rosary given to him by his relatives.

Did the unusual experience affect his life? No doubt, when we take the foregoing into consideration. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

June 6, 2006 — *CIUFOS/LA PAMPA*, La Pampa, Argentina — ARGENTINA: AN OPERATION BY STRANGE ENTITIES? — E.R., 50, lives with her husband in La Pampa and on April 18, 2006 began to feel herself affected by intense back pain.

Four days after being in said condition, she went to a local clinic where she was treated by a doctor who detected—after a thorough checkup—a considerable inflammation of the liver, bladder, pancreas, kidney and left lung, issuing a primary diagnosis: pancreatic cancer. She immediately ordered tests which were evaluated by another professional and confirmed the diagnosis. The physician began to administer medications.

In spite of this, E.R.'s condition worsened, compelling her to remain at rest in her bedroom. While listening to the sound of the TV set coming in from the dining room, she entered into a crisis and felt herself floating toward a very large, white light. When she was about to be absorbed into the light, she felt herself being "...snatched away by several shadows..." who told her mentally that "... this was not the time ..."

At that moment she was able to see the figures clearly, realizing at the same time that she was somewhere else and not in her bedroom.

Fully lucid and awake, she was able to observe that she was lying on a sort of platform, oval-shaped and bathed in an intense light which seemed to be suspended from a type of structure or support a meter and a half in diameter, silvery-colored and seemingly metallic.

Around this platform she noted the presence of the 5 beings who debated the critical condition of her health.

One of these beings stood at her left and the remaining 4 on her right. These indicated that "...there was no other alternative other than to go in..."

After this, the being on her left introduced one of its long, thin arms into E.R. on her left side under her ribs, while she was held by her arms, legs and head.

She felt that something was "...torn out and dragged..." from within her body, causing intense pain. The extracted material was given to the other beings. The intense pain was followed by a feeling of emptiness and gradual relief that permeated throughout the entire area.

While she clearly remembers the physiognomy of the beings, she has also been able to recall some of the statements they made: "... from this moment on you will put aside all medications ..." and "... from this moment on you will be a different person..."

After a period of time she could not determine, she regained consciousness, this time in her bed, able to hear the sound from the television set.

Upon remembering her experience, she began to touch the affected area and felt a void, as though something was missing. Upon pressing her body, she felt the characteristic pain that follows an operation.

Two days after the experience, E.R. got up from the bed on which she had remained for nearly a week, noticing that her pains were almost completely gone. The next day she went to the clinic for a consultation with the physician, requesting an immediate clinical examination.

With the results in her hands and after the corresponding review, she attested to the noticeable reduction in her condition's levels, while experiencing a slow but steady recovery, stressing that she has no answers that may account for the change or development observed.

As far as the beings are concerned, E.R. states that they were tall, thin, with long slender arms. Their heads were medium-sized and a pronounced volume in the occipital region. Their mouths were small, like their noses; eyes were medium-sized, slanted, very dark; smooth angular faces, small chins, with no visible cheekbones.

No clothing was visible. Their bodies were lead-blue in color and their movements were swift. E.R. did not notice any hands and was uncertain about the use of instruments during the procedure. She did remember noticing a small isolated platform to the left of her location; it was seemingly metallic, silver-hued and very bright.

Finally, it should be noted that E.R. was under strict treatment due to a severe cardiopathy with arterial lesions and persistent hypertension.

At present, she has continued with her daily life. Her body is stabilized with some ups and downs, and she has not taken any medications. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

June 7, 2006 — *El Tribuno*, Salta, Argentina — ****UFOs in Cachi Once More**** — ARGENTINA: STRANGE LIGHTS IN TIN TIN — People claim seeing incandescent circular light in the sky over Route 33.

With the first days of cold, clear skies over Cachi, reports on the apparition of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) have emerged once more from believers and skeptics alike.

This can be seen in the eyewitness accounts from a group of six people who saw moving lights and flashes in the sky last Friday around 20:00 hrs. as they drove along Route 33 near the Amblavo intersection.

After they reached Salta, the individuals came to our newsroom to report their experience: "We can't all be wrong. We saw a light that moved and emitted flashes. It surprised us as it emerged from the straight road to Tin Tin and then again from Cuesta del Obispo," said Marcelo Tomas Aranda, an agronomist who works in Cachi and who visits Salta every Friday for the last 14 years.

The witnesses, who traveled aboard a van, agree with the report of a strange incandescent light that appeared up above. "The skies were clear and the moon lit the outline of the mountains. Suddenly, a circular light appeared, four times larger than a star." To Monica Cuevas, a technical secretary, and Adriana Laiseca, a supervisor with the Ministry of Education, the experience took them from total skepticism to questioning things that are said about UFO manifestations in the area.

Horacio Nolasco, the van's driver, travels back and forth from Cachi on a daily basis for years and had never seen anything like it. "It was a very shiny light with a straight-line motion from North to South that vanished between the mountains. We later saw it much closer as we descended halfway down Cuesta del Obispo," he explained.

Cesar Miguel Naranjo is an Ecuadorian national who has lived in Salta for 10 years. He is a parapsychologist and was among the witnesses to the event. "It's a wonderful sensation -- one is left dumbfounded by the knowledge that what is being seen is not a product of the imagination."

The other passenger, Nancy, who works in the Amblavo school, also saw the light but unlike her travel companions, did not wish to get off the vehicle. "The truth is that it frightened me a lot," she admitted. — CREDIT: Mercedes Casas

June 13, 2006 — *Ana Luisa Cid* [www.analuisacid.com.mx] — MEXICO: POSSIBLE UFO OVER MICHUACAN — A photo [of an apparent UFO was] taken by Eduardo Arizmendi Rivas at the port of Lazaro Cardenas, Michuacan, using a Sony DCS-S40 on November 27, 2005 at 15:33 hours.

The witness works in construction and was heading at the time from Lazaro Cardenas to Ixtapa, where he currently lives.

According to his account, he stopped along the highway to take some photos of the port and the ships and did not notice the object in the sky until the images were downloaded to his computer.

Ana Luisa Cid received the photo only days ago.

June 15, 2006 — *Ana Luisa Cid and Piramides de Egipto* (www.pyramidcam.com) — A UFO PHOTOGRAPHED OVER THE GIZEH PYRAMIDS — Report provided by Alex Astua, Director of Enigmatico.com — An image was captured by a webcam on March 23, 2006 at 14:04 hrs and shows an object near the summit of the Kephren Pyramid. The object is highly reflective and presents a clear structure.

It is difficult to determine if it faces, or is positioned behind, the pyramid.

Despite the fact that the object has a circular shape in the main photo, it has an oblong shape in the image taken 47 seconds earlier.

Possible explanations: balloon, airplane, kite, insect.

If we make a more detailed observation, it appears like a different object. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid & Alex Astua

June 16, 2006 — *Ana Luisa Cid* [www.analuisacid.com.mx] — MEXICO: MORE ON THE MERIDA UFO — According to the news item published in Yucatan's *De Peso* newspaper on June 9, 2006, Mexican journalist Ylmar Pacheco captured the transit of a possible UFO over the Yucatan's capital.

Researcher Emilio Cetz reports that the witness managed to see a spherical object flying behind an airplane and did not pay it much attention, because he isn't a fan of the UFO phenomenon. He took a photo nonetheless. When he downloaded the photos for review, he confirmed that a sphere was indeed present, and decided to submit the material to the newsroom of the *De Peso* newspaper, where a number of theories aimed at explaining the image were put forth.

The same publication left all possibilities open, allowing each reader to draw his or her own conclusions and employing such phrases as: "UFO or Foo Fighter? UFO or atmospheric trick?"

Emilio Cetz has known Ylmar for a long time and says that this is the first time that the photojournalist has

had an encounter of this nature.

Personal comment from Ana Luisa Cid:

I have tried to contact Mr. Pacheco to secure more information on the two images published in the Merida newspaper and to date (June 16, 2006) I have obtained no reply. I remain hopeful that contact will be made soon.

Mexican researchers Raul Aleman, Gustavo Aleman and Emilio Cetz have participated in this project, and their valuable cooperation is acknowledged.

June 17, 2006 — Ana Luisa Cid [www.analuisacid.com.mx] — MEXICO: STRANGE BEING IN SOMBRERETILLO DAM? — A photograph taken at the Sombreretillo Dam, Nuevo Leon, Mexico — Evidence provided by Dr. Efren Saucedo Tello, June 4, 2006 — Eyewitness account: "On Sunday June 4, I went fishing in the dam accompanied by my cousin Jose E. Garcia. We arrived at 2:30 pm and I brought my Canon Powershot A-95 along with me.

"At around 5 pm we got ready to head back home, so we put things in my boat. Since we were in the southern region of the dam, where aquatic lilies are in abundance, there's no way of getting through that isn't by boat.

"When we left the dam, there were people getting ready to board their kayaks and it occurred to me to take a photo from that location ... I saw nothing unusual until I checked the computer and noticed that in one of them something similar to a creature in black could be seen, watching the people in the boat." — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid & Dr. Efren Saucedo

June 19, 2006 — Ana Luisa Cid [www.analuisacid.com.mx] — PERU: UFO PHOTOGRAPHED OVER THE UBINAS VOLCANO — According to the preliminary report by Dr. Anthony Choy, a UFO was photographed by Marco Antonio Zeballos, a member of the Civil Defense Regional Committee (CRDC), when the witness was in the town of Matalaque preparing to evacuate families affected by the volcano.

Researcher Choy says that the photo has not yet been subjected to detailed scrutiny. However, in his opinion, there is a high likelihood that it is an anomalous object that crossed the camera's field of view, without entirely dismissing that it could be an insect or bird that flew past quickly, causing distortion in the image.

He also reported that Mr. Zeballos did not observe the probable UFO and only realized its presence when the photos were reviewed, adding that this is not the first time that sightings have occurred in that part of Peru. This suggests a possible relationship between anomalous aerial phenomena and natural or human disasters.

The Ubinas Volcano has presented activity since April 19, 2006, producing audible explosions and the formation of eruption columns of up to 3 km high. For this reason, families living near the volcano have been evacuated.

Dr. Choy highlighted the importance that the photo was taken by an active official with the National Civil Defense Institute, as well as his openness by providing the image to a reporter for the *Correo de Tacna* newspaper. — Credits: Photo © Marco Antonio Zeballos — Report by Dr. Anthony Choy — Correspondent Julio Berlanga (Enigmas Peru)

June 22, 2006 — Ana Luisa Cid [www.analuisacid.com.mx] — PERU: PHOTO OF UFOs OVER VOLCANO — Photo taken with a cellphone by Narciso Delgado Cabello from the Salinas Huito sector of Arequipa (Peru) on Saturday, June 17, 2006 at 8:00 hrs. — According to a report from the *Correo de Arequipa* newspaper submitted by Dr. Anthony Choy, the objects were seen for some seconds and appeared just as a couple photographed Arequipa's tutelary volcanoes -- the Misti and the Chachani.

Silvana Chamba, Narciso Delgado's companion, says that she was also able to see the possible UFOs over the volcanic summit. The witness is a member of the Regional Civil Defense Committee and took the photo with a Sagem X-7 cell phone.

To researcher Anthony Choy, this evidence is significant, since a similar photo was taken last week in the vicinity of the Ubinas Volcano, belonging to the same volcanic system as the Chachani, the difference being that the latter is presently dormant. — Credits: Dr. Anthony Choy — *Diario Correo de Arequipa* — Julio Berlanga, Enigmas Peru — Photograph © Narciso Delgado Cabello

CREDIT: Jane Thomas Guma

May 24, 2006 — *La Voz*, Phoenix, Arizona — MESSAGE FROM THE STARS — Journalist Jaime Maussan will present in Phoenix the most recent evidence of the UFO phenomenon and the analysis of the "intelligent" messages that appear year after year in the world's crop fields.

By Alfredo Garcia

Worldwide expert in the extraterrestrial phenomenon, Jaime Maussan continues to accumulate, investigate and present the videorecorded extraterrestrial material that leads us to believe we are not the only ones in the universe.

"The activity and presence of UFOs has increased in Mexico as well as in many other places in the planet. We have received extraordinary material and testimonies from key people to support this," the investigator, who will appear in the ASU (Arizona State University), said in an interview with *La Voz*.

For Maussan, organizations, institutions and world leaders are more and more in need of dealing with this subject with the seriousness it deserves. Even the Catholic church will make a statement on this subject within a few months.

"We have recently visited the Vatican and met with Monsignor Corrado Balducci, who is advisor to the Pope in these matters, and who assured us that the church will name Christ's Day as the King of the Universe in its next liturgy," a statement that the investigator considers to be an unofficial position of the clergy regarding this phenomenon.

Balducci was very pleased with the quality and quantity of the evidence submitted, encouraging Maussan to continue with this work which is relevant, since the same ecclesiastic institution appointed a commission to investigate the cases of the faithful who claimed having had contact with extraterrestrial beings.

"As long as religion clashes with science, there will be no statement to validate this work, but the truth

keeps cropping up, and even on this same trip I received a secret manuscript that I will translate into Spanish for the first time," said the expert, referring to Colonel Philip Corso's notes.

Corso was a highly decorated American Colonel who was very involved in the famous "Roswell Case," an incident that took place in 1947 in the state of New Mexico which it is said, allowed the government to capture a manned craft from which it could "reverse engineer" certain technology.

"Philip Corso was part of what is known as R&D (U.S. Dept. of Research & Development), even being in charge of implementing advances in industry that nowadays seem commonplace," said Maussan, referring to the well known microchip, optic fiber, laser ray or night vision.

The evidence keeps increasing to this day, certain places in the world being favored among which Mexico stands out, and soon, according to this expert, mankind will openly live with the so-called "cosmic brothers."

THE MAYAN PROPHECIES

As strange as it seems, the Mayan knowledge and culture has been appearing in an extraordinary way in English crop fields, hundreds of kilometers from where this civilization flourished.

"The English crop fields where geometrical figures appear overnight on the plants, seem to leave a record of an intelligent message from afar, these last years being the most active," said this researcher who in his lectures shows many videos with very large figures.

These last four years extraordinary figures have appeared, some showing impressive humanoid faces with messages in the binary code (2001 and 2002), a language used in the now common computers.

Even though the "drawings" appear since May, it is in August when the one that many consider to be the yearly message appears, the last two years (2004 and 2005) corresponding to Mayan reliefs and codices.

"A circular figure appeared in 2005 in which the Mayan sun, Kinech-Ahau, can be seen in the center with numbers and calculations that indicate the knowledge we now have," stated Maussan, who also claims that the figure includes the date of the end of times: 2012.

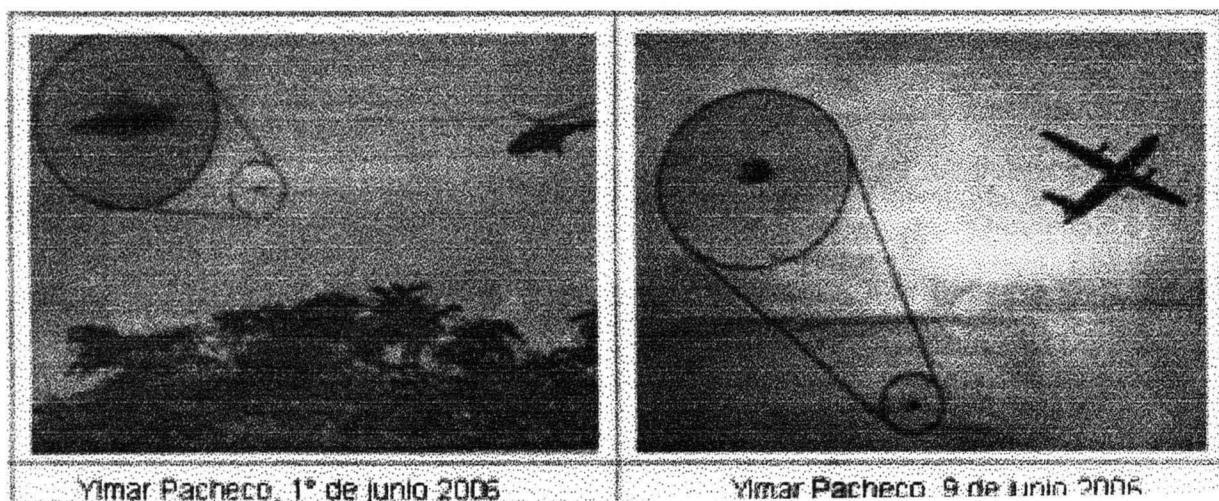
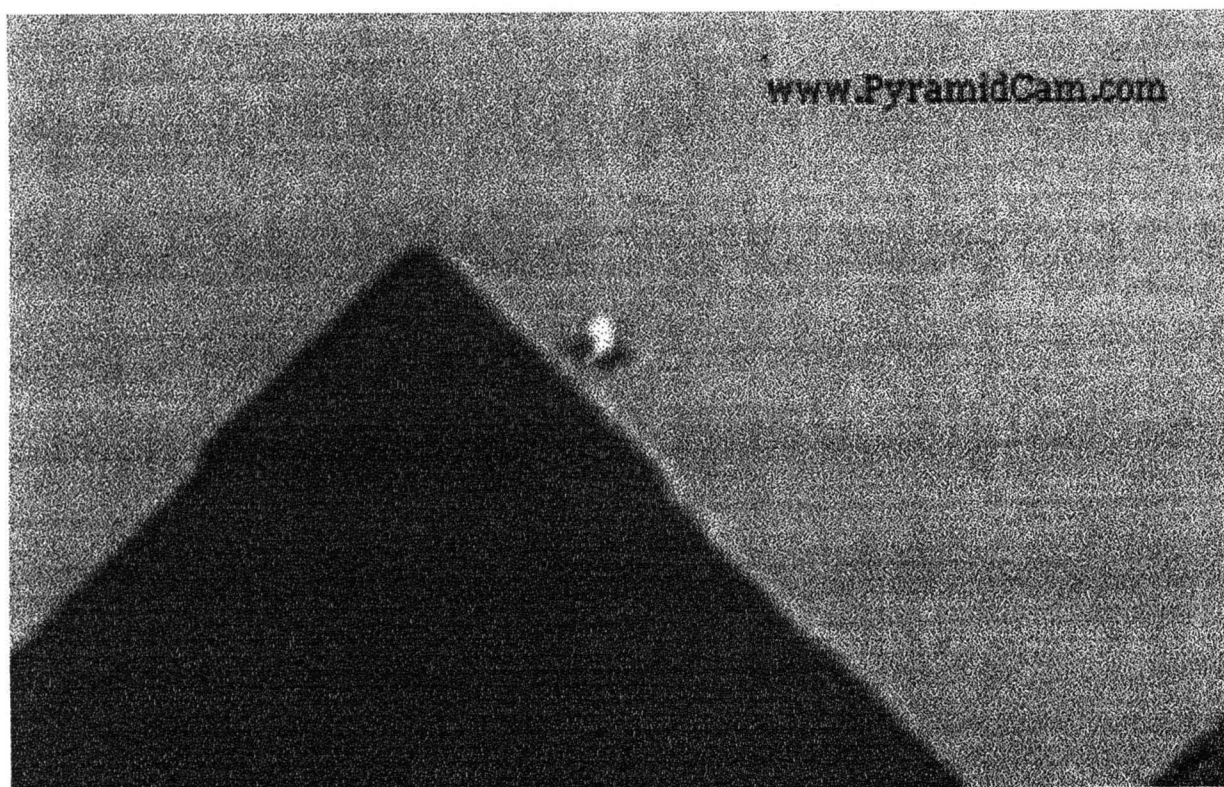
The Mayas saw our sun as a live being that breathes and that every once in a while synchronizes itself with the enormous organism in which it exists and upon receiving a flash of light from the center of the galaxy shines more intensely producing on its surface what our scientists call sun flares.

"It is now known that our solar system moves toward the center of the galaxy and that since last year the sun has shown an unusual electromagnetic activity which will increase in the forthcoming years, reaching its peak in the year 2012," the reporter confirmed, claiming there will also be an eclipse and the path of Venus in May of that same year.

The Mayas, experts in math and astronomy, left a statement about what would happen in the future, warning about harm to the environment, to communications and even to the human spirit, which could propitiate the beginning of a new era.

"From where did they obtain this knowledge?, Who taught it to them?, Why are other intelligences leaving this in England's field?, What is it they want to warn us about?," are some of the questions that the "The Prophecy" lecture will try to answer.

[Some of the photographs referred to in the translations.]





TRIBUNE, Tampa, FL - Dec. 13, 2005



Tribune photos by ROBERT BURKE
Ken Gerhard of Houston and Kelsie Aguilera and sister Kristine Aguilera of Miami stroll in the woods of Polk County's Green Swamp during a recent expedition seeking swamp ape evidence.

Swamp Ape Seeker's Faith Holds Fast

By GEOFF FOX
gfox@tampatrib.com

LAKELAND — Scott Marlowe thought he was being watched as he set up camp in a remote, marshy area of the Green Swamp.

"Could just be a pig," he said, scanning the dense woods.

To Marlowe, the familiar feeling was encouraging. He said he had experienced something similar 30 years earlier, when he first encountered a swamp ape — also known as a skunk ape, Florida's version of Bigfoot — outside his Lakeland apartment.

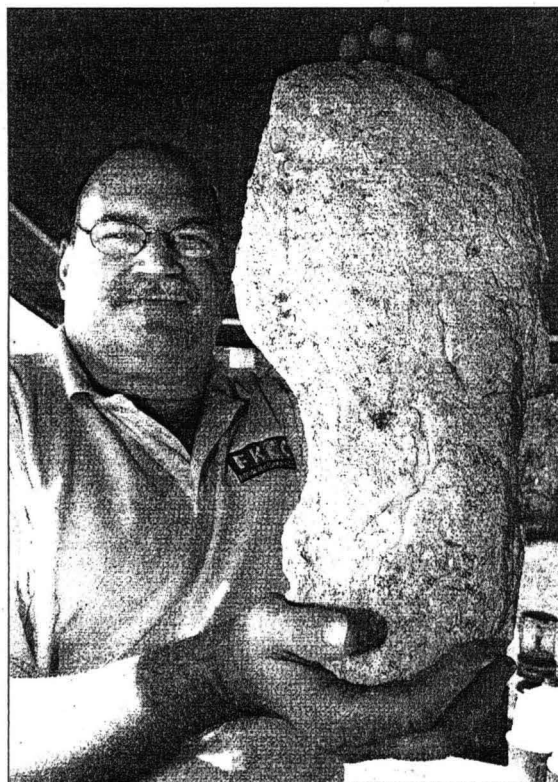
In Florida, tales of swamp apes are about as old as the Suwannee River. Likewise, around the world, stories of Bigfoot, Sasquatch, the Abominable

Snowman and similar creatures have been passed down for centuries by indigenous tribes, settlers, hunters and others.

Some believe the stories. Many don't.

Then there's Marlowe, 55, of Winter Haven, who not only says he has seen swamp apes but spends his time looking for more.

On his recent outing in the Green Swamp — an expanse of nearly 50,000 acres in Polk, Lake and Sumter counties — Marlowe spent a week in an area northeast of Lakeland. His goal was to photograph or videotape a swamp ape, or at least collect evidence such as hair, footprints or DNA samples.



Ape believer Scott Marlowe holds a casting of a footprint said to have been made by a creature in the Ocala National Forest.

Joining Marlowe were students from an online course in cryptozoology — the study of mythic creatures such as Bigfoot and the Loch Ness Monster — that he teaches through Florida Keys Community College. Swamp ape enthusiasts from across Florida and elsewhere also made the trip.

To Lorena Madrigal, an anthropology professor at the University of South Florida, the group was wasting its time.

"There's no evidence of such an animal anywhere," she said. "There's no animal that looks like that: a hairy, hairy big ape that walks [on two legs]."

"There are monkeys in the New World, but no apes. It would be very strange to find such a thing here."

Database Of Sightings

The naysayers don't faze Marlowe, who also is affiliated with the Pangea Institute, a nonprofit organization that arranges behind-the-scenes museum tours and organizes fossil digs and shipwreck expeditions. Pangea also maintains a database of about 180 swamp ape sightings in Florida, many of which Marlowe has investigated.

Based on a geographical pattern of those sightings, Marlowe, who doesn't hold a degree, concluded the creature — or a pack of them — would be migrating in early November through the Green Swamp en route to Big Cypress National Preserve, near the Everglades.

Using maps and data from a Global Positioning System and Geographic Information Systems, Marlowe thought he had found the right spot in the muggy marsh to find a swamp ape — a term he prefers to "skunk ape."

Marlowe had never heard of the creature before a night in October 1975. As he was unloading groceries from his car outside his Lakeland apart-

SWAMP APES

To report a swamp-ape sighting, send e-mail to the Pangea Institute at cryptids@pangeainstitute.us.

The following are names of similar purported creatures around the world:

Batutut, Borneo
Big Gray Man, Scotland
Bossburg Giant, Washington state
Diddi, Guyana
Fouke Monster, Arkansas
Gin-Sung, China
Grassman, Ohio
Higabon, Japan
Honey Island Swamp Monster, Louisiana
Kikomba, Zaire, Africa
Mogollon Monster, Arizona
Momo, Missouri
Muhalu, West Africa
Orang Gugu, Philippines
Skookum, Washington state
Sasquatch, Canada
Tano Giant, West Africa
Tree Eater, Finland and Croatia
Woods Devil, New Hampshire
Wookie, Louisiana

Source: "The Community of Legendary Anthropoidea," an unpublished manuscript by Scott Marlowe

ment, he said, he sensed he was being watched.

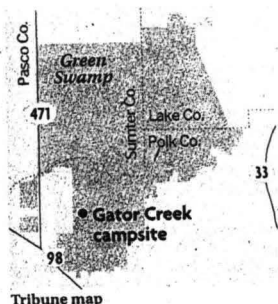
Looking up, he said he saw a hairy, roughly 7-foot-tall "man-ape" standing under a light across the parking lot. He said the creature watched him, then scanned the parking lot and apartments before leaving — on two legs.

Marlowe said his latest encounter happened one night in June while looking for swamp apes near Orange, Texas, with fellow researcher Chester Moore. He said they entered a swampy area near a cow pasture when they saw the creatures on infrared scopes.

"You could clearly smell them when we entered their domain," Marlowe said.

Interdimensional Window

Besides Marlowe, there are several research organizations around the country that conduct searches for Bigfoot and



swamp apes. Among the groups rages an argument over whether or not to kill one of the creatures.

While a swamp ape carcass would offer proof of the creature's existence, Marlowe opposes hunting them like game. He said he wouldn't be opposed to tranquilizing one, but he lacks the necessary state license and permit to do that.

Marlowe said he usually goes on at least four swamp ape expeditions a year, guided by reported sightings. Typically, between three and 12 people join him.

His cryptozoology course, which yields no academic credit, consists of a weeklong field study, including an orientation that explores theories about the existence and evolution of cryptids: animals not recognized by science, such as the swamp ape.

During last month's orientation, Marlowe told a group of about 15 people that, based on sighting reports, footprint casts and his own experiences, he believed Bigfoot and the swamp ape are different creatures.

He cautioned, though, that evidence must be viewed skeptically. He said foot casts can be easily faked; some supposed swamp ape pictures look like people in gorilla suits, while others are too unfocused to be considered credible.

"One woman thinks it moves around her back yard and disappears through an in-

terdimensional window," he said.

Possible Nests Found

Joining Marlowe's group in the Green Swamp last month was Ken Gerhard, a devoted swamp ape searcher who spent about 15 years touring the United States with his band, Bozo Porno Circus.

The Houston man now tours remote parts of the world with kindred spirits in search of mysterious creatures.

In Australia, Gerhard has searched for the Yowie, the Down Under version of Bigfoot. He spent a few days in the Green Swamp on his way to Belize, where he planned to look for Sisemite, that country's version of the creature.

Gerhard brought with him a primate pheromone chip, a small red disk containing substances secreted by primates. The chip, which smelled worse than road kill, could attract a "great ape," he said.

Shortly after entering the woods, Gerhard found large branches in a crossing pattern covered with brush — a possible swamp ape nest, he said.

Gerhard's find was the first of several possible nests he and Marlowe said they discovered during the excursion.

However, after spending several hours a day among the mosquitoes, snakes and wild pigs, there were no swamp ape footprints to photograph and cast, no hair to collect and no possible DNA samples to lift from twisted branches, which swamp apes are said to break to mark their territory.

And despite his use of "trap cams" — cameras that automatically shoot when someone or something stands near them — the trip didn't produce a picture or video to prove the existence of a large, hairy primate living in the Florida wild.

Not that Marlowe was deterred.

He said there have been a rash of sightings around Tate's Hell State Forest, southwest of Tallahassee, where an expedition is pending, and Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, near Holopaw.

"The Pangea Institute is developing a rapid-response team," Marlowe said. "Within 24 hours of a sighting, we want to have somebody on site."

"A hunter in Three Lakes was so scared that he just packed up and left."

And if he sees another swamp ape?

"I'll go right up to it and shake hands," Marlowe said. "I hope to make everyone a believer by finding one soon."

Reporter Geoff Fox can be reached at (813) 948-4217.

The meandrous monster migrates to Utah

D. Robert Carter

When the first Euro-American settlers came to the Great Basin in 1847, the Ute Indians told them stories of Pawapicts or Water Babies. These supernatural beings lured their human victims under the water, where they, too, became Pawapicts. The new colonists modified these Ute tales, and the Pawapicts became creatures the Euro-Americans had heard of in the Old Country — kraken or sea monsters.

Very little public comment on these sea monsters surfaced until 1868, when Joseph C. Rich, a northern Utah correspondent to the Deseret News, wrote his now famous column entitled, "Monsters in Bear Lake." In this column, Rich asserted that a group of men and women saw a cluster of brownish-colored animals rapidly swimming through the lake's blue waters.

Toward the end of his letter, Rich suggested that some enterprising soul could likely become rich by catching one of these strange animals and selling it to famous circus magnate and

king of the freak show circuit, P.T. Barnum. Some very important people in Utah Territory cut to the chase — including the leader of the LDS Church and former governor of Utah Territory, Brigham Young.

President Young read accounts of the Bear Lake monster in the Deseret News, and he received several "monster letters" from a number of the faithful in northern Utah and southern Idaho. A May 18, 1874, letter from William Budge, who lived in Paris, Idaho, told of a monster sighting on Bear Lake.

Budge, William Broomhead, and Molando Pratt were returning from general conference in Salt Lake City when they spotted the monster about three miles from Lake Town. Budge reported that it swam in the lake about 100 yards ahead of the party and 20 yards from shore. At first the men thought the creature in the lake might be a very large duck, but as they drove closer, the men could tell the creature was an animal they judged to be about five or six feet long.

The animal dived under-water and came up about 100 feet from the three men, giv-



D. Robert Carter

During the 1860s and later, some residents of Utah Valley believed strange water creatures resided in Utah Lake and its tributaries. This scene from an early postcard shows the willow-lined banks at the mouth of the Provo River.

ing them a good look at its strange countenance as it swam through the still water about as fast as a man could walk. Pratt's description read:

"It's face and part of its head was distinctly seen, covered with fur, or short hair of a light snuff color. The face of the animal was apparently flat, very wide between the eyes, and tapering to the nose with very full large

eyes, and prominent ears, the ears resembling those of a horse, but scarcely as long. The whole face, in shape, was like that of a fox, but so large that the space between the eyes, equaled that of the distance between the eyes of a common cow."

Budge concluded his letter by stating, "As there has been considerable interest excited in regard to the 'Bear Lake Monster'

I submit a description of what we have seen thinking it might be acceptable to you."

The letter from Budge must have interested Young. Sometime in the 1870s, the Mormon leader and Phineas W. Cook made plans to capture the wily animal and split the money gained from its sale, each man receiving half the profit. It appears Young was to furnish the

equipment, and Cook was to do the work. Cook hired a blacksmith to manufacture a large iron hook, and he baited it with an ample chunk of meat. Then he fastened the hook to what must rank as Utah's strangest fishing gear. The unorthodox disciple of Isaac Walton attached the hook to twenty feet of chain cable and secured it to a buoy. The float allowed the heavy chain to sink into the water to the depth of 20 feet.

Then Cook fastened one end of a 300-yard-long length of one-inch rope to the buoy and attached the other end of the rope to a larger buoy. He inserted a small flag pole into the top of the bigger buoy and raised "Old Glory" to the top of the staff. A sinker attached to the bottom of the large buoy kept the flagpole and the flag upright.

As a final touch, Cook tied one end of a 300-foot-long length of three-quarter-inch rope to the larger buoy. He attached the other end of the rope to a tree on the shore of the lake. It is not difficult to believe that Cook's odd fishing experiment proved unsuccessful.

On August 24, 1876, the obviously disappointed LDS Church President penned a letter to Cook asking for the return of the hemp fishing line. In reply, Cook wrote that he had called on Young several times to discuss the situation. Each time he had waited in vain for a half hour to 45 minutes. Since Cook had other business in the capital, he finally left to take care of it.

The would-be monster catcher explained to Young what happened to the rope: "You furnished me rope etc to catch the serpent in the Lake at halves. I spent my time faithfully during the season but did not succeed. Dudley Mrrit of Bennington came here fer it to streath across Bear River to ferry you and your company over. I asked you afterward in the Parent Co op (ZCMI) in your City about it You told me to let him have it fer he had well paid you fer it. . . so I shall expect you to squeeze the acc."

Exactly how the two men resolved this fishing dispute is lost in the depths of Utah's maritime history. Since Young died the next year, his demise likely signaled the end of this monstrous dispute.

Joseph C. Rich's fish story fooled more people than just Young and Cook. A goodly number of people, or it may be more accurate to say, a number of goodly people throughout the territory swallowed his tale — hook, line and sinker. Others were more reluctant to take the

baited hook. Many of the territory's newspapers cast their linotypes into these murky waters.

The Mormon owned Deseret News somewhat reluctantly admitted that the serpent story might be true and continued to print corroborating evidence, while the Salt Lake Tribune, the paper representing Utah's gentiles, attacked the truthfulness of Rich's story. The Tribune caustically remarked concerning the monster, "He's twin brother to the devil and cousin to Brigham."

The Tribune and the Corinne Reporter knew the monster stories they printed were fictitious, and generally used them to belittle the Mormon church, but the Deseret News and the Utah County Enquirer remained uncertain about the validity of the stories they printed.

The copious publicity, both pro and con, given to Rich's Bear Lake Monster story opened the floodgate of folklore and unleashed a deluge of water monster tales that inundated Utah from north to south. The power of suggestion is an amazing thing. It caused many honest people to watch for water monsters and find their presence in many unusual quirks of nature.

Not many years passed before all of Utah's major lakes had monsters, and their stories too were reported in the territory's newspapers. The tone of some of the stories was sarcastic, while other articles were serious.

The Corinne Reporter told of an aquatic thief on the Great Salt Lake. The newspaper stated that in 1870 many cattle belonging to the LDS Church had disappeared from Antelope Island where the church kept its herd. The Reporter suggested that some people thought a subterranean cavern connected Bear Lake and the Great Salt Lake, and that a migratory Bear Lake Monster was responsible for the disappearance of the cattle. The article ended with this gentle, but not very genteel, jab at the leader of Utah's predominant religion: "The faithful say that they (the cattle) were eaten by the Bear Lake Monster (but some people) think the whole affair an invention of the prophet to keep the people in the dark while he gets away with the cattle on the island."

Making fun of earlier Bear Lake Monster stories and hoping to gain for Corinne its share of publicity, the Corinne Record published the report of a monster located off Monument Point on the northern shores of the Great Salt Lake. The newspaper claimed that salt boilers working the night shift for Barnes & Co. heard noises from the lake and looked up to see:

"A huge mass of hide and fin rapidly approaching, and when within a few yards of the shore it raised its enormous head and uttered a terrible bellow ... (It was) a great animal like a crocodile or alligator ... but much larger ... It must have been seventy-five feet long, but its head was not like an alligator's — it was more like a horse's."

The men ran to the mountains and didn't come back down until daylight. They were horrified when they returned to see large rocks turned over and the ground badly torn up along the trail taken by the monster. The story ended with this editorial comment mimicking Joseph C. Rich's first monster story: "The story is probably a hoax; however, the editor of the Record vouches for the correspondent as 'a man whose veracity cannot be impeached.'"

With tongue firmly planted in cheek, the Salt Lake Tribune also aped Rich's original story by writing that a gentleman who had recently returned from Sevier Lake reported seeing several monsters in Central Utah's salty sea. The largest animal was 50 feet long and 20 feet in circumference. Its back was visible 10 feet above water. Other, smaller species of its kind sported and spouted in the distance. The writer suggested that since a huge inland sea once covered Utah, all the territory's lake monsters were surely related.

Fish Lake was also heard from. The Sevier Stake Historical Record contains the following information about a monster in that lake: "This Lake too, has its monster, according to the Indian's report, years ago, it made great havoc with the native's papooses, but latterly it is better behaved. It is 300 feet long."

The residents of Utah County were no exception when it came to lake monster stories. Joseph Rich's report of a monster sighting on Bear Lake caused a few dwellers of Happy Valley to reflect upon former monster sightings on Utah Lake. It appears that settlers had detected strange creatures in Utah's Sea of Galilee years earlier, but word of these discoveries had not appeared in the newspapers. It was likely nothing but true Utah Valley modesty that kept these sightings from being reported earlier.

Toward the end of August 1868, Henry Walker, a resident of Lehi, sent a letter to the Deseret News. He claimed that in about 1864, Isaac Fox was hunting along the shore of Utah Lake just east of the mouth of the Jordan River. Fox was in the water and quietly moving around a point where some rushes grew when he heard a noise and glanced

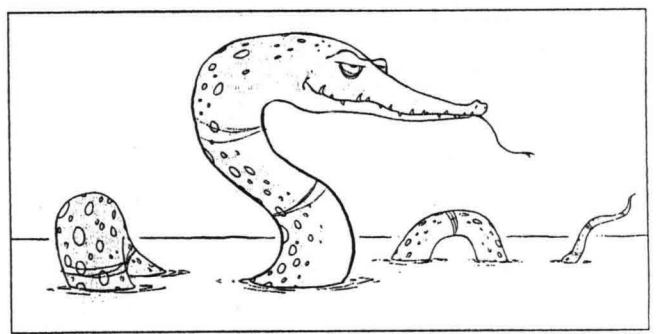


Illustration by Aaron Taylor

Utah County colonists circulated tales of sea creatures in Bear Lake and Utah Lake.

eastward toward what he supposed to be an animal.

To his fear and surprise, he saw what looked like a large snake with dark, piercing eyes and a head that looked like that of a greyhound. The frightened Fox moved toward shore, and the animal followed until it came to within 35 feet of him. It then turned and, being joined by another of its breed, swam straight across the lake faster than a man could run. Fox estimated that the creatures were about 25 or 30 feet long. The following year, a young son of Canute Peterson saw similar creatures near where Fox had seen them earlier.

Walker also stated that in 1866 a white man and an Indian were searching the lake shore about two miles east of the Jordan River for some wild hay to cut. They heard splashing in the water and thought it was their dog chasing after something. The men went into the rushes near the water to investigate. According to their story, they were startled by a creature that raised itself up about 50 feet away and "looked them full in the face." The Indian ran off and his companion retreated about 35 feet to higher ground where he turned and looked again.

He reported "its head was a foot across and shaped like a greyhound's; and it had the wickedest looking black eyes he had ever seen. It darted its tongue out which was red and forked. The color of the 'snake' was a deep yellow with black spots."

The Deseret News responded to Walker's revelations by saying they made "a character for Utah Lake as the abode of monsters almost rivaling those in Bear Lake." The News continued, "One thing somewhat noteworthy with regard to both lakes, we believe, is that an Indian cannot be got to

go into either, as from personal knowledge, or tradition, they believe monsters do exist in each. They say that at Pelican point, in Utah Lake, one of these monsters swallowed an Indian whole, scalp lock and all!"

While some Utah Valley people believed these stories about monsters in the lake, there were also many skeptics. Peter Madsen, a pioneer fisherman of Utah Lake, was one such disbeliever. His opinion was reported in the October 30, 1868, Deseret Evening News.

According to Madsen, there was living on Utah Lake a peculiar type of duck-like bird he called a "hell diver." The bird, which was probably an American coot, had short wings with very few feathers and neither flew nor walked very well. It could, however, dive and stay underwater for as many as 15 minutes.

Madsen described another peculiarity of the bird: "It sometimes makes its way across the water with great velocity, flapping its short and almost featherless wings, and leaving a wake behind it that gives the appearance of a serpent dashing along." He thought it may have been this condition that led some people to believe they had seen a strange creature.

Madsen added that in the 14 years he had spent fishing the lake, he had never seen the monster. In spite of his attempt to discredit the idea that strange creatures lived in the lake, reports of monster sightings remained in circulation, although interest in the strange beasts temporarily waned.

To be continued ...

D. Robert Carter is a historian from Springville. He can be reached at 489-8256.

Lake

Cryptozoologist mulls theories on 'Big Bird'

BY KEVIN GARCIA
THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD

Hidden in the shadows outside of civilization, monsters are believed by some to exist.

According to folklore, a large primate stalks the Pacific Northwest and a giant reptile lurks in the depths of a Scottish lake.

And in South Texas, people carefully watch the skies for Big Bird, a flying creature that terrorized the area in 1976.

"This bird's got a habit of going after people," said Guadalupe Cantu III, an eye witness. "This is strictly a nighttime bird, though. ... From 11 o'clock on, everybody's bait."

CRYPTOZOOLOGY

While most scientists would write off a man-hunting bird as pure myth, a group of researchers takes such

"New species are discovered all the time, a lot of people don't understand that," Gerhard said. "Cryptozoologists feel that those 'real scientists' aren't doing a good enough job."

Don Farst, executive director of the Gladys Porter Zoo, remembers the excitement in January 1976 when people would ask about giant birds and livestock-attacking beasts. He said nothing was ever proved, but he can understand why some believe in unknown animals. "Nothing is impossible," he said. "But I usually believe that either I or somebody that I trust has seen, and preferably photographed next to something of a known size."

There's always more to learn, according to Lynn David Livsey, president of the Brownsville Enlightenment Society, a group that discusses new discoveries and unknown phenomena on a weekly basis.

"At certain times of year we have wood storks here, which are large gangly birds, about 4½ feet tall," he said. "They are more black and white than brownish and have a long curving bill." He offered alternative possibilities such as a sand hill crane or brown pelican, but said the distinctive features described by witnesses don't always match with known animals. As several cattle mutilations were reported in 1976, Resendez believes they might be related to the Big Bird sightings. "I thought maybe this bird goes

accounts seriously. The researchers are called cryptozoologists.

"It's considered a pseudo science," said Ken Gerhard, 38. "I like to call it a frontier science."

A Houston-based cryptozoologist, Gerhard is researching a book that will focus on the Big Bird. He will speak about his research before the Brownsville Enlightenment Society at 7 p.m., Tuesday at Shoney's Restaurant. The meeting is free to the public.

While other zoologists might consider the existence of such a large unknown species impossible, Gerhard and others keep an open mind.

"We pretend like we know but really we don't," he said. "I remain open-minded on the subject."

The Big Bird has been compared to local owl-witch legends, but Gerhard said many real creatures began as myths.

"A lot of animals discovered in the last century were original folklore animals," he said, adding this was true of the gorilla. "They were giant hairy wild men and back in the late 1800s were considered to be folklore. ... It made the transformation from folklore into reality."

Gerhard said certain areas of wilderness remained unexplored by men, which obviously provided the potential to discover new species of animals.

"I can't say these animals are there, but I can say the potential is there," Gerhard said.

Aside from the Big Bird sightings in Brownsville in 1976, there were sightings in

after these cows, drives his beak in there, takes samples, then goes upstairs where maybe there is a UFO," he said. "It's so well made, nobody could tell it was a robot, but I don't know."

Gerhard has heard theories ranging from a giant owl to a giant bat, but he has his own ideas. "The other theory that I'm pursuing with my book is probably a little more out there," the cryptozoologist said. "That's the possibility of living pterosaurs."

Winged reptiles and contemporaries of the dinosaurs, pterosaurs are believed to have



ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID PLACE/THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD

"Cryptozoology is the search for animals that have not yet been verified by science," Gerhard said. "Most people are familiar with the marquee animals - Bigfoot, the Loch Ness monster and Big Bird. ... The less glam-

orous side would include a new species of beetle." In 2005 several new birds, plants and other species were discovered in the Foja Mountains of Papua, New Guinea. Scientists announced 27 new species earlier this

Robstown and Rio Grande City in 1975, Swinney Switch in the 1950s and San Benito in the 1940s. McAllen, Harlingen and Los Fresnos also claimed witnesses.

SIGHTINGS

San Benito in particular seemed a hotbed for Big Bird reports. Many residents of the La Paloma Colonia have heard of the creature they call the demon bird.

"As a child I heard it one Christmas eve, really Christmas day at 1 o'clock in the morning," said Cantu, now 50. "It made more and more noise so my grandfather went out and cursed it. ... It was a strange noise, like a couple of cats, like one voice mixed with another voice."

As a child in San Benito, Cantu had heard of the bird, but he was surprised by its size and that it showed no fear of guns or

dogs. The bird Cantu saw seemed to stand about 8 feet tall and was solid black, although parts of its body seemed to reflect more light. It was stood vertically with stooped shoulders.

"With the face I thought I was looking at a skeleton, but it was the eyes and nose (of a skull)," he said. "It did not flap its wings, it just glided." Alex Resendez, 66, saw the creature three times in the 1970s. Twice he caught fleeting glimpses of the beast over Brownsville, and the third time, he saw it in broad daylight near his rural McCook area home.

"I never seen a bird that big," he said. "He was brownish, like dirt. ... He does not have long legs and does not stand like other birds."

What struck him most were the bird's large eyes that shone like black glass, with red markings underneath. The beak was

something like this." Livsey believes Big Bird to be an actual bird, albeit one not known to modern man. The extinct Teratorn is believed to have wingspans over a dozen feet.

"This does have to be a monster or a giant flying reptile," he said. "I believe we're talking something terrestrial here. I do believe in UFOs, and I was a witness to a UFO event, but I do not believe this was some kind of extra-terrestrial."

Descriptions of Big Bird often follow the same pattern: it is dark in color, featherless or smoothly feathered, has a long thin beak or no beak at all, short legs and long tail. Farst took a pragmatic approach.

something like this." Livsey believes Big Bird to be an actual bird, albeit one not known to modern man. The extinct Teratorn is believed to have wingspans over a dozen feet.

"That would indicate that it would be something that we don't have in this world at this time," he said. "If I had to bet any of my hard earned money, I would be willing to bet odds of a 1,000-to-1 against there being a critter like this. ... I wish you'd prove me wrong. I'd love to see

year, discovered in California national park caves. Large creatures have also been revealed recently, with the first photographs of a live giant squid taken in 2004.

also peculiar.

"You have to look close because his beak is very transparent," Resendez said. "If you see it real fast, you're going to think he ain't got no beak."

In all, the brown bird seemed to stand over 4 feet tall. After being spooked by a charging bull, the bird spread its large wings and pushed off the ground with its feet.

"He was very swift, very nice, like a glider," Resendez said. "This bird, he never flaps his wings."

The wing underside was surprisingly colorful to Resendez, appearing with blue and white stripes. "It was the most beautiful thing I've ever seen."

THEORIES

Descriptions of Big Bird often follow the same pattern: it is dark in color, featherless or smoothly feathered, has a long thin beak or no beak at all, short legs and long tail. Farst took a pragmatic approach.

something like this."

Livsey believes Big Bird to be an actual bird, albeit one not known to modern man. The extinct Teratorn is believed to have wingspans over a dozen feet.

"This does have to be a monster or a giant flying reptile," he said. "I believe we're talking something terrestrial here. I do believe in UFOs, and I was a witness to a UFO event, but I do not believe this was some kind of extra-terrestrial."

kgarcia@brownsvilleherald.com

READER, Chicago, IL - May 19, 2006 CR: CUFOS



A photograph of what the Vielhaks believe to be a footprint

Funk's Grove, IL

Maybe He Likes Maple Syrup

A father and son are convinced that Bigfoot has come to central Illinois.

By Dave Hoekstra

When the folks in Bloomington-Normal want to step out in the country they go to Funk's Grove, a dense 1,200-acre valley of oak and maple trees about 15 miles south of the city on old Route 66. You could drive right past it if it weren't for the small sign on the side of the road advertising Funk's Grove Maple Syrup, which has been made in the area since 1824. Tom Vielhak, a

(continued on page 20)

58-year-old retired mechanic, and his 31-year-old son, Chris, make the trip often. Last October they were taking a walk along a trail near the Sugar Grove Nature Center when Tom saw something unusual.

"It started getting twilight," Tom says. "Something hairy was standing beside a tree like this, looking at me." His shoulders droop and his face falls, like someone standing in a police lineup. "It freaked me out. I'm six-one and it was about seven feet tall. It's got a raunchy, rancid meat smell. It had a deep growl. He backed up and disappeared."

In Funk's Grove people often see deer, coyote, and fox. But there are no bears, nor any other animal that might fit Tom's description.

"It's not a bear," Tom says. Chris shakes his head. "It's not a bear." "Ain't no bear around here. This thing has two legs and it is tall." "Very tall."

That's why he and Chris are convinced they saw a bigfoot.

Chris, who works as a security guard at a Bloomington mall, claims to have seen the creature several times since last summer. He even tried to photograph it in the woods in July. "After Chris took the picture," his father says, "the camera ceased to function." Chris's closest encounter came last August, while he was driving home from his former job as a security guard at the FBI building in Springfield. "I was going slow because I didn't want to hit any deer," he says. "But there were no deer around, which was kind of odd. Something hit the back of my car and pushed it down." He points to several long silver scratches near the trunk of his black 2002 Mustang. "There's the claw marks. I got out of there quick. I didn't stick around to find out what it was."

After that Chris started doing research, and came across a Web site for an organization out of Menlo Park, California, called Searching for Bigfoot, run by entertainment producer Tom Biscardi. When he isn't busy tracking Sasquatch, the 57-year-old Biscardi runs Celebrity Images, a stable of R & B and doo-wop tribute acts—including faux versions of the Supremes, the Marvelettes, the Chilites, the Drifters—that tour in revue shows around the country. Biscardi first became interested in bigfoot in 1967, after he saw Roger Patterson's famous eight-millimeter footage of the beast near Bluff Creek, California, on *The Tonight Show*. He wondered, as the years passed, "How the hell can we send a man to the moon, but we can't find this creature?"

Biscardi started leading bigfoot expeditions in the early 70s, and today he makes up to ten trips a year—funded in part by his music-biz revenue—to hot spots in northern California, Montana, and Texas. Following up on tips from the Vielhaks, he came to Funk's Grove in mid-February as part of a four-man posse with infrared and trip cameras outfitted with night-vision scopes and thermal imagers. The group spent three days in the woods, but aside from a few fuzzy photographs, they came out empty-handed. In his diary, Biscardi concluded that "although we were not successful in finding any physical signs of the creature during our short stay, we do feel the area is capable of supporting a large primate and we would like to do more intensive searching in the near future."

Although he says there are over 3,500 bigfoots in the U.S., Biscardi has seen only five, the most recent one in northern California over a year ago. "There's a migrational path that these creatures take in the spring and fall each year: north to south, south to north," he says, adding that the one



Chris and Tom Vielhak, what the neighbors think of their quest, and Debby Funk of Funk's Grove Maple Syrup.

the Vielhaks saw was probably en route from Minnesota or Michigan. "When these things move, they go quicker than hell. Where it would take us all day to go five miles, these things would move five miles in minutes. They have a stride of anywhere from 52 to 78 inches. They're primarily nocturnal. They feel secure in caves, caverns, abandoned mines and such. There are culverts in Funk's Grove where these creatures could be hiding. There are downed large trees where they could have found shelter."

The Vielhaks can point to physical evidence in the woods they say verifies their story, including a twisted tree branch with what they say are claw marks and muddy, torn-up sections of the trail. But according to Illinois Department of Natural Resources spokesman Chris

McCloud, the state has yet to dispatch anyone to Funk's Grove to investigate, and nearby residents haven't reported other sightings.

Debby Funk, who's lived in the area for 31 years and operates the maple syrup business with her husband, Mike, a fifth-generation Funk, says if there's a creature out there, it's never caused them any trouble. "We've never seen anything here," she says. "The only problem we've had is squirrels chewing on our tubing." Marlene Leesman has been a clerk at the Dixie Truck Stop in McLean, about five miles south of Funk's Grove, since 1960. "People are skeptical," she says. "I've never heard of anything like this, and I've lived here all my life." One family stuck a sign in their front yard that reads, HEY LOOK! GENUINE SASQUATCH DROPPINGS. \$3 EACH, 2 FOR \$5.

The Vielhaks say not all their neighbors are so skeptical, but none has publicly supported them. "After it came out in the local paper, a woman called me and said she was walking on a trail and saw him looking at her," Tom says. "She said, 'I know you're not crazy, because I saw it too.' But she wanted to remain anonymous." Another local family privately told Chris they'd seen a baby bigfoot while hunting for mushrooms near the grove. "People have been making fun of us and saying we're nuts," Chris says, but the family is sticking together. His mother, Cathy, who's been married to Tom for 35 years, says the markings on Chris's car are proof enough for her. "I believe there's something down there," she says, "but I don't want to see what it is. It's all kind of spooky to me." ■

CITIZEN-TIMES, Asheville, NC - Feb. 19, 2006 CR: J. Fisher

Rocks found in our country could tell story of Americas

I know Columbus discovered America. Didn't he? That's what I was taught in elementary and high schools. In college, new names came into contention for the honor. Leif Ericson, the Norseman, was mentioned by professors, but he apparently has no more claim to the discovery than Columbus.

Columbus was credited with finding America first in 1492, but there is a theory that Ericson explored the northern tier of the United States as early as A.D. 1000.

Which is correct in being first? Likely neither.

Evidence has been offered that America was populated by Europeans, Asians and Africans as early as 800 B.C.

Years ago, Barry Fell, a Harvard professor and marine biologist, became intrigued with obscure languages and writing systems, and learned to decipher them.

In America's recent past, thousands of inscribed stones have been dug or plowed out of



BOB TERRELL
Columnist

the ground by farmers and others, who were mystified by the inscriptions, which no one seemed able to decipher, so far want of a better explanation, they were classified as Indian hieroglyphics.

For eight years, Fell studied such stones and the languages they contained, and finally was able to break the codes and began reading them.

Fell found evidence that led him to believe that Egyptians, Carthaginians, Libyans, Phoenicians, Iberian Celts and others populated America eight centuries before the birth of Christ.

Other scientists will try to blow your mind and tell you those we know today as American Indians migrated from Europe and Asia, and perhaps

Thousands of inscribed stones have been dug or plowed out of the ground by farmers and others, who were mystified by the inscriptions, which no one seemed able to decipher, so ... they were classified as Indian hieroglyphics.

Africa, 35,000 years ago over the great Siberian land bridge.

I thought of the Judaculla Rock near East Laport above Cullowhee, which contains ancient writings that no one has ever been able to read. Some of the writings on the Judaculla Rock resemble Arabic, and others appear to be Oriental.

Fell had heard of the Judaculla Stone, as he called it, but had never tried to read it.

"There is much evidence," he said, "of Arabic voyages and settlers here down to Columbus'

time. A majority of inscriptions on ancient American stones are in the form of Arabic. Unfortunately, they date to a period of Arabic history that we don't know much about."

The implications of Fell's work are astounding. What he did may one day open the possibility of a complete revision of early American history.

Think of the Incan pyramids. Their origin is unexplained, but there is a great resemblance between them and the Step pyramids at Memphis and Sakkara in Egypt.

It is possible that one day the work done by Fell and others of his ilk will establish a decisive link between ancient Egypt and America, Latin America and upper South America.

I do not know if Fell is still alive, but other modern professors are who view our past with open eyes. In the barns and old outbuildings on many mountain farms may lie forgotten stones containing hieroglyphics that were dug out of the ground in the past.

Such stones should be reported to the nearest university and perhaps somewhere in there our links with the past may be opened.

Contact Terrell at b_terrell@bellsouth.net.