

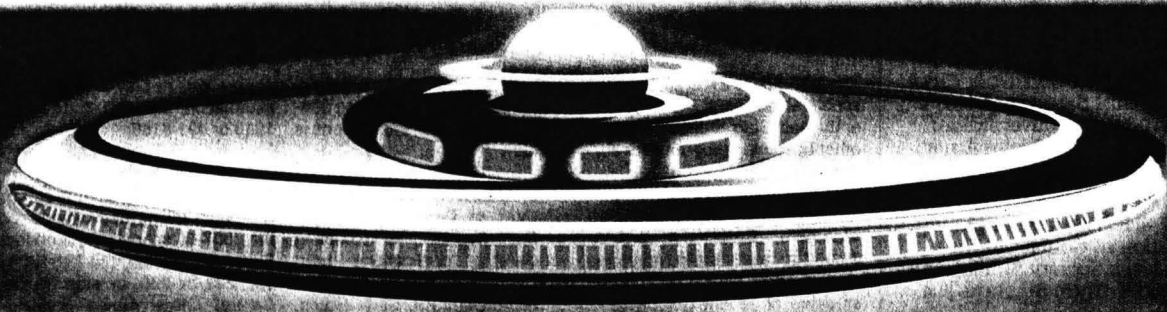
UFO

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strange Sightings in Weeksville

STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY JUSTIN FALLS

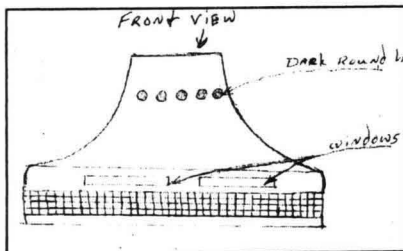
Ex-resident claims to have seen ship, crew near home

Florida man was 12 when starship visited

By **BOB MONTGOMERY**
Staff Writer

To the 12-year-old Weeksville boy, it would be a sight he would never forget.

There in the evening sky, a spacecraft, looking like an upside down paper cup, was hovering over a neighbor's house. The craft wobbled slightly each time that it belched sparks and it was blasting heat powerful enough to scorch the grass on the ground.



DRAWING COURTESY
JIM SUTTON

This drawing by a Florida man is of the spaceship he claims to have seen in Weeksville in 1951.

And then, just as he was getting used to the sight, the youngster said he saw small, living beings emerge from a door on the craft. They tinkered with the craft a short while, and then after returning inside, the spaceship rose and hurtled off into the eve-

ning sky.

UFO investigator Jim Sutton Sr. says the youngster who claims he witnessed that unidentified flying object in 1951 is now 66 years old and living in Florida. The man wants to know if anyone else

who witnessed the UFO sighting over Weeksville is still alive and has enlisted Sutton to help him find out.

Sutton, state director of the Eastern Carolina Mutual UFO Network, says the man — who has requested anonymity — isn't sure of the exact location where he saw the UFO. But the man mentioned "Pritchett town road," and believes it was "close to the Elizabeth City town line," Sutton said.

There is no Pritchett Road in Pasquotank County. There is a Pritchard Street, but it's in the city limits.

The man also says his family lived in a house owned by a

"Mrs. Outlaw," who apparently was a substantial property owner. Pasquotank tax office officials say they have no record, however, of any Outlaws still owning large tracts of property near Weeksville.

In the written account of the sighting he provided Sutton, the former Weeksville resident says the evening he saw the UFO started out just like most others.

"After eating dinner, my mother told me I could go outside and play, but be home before dark. So I walked up the road towards Mrs. Outlaw's house on the corner of the road," the account states. "I

only got as far as the empty field between our house and hers when I heard sounds. I could hear a humming noise and then spitting noises, like touching two live electric wires together.

"As soon as I turned to the direction of the sound, I saw sparks shooting out of the side of this strange-looking thing in the sky. The bottom of it was shaped kind of like a layer cake with a bulky shape on top of it, sort of like an upside down tapered paper cup."

The man said the object had several square windows or holes, appeared to be "yellow with a very slight tinge of rusty orange color," and that "each time the UFO would turn, it would rise slightly then shoot sparks out of one of those square holes on the side and wobble badly."

The object remained in the sky above a nearby house for several minutes, he said, emitting an intense heat.

A crowd gathered to watch, and as it became dark the object became illuminated, the man said.

In front of a throng of onlookers, the man said, a group of small beings exited a door on the side of the object. They didn't look like any human beings the man had ever seen.

When they finished working on the craft, they got back in the UFO and it rose upward into the sky, the man said. The spaceship then "seemed to accelerate faster and faster."

"It was only a few seconds before it became a small light dot that disappeared," the man told Sutton.

Two U.S. Air Force investigators visited the next day to interview eyewitnesses, the man said. But for some reason, they didn't want to talk to him.

"I told the Air Force man I saw it," the man says in this account to Sutton. "And he said, 'I don't take statements from kids.' Then he walked up the road."

The man said the Air Force representative also told him the military didn't plan to take the eyewitnesses' reports seriously.

The man told Sutton that the family that lived in the house beneath where the UFO hovered was later moved out by the federal government. He also claims that vegetation around the property turned brown and died, apparently from the heat of the spacecraft.

After the family moved out, the house was "always guarded by two men in black suits wearing a black fedora hat," the man said in his written account.

(Contact Montgomery at
bmontgomery@coxnc.com)

UFO researcher seeks witnesses to '51 sighting

Sutton heads UFO group in Newport

By **BOB MONTGOMERY**
Staff Writer

Do you recall seeing something strange in the skies over Weeksville one evening in 1951?

If so, Jim Sutton Sr. wants to talk to you.

Sutton, a Newport-based researcher of unidentified flying objects, is trying to locate anyone who may have seen a strange object flying over the Weeksville area more than a half-century

ago.

Sutton, the state director of the Eastern Carolina Mutual UFO Network, said he's researching the Weeksville sighting at the request of an elderly Florida man who was living in the Pasquotank County community at the time and saw not just a UFO shaped like an "upside down tapered paper cup," but also a crew of "small men" who exited the craft,



Sutton

apparently to work on it.

The man, who was 12 at the time, tried to tell local authorities what he saw, but they wouldn't listen to him, Sutton claims.

"He came across our Web site and wrote me with the whole story," Sutton said.

Sutton said the 66-year-old Florida man prefers to remain anonymous but has "such good detail and memory of everything" of what he saw that day in 1951 that "it's unbelievable."

"He just wants to have some closure," Sutton said. "He's sick with prostate cancer and wanted resolution to what he saw."

Sutton said he's contacted the U.S. Air Force, which he claims investigated the Weeksville UFO sighting in the days after it happened, as well as the National Archives. But so far, no one's been able to tell him anything about it.

Although he grew up in Williamston, in Martin County, Sutton isn't familiar with Weeksville. To get some help tracking down other potential witnesses of the UFO, Sutton placed an ad in The Daily Advance and contacted local officials.

Vivian White, assistant city clerk, said she received Sutton's e-mail last week and contacted the Pasquotank-Camden Library as well as Museum of the Albemarle. Neither could find any published reports of any local UFO sightings in 1951, she said.

Pasquotank County Commissioner Bill Trueblood, a lifelong resident of Weeksville who was in second grade in 1951, said he's never heard of the sighting.

Even so, Sutton remains hopeful that someone will come forward to confirm the Florida man's account. He said UFO sightings are relatively common, although it has taken many years for eye-witnesses to feel comfortable coming forward.

"Last month there were 546 (sightings) worldwide and 143 in the U.S.," he said. "Of those, there were 20 landings and 12 entities seen."

A nationwide database, the National UFO Reporting Center in Davenport, Wash., collects information on thousands of UFO sightings from around the country. It includes reports from eastern North Carolina, including one by someone in Elizabeth City who, on Jan. 15, 2005, saw "what seemed to be a shooting star" that turned into a disk that hovered in the sky for a while.

Another local sighting occurred in Gatesville on Nov. 15, 2004. According to the UFO Reporting Center, the sighting lasted five seconds. The observer saw a "smooth circle of silvery craft (that) disappeared into larger invisible apparently 'cloaked' craft."

Sutton said his Newport-based group meets monthly, and has more than 30 members. Many are trained in parapsychology — the scientific study of certain types of paranormal phenomena. They use scientific methods to investigate and write reports about sightings, he said.

Like many UFO enthusiasts, Sutton believes the U.S. government knows a lot more about beings from outer space than it admits.

"Will they ever tell anybody? Maybe, sooner or later. But it's starting to come out now in bits and pieces," he said.

OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC - March 24, 2007 CR: G. Fawcett

ARIZONA

Former governor admits he saw UFO

He originally ridiculed mania surrounding lights seen over Phoenix

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Former Arizona Gov. Fife Symington trotted out an aide dressed as an alien 10 years ago to spoof the frenzy surrounding mysterious lights in the Phoenix sky. Now he says he saw the lights himself and believed from the start that they were extraterrestrial.



Symington

Now a pastry chef and business consultant, Symington said he didn't acknowledge his own encounter at first because he didn't want people to panic.

Symington, who faced fraud charges at the time, also said he didn't need the additional problems such an admission would have created.

Symington discussed the sighting with a UFO investigator making a documentary, and in interviews this week.

"I'm a pilot and I know just about every machine that flies," Symington, a former Air Force captain, told the Arizona Daily Star on Thursday. "It was bigger than anything that I've ever seen. It remains a great mystery."

Symington said he initially told no one but his wife that he had seen the lights on March 13, 1997.

Later that year, Symington was convicted of bank fraud charges. The conviction was overturned, and he was pardoned by President Clinton in 2001.

The Phoenix lights, which appeared in a V shape, were widely explained as flares dumped by a military training flight.

Tucson astronomer and retired Air Force pilot James McGaha said he investigated two sightings over Phoenix that March night and traced both to A-10 aircraft flying in formation at high altitude.

McGaha said Symington "is not a trained observer and what he feels in his gut doesn't make any difference."

SWEET TEA



JAY GRELEN

UFO tales found ears at confab

EUREKA SPRINGS — Joe Lewels is this close to telling us that in a previous life, he trained Jesus Christ for His mission.

Mr. Lewels, a hypnotherapist, has hypnotized the audience of UFOlogists (pronounced yew-follow-gists) with his speech. He has led his 500 listeners (at \$45 a pop) to the desert at the edge of the Dead Sea.

He first went to this place during regression therapy, during which he learned that once upon a time in eternity, he had been at the site where a sect of Jews kept the Dead Sea Scrolls and where they brought young Jewish boys for training.

Though he never said this outright, Mr. Lewels led us to think that he was a member of this band of Jews, known as the Essenes.

And he came within a breath of saying that he taught the young Messiah.

Mr. Lewels was one of nine speakers from the UFO celebrity circuit who spoke at the 19th Annual Ozark UFO Conference.

This is the largest turnout ever, says Beverly Wilkinson, whose metaphysics club sponsored the first unofficial gathering 20 years ago.

The True Believers here, suspecting all sorts of government dirty tricks to suppress talk of UFOs, posted this notice at their front door: "All government agents MUST register at front desk AND MUST wear name tags at all times. NO EXCEPTIONS."

They know that some people make fun of them, but that comes with the mission, says Jim Sparks, who claims that "reptilians" from space have abducted him many times since 1988.

Turns out that these ETs are intergalactic tree huggers who have commissioned him to sound the alarm that humans are ruining the planet.

Every time they abduct him, he says, the reptilians extract cells from him to use in the creation of hybrid creatures. He has met a female creature, he says, younger than 12, who is half him and half extraterrestrial.

"As a result of his encounters," the International UFO Congress says of Mr. Sparks, "he gained psychic and telepathic abilities He has clear memories of alien

Aztec prepares for invasion

UFO symposium next weekend

— By Lindsay Whitehurst —
The Daily Times

AZTEC — UFOs are not typical dinner table conversation for most couples. Scott and Suzanne Ramsey are not most couples.

"He's working on a book, so it is (something we talk about) more," Suzanne Ramsey said. "It's an ongoing pursuit."

Her husband, Scott Ramsey, has spent 20 years researching the alleged UFO crash site in Aztec. He's attended the UFO Symposium in Aztec almost every year, and spoken there a few times.

Next weekend's symposium, held March 23-25, will be the 10th for the annual event. Held at the Aztec Boys and Girls Club, the symposium will start

with a dinner on Friday and follow with lectures on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$25; military, EMT and police get in free. For more information, call (505) 334-7657 or visit aztecufo.com

It was Scott Ramsey who convinced Dennis Balthaser, a speaker this year and every other since the symposium began, that something did happen in Aztec.

"I had some reservations about Aztec for many years, but ... it really looks like something did happen in 1948," he said.

A UFO research concentrating on Roswell, Area 51, underground bases and the great pyramids of Giza (though he doesn't necessarily think aliens

built the pyramids, they may have provided the technology), Balthaser will speak on "Roswell: Then and Now."

There are some similarities between the two incidents: Both the Roswell and Aztec crashes were reported to have bodies and both were in New Mexico. But the overarching theme, Balthaser, is the biggest similarity.

"It's all part of the UFO program the government has, in not revealing any information they have and lying about it," he said.

For the Ramseys, the aliens were what brought them together, so to speak. Originally from Farmington, Suzanne got interested in the symposium when, about seven years ago, she interviewed several speakers for her radio show.

She was impressed by "the caliber of speakers they were having — highly educated, articulate, knowledgeable people that had done some really good research," she said. "I was really taken by that."

She got involved on the organizational end of things and eventually met Scott. She had helped put him up to be raffled off as a date for a fundraiser, only to see her own name drawn.

But when she looked at the winning ticket, her name was misspelled. Family and friends had purchased 60 tickets in addition to the five she paid for to ensure she'd end up as his date.

Though the Ramsey's won't be attending this year (they've since moved to North Carolina), their scientific approach to the extraterrestrial subject is what the symposium is all about, organizers say.

"Mainstream researchers deal with fact," said Katee McClure, who is organizing the symposium.

A fund-raising event for the Aztec Library, the symposium is based on an alleged UFO crash in Aztec's Hart Canyon in 1948. In the crash, one of four in the New Mexico area, 16 charred "humanoid" bodies were said to have been found inside a saucer.

"I think (the Aztec crash) has been shrouded in mystery since the beginning," Scott said.

Several agencies, including the FBI, Air Force and CIA, kept files on the case, he said, referring to hundreds of pages of government documents he said he's obtained.

"If the event was written off as a hoax, why were all those government agencies keeping open files on it?" he said.

Eight speakers will appear at the symposium this year, from Farah Yurdozu, a Turkish journalist and medium who covers abductions and close encounters, to Wendelle Stevens, a retired U.S. Air Force officer worked on a documentary about military personnel who say they helped clean up UFO crash sites.

There will also be tours of the crash site and other activities

The overall theme is thoughtful consideration.

"I don't think everything that people see is a UFO," Suzanne Ramsey said. "I think sometimes people get caught up in the fact that it's everything or nothing; it's very polarized. (I think) life is more middle of the road than that."

technology that include time travel and the distortion of time, invisibility ... and [about] what we must do if we want to join the galactic neighborhood."

Terry Hansen was one of the experts on government propaganda and suppression of news. He titled his Friday afternoon talk: "UFOs and the Death of American Journalism."

One of the biggest enemies of the truth about UFOs, he says, is the *National Enquirer*, which is famous for printing lots of stories about alien abductions and UFOs.

The stories generally are factual, he says, but because the *Enquirer* prints so many other obviously ridiculous stories, the paper has made UFOs a laughingstock as well.

And that's not an accident, he says, noting that the late owner, Gene Pope Jr., worked for the CIA before starting his career as a newspaper owner.

The major news outlets, under orders from the government, suppressed the UFO news, according to Mr. Hansen, and Mr. Pope did his part, under orders, by printing all of it.

Since Mr. Lewels left us hanging about whether he knew Jesus, I waited in his book-signing line Saturday to ask.

He just smiled mysteriously and said: "You'll have to read the book."

Contact Jay Grelen at (501) 378-3858 or at sweettea@ardemgazz.com.

Believe in UFOs? He does

Something really out there, Weld man says

It began, he'll tell you, about 50 years ago in the early 1950s when he saw the object in the sky.

He was the only one, as far as Clifford Clift knows, who saw the light moving silently across the eastern Colorado sky that night when he was about 12 years old.

But from that day, Clift was convinced. There was something out there.

He was too busy at work for 35 years, running Clift Realty, being a broker and developer. But then, when Clift retired, it was time to think again about that night and the UFO above his home near Brush.

He began gathering information — government documents, eyewitness accounts, Project Blue Book. The Incident at Roswell. The night skies over Washington, D.C.



Mike Peters
The Tribune

« FOR MORE GO TO PAGE

A3: Weld's sightings

Now Clifford Clift is a believer. "I know some people think we're crazy," he told friends at a meeting this week, "but I believe the UFOs exist, they are manufactured objects and they are not of this Earth."

Some would put Clift and other members of MUFON — Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network — in a group of other "crazies" that follow the UFO reports, but those people could be badly mistaken.

Clift is the state director of MUFON, a network that has members in 25 states. They discredit the hoaxes and confirm the truths of UFOs.

At the local MUFON meeting Thursday night, Clift gave a history lesson of sorts, tracing UFOs from World War II to the sighting at O'Hare Airport in Chicago last November.

He spoke of reports of UFOs by airline pilots, military experts, politicians, scientists, astronauts and astronomers. He spoke of unexplained aerial events, of the crashes and military cover-up at Roswell, and of 1952 — the big year of UFOs.

He also spoke of his beliefs. Active in his church, Clift said he can easily fit his Christian faith with his belief in UFOs. "The Bible says God created the heavens and the Earth. It's pretty egotistical of us to believe that in the entire universe, we're the only life that God created," he said.

Clift will continue to study, to investigate, to believe. He knows some don't, and some never will. But he also believes that one day people will know.

The truth is out there...

Phenomena in Weld

« FOR MORE

For information about MUFON (Mutual UFO Network), call Clifford Clift at (970)302-9118. To report a UFO sighting, call (303) 451-5992.

Veterinarians at Colorado State University said the wounds were caused by coyotes or other predators. Some say the mutilations continue, but ranchers stopped reporting them because they weren't taken seriously.

« **EARLY 1970S**, a family living in the Hillside area of south Greeley began watching the silent, moving lights over their house for several nights. At one point, neighbors and the family sat atop their houses to watch the lights. They never found an explanation.

« **1991**: Residents in northern Weld County — Pierce, Nunn and Ault — reported a bright blue light in the sky that lit up the entire area around the plains. Officials said it could have been a meteor, but the blue light was unlike other meteor sightings.

« **1999**: North of Greeley and south of Eaton, six people reported seeing a bright green light fill the sky, between 8:30 and 9 p.m. Again, some said it was a meteor.

« **JUNE 22, 1993**: A northern Weld County rancher found one of her horses, named "Supercharger," dead in a field not far from the ranch house. The horse appeared to have smooth cutting marks on the head, with one eye and ear removed. There were cuts around the jaw, and the tongue was removed. The rancher was angry when told by CSU veterinarians that it was caused by coyotes and birds. "Coyotes with scalpels," the rancher remarked sarcastically.

Source: Staff reports

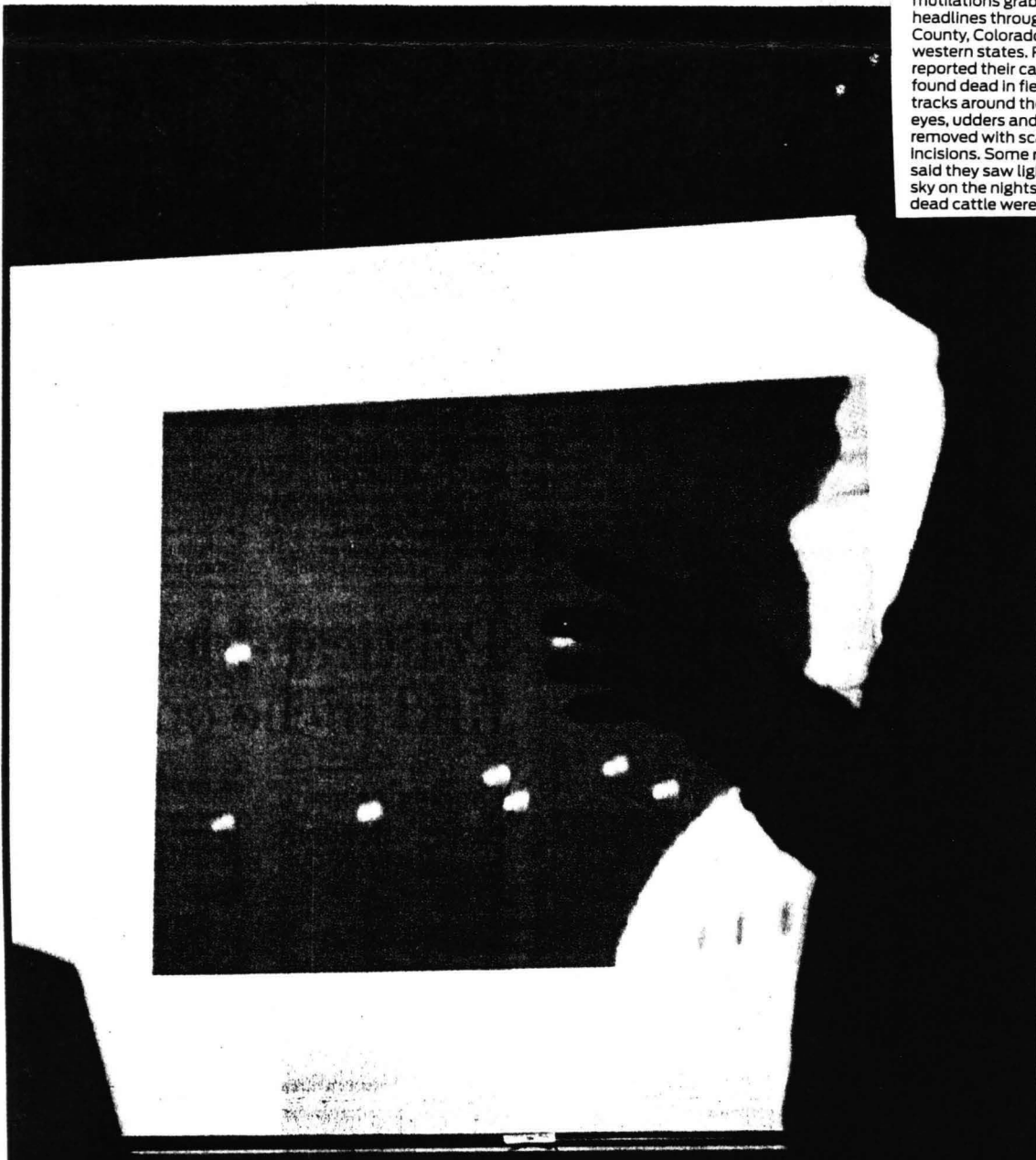
« **JULY 7, 1947**: A Greeley man working on a hay grinder north of Lucerne said he saw three flying saucers at 10 a.m. They were traveling at a high speed to the southwest. The next day, the most famous of all UFO incidents was announced — the reputed crash of flying saucers in Roswell, N.M.

« **ON AUG. 25, 1949**, a 12-year-old girl who lived northeast of Greeley reported a "flying disk" over her house in the early evening. She said it was flying far above a small plane. About the same time, some men were flying their small plane in the area, but the girl insisted what she saw was a disk above the plane.

« **IN 1952**, although the exact date is unknown, a Weld County farmer reported he saw five "flying saucers" pass over his farm north of Greeley about 6 p.m. He said he also saw five fighter jets come through the area, possibly searching for the flying saucers, but the "speed of the saucers was immensely greater than the jets." The Tribune story also stated "Women folks were frightened by the terrible noise."

« **ALSO IN 1952**, people reported a small flying disk was found in the 800 block of 5th Street in downtown Greeley. It was smoking when found, and a neighborhood boy later admitted to making the disk out of a phonograph record, wire and a burning fuse.

« **THROUGHOUT THE 1970S AND INTO THE '80S**, cattle mutilations grabbed headlines throughout Weld County, Colorado and other western states. Ranchers reported their cattle were found dead in fields, no tracks around them, their eyes, udders and anal parts removed with scalpel-like incisions. Some ranchers said they saw lights in the sky on the nights before the dead cattle were found.



Staff writer Mike Peters' column about Weld County people appears Mondays in the Tribune. His humor column, the Gnarly Trombone, appears Saturdays.

TRIBUNE, Greeley, CO - March 12, 20

RIZA FALK/rfalk@greeleytribune.com

DURING A MUTUAL UFO NETWORK (MUFON) meeting at Western Sizzlin' Steakhouse in Evans, Clifford Clift shows a slide of unidentified objects flying around the nation's capitol in 1952. Clift said he has been interested in UFOs since he was 12 years old, although he only started researching them 10 years ago after retiring.

SWEET TEA



JAY GRELEN

It started with UFO photograph

EUREKA SPRINGS — Bob Reid wrote only one chapter of the *Gulf Breeze Sightings*, but he knows all about the assault of spaceships on that village near Pensacola, Fla.

"It's all true! No question about it," Bob wrote when I asked him to autograph his chapter in the book, which is by a guy named Ed Walters, who started it all in 1987.

Bob and his wife were among the vendors selling books, magazines, jewelry, T-shirts and bumper stickers at the 19th Annual Ozark UFO Conference in this city in the hills.

More than 500 people paid at least \$45 apiece to hear nine speakers repeat the tailbone-numbing history of UFOs, government suppression of news about UFOs, news of research into UFOs, news of crop circles, and testimonials from humans who claim aliens abducted them.

Lou Farish, the man from Plumerville who has been organizing this convention for its entire history, estimates that 80 percent or more of those attending have seen a UFO or have been abducted by space aliens.

The tale of the Gulf Breeze UFOs was of particular interest to me because a friend of mine wrote about the UFOs when he worked for the *Pensacola News-Journal*.

He has written a book, *War of the Words*, which you can find on the Internet.

The Gulf Breeze visitations are still fresh on the minds and dear to the hearts of UFOlogists.

Bob Reid had two first-edition copies of Ed's book, published in 1990 and for which William Morrow and Company paid him a reported \$200,000 advance.

The story began with a UFO picture Ed Walters took with a Polaroid camera and delivered to the *Gulf Breeze Sentinel*, which at first only identified him as Mr. X.

Before it was over (and for some, it's still not), Ed and his UFOs put Gulf Breeze on the "intergalactic tourist maps," according to the city's Internet site. (That's the only mention of the UFOs; not everybody in Gulf Breeze was thrilled with the fame.)

Craig was following the win-win story. Prove the



PHOTO: NOAH LeCLAIRE-CONWAY

Dave Carbone points to the sky to indicate where he saw the strange lights in his Sand Hill Cove neighborhood on Valentine's Day.

Odd lights traverse sky

Dog cowers, child frightened by 'UFO' display over ocean

By TRAVIS ROBERTS

NARRAGANSETT — Seen any lights lately? Strange lights over the ocean?

up stories," said the former Cranston resident.

Furthermore, the power went out, and Carbone noticed that his dog Dookie, a lab-corgi mix, started acting strangely.

"The dog has its own room in the sun room. All of a sudden she started cowering, moaning and groaning, and she wouldn't leave us alone."

When Carbone's 16-year-old son looked outside during the commotion, he saw the strange red lights in the sky.

"There were three red glowing lights. One of them was moving straight, one of them was moving backwards and the other sideways."

Carbone and his son watched the lights for about 15 minutes. They were initially out over the ocean, and then Carbone said they flew over Sand Hill Cove Road towards

Dave Carbone of Sand Hill Cove has, and he's wondering if anyone can shed some light on the phenomenon.

Carbone told *The Times* Monday that on the night of Feb. 14 — Valentine's Day — "the power went out on my street, and my son said he saw strange lights over the ocean. They were red and moving around in the sky in all different directions.

the area of Oak Avenue. Eventually the lights dissipated; however, that was not the end of the spectacle.

"After the red lights went away, I saw what looked like two stars fly together and connect, then they separated and flew away."

Once the lights had left the area, Carbone's dog finally calmed down again.

Hoping that he wasn't the only person who witnessed the event, Carbone went next door to his college student neighbors' house the next day to ask them if they had seen anything.

"The kids in the house said they didn't see it because they weren't looking outside that night. But one of their roommates who works at Leo's pizza said that he saw lights as well."

Hoping to find out about the strange power outage,

They weren't moving like planes," he added.

Carbone has lived full-time for 13 years on Sand Hill Cove Road, and part-time prior to that. But he's never seen anything like this.

"I didn't believe in this stuff. It's the first time I've ever seen anything like it. I'm 47 years old; I don't go around making

Carbone said he called the electric company to ask what happened.

"They confirmed that the power had gone out on the street and in a few other areas on that night, but I didn't inquire about what exactly happened."

Whatever those lights were, Carbone said that his son is scared to death of the area now and is staying at his mother's house.

Despite the fact that many people would want to broadcast the fact that they had seen such strange things in the sky, Carbone said that his reason for calling the paper wasn't to get a story.

"I just called up to try and find out if anyone else had reported seeing anything."

Anyone who did see anything is invited to call Rita Crook at 789-1081, ext. 10.

UFOs exist, great story. Prove a hoax, ditto.

Among the things Craig learned about Ed, who served time in prison as a young man, was that Ed loved pranks.

A few weeks before a national UFO convention was to open in Pensacola, Craig visited a house where Ed had lived during this period. The new owners showed him a model of a UFO — built of styrene plastic plates — they

had found in the attic. The body of the model was built with drafting paper on which Ed's handwriting was easy to see.

He also interviewed a teenager who said he had helped Ed make photographs of the UFO.

Easy to explain, says Bob Reid. Someone planted that model after stealing the materials for it from Ed's trash.

"He had moved out of

that house because it was poltergeist-ridden," Bob says. "The newspaper guy had been primed to go there and ask the questions. There was a big effort to discredit the case. That's one of the best confirmations that it was real ... for anybody to go to that kind of trouble to discredit it."

Craig, well, Craig just laughs.

UFOs in the South Suburbs?

By Michael Drakulich, The Star

South suburban residents got one of their first glimpses of footage shot from reported UFO sightings in Tinley Park in 2004.

The presentation was made by the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network and its new state director, Sam Maranto, Feb. 24 at the Orland Park Public Library.

Attendees saw footage of what witnesses saw Aug. 21, 2004; Oct. 31, 2004 and Sept. 30, 2005.

In each of the video excerpts, three lights in a triangular pattern can be seen that seem to be hovering in the night sky.

The lights remain equidistant from each other even when the three objects seem to rotate on an unknown axis.

Maranto says the footage is significant, and so far he's encouraged by the witness testimony and the evidence he has compiled.

And with about 50 people in attendance for Maranto's presentation Saturday, he says he was encouraged by the turnout.

Maranto says that on those three dates there were mass sightings of UFOs in the South Suburbs, many concentrated in the Tinley and Orland area.

Dozens of witnesses reported seeing the three lights and filed reports with the National UFO Reporting Center.

Maranto, whose organization investigates sightings, says he has interviewed hundreds of the witnesses.

"This is a common description of sightings around the world," he says of the three-light pattern last week.

In fact, similar sightings were reported in Texas on the same dates, according to the national reporting Web site.

Despite his presentation



Photos by Matt Marton/The Star

Sam Maranto talks about the possibility of UFO sightings in the South Suburbs during a meeting of the Mutual UFO Network at the Orland Park Library.

"The believers or the UFO buffs are the ones who look desperately to validate what isn't there. That is not me."

Sam Maranto, state director of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network

being relatively well attended, Maranto says he knows UFO cynics are in abundance.

And he says they have a tendency of latching onto the few accounts that refute what many more report seeing.

While he is passionate about the subject, don't call Maranto a believer.

"When someone is a believer, then it takes on a religious aspect," he says.

Maranto says his organization is not out to prove alien life forms have visited Earth.

Instead, he and the other investigators for the network are out to disprove the explanations often given for UFO sightings.

And he has heard them all: flares, weather balloons, lights from the ground, military air-

craft. Light shown from the ground would pick up particulate matter in the air and show the beam, even with laser light, he says.

Flares make noise and have a smoke trail. And if launched from an airplane, they would descend at varying rates. An independent lab in Arizona confirmed this, Maranto says.

Yet, if any of those are plausible or irrefutable explanations, Maranto will be the first to tell you, he says.

"I want to seek the truth. If these were balloons, I would have told you that. I'm a skeptic, but I'm serious about this. I want to see what's there, and I want to take it on a case-by-case basis. I tell people to show me the proof. I want to see it



unfold before me and I want the truth.

"The believers or the UFO buffs are the ones who look desperately to validate what isn't there. That is not me," he says.

Maranto says his organization will be holding meetings about their investigations soon.

For more information, log onto www.illinoisufonetwork.com.

Michael Drakulich may be reached at mdrakulich@starnewspapers.com or (708) 802-8841.

"I want to seek the truth," Sam Maranto said at a meeting of the Mutual UFO Network, regarding the 2004 sightings. "If these were balloons, I would have told you that. I'm a skeptic, but I'm

serious about this. I want to see what's there, and I want to take it on a case-by-case basis. I tell people to show me the proof. I want to see it unfold before me and I want the truth.

HERALD, Durango, CO - March 25, 2007



ELI RUBEL/Herald

Zach Harrison of Durango talks with Joe Ward of Roswell, N.M., at Aztec's annual UFO Symposium on Saturday morning at the Aztec Boys & Girls Club. The 10th annual gathering concludes today.

UFO Symposium explores mysteries of unexplained

By Ted Holtean
Herald Staff Writer

AZTEC, N.M. - Only the truly uninitiated would come here to the 10th annual UFO Symposium expecting to see little green men or to even meet someone who believes in such things.

"These people are serious researchers - we're not a dog-and-pony show," said Katee McClure, the event planner for the symposium.

The UFO Symposium has become part of Aztec's identity since its inception in 1999 and is the largest fundraiser for the Aztec Public Library. McClure said this year will bring between 200 and 300 people throughout the weekend and raise more than \$6,000 for the library.

Aztec's place in paranormal lore was secured in March 1948 when witnesses reported hearing and

"These people are serious researchers - we're not a dog-and-pony show."
Katee McClure, UFO Symposium event planner

seeing a crash about 10 miles northeast of town in Hart Canyon. The story, as first published in 1950 by Frank Scully, maintains that the craft was a circular disk made of a foreign metal 100 feet in diameter, and inside were found the charred remains of 16 human-like bodies. A full recounting of the story is available at www.aztecufo.com.

Dennis Balthaser, who has attended and been a

The Hart Canyon crash, while a dominant topic at the symposium, is not the sole subject. Speakers covered a range of topics including abductions, ancient civilizations and their technologies, crashes, sightings and government cover-ups. While many debate if the origins of UFO mysteries are terrestrial or otherwise, most agree that official information is in short supply.

"I think cover-up has become a way of life in the U.S.," Balthaser said. "They cover up and lie about so many things, it will be hard for them to ever tell the truth. I think our only hope is to have deathbed confessions."

The UFO Symposium concludes today with a noon screening of Roy Forbes' film "Fallen Angels," which documents an incident in Kingman, Ariz., as well as the Aztec crash. The film will be followed by a panel discussion with many of the weekend's speakers.

Also speaking today is Christopher O'Brien, who gained national prominence for chronicling a series of unexplained sightings in Colorado's San Luis Valley in the 1990s.

speaker at all 10 symposia, believes there is little doubt that something happened, but reminds truth seekers that a UFO is in fact an unidentified object until it's identified.

"I'm one of the few researchers who won't say 'this is what happened,' but I will look at the possibility that it could have happened," Balthaser said. "At first I wasn't too sure about Aztec, but the more research that's being done, the more I believe something actually did happen here."

Balthaser believes the military recovered whatever crashed and took it to Wright Patterson Air

Force Base in Ohio where the bodies were kept in cold storage and the craft analyzed. He compares the Aztec incident to the more famous Roswell incident, which happened 10 months earlier in 1947.

"My theory on both Roswell and Aztec is that whatever crashed, we don't know what it was, we don't know where it was found, and we don't know how it operates. Witnesses said it wasn't ours (the United States) and it wasn't Russian. At that time in history, there's really no one else it could've been," Balthaser said.

McClure has been fascinated with the Aztec crash site since

she moved to the area in 1998 from Hollywood. After attending the first UFO Symposium in 1999, McClure purchased 10 acres of land in Hart Canyon near the Bureau of Land Management parcel on which the crash was alleged to have occurred. She now lives just more than a mile from the crash site.

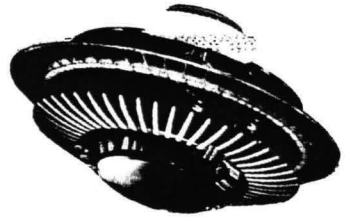
"You used to be able to see the broken and bent trees," McClure said. "And people found garbage buried 18 inches underground that was military rations. How can anyone say nothing happened here?"



[All British clippings courtesy of Timothy Good, unless otherwise credited.]

SUN, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - April 10, 2007 CR: G. Duplantier

Mulder would be proud



WINNIPEG (CP) — Aliens and spaceships are a bit passe these days, but 736 reported UFO sightings across Canada last year shows an "underlying, real phenomenon" going on, says one of the country's top UFO researchers.



According to 736 Canadians, UFOs are out there!

"It's true, we don't have as many aliens on TV as we used to — they used to be on commercials selling us everything from Pepsi to decongestants," says Chris Rutkowski, director of the

Winnipeg-based Ufology Research Institute. "And yet the phenomenon persists, which to me says there is a basic underlying, real phenomenon that extends beyond media and pop culture."

Rutkowski's annual Canadian UFO Survey last year

recorded the third-largest number of sightings in its 17-year history — down from a record of 882 sightings in 2004.

Ontario and B.C. had the highest number of recorded cases, but Saskatchewan posted an all-time record of

98 sightings. Barb Campbell, who lives in Paynton, Sask., says she saw a dark triangle larger than a helicopter hovering in the sky above Maidstone last year.

"It was just above the glare of the street light, so you couldn't quite make out the whole thing, but it had a very unusual, strobing, eerie kind of light in the middle," she

says. "It made absolutely no sound whatsoever — it was just really mind-boggling."

Rutkowski, who wrote a book last year on UFO sightings, is quick to point out that no incontrovertible proof exists that any of the UFO cases involve aliens. Most of the sightings are of strange lights in the sky, with close encounters being rare, he said.

EXPRESS & ECHO, Exeter, England - Feb. 10, 2007

History



There have been lots of sightings of alleged UFOs in Exeter and the surrounding area, some have even been captured on film. Unlike the obvious fake above some have taken a bit more explaining. Inset, a picture taken by Echo photographer John Ffoulkes in 1970 using a two-minute exposure. Unfortunately, the 'strange' lights in the sky (circled) turned out to be a plane which had put its landing lights on a bit early approaching Exeter airport

Spate of UFO sightings hit our headlines in the 1970s

BY BECKY MORAN

STRANGE glowing lights hovering over Exeter and the surrounding area were the subject of much speculation in the pages of the Express & Echo during the late 1970s.

Echo journalists and photographers were among those who witnessed the unidentified flying objects, thought by many to be flying saucers.

In November 1977, a Mrs Ruth Harris reported sighting a UFO at Higher Trey Mill Farm, Thorverton. She described it as "a large round object which seemed to be trembling and of pink-red colour. Its edges were glowing white and seemed to be sparkling."

Ruth and her husband, Stephen, had it in sight for about two minutes before it moved away to the south-east and disappeared below the horizon.

On the evening of Saturday November 12, an Echo reporter

claimed he had seen something strange in the sky.

He said: "It was a large, round white object, much brighter than any star and it appeared to be almost stationary for a while."

"When I looked at it through binoculars there appeared to be two objects close together. There was a thin shaft of light between the two of them and above the white object was a smaller one, shaped rather like a delta-wing aircraft but its edge was blurred with what seemed like reflected light."

The meteorological office at Exeter Airport said it was nothing to do with them.

Another report on November 17, 1977, said that two more strange objects had been seen in the sky by Mr Terry McNiffe. He was on the Stoke Canon to Killerton Road, when they appeared high in the sky over Rewe. One appeared to be flashing every 10 seconds.

On this occasion, an Exeter Uni-

versity scientist said that Mr McNiffe may have seen two satellites.

Sightings began again in earnest the following summer, with a Mrs Anne Priddis telling the Echo that she and her mother, Mrs Florence Williams, had seen an orange light in the sky appear from behind Debenhams and hover between two church spires, from her home on Higher Barley Mount.

Just two days later, a Mrs Gwen Greenaway was visiting a friend in Redhills, when with five other people at the house, she saw a white, star-like object hover above the city. She said it looked "like a star very much enlarged".

Less than a month later, a Mr David Montgomery contacted the Echo to say he had seen a bright, flashing light in the sky above his St Thomas home. "I am convinced it was a flying saucer," he said.

In August 1978, Echo photographer John Ffoulkes captured a UFO on film after seeing a mystery light

several times from his Exeter home.

He said: "The light was flashing and became brighter, when a second smaller light suddenly appeared above it and seemed to follow it."

"The larger light began to pulsate and hovered in one place for some time. It then descended and disappeared. The second light became bigger and remained in the sky before it too disappeared."

Further sightings were reported in the Echo throughout 1978 and 1979, leading to the formation of the Exeter UFO Club. Other city organisations were a little more sceptical. Exeter police said: "We get many reports of UFO sightings and quite frankly we treat them with suspicion. Many people mistake planes or stars for flying saucers."

This was almost definitely the case for John Ffoulkes — his UFO turned out to be a plane preparing to land at Exeter Airport.

DORSET & SOMERSET WESTERN GAZETTE, England - March 15, 2007

Langport

Correspondent Jill Clements

UFOs topic - The March meeting was well attended and we were pleased to welcome two visitors who had come along specifically to hear the speaker Alan Foster, a writer, researcher and lecturer on UFOs and crop formations. I think it would be fair to say that we were all mesmerised by his talk. I am sure that there were many sceptics among us who had to re-evaluate their views after hearing his spell-binding presentation. He spoke about the various sightings of UFOs witnessed by many people, including those from the military, high-level Government officials and scientists based around the world. Also, he understands that the Vatican acknowledges UFOs and extraterrestrials are real and interacting with the Earth. He mentioned one particular instance in New York of a woman and members of her family who had been taken into a space craft, apparently witnessed by many people, some of whom had drawn pictures of what they had seen. The slide presentation, showing a variety of very intricately-patterned crop formations, led you to believe that they could not all be made by humans as they go through a change in their cellular structure. This was a particularly thought-provoking presentation and one which left members engaged in debate during the welcome tea break. Mr Foster was warmly thanked by Olive Brockless.

GAZETTE, Whitby, England - March 2, 2007

Teenager's shock after 'UFO' spot

AN UNIDENTIFIED flying object was seen hovering over a field near Staithes on Monday night by a teenager returning home.

Steven Dye (18) who lives in Staithes, says he saw the phenomenon, silently shining close to where he was driving towards the village from Boulby at around 8pm.

He said: "I saw something floating in between Staithes and Hinderwell from where I was looking."

"It had about eight lights, red and orange coloured and it just stayed in the same place for about 10 or 20 seconds before fading away."

"It is the first time I have seen something like that."

"I told my mam and we went back down there later on but there was nothing there."

● IF anyone else saw something they can't explain call Whitby Gazette reporter Carl Gavaghan on (01947) 829907.

Close encounters of the French kind

Space agency puts all 100,000 of its secret documents on UFOs, other oddities on Web

By John Leicester
Associated Press

PARIS — The saucer-shaped object is said to have touched down in the south of France and then zoomed off. It left behind scorch marks and that age-old question: Are we alone?

This is just one of the cases from France's secret "X-Files" — about 100,000 documents on supposed UFOs and sightings of other unexplained phenomena that the French space agency is publishing on the Internet.

France is the first country to put its entire weird sightings archive online, said Jacques Patenet, who heads the space agency's UFO cell, the Group for Study and Information on Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena.

Its oldest recorded sighting dates from 1937, Patenet said in an interview Friday. The first batch of archives went up on the agency's Web site this week, drawing a huge wave of traffic. "The Web site exploded in two hours. We suspected that there was a certain amount of interest, but not to this extent," Patenet said.

The archive includes police



CNES photo

In a 1989 photo released Friday by France's space agency, an investigator inspects a Normandy site with alleged UFO traces.

and expert reports, witness sketches, maps, photos and video and audio recordings. In all, the archive has about 1,650 cases on record and about 6,000 witness accounts.

Nothing to hide

The space agency, known by its French initials CNES, said it is making them public to draw the scientific community's attention to unexplained cases and because their secrecy generated suspicions that officials were hiding something.

"There's always this impression of plots, of secrets, of wanting to hide things," Patenet said. "The great danger would be to leave the field open to sects

and charlatans."

He said many cases were unexplained lights in the sky. "Only 20 to 30" could be classified as *objet volant non identifié*—UFOs that appeared to be physical objects, leaving "marks on the ground, radar images," he said.

Only 9 percent of France's strange phenomena have been fully explained, the agency said. Experts found likely reasons for 33 percent, and 30 percent could not be identified for lack of information.

Other cases were impossible to crack. The most baffling were labeled "Class D aerospace phenomena," which the agency defines as "inexplicable despite

precise testimonies and the [good] quality of material information gathered." Some 28 percent of sightings fall into that category.

Patenet singled out the January 1981 case of the saucer-shaped object that a witness said he saw land in Trans-en-Provence, a village inland from the French Riviera.

Some 8 feet across, the zinc-colored object made a whistling noise as it landed. The witness later drew a picture: It resembled a wok with a lid and legs.

"The machine stayed a few seconds on the ground and then left very quickly, but it left marks that were analyzed and allowed us to determine that the ground had been heated up, that the object must have weighed several hundred kilos [pounds] and that surrounding plants underwent biological changes," Patenet said.

"So something really happened. It really defies analysis," he said.

Most of the time, witnesses were sincere about what they saw, Patenet said. Still, there were frauds.

In 1979, in Cergy-Pontoise outside Paris, a man showed up at a police station claiming his friend had been abducted by a UFO, a bright light that appeared on the road and swallowed up his car. Several days later, the man purportedly reappeared in a field, emerging out of a sphere of light.

Investigators went so far as to test the man's blood for signs that he had recently experienced weightlessness. They found none, and the agency labeled it a hoax.

Years-long mysteries

Some cases took years to unravel. In 1985, two farmers near the Atlantic coastal city of Royan saw a burning object drop into a field nearby.

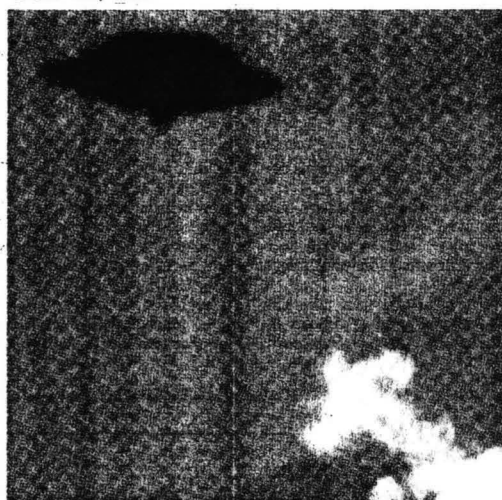
Experts initially concluded that it was part of the propulsion device of a recently launched satellite. Eventually they realized it was a piece of German World War II ordnance that spontaneously exploded four decades after the war.

Among the unexplained cases, one of the most perplexing concerned a 1994 Air France flight. While flying over the Paris region, the crew noticed a large brown-red disk hovering on the horizon and constantly changing shape. The case "has never been explained to this day and leaves the door open to all possible hypotheses," the agency wrote.

So, do we have neighbors out there after all?

"I don't have an answer to that," Patenet said. "Even if there is such a planet, given the size of the universe, what is the probability that two civilizations ... will meet or come across each other? I really don't know. It's very complicated. It's incalculable."

EVENING NEWS, Manchester, England - Dec. 29, 2006



MYSTERIES IN THE AIR These two UFOs, one shining white against a blue sky and the other a menacing dark presence on a grey day, are among many photographed around the world in recent years. Newly-released information reveals 13 UFOs have been reported to Britain's Civil Aviation Authority since 2000

Flights of fancy, or UFOs?

Have pilots made contact with aliens?

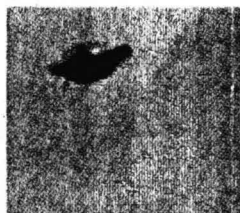
We just don't know, admit air bosses

EXCLUSIVE
BY DAVID OTTEWELL

UNEXPLAINED bright lights, 'ghost' jets and mysterious shattering windcreens ... have our nation's airline pilots made contact with alien intelligence?

Reports obtained by the M.E.N. under the Freedom of Information Act show there have been 13 reports of unidentified flying objects to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) by air crew since 2000.

The last-but-one incident was in Manchester airspace. In November 2004, the pilot of an inbound Boeing 757 reported seeing three military planes nearby. An investigation failed to



INTRIGUING TRIO Three UFOs of varying shapes and sizes which have added to the mystique surrounding UFOs. Often they cannot be explained away as 'weather balloons' or 'military jets'

establish that any air force jets were in the area at the time.

Other unexplained 'encounters' include the crew of a Boeing 737 noticing a 'very bright white object' passing down the plane's left-hand side in April 2003.

Radar at two ground control stations noted an object travelling at around 60 knots, and tracked it for three minutes.

There were other similar readings on the radar, which the report said 'could have been caused by atmospheric conditions'.

Two separate pilots got a shock in May 2004 when both

were travelling around 40 nautical miles apart and spotted a green flare coming from the ground. No explanation is given in the CAA write-up, which notes 'multiple reports of space debris falling' at the same time.

In February 2000, the pilot of an MD80 jetliner noticed a 'small red object going fast down his right-hand side'.

One of the most puzzling incidents, in February 2002, involved an unknown object striking the windscreen of an EMB 145, a small passenger aircraft. Crew reported a loud bang

and a flash as the windscreen shattered. The aircraft slowed down and put out an emergency call before managing to land.

The radar was on throughout the flight - but detected nothing.

In a disturbing 'meeting' in January 2000, the crew of an A320 Airbus reported 'two bright white wing lights and a dark shadow' through the captain's window, 'flying straight towards us except for the last one or two seconds as the lights appeared to descend and the A320 pilot banked to the right to avoid it'.

Air traffic control reported no

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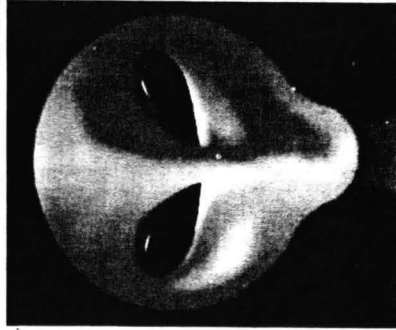
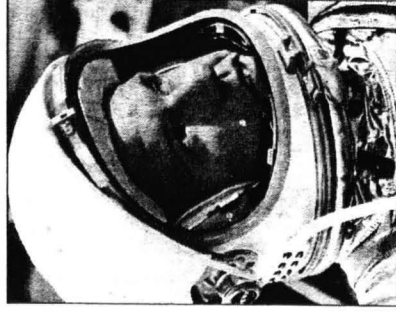
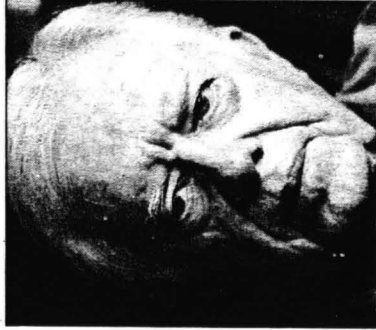


second craft on radar. In May 2001, the captain of a Jetstream 41 plane 'heard another aircraft pass with a whoosh'. It remained unidentified.

A CAA spokesman said: "Sometimes 'UFOs' are weather balloons. Sometimes they are military jets. And sometimes we just don't know."

david.ottewell@men-news.co.uk

LETTER OF THE DAY



GETTY IMAGES

COURTESY OF THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL

GETTY IMAGES

Those that have voiced a belief in UFOs include, clockwise from top left: Paul Hellyer, Jimmy Carter, Harry S Truman, Gerald Ford, a basic alien and astronaut Gordon Cooper.

'I finally concluded ... UFOs are, in fact, real'

Re: Former Governor's Alien Admission, Mary Vallis, March 23.

Mary Vallis and the *National Post* have contributed to a new era of openness regarding UFOs. Her coverage of the disclosure by former Arizona governor Fife Symington — that he witnessed the Phoenix Lights on March 13, 1997 — is Earth-shattering news, to say the least.

Mr. Symington now joins the ranks of astronauts, pilots and highly placed political figures who have demanded governments speak openly to the reality of the extraterrestrial presence on the planet. This group includes former Canadian minister of defence Paul Hellyer ("I finally concluded, especially after reading a book called *The Day After Roswell*, that unidentified flying objects are, in fact, real. I am hoping that we can persuade the Canadian Senate to hold hearings ...," Dec. 9, 2005); John Podesta; Lord Hill-Norton British Admiral of Fleet; U.S. presidents Harry Truman, Jimmy Carter ("We cast this message into the cosmos ... Of the 200 billion stars in the Milky Way galaxy, some — perhaps many — may have inhabited planet and space faring civilizations ... We are trying to survive our time so we may live into yours." Official statement placed on the *Voyager* spacecraft, June 16, 1977) and Gerald Ford ("I have taken a special interest in these [UFO] accounts because many of the latest reported sightings have been in my home state of Michigan ... Because I think there may be substance to some of these reports." letter, March 28, 1966); astronauts Gordon Cooper ("The

evidence that there are objects which have been seen in our atmosphere, and even on terra firma, that cannot be accounted for either as man-made objects or as any physical force or effect known to our scientists seems to me to be overwhelming," 1988) and Edgar Mitchell, all of whom have demanded governments speak openly to the reality of the extraterrestrial presence on the planet. Each of these figures has made a call for an end to the secrecy and truth embargo surrounding the certainty of ET issue.

Our political officials must pay attention to this, and they must now enjoin the calls for openness by asking the Conservative government three questions:

- What is the government's position on the disclosures by the growing list of former eminent political figures on the reality of the ET issue?
- When will the Canadian government unlock and investigate its own classified and non-classified files concerning the UFO/ET issue through open, public hearings?

- Will our government break ranks with the U.S. government and follow the lead of France in releasing its files on UFOs and the non-correlated target reports catalogued by pilots and radar reports within the Canadian-American co-terminus agency NORAD?

These are questions that must be addressed and answered by our elected officials who have, for too long, remained silent.

Victor Viggiani, director of media relations,

Exopolitics Toronto, Mississauga, Ont.



THE first official government website in the world to document UFO sightings has collapsed under a stampede by the public to gain access.

The National Centre for Space Studies, the French equivalent of Nasa, opened the website on Thursday, unveiling an archive of documents about hundreds of unidentified flying object sightings in France over the past 50 years.

Such was the excitement and scramble to pick through this treasure trove that the website was overloaded and "crashed".

The archive includes photographs, police records of inter-

■ Matthew Campbell Paris

views with witnesses and even video recordings.

It covers cases ranging from the obviously ludicrous — there are numerous sightings of little green men — to several that have stumped even the most sceptical scientists.

"It is a world first," said Jacques Patenet, an aeronautics engineer in charge of the space centre's "study of non-identified aerospace phenomena".

Known as OVNIs in France, UFOs have always generated intense public debate in Paris as well as conspiracy theories about American cover-ups and findings considered too sensitive

or too alarming for public consumption.

"Cases such as the lady who reported seeing an object that looked like a flying roll of toilet paper" were clearly not worth reporting, said Patenet. But other incidents involving multiple witnesses have for long been baffling the experts.

Of the 1,600 cases registered since 1954, almost a quarter are classified as "D", meaning that "despite good or very good data and credible witnesses, we are confronted with something we cannot explain", said Patenet.

For example, in 1994 the crew of an Air France flight from Nice to London saw a giant disk that seemed to keep changing shape and colour. After a minute or so it disappeared.

On January 8, 1981, in southern France, a man working in a field reported hearing a strange whistling sound. He saw a saucer-like object about 8ft in diameter land in his field about 50 yards away.

The object took off almost immediately, leaving burn marks. Investigators took photographs and collected and analysed samples, but they have not been able to explain the phenomenon.

Nearly 1,000 witnesses said they saw flashing lights in the sky on November 5, 1990, but this was just rocket fragments falling back into the Earth's atmosphere.

Perhaps the best documented European incident involved the scrambling of two Belgian air

force jets in March, 1990, to investigate an aircraft flying over the south of the country in a manner "outside the normal performance envelope of any airplane", as the chief of Belgian air force operations described it afterwards.

The new French website, once reactivated, will be updated whenever there is a new sighting, but experts in the field were doubtful that the archive would shed any light on the mystery.

"It's useless," said Jean-Pierre Petit, a retired aerospace researcher, referring to the archive. "It's just reports from the gendarmes."

He said that the police had long ago been issued with equipment for gathering chemical samples and that this had often been

used. "What is the result of that research? That is what we want to know."

It is not the first time that the French government has released information about UFOs. In 1999, the Institute of Higher Studies for National Defence published a 90-page report called UFOs and Defence: What Must We Be Prepared For? It has become a bible for UFO enthusiasts the world over.

It says in the preamble: "The accumulation of well-documented observations compels us now to consider all hypotheses as to the origin of UFOs, especially extra-terrestrial hypotheses."

The report discusses 15 cases, including one in which British jet fighters were scrambled from RAF Lakenheath to investigate

mysterious objects over East Anglia in 1956.

It says that hoaxes are easily detectable and calls the position of America "still one of denial". It concludes: "The physical reality of UFOs, under control of intelligent beings, is almost certain."

The American attitude is exemplified by the former Arizona governor Fife Symington, who trotted out an aide dressed as an alien 10 years ago to spoof the frenzy surrounding mysterious lights in the Phoenix sky.

Now he says he saw the lights and believed from the start that they were extraterrestrial. Symington, who faced fraud charges at the time, said this week he did not need the problems such an admission would have created.

Lights in the sky

AN eagle-eyed stargazer wants to know if anyone spotted two bright orange lights drifting over Eccleston on Saturday.

Dennis Leyland spotted the lights, which created a

slight droning noise, in the skies above St. Helens, at about 11.50pm. He added: "I've been a non-believer in UFOs all my life but they were unlike anything I've seen before. They definitely weren't aircraft. They were fantastic to watch."

UFO group has been disbanded

Life has just been made a little easier for alien or unidentified beings flying over our patch.

The respected local investigation team which would have looked into UFO sightings has disbanded.

Staffordshire UFO Group (SUFUG) held its last meeting in February when its chairman Graham Allen stepped down.

The group was formed in the mid

90s with the aim of investigating and researching local UFO sightings and 'close encounters'.

Members set out to have an 'unbiased, open-minded approach'. But it was founder member, organiser and presenter Graham who took the lead.

The UFO group held monthly meetings for people 'with enquiring minds'.

Organisers say they offered an insight into phenomena that have

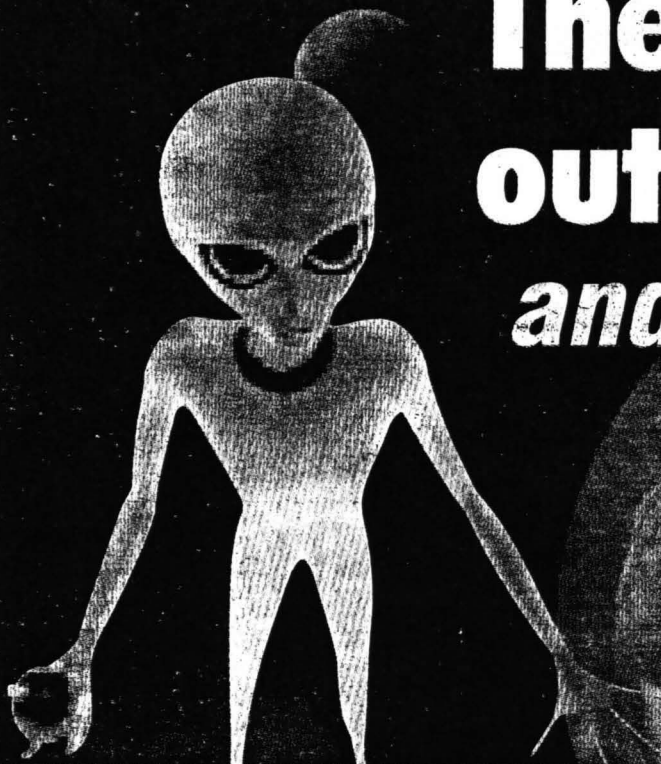
been misinterpreted and misrepresented by governing bodies, scientists and sceptics for centuries.

At the final meeting, held in Stafford, Graham announced he is leaving because of health problems.

Member Cliff Harris, from Chasetown, said the closure is 'the end of an era'.

"The world of British UFO research and investigation is a poorer place after the announcement of the SUFOG closure," he said.

They came from outer space . . . and landed in Chirk?



FOLLOWING the public's excitement when the residents of Oswestry believed they witnessed a flying saucer hovering above the town, the *Advertiser* decided to dig deeper into the history of mysterious happenings around Oswestry.

One of the earliest known UFO reports in the area actually concerns two sightings which occurred within a space of over 40 years, when a miner from Weston Rhyn reported a sighting in September 1912.

The dumbfounded miner spotted the unusual object flying in the sky hovering over Selattyn Hill, but even stranger, 41 years later, on August 3, 1953 the same miner, who had now retired to become a Special Constable saw the mysterious object flying above Weston Rhyn once again.

He first saw the flying saucer from the Quinta and described it as an orange, bottle shaped object, with a strange cylindrical extension rising from the top of

By **RICHARD JONES**

richard.jones@nwn.co.uk

it, but years later he noticed it was divided into three parts – the front third being blue, the middle part a bright orange colour and the rear section was a dull red.

Excitedly he and a friend watched as it slightly changed direction and disappeared over Chirk Castle, taking about one minute to cross the skyline, leaving them both to testify it was approximately three to four feet in length and silent, except for a whooshing noise as it passed over their heads.

Crash landing?

However, on January 23, 1974, Oswestry found itself connected to the most high profile sighting in the UK – the crash in the Berwyn Mountains, otherwise known as the Welsh Roswell incident.

An Oswestry man who was walking home from Bala saw the object crash, and another man from Shropshire, who was farming in North Wales, was the closest person to spotting the myste-

rious object tumble into the mountain range.

Just a few weeks later another farmer saw a different object, which he described as a flying saucer, fall from the sky in the Oswestry area, which has left experts asking: "What was it that was going on in Oswestry?"

Russ Kellet, head of investigation for flying saucers in North England said: "It is not a coincidence that two objects came down within a few weeks of each other. We have had anonymous phone calls from people who saw these crash landings and we would very much like to hear from them again, as they possibly could hold the key to unearthing one of the world's biggest mysteries!"

Other UFO sightings in the area include an occasion in 1951 when a group of pupils were going home from Oswestry High School saw a formation of lights moving in an odd circular motion, which they believed to be a UFO.

And in 1955 a man walking home from work near Ellesmere, saw a large, fiery round object with a curved tail streaking across the sky.



UFO hotspots

Above: Chirk Castle, overshot by a flying saucer.
 Right: Past sightings of a fiery object over Ellesmere.
 Below: The Quinta School at Weston Rhyn, where a strange flying object was spotted in 1912.



All eyes on the skies after mystery of flying objects

Driver stops to gaze at UFO over A127

A MAN claims he saw a UFO hovering over the A127 early yesterday morning.

Graham Hearson said while he has always been a sceptic, he could not explain his brush with an unidentified flying object.

He said: "I saw flashing red lights in the sky. It was

By **MIKARLA MARSDEN**

literally above my head. It was huge, like the size of half a jumbo jet."

He described the mystery object was triangular in shape. He added: "I've never seen anything like it."

Mr Hearson, 45, of

Elderton Road, Westcliff, had been driving home from his work as an electrician to Southend at about 5am.

The sight of the object had caused him and another vehicle to stop on the road, just after the A130 turn-off to Wickford.

The craft hovered slowly

past, about half a mile in the sky, and continued on towards Benfleet. It was eerily silent.

Mr Hearson woke his wife when he arrived home and drew her a picture of what he had seen. He was unable to take a photo.

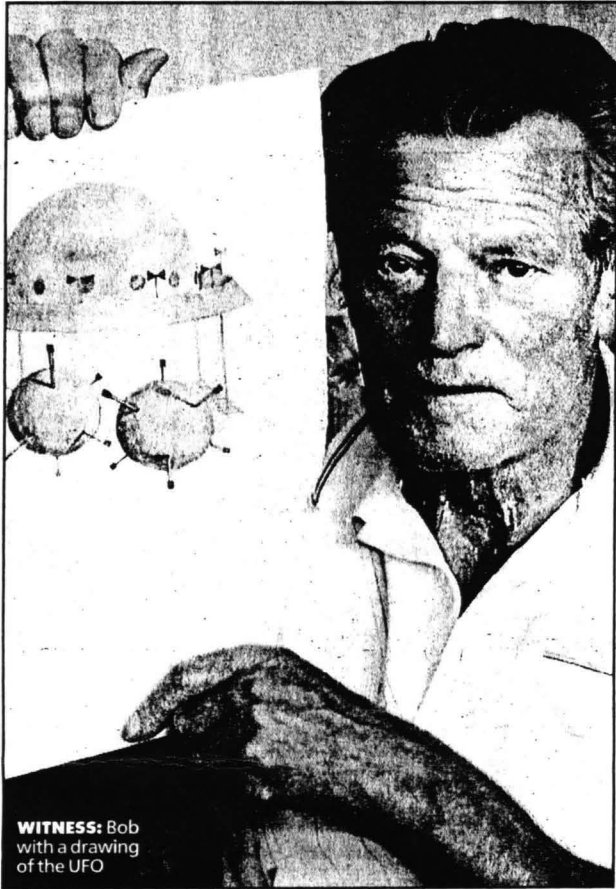
Police have not received

any reports of similar sightings. A spokesman for London Southend Airport said no flights had been operating at the time and no unusual aircraft were scheduled to be in the area.

● If you think you saw the UFO, call the Echo on 01268 469409.

SCOT 'ATTACKED BY SPACESHIP' IS DEAD

Cops probed UFO sighting



WITNESS: Bob with a drawing of the UFO

THE SCOT at the centre of the only UFO police inquiry in British history has died, aged 89.

Forestry worker Bob Taylor was 61 when he reported a bizarre encounter with a spaceship which he said happened while he was walking his dog.

It triggered a criminal investigation into the incident which was treated as assault.

Almost 30 years later, police say the case remains open and unsolved.

Bob told officers that he had found the craft - a metal sphere, about 20ft across - in Dechmont Woods, Livingston, West Lothian.

As he approached it, two smaller spheres, each about 3ft wide and with metal spikes sticking from them, dropped down.

He said the smaller spheres rolled towards him and attached themselves to his trousers.

Bob described an acrid

By Marie Sharp

m.sharp@dailyrecord.co.uk

smell before collapsing unconscious on the ground.

When he came round 20 minutes later, he said his head was pounding and he was unable to talk or walk.

But as he recovered, he crawled back to his truck and managed to make his way back home.

A doctor who examined him found grazes on his leg and under his chin.

Ripped

There was no sign of head injury or any condition which could have caused a blackout.

But the heavy trousers he had been wearing were ripped around the ankles.

Police called to the scene reported finding ladder-shaped indentations in the ground where the craft was said to have stood and marks following the path of the mine-like objects.

They said they were

"completely baffled" by what had happened. The story sparked interest around the world.

Dechmont is regularly visited by UFO enthusiasts

Bob moved away from the area following the encounter.

He had been living in a nursing home at an undisclosed address when he died from bronchial pneumonia last week.

Speaking three years ago - on the 25th anniversary of the November 9, 1979, incident - Bob insisted he had no doubt about what he had seen.

He said: "I stand by every word of my account."

"I told it as it happened and it's as clear as yesterday. It is the most amazing thing that ever happened to me."

"I know what I saw and it looked like a spaceship, a huge flying dome."

"I'm not surprised there has been so much interest in it over the years as it was such an incredible thing to happen."

STAR, Shropshire, England - Jan. 4, 2007

Family's fear as UFO heads for their home



By RAYMOND BROWN

brownr@hertsexnews.co.uk

A FAMILY feared they would be "wiped out" when a UFO plummeted from the sky, heading straight at their Hertford home.

Reports of the bizarre phenomenon poured into the *Mercury* after the cylindrical object was spotted on Monday at around 4pm.

But none was more dramatic than that by mum-of-four Maxine Abbess, 44, of Pages Road on the Sele Farm estate.

She said: "My little boy was lying on his back on the trampoline in the garden when he said, 'Look at that black spot in the sky, Mum'."

"We thought it was a balloon high up and then it started to suddenly fall at such a rate that we all rushed into the house. We thought it was going to land in the garden."

"We slowly came back out to look and it had come to a dead stop - it was amazing."

"Then it slowly and silently started rising up into the sky and

disappeared into the clouds."

Maxine's husband, Paul, 41, the head chef of Braughing's Axe and Compasses pub, their eldest son Sam, 18, and other sons, Aston, 11, Ayrton, 10, and Jenson, 8 - pupils at Wheatcroft School in Hertford who are named after fast cars and Formula 1 drivers - also saw the shape.

Maxine added: "It was terrifying. We really feared it was going to fall on us and wipe us all out."

"It was sausage-shaped and very dark. It wasn't a Zeppelin as there was no engine noise and it definitely wasn't a balloon. It was made out of metal."

Hertford office worker Jodie Enright estimated it was 500ft up when she saw it.

She said: "I spotted the UFO from my office window. It looked black, but it reflected the sun."

"It was floating up Caxton Hill from the direction of Ware Road, up and over our factory."

"It probably took 10 minutes to



WHAT ON EARTH? Back from left, Paul and Maxine Abbess, and Sam Curl, 18; front from left, the Abbess children, Aston, 11, Ayrton, 10, and Jenson, 8
Photo: SPNLVJDH 03

travel this distance and appeared to be listing and yawing in the wind.

"It was definitely cylindrical in shape and, as it appeared closer, you could see a square shape hanging from the end of the cylinder."

A Ministry of Defence spokeswoman said: "If someone has invaded our air space we will be able to say whether the Russians have come or not."

"Our official who records UFO sightings has no reports of this incident."

Sighting of a UFO 'burning up in sky'

Retired policeman Mike Lindop was disturbed during an evening of television watching at his home in Telford - by a UFO.

Mr Lindop was watching TV at in his home at Moorhouse Close, Wellington, when he looked out of the window and saw a strange tubular object in the sky.

It was travelling at speed and issuing yellow and orange flames, but made no sound. He went outside to get a closer look with his wife Carol Ann and son Darran, and they saw it disappear towards Newport.

He said: "It was about 7.30pm when I saw it. It was a long, cylindrical thing, about 1,000ft up in the sky and it must have been travelling at more than 100 mph."

"I've never seen anything like it before and am completely lost to know what it is. It left me feeling quite uptight. It seemed to be on fire but it looked nothing like an aircraft and made no noise at all."

"I wish I'd had a camera but by the time we thought about it, it had gone."

"I'd be surprised if nobody else has seen it."

UFO expert Phil Hoyle said the sighting matched many others over recent years, although he had not had any recent reports.

Mr Hoyle, head of the Shrewsbury-based UFO Investigation and Research Unit, said: "It is an extremely common description. There have been many reports of this object over Wellington and Telford and in fact worldwide."

MERCURY, Hertfordshire, England - March 16, 2007

LIGHTS SEEN IN SKY DURING ECLIPSE UFO MYSTERY

By Tim Hughes
Witney Reporter

MYSTERY surrounds the sighting of a "spooky" UFO over west Oxfordshire.

An object, described as "a slow-moving, orange light" was seen passing over Witney during the lunar eclipse two Saturdays ago.

Among those who saw the object, shortly after 10.30pm, were Derek Hall, of Jacobs Mill, Witney, and his girlfriend Paula Siford.

There were also reports of one or more unidentified objects flying over Oxford. Yet a week on, their identity still remains unknown.

Mr Hall, a 43-year-old sales executive for a security company, said: "It was spooky. We were looking at the eclipse when we saw this bright glow, just to the side of the moon.

"It appeared as a slow-moving, orange light — as if a light aircraft was in flames. It was moving in a northerly direction, then bore round to the east. It disappeared in the direction of Woodstock.

"There was no sound at all. It was very strange."

He said it was not a plane, and could not have been a meteorite, as it changed direction.

He added: "We thought there might have been something in the news since, but there hasn't been. I still don't know what it was, but I'm sure others must have seen it.

"I don't know whether the object we saw was extra-terrestrial, but it was certainly an unidentified flying object."

A Witney householder, who asked not to be named, said: "We saw it up in the sky. It was very unusual."

Another witness was 14-year-old Lewis Ashton, who watched the object from his home in Burford Road, Witney. The Wood Green School pupil said: "It wasn't a plane or a satellite. I don't know what it was, but it seemed quite strange."

Mr Hall contacted the Anomalous Phenomena Research Agency — which investigates UFO sightings in Oxfordshire and the Thames Valley.

Research co-ordinator Brian P James said there had been sightings in Oxford at about the same time.

He said: "We did get a report of a set of four low-flying lights heading east to west over Christ Church Meadow in Oxford. They were so low the witness thought it was an aircraft crashing. These lights split into two pairs, which then went off



SOMETHING OUT THERE: Derek Hall, who spotted a UFO in the sky over Witney during the recent lunar eclipse

Picture: Yuri Anderegg Order No. 100307823 oxfordmail.net/photosales

to the north and south. The witness phoned her daughter in Barton, who then saw another, or similar, four lights coming from the east."

RAF Brize Norton spokesman Katie Zasada said no aircraft had

been taking off or landing at the time of the eclipse.

She said: "We had no reports of strange lights in the sky and there are no records of unusual activity."

A spokesman for Oxford Airport,

in Kidlington, said no unusual reports had been received.

● If you saw the UFO, or photographed it, call our Witney office on 01993 773133 or send an email.

witney@nqo.com

Sighting reports spread across county



OTHER strange sightings in the skies over Oxfordshire include:

● A square craft seen passing silently over the John Radcliffe Hospital, in Headington, on three consecutive days in January last year. On the same day as one sighting, a motorist in nearby Marston reported seeing a streak of light in the sky.

● An unexplained brick-shaped object was seen over south Oxfordshire in autumn 2005. The UFO was spotted over Sutton Courtenay by Jacqui Ellaway and her daughter Jo, from

Milton, and later in Benson by Didcot builder Howard Jarman.

● In August 2003, an egg-shaped object with what was described as "a bizarre plasma tail", was spotted above Middleton Cheney, near Banbury.

● UFO spotter Michael Soper, left, of Ouseley Close, New Marston, Oxford, witnessed a strange spherical object above the Co-op in Marston, in 1995.

● UFOs — or their occupants — have also been credited with creating crop circles around the county.



SKY AT NIGHT: UFOs photographed by Howard Jarman, of Didcot



LONDON LITE, London, England - Jan. 25, 2007

Dozens claim UFOs landed under cover of snow



Snow way: drivers on the M20 in Folkestone today

● POLICE were urged to investigate "alien light forms" when more than 35 callers, including a traffic policeman, claimed they saw 50 bright orange lights mysteriously appear during Wednesday's heavy snowfall. Witnesses said the cluster appeared in the night sky above Ifield, West Sussex, for about 15 minutes before floating off. One, Moira Dawson, 57, said: "They were too big to be stars. We thought they were fireworks, but they didn't make any noise or fall to the ground, they just hovered. I didn't

see them before the snow." Inspector Jon Brydon of Crawley Police said: "We do not know where the lights came from, but I am cynical that they were UFOs." Another witness said: "One of the lights appeared to slow down, like it was having a good look at us. We thought we were being invaded and called 999." James Swift, of Crawley Astronomical Society, said: "We are baffled." The snow returned today, causing problems on mainline railways and on the roads in Kent.

DAILY MAIL, Hull, England - Nov. 29, 2006

What was the glowing orb I saw in the sky?

ON A clear, starry night recently, while out exercising my dog, I looked up and saw a brilliant white light in the sky.

It was about the size of a large car and circular in shape. I watched it for about 10 seconds before it vanished into thin air.

Could it have been a UFO? Well it couldn't have been a terrestrial craft, as it was flying at an altitude higher than an airplane, very probably on the edge of space.

In any case, a plane or helicopter would have had smaller green or red lights. The object also did not move as a terrestrial craft would, but remained stationary.

It was almost as if the occupants inside were watching me. Or had stopped to admire the view.

It's easy to get carried away with the romance of UFOs, but I regard this as my first "genuine" UFO sighting.

Can anyone help me with this? Is there anyone else who has seen a UFO over Bridlington?

Aled Jones,
Mount Crescent,
Bridlington.

EVENING NEWS, Norwich, England - Sept. 5, 2006

UFOs spotted over Norfolk

Back in the early 1980s, two friends and I witnessed a group of triangular-shaped, slow-moving, silent objects flying over Burgh Castle.

It was early evening with full visibility, and we were kicking ourselves because we didn't have a camera to hand.

There were seven of these flying aircraft, each with a light at the three corners, and they appeared to be an irregular right angle triangle shape.

Some of these aircraft turned 180 degrees while continuing in the same direction, resulting in the appearance of flying backwards.

This is what convinced me they weren't normal aircraft, as I knew of no plane which could fly backwards, in silence, at a very low altitude and at such a slow speed.

I also remember there was a kind of rumbling feeling in the ground as they moved over us (but that could have been my knees knocking!).

I would be interested to read the thoughts of anyone else who witnessed the same experience at the same time (about 1980).

J Mitchell
Norwich

TRANSLATIONS

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

February 26, 2007 — *www.analuisacid.com* — ARGENTINA: POSSIBLE CHANCE UFO OVER MT. URITORCO — A photo [of a possible UFO was] taken by Ana Wolfenson and David Magram (Webcam Uritorco) on February 11, 2007.

According to witnesses, the image was picked up near the base of the Uritorco in Capilla del Monte, adding that they are not aware of any fauna having that particular morphology, indicating as an additional item of information that, on that date, the "Opening of Dimensional Portal 11:11" (sic) was celebrated. Door number 8, according to this belief, is of particular importance in this locality. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

February 28, 2007 — *www.analuisacid.com* — ARGENTINA: Possible "Chance" UFO over Buenos Aires — A photo [of an apparent UFO was] taken in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on February 23, 2007.

The witness says that he was with his family, taking pictures of the obelisk, and that the object that appears in the photo was not visible to their eyes, adding that they took several photos in 20 second intervals and that what could be a chance UFO appears in only one of them. They used a Sony DSC-P200 camera with a normal exposure setting.

The author wishes to use the pseudonym "El Gocho," although his real name is known to Ana Luisa Cid. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

March 6, 2007 — *CIUFOS/LAPAMPA*, La Pampa, Argentina — An Unusual Cloud in La Pampa, Argentina by Raul Oscar Chaves — During the first days of February 2007, late in the afternoon, the following photos were taken in Santa Rosa, La Pampa. The images show a strange cloud that retained its unusual rectangular shape for several minutes. Its dark outline contrasted markedly against a background of cumulus and stratocumulus clouds.

After being noticed by researchers from *CIUFOS/LAPAMPA*, it was captured on imaging media for 10 minutes....

Upon consultation with personnel from the local airport's Meteorology section, they expressed their astonishment at the "cloud's" shape, since it did not fit into the prototypes of known cloud formations, as well as the time it remained without displaying any further changes. Does the image suppose the existence of a possible "structure," taking into consideration the firmness of the cloud's outline? — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

March 17, 2007 — *zoopedia.blogspot.com* and *iee.com* — Apelike Creature Reported in Angol (9th Region, Chile) by Raul Gajardo Lepold and Sigrid Grothe — According to information in our files, we can say that Mr. Luis B.T., a well-known jeweler and native artisan of the 9th Region, retold a strange experience that befell his son-in-law in the winter of 2006.

Luis's son-in-law, a truck driver with an erratic schedule, could not believe what he was seeing on the road in June 2006, near midnight on a stretch of road from Los Angeles to Muchen. On that day he wasn't carrying an assistant, so there are no other witnesses to his observation. But he does remember driving at an average speed without any further remarks. Suddenly, on a particular stretch of road on which no other cars were present, he noticed that there was a strange animal on his right, on the blacktop. It was very still and had the appearance of an ape, with short arms and long legs. He managed to hit the brakes about 10 meters from this animal, but the simian creature did not make a move and slowly turned its head toward the truck. That's when the driver noticed that its eyes were sparkling red, and that the configuration or fur on its body was very odd, covered by something similar to short whitish feathers.

The trucker felt a shudder of fear, faced with such a strange situation. He stopped the engine and allowed several seconds to elapse, with the creature staring at him as he quaked with fear. The animal walked slowly and crossed the road, never taking its eyes off the driver. As the witness recalls, the simian entity was thickset, stood approximately over one meter tall, had a head proportioned to its body and a large muzzle. It made no sound whatsoever. At no time did its extremities touch the pavement and it maintained itself upright throughout, like a small man.

The driver was able to get a good look at the creature and kept his headlights on at all time. He added that the creature's attitude was defiant throughout the event, while passive.

An effort is being made at this time to compile more information regarding this strange experience, which remained unpublished and under strict family secrecy. — CREDIT: Raul Nunez, *IHU*

March 17, 2007 — *www.analuisacid.com* — MEXICO: UFO OVER ATIZAPAN AIRPORT — Airliner captain Miguel Hernandez Aguirre informed researcher Alfonso Salazar about the sighting of an unidentified flying object in the vicinity of Atizapan Airport in the state of Mexico.

The witness was in the company of a flight instructor aboard a Cessna 150 aircraft.

They were forced to suspend their take-off maneuvers when they observed what they thought at first was another airplane about to come in for a landing at the airport in question.

This traffic, as Captain Hernandez described it, was descending as though coming in for a landing, but rather than doing so, descended into a canyon located on the northern end.

By this time, they had been given the green light for take-off. When passing over the highway, the instructor told him that the strange object was flying above the canyon. Subsequently, [the Cessna] rose into the air, conducting its normal flight operations, and they did not see the object again.

According to the description given, the object looked like a metal sphere; they cannot recall the date with any certainty, explaining that the event took place several weeks ago, perhaps in late February or early March 2007.

Captain Hernandez added that on another occasion, during a night flight, he witnessed three red lights flying over a hill adjacent to Atizapan Airport. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid, Alfonso Salazar and Capt. M.H. Aguirre

March 19, 2007 — *El Manana de Valles* (newspaper) — MEXICO: Lights Cause Earthquake in the Huasteca Region — According to the news item dated March 19, 2007 from the *El Manana de Valles* newspaper, 30 earthquakes have been recorded over the past 3 months in Rancho Nuevo, municipality of Tamasopo.

Local residents told reporter Julio Reyes that when the strongest earthquake took place, there was a large red circle in the sky that was allegedly formed by UFOs.

"All of us saw it and we were very frightened. The ground started shaking underfoot and we had to find shelter," said some of the families that still remain in Rancho Nuevo.

Geologists conducting the studies mentioned that a considerable number of "basements" and underground water deposits are found in the region, explainable due to the elevation above sea level.

The new fear, added to that of earthquakes, is that locals are concerned about the appearance of lights in the sky, which they have come to associate with the UFO phenomenon. The need for deeper study has been suggested, since sightings of unidentified flying objects have been frequent in the Sierra Madre Oriental, specifically in the areas of Tamasopo and Aquismon.

Meanwhile, the Municipality of Tamasopo is offering psychological assistance to families in Rancho Nuevo to assuage their fears.

Moreover, researcher Pedro Negrete adds that the state government shut down a local road last week to dynamite large boulders -- big enough to threaten the communities -- loosened by the earthquake, wondering if these lights were natural or artificial in origin, considering that luminous phenomena are relatively common during seismic activity, but not dismissing altogether the possibility that they may have another provenance. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

March 28, 2007 — *www.ovni.net* and *www.andrewalvarez.net* — PUERTO RICO: Airport Employee Allegedly Sees UFO over Control Tower — ***A report from Lucy Guzman, *ovni.net****

Type: I

Date: Since early 2007. Cases reported in March 2007

Location: Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, Carolina, P.R.

Time: Daylight hours; at night between 8:20 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Witness: Airport worker (The pseudonym "Mr. Rodriguez" is used here, as the witness is fearful of being dismissed should his real name become known).

Evidence: None

Brief Description of Object: Round light larger than an airplane, very bright; other lights of greater intensity and size, white in color, triangle shaped.

Summary: Mr. Rodriguez (Pseudonym) works at one of the airport's offices. He has a view of the new airport control tower from his window, as well as of El Yungue and other landmarks. Rodriguez claims that this year, some lights have been seen hovering over the new tower, remaining static and then disappearing. These lights are either white or red in color (Note: researcher Ana Rios has seen lights similar to those described by Mr. Rodriguez from her apartment in Isla Verde, and which appear to be triangular when making a turn.) Rodriguez also claims to see a very large, powerful light between 8:20-8:30 pm, white and triangular shaped. He compares this light to the brightness of an airliner belonging to San Martin Air, adding that the UFO's light is even stronger than the lights on this aircraft. He says that whenever he's with a customer and sees the lights, he points them out and they too are startled. When he makes inquiries among pilots, they always say they've seen nothing at all. (He believes they've been told not to speak for fear of dismissal). The triangular UFO impresses the witness greatly for its size, shape and brightness. When he realized that at the time that his sightings usually occur, there is also a scheduled American Eagle flight at 8:20 pm toward Vieques, he decided to board this flight with a skeptical friend to see the object more closely and to get his friend to believe him.

Rodriguez says that as the American Eagle flight gained altitude, it was necessary to look toward Route #3, as this is where the light appears to emerge from, toward the beach area. The UFO approached the plane sufficiently [to show] that it was larger than the airliner and made a U-turn, heading toward Fajardo, and then Vieques, as though heading for nearby islands. Rodriguez says that he alerted all of the passengers and asked the co-pilot about the strange light. He replied [in English]: "Forget about it", which led Rodriguez to believe that the pilots are forbidden to discuss what is going on, or else did not want to alarm them.

Comments: Rodriguez wants a group of researchers to go with cameras and turn them on as soon as the passenger plane gains altitude, focusing them on Route #3 and El Yunque in order to record it. He added that the same event happens on the return trip from Vieques to San Juan. — CREDIT: Lucy Guzman, *Ovni.net*

April 4, 2007 — Bedroom Visitation in Santa Rosa, Argentina - 2007 by Salvatore V. Carta

Location: Santa Rosa, La Pampa (Argentina)

Date: First days of January 2007

Witness B, 31, was in her home in a neighborhood located on the southern outskirts of Santa Rosa. The time was approximately 2:30 a.m.. She was lying in bed with her 12-year-old son, "C".

There is a window at the foot of the bed, facing west, measuring 1 mt. wide by 0.80 mt. tall, located one meter above floor level.

Mrs. "B" was asleep on her left side with her legs outstretched, facing south. Half awake at this point., she was alarmed to see a person walking past the window, which was open and let through the moonlight. It was an intensely warm night.

Feigning sleep and remaining in the position she was in - that is to say, she did not lift her head from the pillow - she reached for her cell phone, which she always keeps near her headboard. Now, looking more clearly at the window, she noticed two very tall, lean creatures that were looking back at her from outside the house.

At that moment, a reddish purple light flooded the room and Mrs. B was unable to move. Mrs. B says that in a matter of two seconds--very quickly--the first of the two beings lifted its legs one by one and stepped into the room, followed by its companion. One of the beings stood beside her and the other by her son, "C", performing a laying-of-hands on the boy, who was sound asleep. Mrs. B feels that this last entity was female.

Meanwhile, the red light, which had no visible source, dimmed and went out. Only moonlight poured into the room.

The female-seeming entity now stood at the foot of the bed, and the other entity, which Mrs. B felt to be male despite the absence of any genitals, stood behind Mrs. B, who felt that two "little tubes" or straws were arranged symmetrically on her back, above the kidneys. These objects began boring into her back "like two

intense pain, Mrs. B was only able to shrink into a fetal position. Gradually, these elements, after what seemed to her like a very long time, began slowing down. The intense pain lessened.

At this point, the entity standing behind her placed its hand over Mrs. B's right breast. She noticed that the creature's hand had grayish-green skin with very long fingers, delicate phalanges and very thick joints, like those of a frog. The entity began rubbing its hairless head slowly from Mrs. B's right shoulder down to her hip. She still could not move.

To this day, she finds remarkable that the entity closed its eyes as it did this. No manner of communication occurred, but she sensed a soft of infatuation toward her. Like the caress of a retreating lover, a sensation of tenderness issued from the being.

After this, the two beings - the male first, then the female - left the room. Mrs. B's mobility was restored after some minutes, seeing no apparent lights or noises. Only the moonlight continued to stream into the room. She got up, shut the window, and looked around the house as she shouted for her son to wake up, as he remained "deeply asleep." At no time did she touch her son. Meanwhile, she continued trying to contact her mother over the cell phone. The device was inoperative, had no signal, and not even the emergency call mode was working.

After a while, she was able to make a call. At that moment, her son got out of bed, hearing her screaming and crying as Mrs. B spoke to her mother. He asked her what was going on - at no point was he aware that anything had happened. The time was three o'clock in the morning.

Our witness was awake and conscious at all times, from the start of the event. She was aware that something out of the ordinary had taken place. She went into the bathroom in a state of shock, and her son told her that there were some marks on her skin, similar to a scratch or a rash under her shoulders and above her kidneys. They vanished the next day, as did the ache in her internal genital region.

Before this event, Mrs. B had irregular menses. She is now regular - she menstruated only days after the event, but for an entire month. After giving birth to "C," she was unable to get pregnant again and had a series of miscarriages.

Researcher's Notes: As collateral phenomena it arises that Mrs. B's pets (two cats), who always sleep with her and her son, were not present that night. On subsequent nights, the cats would bristle as they looked out the window. It is remarkable that B never slept with the window open until after "C" was born, who is now twelve years old. Was that situation manipulated? What was the nature of the miscarriages? Perhaps insemination, followed by the removal of fetuses? One can suppose that some sort of genital survey was performed, perhaps involving the extraction of ova from Mrs. B.

April 6, 2007 — *www.analuisacid.com* — MEXICO: AIRLINE MECHANICS REPORT UFOs OVER MEXICO — On Monday, March 27, 2007, approximately 13 airline mechanics (among them UFO researcher Alfonso Salazar) managed to observe, between 8:00 and 8:40 a.m., the maneuvers of an unidentified flying object that emitted golden flashes and which - according to their description - resembled a reflector in the sky.

The sighting took place while an airliner engine was being installed at the new terminal of Mexico City International Airport.

Visibility conditions were 100% with clear blue skies. According to the Chief of Operations, the probable UFO was at an elevation of 12,000 meters, remaining static for a given amount of time before moving southward, gaining altitude quickly.

Researcher Salazar adds that even his skeptical co-workers are very surprised by what they saw that morning in March. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

April 7, 2007 — *La Prensa* newspaper — MEXICO: UFOs REPORTED DURING HOLY WEEK — According to a news item from reporter Alfredo Ibanez, a very bright metallic object was reported over Cerro de la Estrella. It remained suspended in the sky for several minutes and subsequently moved toward the Mount Ajusco region, just as the Iztapalapa Passion Play was being re-enacted, west of the Mexican capital city.

Twenty minutes after the first sighting, some translucent flying objects were also sighted, these were seen by the multitudes present for the traditional Good Friday devotions.

Alfonso Salazar, a researcher and aviation technician, made it known that on that same day (April 6) at 15:50 hours, there were reports of an unidentified metallic object over Cerro de la Estrella. This observation was made from Mexico City International Airport through the use of binoculars.

After making several other cases known, Salazar highlighted the events that occurred some 20 days ago, when a black-colored sphere hovered above the Aeromexico hangars in the same airport. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid and Alfonso Salazar

April 12, 2007 — MEXICO: Cross-shaped UFO videotaped over Tepexpan — ***A report from Ana Luisa Cid*** — On Good Friday, April 6, Mr. Victor Gabriel Gonzalez managed to record the transit of several unidentified flying objects over Tepexpan in the state of Mexico.

According to his report and the visual material, several spheres crossed the sky at two o'clock in the afternoon, heading south.

He subsequently became aware that a larger, cross-shaped object was approaching his vantage point. As he explained, the object slowed down and increased its glow, before heading toward the sun, where it was lost from sight.

In spite of the suggestive shape having been recorded on a Good Friday, we cannot hazard a guess about it being some sort of message in the sky, since we do not even know the object's provenance. Therefore, both Victor and [Ana Luisa Cid] prefer to remain objective and present the material as a possible UFO, without ascribing religious or fantastic connotations to it. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid and Victor G. Gonzalez

April 12, 2007 — *NOUFA* (Chile) — Chile: Strange lights over the Andes by Raul Nunez, *IIEE* — SANTIAGO - (Providencia) — Patricia Lorena Lara is a secretary at a doctor's office in the center of the Providencia district. She works from the highest floor of a modern building near General Holley street, where she has a truly impressive panoramic view of this part of the city. To the northeast she can see Cerro San Cristobal, completely surrounded by buildings in various stages of construction. From within the medical office in question, a large window shows a broad and beautiful view of the Cordilleras foothills. It was from this window that Patricia Lorena has been seeing a very peculiar light that appears to emerge from the very heart of the mountain. After having seen the light for a given amount of time, she ascertained that it always appears at the same site, and has gleaned further information. It is a very powerful light at times and a very dim one at others, apparently following some sort of continuity in its reflections, perhaps even frequency intervals such as

Morse Code or something similar. She has also determined that the light repeats regularly on Thursdays, and that the approximate time of these observations is between 13:00 to 16:00 hours.

Up to this point it could all be dismissed as a curious observation and with a possibly normal explanation. What makes this story unusual is that on Thursday, February 8, 2007, precisely at the time that the observations routinely occurred, a small cloud approached the mountain. There were other clouds visible, but this one stood out even more when the light projected from the mountainside went out and an oval-shaped light issued from the cloud, projecting itself at high speed along the mountains. To be more exact, we shall present her own account:

"[...] during the first week of February, it lasted about 4 minutes. It was incredible to watch. There was a small cloud on the mountainside. That's when the light went out and something like an oval-shaped white spot emerged and zoomed right past the mountains. It was unbelievable."

Personnel from *IIEE Chile* are currently researching this case.

April 12, 2007 — *La Estrella de Iquique*, Chile — CHILE: UFOLOGIST CONFIRMS IQUIQUE UFO SIGHTING — The images taken on Saturday night by an Iquique journalist correspond to giant flying objects over the Pampa Perdiz sector, according to UFO researcher Mario Pizarro, who has been interested in the phenomenon for 30 years.

Upon reviewing images and photos published in yesterday's edition of *Diario La Estrella de Iquique*, he immediately said: "we are facing an unidentified aerial object that has the characteristics of a UFO."

He added that the recording must be studied with care to determine the exact nature of the object that flew over the skies of Iquique. "We can say that we're looking at a 30 kilometer optical field with the characteristics of a single protocol on a poly-uniform base (sic)," said the specialist.

The two white lights passing by the Moon corresponded to a single flying object moving at high speed. "It is a single platform that could measure 400 meters in length."

For more information:

www.lasegunda.com/ediciononline/cronica/detalle/index.asp?idnoticia=337925 — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez, *Planeta UFO*

April 16, 2007 — *CIUFOS/LAPAMPA*, La Pampa, Argentina — ARGENTINA: UNKNOWN OBJECT OVER SANTA ROSA — A photo was taken during the first days of April 2007 in Santa Rosa, Argentina as part of an effort to record, in some way, the strange shapes detected in low-altitude stratus clouds.

At the time the photo was taken, the witness did not detect the presence of any objects, and was startled to see an unknown object after the developing process.

The photo was taken at noon using ASA 100 film and a Vivitar N3000 camera. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

April 16, 2007 — www.analisisacid.com — MEXICO: LUMINOUS AIR TRAFFIC OVER MEXICO CITY — According to a report received from researcher Alfonso Salazar, at 8:55 a.m. on April 16, 2007, the crew of an airliner flying southeast out of Mexico City reported coming across luminous traffic described as a large, whitish-blue "ball of light." This occurred when the airliner was south of the Mexican capital, flying at an approximate altitude of 7000 meters.

The crew reported that the unidentified flying object was flying from the south toward the north, at a speed comparable to that of airliners, while the airliner flew from west to east. However, the possibility [that it could have been an airplane] was dismissed, as what was observed was a glowing mass, according to Salazar.

This report is added to other similar cases that have taken place in Mexico.

[Note.- Airline and personnel names have been withheld by request.] — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid and Alfonso Salazar

April 18, 2007 — *La Estrella de Iquique* and *NOUFA* — An eighth grade student from the Adventist School is still shocked by the image of a UFO he managed to capture with his digital camera on Sunday at 19:30 hours, when he was playing on a street corner near his house with some friends.

The boys were playing when they realized that a powerful light could be seen in the sky and near the coast. Diego Peralta ran toward his house at Pasaje Los Capitanes and began to record with his camcorder. The images show a brilliant light that moves at high speed. It is an unidentified round object with a red surface and a partition in the middle.

The student has the recording in his possession and the children who saw the footage believe that it is a UFO. However, the Office of Aeronautics says that an airplane flew over the coast at the time the recording was made. — CREDIT: Raul Nunez

April 23, 2007 — *CIUFOS/LAPAMPA*, La Pampa, Argentina — ARGENTINA: UFOs Photographed at Sierra de la Ventana by Raul Oscar Chaves — The images correspond to photos taken at Sierra de la Ventana, Province of Buenos Aires, during an investigation carried out by *CIUFOS/LAPAMPA* and in which it is possible to observe the presence of "chance UFOs."

The photos were taken from the base as part of an effort to capture on film the hole or space that gives this mountain range its name, and from its crest, in order to show access to the site.

The presence of UFOs was detected during the processing of the photographic material. A Vivitar N3000 camera was the instrument employed, and 100-200 ASA film.



Contributed photo

Ken Gerrard stands next to a reconstruction of a fossil ape known as *Gigantopithecus* at the Texas Bigfoot conference in October 2005. Many of the animals cryptozoologists search for are suspected to be living fossils — remnant members of species long thought to be extinct.

Monsters are real

(... says cryptozoologist and former LJ resident)

Gerrard looks for proof that strange creatures really do exist.

By Mary Openshaw

mary.openshaw@thefacts.com

With a travel agent for a mom, Ken Gerrard came to love out-of-the-way places and strange creatures early in life.

Now a cryptozoologist, meaning a scientist who looks for animals whose existence is still unproven, Gerrard travels in search of the creatures that legends are made of.

"When I was growing up in the late 1970s, there was a TV show called 'In Search Of,' that talked about Bigfoot and the Loch Ness Monster," Gerrard said. "I remember being really fascinated."

His mother, Rose Marie, was a travel agent in Lake Jackson, so the family went on a lot of trips other kids Gerrard's age wouldn't have been able to. When he was 9 or 10, he and his mother and sister spent some time at a camp in the Peruvian Amazon, with the Yagua tribe.

"We had a Polaroid camera," he remembers. "They (the Indians) had never really seen a photograph develop right before their eyes." Gerrard himself had "all kinds of fun chasing snakes and spiders."

In 1982, at age 15, Gerrard took a Super-8 movie camera to the shores of Loch Ness in Scotland to try and find the Loch Ness Monster for himself.

Since getting serious about cryptozoology a few

encounter three years ago at Little Cottonwood Lake near the Texas/Oklahoma border on a Bigfoot expedition.

"We were investigating reports of a Bigfoot that had been chasing off campers," he said. "As the sun was going down, we all heard this nerve-wracking sound, like a large primate animal laughing or grunting or panting all at the same time." Another investigator

on the expedition who was very familiar with the area confirmed the sound wasn't made by any animal he recognized. Gerrard had a video camera running at the time. "It's pretty dark, but you can hear the sound," he said. "Of course, we tried to go into that thicket, but it was pretty impenetrable. The next morning when we got in, we found some tracks on the beach." That experience

gave Gerrard "the greatest confirmation I've had" of Bigfoot's existence.

He also found unusual tracks in Belize. "I found two human-like, barefoot tracks in a very remote area in the mountains," Gerrard said. "Because of the snakes and scorpions in the area, people don't go barefoot. They wear boots." The prints were small, and Gerrard estimated the animal that made them



Contributed photo

As a boy, Ken Gerrard got to travel all over the world because his mother was a travel agent in Lake Jackson. The photo above was taken with members of the Yagua tribe in the Peruvian Amazon in South America. "I had all kinds of fun chasing snakes and spiders," Ken remembers.

years ago, he's gone Bigfoot hunting in several states, as well as traveling to Belize to look for their version of Bigfoot. In all, he's traveled to more than 25 countries on six continents and has visited 44 states. He now lives in San Antonio.

Gerrard hasn't seen any of the creatures he pursues for himself, but he had a close

would be about three feet tall.

"It's nothing conclusive, but it's gotten a lot of interest," he said.

Gerrard investigates reports of unknown animals closer to home as well. "I felt a responsibility, since I live in Texas, to research in Texas," he explained. He just finished writing about South Texas' legendary Big Bird. "It's very famous in the

BIGFOOT ANDMORE
Cryptozoologist Ken Gerrard has written two books, "Monsters are Real," which was self-published, and "Big Bird," currently being published by CFZ Publishing (U.K.). In addition to television appearances, he has been featured in articles by the Orlando Sentinel, Brownsville Herald and Amarillo Edge.

■ To learn more about what cryptozoologists do, visit www.cfz.org.uk (the Centre for Fortean Zoology), www.gcbro.com (Gulf Coast Bigfoot Research Organization) or www.cryptozoology.com.

Rio Grande Valley," he said.

He's also looked for the Lake Worth Monster. "It's very similar to Bigfoot, but people call it the goat man, which is kind of an urban legend in North America," Gerrard said. In July 1969 there were several sightings at the lake northwest of Fort Worth. There were 30 or 40 witnesses one night that year, Gerrard said, including police officers. He said the animal was described as "large, hairy, human-like but bestial also."

"We didn't find too much, but we found a strange formation of branches," Gerrard said. "Most people would not think too much about it. But in Bigfoot research, it could be something."

He's even come across a single report of a Bigfoot sighting in Lake Jackson, in the 1970s. "Growing up in Lake Jackson, around Oyster Creek, I can see how they could live in that swampy area," he said. But don't rush out expecting to find one for yourself.

"Bigfoot is nomadic," Gerrard explains. "If it was there in 1977, that doesn't mean it's still there. It was probably passing through at the time."

His work has gotten him some attention from TV producers. He recently appeared on a show for Canada's travel channel. There's no air date for that show in the United States yet, but he is slated to appear on a show for The History Channel called "Legend Meets Science" in early 2007.

Doing TV work was fun, Gerrard said, but it made it hard to get much research done.

"The director from Canada was like, 'You think you could go ahead and find some tracks? That would be great,'" Gerrard said.

Gerrard gets in touch with people who've had encounters with unknown animals through people who know he's a cryptozoologist.

"The best part of my job is when an eyewitness tells me their experience," he said. "In a way, I think it's therapeutic to them, to be taken seriously. There's an extreme ridicule factor in these situations, so a lot of people have never told about their experience."

Another part of the job he enjoys is opening people's minds to the possibility that animals like Bigfoot exist. The number of Bigfoot sightings is now in the thousands, Gerrard said.

"People are still reporting it all over the country and the world. There's so many similarities among the reports. If you build up enough eyewitness testimony, you have to think there's something there."

Gerrard is an active field investigator with the American Primate Conservation Alliance, the Centre for Fortean Zoology, based in England, and the Gulf Coast Bigfoot Research Organization, which investigates reports of the animal from Florida to Texas.

(continued on page 18)

Cattle mutilation stymies ranchers, investigators

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP) - Valier rancher John Peterson and his wife were headed out into the twilight to do chores in October when they spotted her.

The healthy young cow lay dead in a stubble field, just off the road.

Stopping the truck to investigate, they found the sickening, telltale signs.

The cow's udder, genitals and rectum were cut out with stunning precision. The left side of her face was carved off, the exposed bones stripped as clean as if they'd been boiled.

Peterson, who discovered a similarly mutilated cow on his neighbor's ranch five years ago, knew he was the latest victim in one of rural Montana's greatest mysteries.

Since the 1970s, Montana ranchers have found dozens of cattle carved up in similar, macabre fashion.

The first known incident was a mutilated steer reported near Sand Coulee in late August 1974. By December 1977, sheriff's deputies had investigated 67 mutilation cases in Cascade, Judith Basin, Chouteau, Teton and Pondera counties.

In each case, the cuts were made with surgical precision, often in circular shapes.

Similar cases have haunted ranchers in the Southwest since the 1970s, when a 300-page federally funded report concluded the killings were the work of natural predators.

Peterson, a lifelong rancher, says he knows a predator kill when he sees one. Grizzly bears, wolves and coyotes aren't suspects in this case, he said.

"It's the weirdest thing," he said. "A guy hates to say too much because I don't know how far you can go before they'll put you in the nut house."

Others theories, besides predators, involve pranksters, satanic cults and space aliens.

Whoever, or whatever, is responsible has left precious few clues for Pondera County Sheriff Tom Kuka. At least not the kind of clues lawmen are used to.

Like the others, Peterson's cow was found with no blood spills or splatters, no footprints and no sign of a struggle.

Nor were there footprints in past cases when the ground was muddy or snow-covered.

"There's no reasonable or rational explanation for this," said Kuka, who is investigating the case as felony criminal mischief. Peterson's cow was worth up to \$1,200.

"I'm hoping to find anything that would show how did this animal come to get there," he said.

Perhaps the most unsettling hallmark of the mutilations is that hungry predators leave the carcasses untouched.

Peterson discovered the cow Oct. 9 and the birds were just starting to peck at it.

"We had a cow die a week after this one, about a half a mile away, and there's nothing left of that other cow," he said.

Those oddities - no blood, no footprints and no predators

- were all part of a similar spate of mutilations in the area in 2002, when ranchers reported at least 15 killings.

In one case, a rancher west of Dupuyer found a carcass with the skin peeled off the left side of the face and nose in similar fashion to Peterson's cow. The left eyeball, rectum and genitals were cut out. Part of the left ear was cut off, but the udder was intact.

On a ranch between Fort Shaw and Cascade, a carcass was missing its left eye, one teat, its genitals and rectum.

But in this latest case at Peterson's ranch, Kuka found an intriguing clue.

A few feet south of the carcass there was an impres-

sion in the stubble field, like the cow had lain down there. But there were no footprints or drag marks between the impression and her final resting place.

It was as if the bovine had fallen from the sky - and bounced.

Could she have been pushed from an aircraft?

There are numerous farmhouses in the area, and none reported hearing low-flying aircraft.

Aliens? Even Peterson, a down-to-earth sort, admits he's pondered extraterrestrial explanations.

"You never know," he said. "I ain't gonna say they're out there. But I ain't gonna say they're not."

(continued from page 17 - THE FACTS, Clute, TX - Nov. 5, 2006)

He enjoys the freedom to look for things conventional scientists shy away from.

"The difference between cryptozoology and regular zoology is we have the freedom to look into more legendary animals," Gerrard said. "It takes more eccentric scientists like myself. Regular zoologists tend to stay away from that kind of research. It has repercussions for their jobs."

Still, the point of field research is to find proof of an animal's existence.

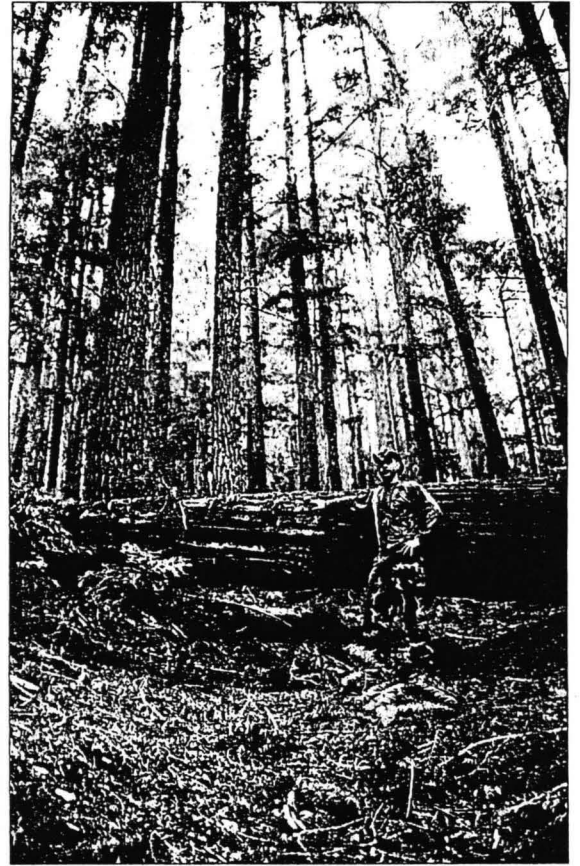
"I would love to find the naturally produced remains of some type of animal that's unknown to modern science," he said.

Gerrard says there's too much work to do to spend time worrying about what critics say.

"For people who are skeptical, that's fine, I can respect that," he said. "But it's generally skepticism because of a lack of knowledge."

"I think anyone who read all the books that are out there on the subject would have a hard time not believing."

Mary Openshaw is a features writer for The Facts. Contact her at (979) 237-0155.



Contributed photo

Ken Gerrard traveled to Mount Rainier, Wash., to explore in May, 2004. Gerrard, a San Antonio resident who formerly lived in Lake Jackson is a cryptozoologist - a scientist who looks for animals whose existence is still unproven.

OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC - April 20, 2007 CR: J. Fisher

UGO IN OHIO

Unidentified grazing oddity baffles experts

Wildlife officials ponder photos of beast that's clearly not native

CHESTERLAND, Ohio - Is it a goat? Is it a sheep? No, it's a ... what is that thing?

Wildlife experts haven't been able to positively identify at least three animals spotted roaming the woods in Chester Township, about 20 miles east of Cleveland, over the past few months.

"We're not exactly sure what they are," said Allen Lea of the Ohio Division of Wildlife, which has reviewed photos taken by a resident. "But they're definitely not a native species. They're not where they belong."

Police have received calls from residents offering varying descriptions, with possible IDs including bighorn sheep and wild goat.

Experts at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo reviewed the photos and speculated the animals could be tahr (a wild goat indigenous to Asia) or mouflons (a wild sheep found in Europe and Asia).

Officials believe the animals could have been dumped by their owner or escaped from captivity; no one has filed a missing-animal report, township police Chief Mark Purchase said.

He said there were no plans to trap the animals.

"We're not looking to run them out," Purchase said. "But we would like to know what they are."

OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC - July 21, 2006 CR: J. Fisher
NEW CLOSE ENCOUNTER REPORTED

A Bigfoot lawsuit sighting: Expert wants his stuff back

Calif. researcher says group kept his items, hasn't paid him in full

BY DAN REED

San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News

SAN JOSE, Calif. - Bigfoot - that bashful, large lug of a hairy monster - is causing trouble among his believers.

Not that he - or she, or whichever - ever did anything to anyone except pose for really fuzzy pictures, leave mammoth footprints

in remote areas and never get caught.

But late last week, C. Thomas Biscardi, a Redwood City, Calif., man who bills himself as a "World-Renowned Bigfoot Researcher," sued the Great American Bigfoot Research Organization, its president and vice president. The group was established in California last year "to track, study and learn about the Bigfoot creatures that are believed to inhabit North America."

Biscardi, who has been in the Bigfoot business for 33 years, says he was supposed to be paid \$250,000 to "lend his experience,

knowledge and reputation" to conduct "Bigfoot expeditions," and to provide the group with use of his library - which consists of things such as plaster footprint casts, films, photos and sound recordings.

The group, the lawsuit claims, paid him only \$65,000 and won't give back his stuff.

Dennis Kazubowski, the San Jose lawyer representing Biscardi, said he had been negotiating with the attorney for the defendants, Carole Rubin and Robert Shorey, for the return of Biscardi's library, but then "the attorney quit be- (continued on page 19)

(continued from page 18 -

OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC - July 21, 2006)

cause he wasn't getting paid."

Neither defendant could be reached for comment.

"They return Tom's property and the lawsuit is dismissed in a minute," Kazubowski said.

For the uninitiated, Bigfoot - sometimes also known by the Native American name Sasquatch - supposedly roams the wilds, can be as large as 8 feet tall, 800 pounds... and is believed by many adults to be a myth.

Nonetheless, there is a core of true believers, including Mike Rugg, who runs a Bigfoot museum in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

The big bipeds are a wily bunch. No human has ever been able to catch one. But somehow, the opposite sexes of the species seem to be able to find each other, fall in love and produce little Bigfeet.

Last year, Biscardi led an expedition to find Bigfoot at Happy Camp, in the Klamath River Valley, in far northern California. He had a pay-per-view Webcast.

The seemingly sure-fire plan

was to nail the big fellow with a stun gun, keep him in a zoo for 90 days so a medical team could study him, then release him back into the wild.

No luck.

The San Jose Mercury News reached Biscardi by phone Monday. He was Bigfoot hunting just outside Paris, Texas. He didn't much want to talk about his lawsuit, which he considers his "private business."

But he was in a high state of excitement. The crew had a Bigfoot sighting Sunday night.

Biscardi said the crew had found a spot that looks like "Jurassic Park," and saw Bigfoot. Biscardi said he has had five "close encounters" with a Bigfoot in his career, but nothing like this.

"I gotta tell you something," he said, "this is the largest thing I've ever seen in my life."

Biscardi said television captured its image and he figures the find will hit the national news this week.

Stay tuned.

KITSAP SUN, Bremerton, WA - Nov. 7, 2006

SEABURY BLAIR JR. | MR. OUTDOORS

Sasquatch Not a Mystery to Some

Last week, I mentioned the Idaho State University professor who is attempting to bring the mythic Sasquatch into the world of science.

Then I read an article about him in my favorite daily newspaper last weekend. His name is Jeffrey Meldrum, a Ph.D. and tenured professor who has written a book about the big, hairy "American Ape" that supposedly lives in the wilderness forests and mountains of this continent.

I was only trying to scare up a Halloween column, but it appears there are a bunch of folks who are better acquainted with Bigfoot than me.

I heard from a number of readers with new Sasquatch stories and - having little to

write this week that could be considered socially or culturally redeeming - I thought I might share some of the new tales with you.

First off, I got an e-mail from a reader who sent me a number of photographs purporting to show a Sasquatch near a camper in the forest. Like every other photo of a Bigfoot I've seen, it's difficult to tell what the picture actually depicts.

It could be a Sasquatch, or it could be a seagull. It's hard to tell because of the distance from the object in the picture and my observation that not a single person who has ever taken a picture of a Sasquatch knows how to operate a camera.

There's this thing called "autofocus" on most modern cameras, see. It's a piece of technology obviously lacking on the equipment used by Bigfoot photographers.

Then I got an e-pistle from Scott McDonald, who is a member of the Washington State Bigfoot Research Group.

"I have seen two of these creatures myself," Scott wrote. "One was over in the Olympic Mountains while deer hunting in 1997, and the other one that I had seen was over in the Blue Mountains in 2001."

Warren Lewis of Seabeck also e-mailed me three stories of Bigfoot sightings by several Kitsap pioneers, including his father, who was born in Crosby in 1891. Lewis said his dad was driving

down the Hite Center Road in 1932 when he saw the road's namesake, Ashland Hite, standing in the road.

"Dad offered him a ride back to his house," Lewis wrote, "but Ash was beside himself about something, and just stood outside the car gesturing wildly..."

"He left his house with a rifle and spotted a tall bear-like creature on the narrow dirt road. Ash said it was the tallest 'bear' he had ever seen and when it saw him it ran off.

"But what made Ash so excited was that 'that bear ran into the woods on his HIND legs!'"

Lewis also told of a Bigfoot encounter his brother and Don Curtis of Crosby had at Mission Lake, and of a blood-chilling scream he heard one night at Frenchman's Cove that frightened his horse into the woods, which he had to chase with a dimming flashlight.

"Cougar? Bigfoot? I guess I'll never know," wrote Lewis.

At least he didn't try to take a picture.

Keep those cards and letters coming!

Seabury Blair Jr. is the author of two day-hiking guides, a backcountry skiing guide, and a book of humorous tales. E-mail him at Skiberry@wavecable.com.



MOUNTAIN WAVE, Marshall, AR - Jan. 25, 2007

The Green Gowrow of Searcy County

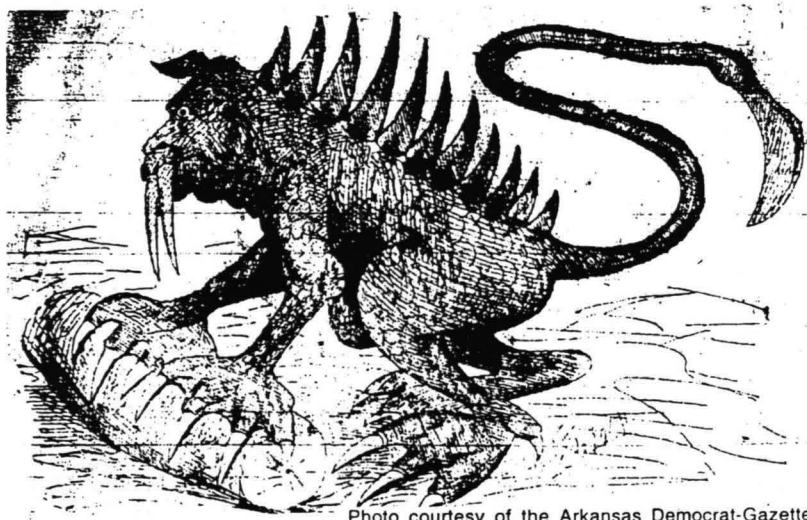


Photo courtesy of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

"As with most stories, mention the word monster and our minds tend to conjure up wild ideas and creatures. The story and drawing of the Green Gowrow that was pub-

lished in the *Arkansas Gazette* in 1897 in my opinion was just that, a good story. To the best of my knowledge, no creature fitting the description given in the report ever ex-

isted, past or present." - Heath Massey Physical and Environmental Sciences Marshall High School

It was the well-known writer, Thomas Wolfe, who said, "Beneath the tides of sleep and time, strange fish are moving," and certainly what happened on that bitterly cold day of mid-January 1897, just north of Marshall at Blanco in Calf Creek township was to live forever in the memories of those who lived at that time so very long ago. They are all gone now and none are left to tell us of the events that occurred that day, which would cause talk far beyond Searcy County, and indeed the boundaries of Arkansas itself. We now have only two *Arkansas Gazette* articles to tell us what occurred.

The first of the two articles along with a drawing made from a photograph was published Sunday, January 31,

1897, and said, "Mr. William Miller, the well known business man of this city (Little Rock) returned today from Searcy County. Mr. Miller told a marvelous story of the discovery of a hitherto unknown monster near the town of Blanco in Calf Creek township. 'For some time I have heard reports, more or less vague, of the presence of this animal in Searcy County,' said Mr. Miller, 'but I paid no credence in the tales that were told. About two weeks ago I was called to Blanco on important business and I determined to investigate the matter thoroughly while I was there.

"Immediately upon my arrival at Blanco, I instituted inquiries and I was amazed to

find that the people of the whole township, and of St. Joe and Richland townships were in a fever of excitement over what they called the 'gowrow', which they described as a terrible animal which slaughtered cattle, horses, hogs, dogs, and cats...."

Miller went on to say that the killings had been going on for several months. He asked why the creature was called a gowrow, and it was told it was because of the awful cry it made when doing its blood thirsty work.

Miller went on to tell of a recent snow which still lay on the ground and that a young boy, while rabbit hunting, had found the huge footprints of the creature near Granddaddy's Mountain. A posse

was formed and armed with shotguns and Winchesters. Several men followed the tracks for a few miles until they disappeared at the river bank. A diligent search for a few miles near the river bank resulted in the discovery of a large cave. Miller, as quoted in the article, then said, "The ground had been worn smooth from the water's edge to where the cave entered the rock, as though some ponderous body had been repeatedly dragged over it. We soon secured light wood torches and, nothing daunted, entered the cavern where we were confronted by a sight which made each particular hair stand on end like the quills upon the fretful porcupine." There in the uncertain light of the torches grinned countless skulls and skeletons of all kinds and sizes and many of them believed to be human.

In the article, Miller then said, "We hastened out of the cave and concealed ourselves behind a large boulder to await the monster's homecoming. We had waited probably a half hour when we heard a ponderous splashing in the river as though a great stern wheel steamer was approaching and the next moment, a huge body of a sickly green hue dragged itself awkwardly out of the water and began wobbling its way toward the cave. Shall I attempt to describe it? Its head was ponderous in size and resembled somewhat that of a man only two enormous tusks projected over the upper lip. Its legs were short and thick and terminated into a web foot which somewhat resembled that of a duck's, only each toe was capped by a vicious looking claw.

"Its body was covered with enormous scales while along its back bristles a series of sharp horns, which came to an abrupt end near the root of the tail. The tail was thin and

long and was provided with a sharp bone at the end which the gowrow could wield as a sickle... Just at this point I got in the snap shot... with my Kodak, and then I gave the command to fire. The men fired a volley and when the smoke cleared away, we saw the monster writhing in the throes of death, but he died hard... Not wishing to see the monster suffer, I again gave the command to fire and this volley ended the gowrow's suffering."

Miller was to later tell the *Gazette* reporter, "From a careful examination of the photograph which I made of the monster, I am convinced it is a pachyderm, and is a combination of the hyaenidae and rhinocerotidae.... These animals were supposed to have long disappeared from the earth." Two days later, February 2, 1897, reported that Sunday's article, "... caused no little talk among the local scientists and the members of the Arkansas General Assembly, especially the lawmakers who represent Searcy County."

Both the president of the senate, Mr. William L. Moose and Representative Ulysses S. Bratton denounced the story, with Mr. Bratton declaring, "The *Gazette* of January 31, upon the information of Mr. William Miller as to the killing of what he called a green gowrow in Searcy County, I have this to say: It is an unfounded fake and is one which, in addition to being utterly false in every particular, is unjust to the good people of Searcy County."

The second article ends by saying, "Mr. Miller, when shown Mr. Bratton's statement, was greatly surprised, saying that he did not anticipate anyone not believing the

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report of his great discovery as he saw the animal killed and took a picture of him which appeared in the *Gazette*. Mr. Miller has a scientific turn of mind and will not allow such an excellent opportunity to pass for advancement of science and he is determined to have the bones of the monster shipped to the Smithsonian Institute."

In the book *Ozark Tall Tales* by Richard and Judy Dockery Young, published in 1989, a drawing of a "gowrow" appears looking much like the drawing by the Arkansas Gazette staff artist made from the photograph taken of the monster by Mr. Miller. The Youngs say, "The name gower, gowerow or gow-row is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word gaw-raew, meaning 'row of spears,' describing its spiked spine." They go on to say, "Randolph (folklorist Vance Randolph) notes that a 'gowrow' was killed near Marshall, Arkansas in the 1890's, according to the locals."

To further investigate the matter, contact was made with Mrs. Rosie Dixon, Library Manager of the vast photograph collection of the now *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*. In a letter dated April 7, 2006, and regarding the Miller photograph, she simply said, "I'm sorry but we do not have any photos that old." It must also be remembered that in 1897, the technology to reproduce photographs in the newspapers did not exist, and only drawings could be copied. Did the *Gazette* artist faithfully draw from the photographs what he saw? In the absence of the original picture, we cannot say.

Attempts were also made to learn whether Miller did indeed send the bones to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. and also came to nothing. Director of Public Affairs, Randall Kremer, in a letter dated November 15, 2006, said, "The department looked into the matter and found no record of any bones having been sent to the Smithsonian in connection with this case."

Today, passing by the peaceful solitude of Calf Creek township, a passer-by can scarcely imagine the drama that once occurred there. With the passage of time it is unlikely we will ever know the facts, and the truth about what happened on that cold winter's day so very long ago. That lies buried in the grave with Mr. William Miller.

Editor's Note- The writer of this story, Mr. James Reed-Eison, would like to dedicate this article to the memory of his grandson, Jesse Fortner-Eison, who died in a swimming / electrocution accident during June of 2006. Jesse's mother is one of the Thompson family who have lived for many years on South Mountain. Jesse is buried in Rambo Cemetery.

The investigations are done at night; and members work in pairs

The process for detecting paranormal activity is relatively simple, Johnson said.

"They start giving us reports of activity in their homes," she said. "We conduct a telephone interview and fill out a sheet while we talk to them on the phone. Then we set up time to check out their home and business."

The investigations are done at night, and team members work in pairs.

"The size of the location determines how many team members go," Johnson said. "There may be eight people at a specific investigation, but there are always two team members together. That is for safety reasons and validity of what they are seeing."

Team members use a variety of high-tech equipment in the course of an investigation.

"They go through the house with night-shot camcorders, digital audio recorders, electromagnetic field detectors and digital thermometers," Johnson said. "They'll go in and ask questions like, 'Is there anybody here? Is there anybody that wants to communicate with us?' Then they sit in the room for a minimum of 20 minutes at a time and see if they can catch anything on video or audio. Then they check the different fluctuations from the EMF readers and check the temperatures gauges."

A sudden drop in temperature usually means paranormal activity, Johnson said. To date, the group has done two training investigations, one in Johnson's home and another in the home of Flanagan's mother, Diane Flanagan.

"They were very professional and courteous and told me what they were going to do," said Diane Flanagan about the group's visit to her home. Flanagan

said she would recommend the group to her neighbor, who has often cited paranormal activity in her home.

The agency investigated a local cemetery Aug. 12 and plan to investigate Yesterday's Plaza at the corner of Ninth and Pine streets.

Dennis Bennett, who owns and operates Yesterday's Plaza with his wife Terry, said Haunted Hunters contacted him about investigating his building after talking with several people.

Bennett said he doesn't understand what all the fuss is about, but he'll play along anyway.

"It is a creepy old building," Bennett said. "I have never seen anything, but I had a guy who does a lot of work for me and one time while he was up on the fourth floor he said he could have sworn that somebody was in the room with him."

Terry Bennett said people have reported seeing a ghost in the building.

"It appears to be the old

manager of the building," Terry said. "Usually, they spot him on the fourth floor or in the basement. He is a little man, very small, wearing a three-piece suit."

Haunted Hunters only determines if ghosts or other forms of paranormal activity are present in a home. The next step is up to the homeowner.

"If they want a blessing on the house, I am an ordained minister and I can do that," Johnson said. "We do have a priest we are in contact with and we can refer the client to him. We also have a psychologist working on the team."

Haunted Hunters has 18 paranormal investigators, technicians and a psychologist, Johnson said. Its office is at 2261 South Sixth St.

The group does not charge for its services, but accepts donations from clients and team members.

"Right now myself and the other co-founder foot the bill for this," Johnson said, "but we are hoping to attract corporate sponsors."

The truth is out there



Agency investigates the supernatural

By GERRY BAKSYS
H&N Staff Writer

Sometimes things go bump in the night.

And when they go bump in your home, Kristi Johnson and Kelly Flanagan are ready to help.

They are the founding members of Haunted Hunters, a paranormal investigation agency started in Klamath Falls in April to investigate claims of supernatural activities.

The group has already conducted three investigations, and is preparing for a fourth, Johnson said.

"We go in with our technical equipment and people and try to disprove whatever their claims are," Johnson said. "Then we review the evidence when the investigation is completed, and we look it over to see if

H&N photo by Andrew Marman

Kristi Johnson, left, Shawn Eade and Jenna Easterling, members of Haunted Hunters, investigate possible paranormal activity at the Linkville Cemetery.

there are things we can explain.

But sometimes, things can't be explained. That is when Haunted Hunters determines paranormal activity is going on and the place is haunted. The team's first training mission was in Johnson's own home.

"We went through and examined my house," she said. "We didn't find anything definitive, but there were some unexplained phenomena."

Accredited investigators

Johnson said she and Flanagan are accredited paranormal investigators through Flama College (flamacollege.org), an online college in Sacramento, Calif., that teaches courses in esoteric arts and hermetic sciences.

According to the college's Web site, certified paranormal investigators must complete a home study course. Cost is \$95 and includes a manual, lessons, investigative forms, a research project and a final examination. After passing the course, students are issued a certificate and photo identification card in paranormal investigation.