

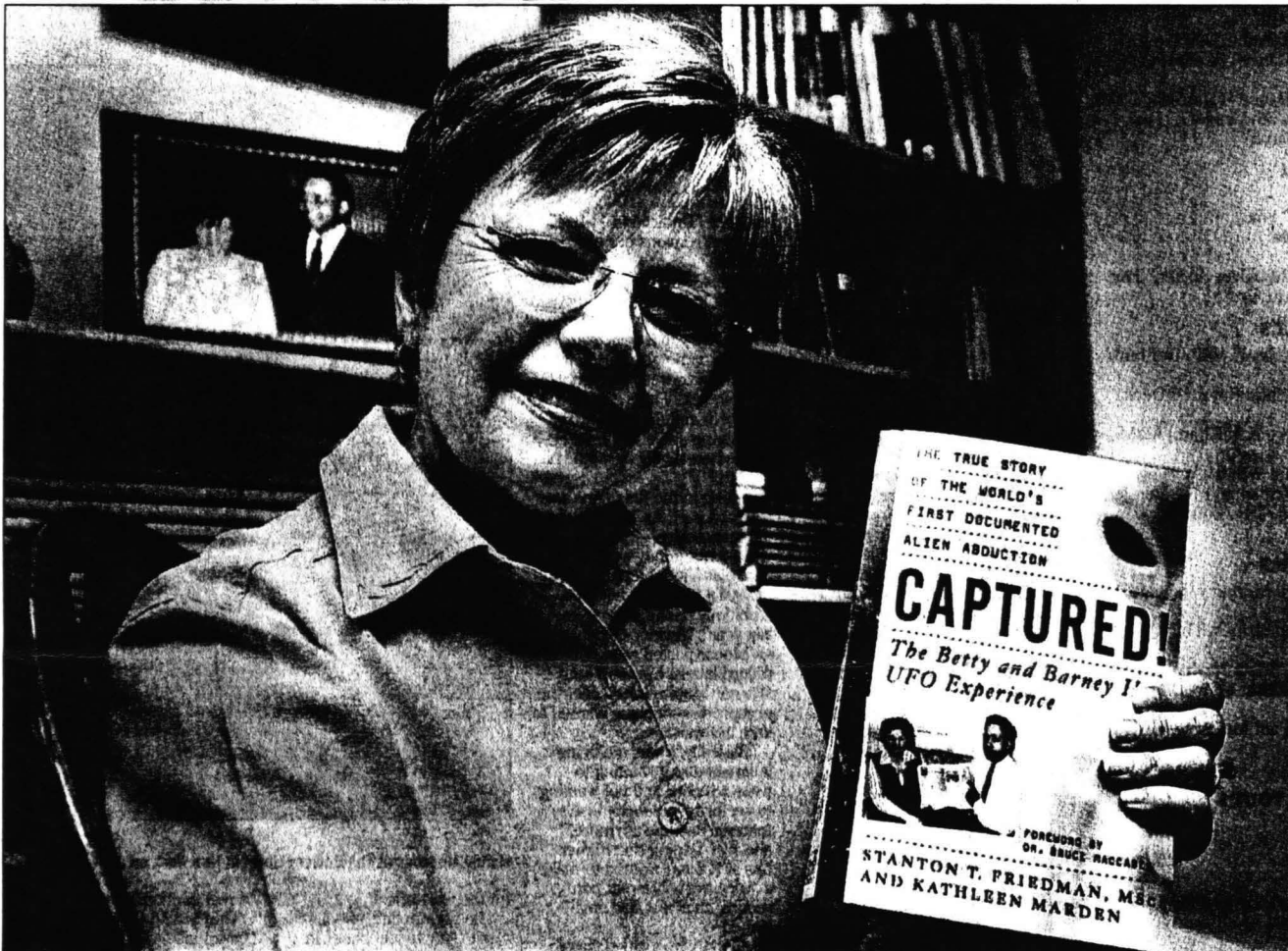
UFO

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HERALD SUNDAY, Portsmouth, NH - July 8, 2007



GET THE BOOK

- Advance copies of "Captured: The Betty and Barney Hill UFO Experience" - to be released in August - are available at Amazon.com and autographed copies can be purchased now at www.StantonFriedman.com.

AS SEEN ON TV

- Betty and Barney Hill were portrayed by Estelle Parsons and James Earl Jones in the 1975 television movie "The UFO Incident," and by Lee Garlington and Basil Wallace in the 1996 television series "Dark Skies."

Stratham author Kathleen Marden, niece of Betty and Barney Hill, poses with her new book "Captured! The Betty and Barney Hill UFO Experience," which gives the true story of the couple's alien abduction.

Rich Beauchesne/rbeauchesne@seacoastonline.com

Close encounters

Niece of Betty and Barney Hill — Portsmouth couple who famously claimed to be abducted by aliens — authors book on family's experience

By Jeanné McCartin
features@seacoastonline.com

There were decades during which Kathleen Marden didn't divulge who her aunt and uncle were. She'd witnessed firsthand the circus that engulfed their lives, pro and con. So later when the Stratham resident became a social worker and educator, she decided it was best not to mention

her relationship to Betty and Barney Hill.

But her interest and curiosity, as well as her love for the two people at the center of one of the most famous — alleged — UFO abductions, eventually led her back to the subject. Along with Stanton T. Friedman, Marden has penned "Captured! The Betty and Barney Hill UFO Experience," which will be released in August by Career Press/New Page Books.

It was 1961. Kathy, 13, was at home when Aunt Betty and Uncle Barney of Portsmouth dropped by. They'd come to tell the family what they could recall about their recent, life-changing trip to the N.H. White Mountains. They'd been abducted by aliens.

"I was absolutely flabbergasted. But, I had learned in school that none of the planets were inhabited. I never thought of anything outside the solar system," she says. "I just

assumed we were the only life forms."

Nonetheless she believed them. "I had a great respect for them. My aunt was a well-educated social worker for the state and Barney worked for the Boston Post Office and was active in the civil rights movement, a lifelong member of the NAACP. ... But I was amazed."

Marden goes on to explain how well estab-

lished the two were. The importance of laying the ground is evident as she checks off their involvements and accomplishments. She knew these people. They were not crackpots.

Marden's book is intended as a biography of Betty Hill. "It follows her life since 1957 till her death (in 2004). ... There's a chapter on Betty and Barney's relationship (a bi-racial couple), how it developed." But given the impact of the UFO event on their lives it's the focus. "It changed their world view and changed their life."

Marden recalls, within days of the alleged abduction, she

and her family were at the Hills' home looking at evidence. "The tops of Barney's car showed deeply scraped forms ... which he couldn't explain. They were the size of silver dollars, highly polished, circular, on the trunk of the car. And when Betty placed a compass over the sports it spun and spun." Their watches they'd been wearing had stopped working, "though they'd been running perfectly the night before the event. ... They never operated right again."

They told of a close encounter with a craft, "at the closest point about 100 feet from them. It was disc-

shaped, with a double row of rectangular windows, and an intense blue-white light. There was a red light that telescope from each side of it."

For some time the story was kept close and quiet. "They wanted to keep it confidential. ... But they thought as citizens they needed to report it to Pease Air Force ... they did on Sept. 20, 1961, the day after arriving home."

Curious, Betty started researching UFOs at the local library. In one book she found reference to NICAP, a private organization located in Washington, D.C., comprised of military personnel,

and scientists interested in "the UFO problem, dilemma whatever you want to call it," says Marden. Her aunt wrote the group.

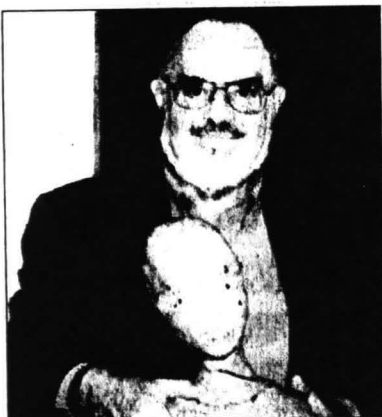
"She described that Barney returned to the car and was afraid ... that they heard what Betty described as electric beeping and Barney discussed as buzzing, a series of sounds." The latter incident the last Barney recalled till reaching Ashland, N.H., 35 miles south of the field.

Betty retained fleeting memories. Both recalled a roadblock and a huge moon, or red-orange orb silhouetted

(continued on page 2)

Nuclear physicist and "Captured" co-author Stanton Friedman with an alien bust.

Courtesy photo



against the trees. Initially Marden learned most the details a month after the incident when Walter Webb, an astronomer with the NICAP, arrived in October of '61.

News of the abduction broke in 1965. Life for the couple and their relatives changed.

The pair told their story at a NICAP meeting, in Quincy, Mass. "They weren't on any official agenda, but had agreed to stand up and tell ... what they saw. Apparently it was tape recorded."

One of those in attendance handed the information on to a reporter with the "Boston Traveler." He contacted them and was insistent they talk. They refused and hired a lawyer. "They had a good reputation in the community. ... They certainly didn't want to be considered crackpots."

This is another important point for Marden. In the past the Hills, Betty in particular, were accused of seeking publicity. It just wasn't that way, says the niece. "Barney was appointed chair of Rockingham County Community Action Program and was also on the state advisory board for economic opportunity board. He was also a N.H. representative to the Civil Rights Commission and legal redress to the NAACP and on the New Hampshire regional board." Betty also held positions in these organizations, and was an envoy to the United Nations through their church.

"So they really had a lot to lose. ... They took what action they could to prevent it from being told. But they couldn't stop it."

On Oct. 25, 1965, the incident hit the papers with five follow-up articles. "I think not only myself, but the entire family was concerned about it." The reason was simple, "because of the way it would reflect on Betty and Barney and because we were members of the family it would reflect on us as well."

Marden was in high school at the time and initially felt no strong effect. Her brother on the other hand was bullied and beaten because of the story. During college and later entering the work field Marden thought twice about divulging the connection. "I was worried that it would effect my professional career and how people would perceive me. So I only told friends until I retired. ... I sort of separated myself from the affair for a number of years."

Today the incident and the research regarding UFO sightings is a part of her life. "I'll tell you why. When I left my profession back in the early '90s I was spending more and more time with my aunt. And something I'd always wanted to do was investigate ... to find out in my own mind if it had happened, or if Barney had absorbed Betty's dreams." (Barney passed in 1976).

While Betty was still alive Marden started what she describes as intensive research. She mapped out distances, looked at landmarks, even took Betty along with her several times. "I had the opportunity to ask lots of questions. ... I think what cemented it for me was when she gave me the hypnosis tapes."

"While you can't really confirm without outside verification, what I was looking for was the independent corroborating information. And I believe I found that." It was in the inconsequential things, she says. Marden



Betty and Barney Hill of Portsmouth with their dachshund, Delsey, from "The Interrupted Journey: Two Lost Hours Aboard a Flying Saucer," by John G. Fuller.

Courtesy of Jeeves Studios

explains that when the Hills underwent hypnosis, the doctor imposed amnesia after each session, in part to keep them from exchanging ideas. In 1996 Marden transcribed the tapes and started comparing them with one another and with Betty's dreams. She feels the two accounts often corroborated one another.

"During part of the hypnosis I do believe Betty was mixing dreams with other things, a combination of fantasy and reality. I don't think so with Barney."

Betty Hill appointed Marden trustee and executor of her estate. After Betty's death in 2004, Marden compiled two permanent archival collections for the Milne Special Collection and Archives Department at the UNH Dimond Library. One is the Hills' civil rights collection, comprised of documents, letters, photographs and newspaper articles pertaining to Betty's and Barney's social and political activities. The UFO collection contains all of all the correspondence, articles, and other material from Betty's extensive files, including new material, Betty's dress, and the forensic paintings of her captors by N.H. artist David Baker. They will soon become available to qualified researchers.

"I read every letter she'd written, letters from research-

ers, serious scientists ... whose identities will never be revealed. They're studying it quietly. I had her diaries, her memories. The book is based on all this information." There are also hours of tape from interviews between Marden and Hill, with the niece often playing devil's advocate.

After retiring from her professional life, Marden became more involved in the UFO world. She was on the board of the international group Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) for 10 years, till resigning recently. She was MUFON's director of field investigators, the arm that trains and tests field investigators, "people qualified to investigate after UFO sightings."

The upshot of her own family's sighting? "I do believe there is enough evidence to say I think they probably were (abducted)," says Marden. And yes, she does believe in UFOs, though she's very skeptical of most claims.

"I'm very interested in the subject. I'm not a person that is going to go out advocating or proselytizing about UFOs. I think of myself as taking more of a curious, social-science-perspective look at this sort of thing. I find abductions fascinating interesting and perplexing. ... but unless you show me evidence, I can't say yet it happened."



Courtesy photo

Betty Hill at the capture area in Thornton, N.H.

St. Clair Co. a haven for UFO fans

By Nicholas J.C. Pistor
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Strange sightings of a massive, triangular object that stretched across the sky seven years ago have propelled St. Clair County into the heights of UFO lore.

"I can't explain what I saw," said Mark Lopinot, an O'Fallon police detective who watched as the object approached his city. "It was shocking."

Thanks in part to documentaries that get continued play on cable TV, the sightings by Lopinot and several other police officers have become legend, and St. Clair County has become an important place in the UFO debate. Local police departments often field calls about the 2000 incident and hear reports of new UFO sightings. The county has become a focus for the extra-terrestrial-minded.

Lopinot said he has even been approached by a local retired military officer who claimed to have been abducted by space aliens.

He said he is contacted by people from all over the area with their own stories. This week, he was fielding calls from a Japanese documentary team interested in UFOs.

Whatever it was that Lopinot and the other officers saw that night in January 2000 emitted a bright, colorful light. It flew in total silence.

The officers spotted the flying object above Lebanon, Shiloh, Duplo, O'Fallon and Millstadt. One officer reportedly hummed the "Twilight Zone" theme song over his radio as he watched.

Peter Davenport, the director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Washington state, called the sightings of January 2000 "astounding."

He said the event is important because it was witnessed by a large number of law enforcement officials, who described the object as a "floating house with bright red and white

lights."

"The events that occurred constitute one of the most interesting and well-documented incidents our center has ever seen," Davenport said. Davenport, a St. Louis native, talks to dozens of people every day who have seen things in the sky. He acts as a clearinghouse for thousands of eyewitness UFO reports every year.

A stream of UFO sightings have been reported from the Metro East since 2000. The most recent: A report filed in June involving a triangular flying object in Columbia.

Details involving the that sighting — and thousands of others — are available at www.nuforc.org, Davenport's website.

The appearance here last year of so-called crop circles has also turned heads in the UFO community. Theories about such unexplained formations made by flattened crops often involve speculation about extraterrestrials.

Field investigators from the Colorado-based Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network flew over Belleville to investigate the reported circles. They said that 13 circles, varying in size between 15 feet and 50 feet across, were visible among the soybean plants on a farm near Belleville.

But it's the January 2000 sky sighting that gets the most attention. The National Institute of Discovery Science, a privately financed research organization in Las Vegas devoted to UFOs and the paranormal, sent investigators to the area to learn more about the incident. Its website classifies the investigation as ongoing.

Officials at Scott Air Force Base in O'Fallon said nothing like what was sighted is based at the airfield. The military also does not fly any low-level training or testing routes in the area, a spokesman said.

To date, there is no explanation for what appeared above St. Clair County.

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STLtoday.com/current

Do you think UFOs have appeared in St. Clair County? Talk about it in Current Affairs.

LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS, Lincoln, NC - July 13, 2007

Not a hoax, but concealment

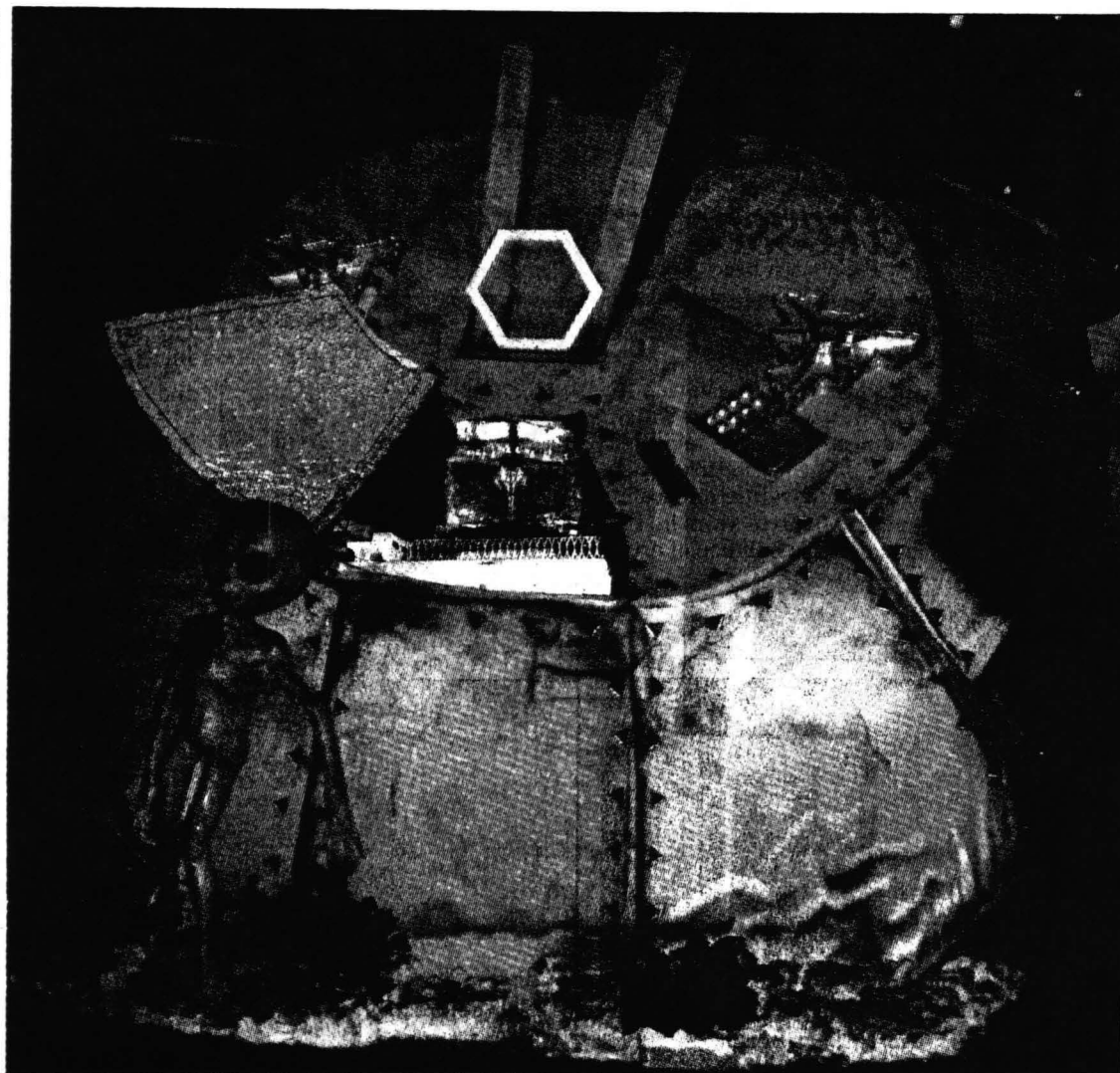
Thomas J. Carey of Pennsylvania and Donald R. Schmitt of Wisconsin dedicated 37 and 40 years respectively investigating the Roswell, N.M. UFO case. Their book, "Witness to Roswell" reveals for the first time that "prize witness" 1st Lt. Walter G. Hault, who put out Col. William Blanchard's July 8, 1947 press release (concerning the recovery of a crashed flying saucer), in reality knew even more about the case.

Hault revealed for the first time in a notarized affidavit in 2002 that he personally not only witnessed a crashed flying disc as Roswell, but also several small alien bodies, and one still alive at the crash site; thus giving a lie to all U.S. government announcements about government findings on Roswell since 1947.

The notarized document by Hault dealing with his experiences is shown in great detail in the book, which exhaustively presents accounts of witnesses to the crash; military containment and recovery; high level security surrounding all clean-up phases; deathbed testimony; sealed posthumous statements; and the extreme measures the U.S. government has taken to prevent people from telling the truth.

GEORGE FAWCETT
Lincolnton

CR: G. Fawcett



JUSTIN NORTON | AP

This photo taken in December 2006 at the Area 51 exhibit at the Alien Zone in Roswell, N.M., shows an alien standing outside a crashed spaceship.

Captain's Log, stardate July 5-8



Roswell, home of alien abduction, conspiracy and kitsch, plans 60th anniversary UFO fest

By JUSTIN M. NORTON
Associated Press Writer

ROSWELL, N.M. — Is "The Truth" located in this remote city in New Mexico?

Driving alone down a stretch of desolate highway en route to Roswell, I begin to understand why conspiracy buffs have long argued that aliens crash-landed in the desert here a half-century ago.

Darkness engulfs desert fields. A misshapen yellow moon hangs in the sky. Husks of abandoned buildings litter the roadside. Has an alien invasion already taken place? I notice a blinking light in the sky — but quickly discern it's an airplane.

"I do know this. There are other things out there in the universe," said John Turner, 78, who

was working the desk of the International UFO Museum and Research Center on Roswell's North Main Street when I visited.

I have secretly wanted to visit Roswell since I was a boy. What I got during my brief visit —

something I've contemplated doing for years — was a lesson in how a small city in the middle of the American southwest became enshrined in American pop culture.

The 60th anniversary of the so-called "Roswell Incident" will be marked July 5-8 at the city's annual UFO festival. City officials say 50,000 people are expected for the event, which will include lectures, book-signings, tours, entertainment,

and, according to the organizers, perhaps an alien abduction or two.



JUSTIN NORTON | AP

This photo taken in December 2006 at the Area 51 exhibit at the Alien Zone in Roswell, N.M., shows a staged alien autopsy.

Long-term plans are under way as well, for a UFO-themed amusement park, complete with an indoor roller coaster that would take passengers on a simulated alien abduction. The park, dubbed Alien Apex Resort, could open as early as 2010. The city has received a \$245,000 legislative appropriation for initial planning, but the park would be privately built and managed.

The original Roswell Incident occurred in July 1947, outside the city. A rancher named W.W. "Mack" Brazel went to check on some sheep after a night of storms. He claimed he found some strange debris. Neighbors told Brazel he might have pieces of a flying saucer.

On July 8, 1947, a local military office issued a press release saying that pieces of a "crashed disk" were recovered. A story featured on the front page of the Roswell Daily Record claimed a flying saucer was captured (the paper is now reproduced and sold to tourists). Other news agencies picked up on the event — albeit in a cursory fashion.

A revised release was soon sent out that said the material was a weather balloon. But stories about requests for tiny coffins and a nefarious plot began to emerge and Roswell went from small town to Alien Capitol.

While what exactly happened more than a half-century ago in the desert remains murky. But it did inspire me to drive hundreds of miles across the desert to a town of roughly 45,000 people.

After a fitful sleep at the Best Western, I rubbed my scalp to search for any curious implants or scars, and headed out early to spend the morning downtown.

I was greeted at the UFO Museum (a former movie theater) by an alien dummy wearing a Santa Claus hat. The light posts on the streets of Roswell feature alien heads wearing Santa Claus hats. The creatures look utterly incapable of such malevolent acts as abduction and brain surgery.

The museum takes visitors through a timeline, beginning with newspaper clips and printed affidavits from many who claim to have intimate knowledge of the crash. For an extra donation, visitors can take an audio tour with a decidedly low-tech cassette Walkman.

The convoluted timeline of what happened after "The Roswell Incident" shows just why there are so many conflicting stories about the event.

The museum's most popular and photographed exhibition is purely fictional: the set of an alien autopsy from the 1994 television movie "Roswell." The vivid exhibit, in which doctors prepare to examine an emaciated alien corpse, is on a permanent loan to the museum.

(continued on page 4) 3

The gift shop takes up a good chunk of the first floor and offers every conceivable extra-terrestrial gift: alien plush dolls; alien shot glasses and magnets that say "I BELIEVE." A wide selection of books and documents on the Roswell incident is also for sale.

Downtown Roswell is a hub of alien-themed shops. There's the Not Of This World coffee-house and the Cover Up Cafe. Even businesses like banks have cardboard cutouts of aliens in the windows.

One shop worth a visit is the Alien Zone, roughly a block away from the museum. For a small fee, visitors (the human kind) can see an exhibit called "Area 51" that features displays of roughly 3-foot-tall alien models in very human poses.



JAKE SCHOELLKOPF | AP

A tourist photographs an alien outside a T-shirt and souvenir shop in Roswell, N.M.

PRESS, Coeur d'Alene, ID - May 20, 2007

UFOs: Government is keeping something

As a citizen of this country, I feel that it is our human right to know what the government is keeping from us. I had a sighting in Washington in the early '80s just south of Mount St. Helens. We never spoke of it because, at the time, people would laugh or think you were crazy. I went to Roswell last year to see for sure if I really did have a sighting and they confirmed that I did have a sighting.

Since I moved back to Idaho, I found that many people have had the same experience. Three hundred people attended a meeting regarding UFOs in Post Falls a few years ago. So this needs to move forward to stop hiding our human right to the truth.

What else is our government hiding? Other countries are beginning to provide the public with information on these UFO sightings.

I have a woman from New Mexico coming in June to speak on UFOs. Please contact me if you think you have had an experience or know someone who has had one. People thought the man who invented the airplane was weird or crazy and now the skies are full of planes.

Start speaking up!

Who cares if people think you are crazy — we are going to other planets now. What makes people think they cannot come here to earth? It's just closed-minded people who would think you're crazy. We should be open to the fact that we are not the only ones in our circle of planets.

I want to start a UFO group or club. Please call me if you are interested.

JOY FRENCH
Coeur d'Alene



JAKE SCHOELLKOPF | AP

Alien eyes adorn a lamp post along Main Street in downtown Roswell, N.M.

IF YOU GO...

• **Roswell, N.M.:** www.roswellnm.org or 877-849-7679. The 2007 Roswell UFO Festival, July 5-8; www.roswellufofestival.com. Located about 200 miles from Albuquerque or El Paso, Texas.

• **International UFO Museum & Research Center:** 114 N. Main St., Roswell; www.iufomrc.com/ or 800-822-3545. Adults, \$5; ages 5-15, \$2. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

AS I WANDER

by Charlie Meeks

Watching the night skies

Did you see it? I have to confess I missed it, but I wish I hadn't.

At the time it appeared last Wednesday night, I'm sure I was inside with my nose stuck in a book — or asleep. How much more exciting had I been outside with my eyes turned heavenward.

About 11 p.m. that night, Bruce Larson's neighbors on East McVey phoned and said, "Come out and look at this light."

He did, and "It was awesome," Bruce reported.

It was, he said, a huge glow in the northeast sky, with tiny red lights blinking within its light.

Now, most nights I can stand in my yard and see the glow of Springfield lighting up the night sky to the north of me. And I suppose if an airplane happened to fly by at the exact time I looked up, tiny flashing red lights would appear within the glow.

But Bruce's glow evidently wasn't that big and didn't reach all the way down to the horizon. Bruce's glow was moving — never so slowly, but moving at a constant speed.

Bruce was captivated. "It was absolutely beautiful," he said.

And quiet, too. "It wasn't making any noise," he said. "It was something."

But what? Bruce's neighbors jumped in their car and followed the object as far as the old Marshall's store on Highway 174, but neither they nor Bruce have discovered any clue as to what it might have been.

They have not seen or read anything on area TV stations or in area newspapers about unusual lights in the sky, and the Mt. Vernon Police Department received no calls from curious observers.

But the McVey Street residents aren't the only ones who saw the light. Other friends of Larson, who live south of the University of Missouri Research Center west of Mt. Vernon, also saw the glow and snapped a photo, which either hasn't been developed or didn't capture the object on film. I'm not clear which it is, but if I see a copy, I'll let you know what it shows — or doesn't show.

Of course, at this point, the glow is a UFO, simply by way of being a flying object that hasn't been identified. Bruce speculates it was some sort of dirigible or other aircraft on its way to an event in Springfield that involved the Confederate (or Commemorative) Air Force.

He isn't suggesting it was aliens, although there have been reports of such in Lawrence County.

According to a tale I heard a few years ago, a family of four traveling on Interstate 44 on Christmas Day stopped at the rest area east of town.

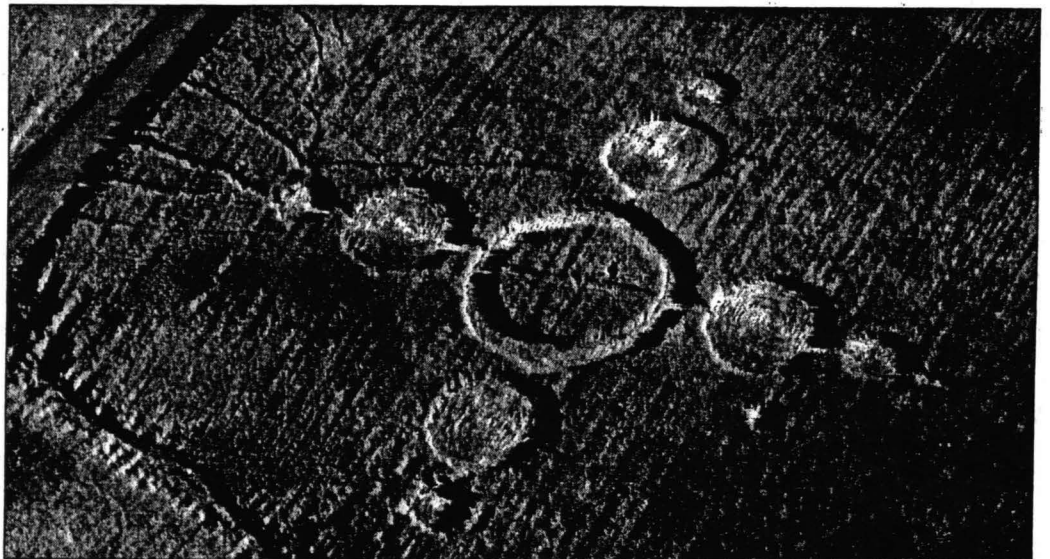
When they exited the car, the air was filled with a strange humming sound. The son was just pointing out to his family a boomerang-shaped object hovering in the sky just above the treeline when ...

Well, they don't remember what happened next, the story goes.

The next thing they remember is waking up at home the next day — 16 miles from the sighting, with their car parked in the garage, baggage still in it. Christmas presents had been removed from the car and stacked carefully under the tree.

Another story involves a man living on the east side of the county who simply got up, walked out the front door of his home and left the door wide open in spite of the bitterly cold winter night.

THE STAR, Grand Coulee, WA - July 11, 2007



The Lincoln County crop circles, as seen by Keith Powell, who took this photograph from the vantage point supplied courtesy of Rob Lyons and his ultra-light aircraft.

Circles in wheat cause national buzz

by Roger S. Lucas

Crop circle mania is sweeping the coulee.

Ever since spray pilot Greg Leyva of Wilbur saw the crop circles just off Bagdad Road June 29, locals have made a steady visit to the site.

"The first ones to see the circles were a farmer, Mitch Sorensen, and Steve Reed. They were driving along the road and saw the circles and then called me for a fly-over," Leyva said.

"If this was done by someone local, it sure was professional," Leyva noted. "All the circles are lined up vertically and horizontally, just perfect."

The crop circles, nine of them, definitely in a pattern, lay in a wheat field owned by Jim Llewellyn, a half mile south of Bagdad Road.

That has produced a certain degree of notoriety for Llewellyn, who takes it all with a grain of salt.

"It's very artistic," Llewellyn noted. He wasn't particularly concerned about the circles. "They take up just a fraction of an acre."

"Someone went to a lot of trouble, and they were very careful," Llewellyn said. He had no idea who or what might have made the circles. "I don't think it was a prank by a bunch of local kids," he added.

Llewellyn said that he had a call

from Cambridge, Mass. from a woman who wanted to take wheat stalk samples for scientific study. "A woman came down from British Columbia and took the samples," he noted.

"Someone asked me if animals in the area were acting strange since the incident," he noted. "My son and I went over to the site and there were eight buck deer standing down in the hollow."

Peter Davenport, investigator for the National UFO Reporting Center, heard about the circles and quickly called Leyva to see if he would fly him over the site. Davenport was there the next day, along

with Michael Heit, of Harrington, Wash., where NUFORC is based.

Explanations of what caused the circles range from kids doing a prank to a UFO deed.

A lot of people who have visited the site are quick to point out that they just don't know how the circles were formed.

Those who believe it was a prank contend that other crop circles have been duplicated by persons using a string and a long plank.

The crop circles off Bagdad Road are about 150 feet in width and length, and the wheat is laid down flat against the ground in a counter-clockwise pattern.

The circles are symmetrical and in a pattern with a large circle in the middle and two smaller circles coming out of the center in four locations around the inner circle. The inner circle has a seven-foot path around the exterior and the grain in the center is not disturbed.

Davenport said the circles definitely were not made by man.

One Electric City man, David Stieglmeyer, who visited the site Friday, agrees. He has no idea, though, who or how the patterns were made.

Davenport's UFO website noted that he had received an unconfirmed report that "a resident of the area was witness to a bright flash of light on Thursday night in the general area of the formation."

A second report stated a resident of the area had photographed a pe-

culiar object with his cell phone. Davenport said he is still trying to check the reports out. He stated that he would like anyone with additional information to contact the UFO website. The email address is director@ufocenter.com.

Leyva said he attended a wedding over the weekend, and everyone was talking about the circles.

The circles may soon be lost, however; wheat harvest is coming.

"We cut the grain in that field about the first week in August," Llewellyn said. He said he hasn't decided if he will cut around the circles or not.

Crop circles conjectures

Google the words "crop circles" and you'll find about 1.9 million references on the Internet, the most popular on Wikipedia, a free, and freely editable, online encyclopedia.

That article, which Wikipedia notes is in dispute as biased, lists explanations both human and non-human for the appearance of crop circles. It notes that two men in England claimed in 1991 that they had been making crop circles since 1976 with planks, rope, hats and wire. They announced their hobby only after one of their wives suspected adultery.

Find that article at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crop_circle



An aerial view of a crop circle on Freddy Ray Gates Farm one mile south of Delaplaine.

Delaplaine experiences a crop circle

by Fred Martin

"I don't think there's anybody in this part of the country who could have figured out how to do this!"

Those were part of the first words of Freddy Ray Gates as he carefully observed a crop circle in his wheat field south of Delaplaine, Thursday of last week.

Even though wheat in this area has taken a beating from the weather, still the circle's designs are radically visible from the air and on the ground.

Word first circulated Thursday morning as a crop duster flew over the area and informed others of the design that had earlier appeared. It could not be de-

termined exactly when the circle was created, or how. (Some later reports indicate the design was first spotted Saturday, June 9, but information wasn't shared until five days later.)

As reporters ventured to Gates' shop, he waited patiently to see the aerial photo that had been taken and printed. "Wow, you mean there are marks inside that circle?" he asked. "I thought it was just a big circle. And there are no paths going in to it either."

As Gates led three others to the laid-down wheat, he quickly pointed out the clock-wise and counter clock-wise rotation of the wheat. A closer look indicated a woven-pattern of wheat stalks where certain designs crisscrossed, an area encompassing about 20 square feet.

"Look at this! This wheat is in several directions," Gates stated as he knelt to examine the stalks. "The way this is weaved together, someone would have had to

do it one stalk at a time."

Different from the two previous crop circles in the same area, this circle was smaller with one large outer circle estimated at 100 feet in diameter. Three inner circles and swirls with what resembled pinchers were nearly perfectly aligned inside.

In trying to convince himself that this configuration was not manmade, Gates pointed out the closeness of one house.

How it would be impossible for someone to make a crop circle during the night without being spotted. Daytime operation would also be impossible because of flying aircraft and Gates' farm less than one-half mile away, he guaranteed.

Gates indicated the wheat crop is ready for harvest, but said he planned to leave the "circle" area intact until the site could be thoroughly examined by specialists.

Phenomena investigator arrives

Gates gave permission for

Phenomena Investigator JoAnne D. Scarpellini, High Ridge, MO to examine the area and provide whatever information that could be gleaned.

She arrived at the Gates' farm around 9:40 a.m. Friday and began her work around 10:00.

This is Scarpellini's third visit to farms along Highway 90, initially to examine the first reported crop circle on the Gibbs property being farmed by Todd Young in June 2003. Young harvested the crop the day the circle was spotted. She walked the area and gathered a limited amount of information.

Scarpellini returned in May 2004 to the farm of Rodney and Judy Schimming where unmatured wheat was about three weeks from harvest. There she took measurements, checked magnetic fields, photographed all angles of the downed wheat. She interviewed residents of the area and included their statements in her final report.

"I have never seen such a formation (configuration) as this which could be described as a circle with beetle or ant pinchers inside," Scarpellini began. "As far as we (Scarpellini and Nancy Talbott of BLT Research) are concerned, we do not know what to call it."

Of her investigation, she said, "In the Gates field, I found that most plants were only bent, not kinked or broken."

Scarpellini expressed having difficulty photographing the area because of the height (shortness) of the wheat crop, its color and angle of the sun. "In gathering information I used an EMF Force (tri-field) meter and the magnetic section went crazy in one area about 15-feet in diameter." She described sounds from the meter similar to those heard from metal detectors used around households when searching for hidden metal fragments. "I've never heard this meter act up the way it did. However, my compass did not do anything unusual."

Scarpellini said she was not surprised that some metal fragments were found, saying this is not unusual because of flying ash particles from power plants. (She said she did not know there is a power plant about 60 air miles away at Newark.)

She gathered plant samples and will begin germination of the wheat to see how it could react.

Scarpellini was told the field was ready for harvest and that would be done the next day (Saturday, following her investigation on Friday).

"Freddy Gates told me he was going to plant soybeans in the field and will keep a close watch on how soybeans in that particular area develop," Scarpellini added.

In trying to pinpoint the exact date of the crop circle appearing, Scarpellini said she heard one crop duster had been in the area Wednesday, June 6 and did not see the configuration in the wheat field. He did not fly nearby the next two days but did spot the crop circle June 9, "but he went about his business and didn't say anything about it until he flew over again on June 14 and reported it and notified the field's owner."

A more detailed report will be available at a later date, Scarpellini stated.

(Other work by Scarpellini can be found at bltresearch.com)

CORRECTION: The article, "UFO expert: Deathbed revelations point to Roswell coverup," GAZETTE, Janesville, WI [June 2007 UFONS, page 9] was incorrectly dated. The actual date should be April 18, 2007. Thanks to Richard Heiden for catching the error.

Letters From Our Readers

Re: Weird news week

Researchers interested in help

I represent the BLT Research Team, a group of scientists and fieldworkers who have been studying the crop circle phenomenon here and abroad for 15 years. Over the years this research has led to the publication of three papers in the scientific literature outlining physical changes discovered in crop circle plants and soils caused, we believe, by exposure of the plants and soils to very unusual energies. There is evidence that the plants/soils have been exposed to microwave radiation, unusual electrical pulses, and strong magnetic fields, but the

source of these energies remains an enigma.

An associate called me several days ago about this crop formation and e-mailed me a few photos. From our experience over the years, this event does not look man-made and we have asked him to go back to the formation and look for elongated apical (top) nodes and expulsion cavities (holes blown out in the plant stems) and also described how to carry out a magnetic drag of the soils.

Although visual examination of a crop formation is usually not

enough to determine its authenticity, careful observation can be a good indicator, if you know what to look for.

If there is anyone in the area locally who would be willing to help with some additional field work, please do contact us by e-mail, or phone, as soon as you can.

For the scientific research, see: www.bltresearch.com

**Nancy Talbott
BLT Research Team Inc.
Cambridge, MA**

We don't know much

I went out twice today to look at the circles. The first time was with my friend, Dave, and my son, Matt. As we stood in the middle of it all and offered conjecture as to how

they got there, I thought to myself that we really couldn't know for sure by ourselves.

All I do know for sure is that they were there and I saw them.

There is lots in life that we think we know, but we really don't know much for sure. We take lots for granted.

**Bob Hendrickson
Coulee Dam**

Close encounters of the local kind

By RICK MURRAY

Journal Register News Service

A Fort Dix Military Policeman supposedly pumped five bullets into what looked like a gray-type space alien and one more bullet into an apparent flying saucer hovering above his patrol car.

The gray then somehow cleared a high chain-link fence before collapsing dead on a runway in a remote area of McGuire Air Force Base. The creature stank of ammonia and had the skin of a reptile, or so the story goes.

Prominent UFOlogists have argued they possess solid evidence that such a case did indeed transpire nearly thirty years ago on Jan. 18, 1978.

Officials of the U.S. Air Force have repeatedly denied the claim, saying again this week that the so-called evidence in the case was discredited as a hoax years ago.

Still, the old story offers a bizarre prologue to the recent saga of base incursion involving the now notorious Fort Dix Six, who await court action as alleged Islamic terrorists.

McGuire's civilian base historian, Gary Boyd, acknowledges the UFO story has over the years taken on a life of its own. The Internet to this day, he says, offers detailed reports of UFOlogists' investigations into the case.

True or not, the story packs a dramatic wallop, with UFO investigators quoting what they claim is an eyewitness.

The so-called eyewitness notes: "...A Fort Dix MP was pursuing a low flying object which then hovered over

his car. He described it as oval shaped, with no details, and glowing with a bluish green color."

He goes on to say: "...At that time, in front of his police car, appeared a thing, about four-feet tall, grayish brown, fat head, long arms, and slender body," the eyewitness noted. "The MP panicked and fired five rounds from his .45 cal into the thing, and one round into the object above."

As late as two years ago, Boyd says, amateur UFO researchers sought to gain access to base records about the alleged incident, while pretending to seek information about their military backgrounds. Boyd says he's fielded a total of ten inquiries about what in UFO circles is called, "the night the alien died."

"It's a complete fiction," Boyd said, laughing, in an interview this week. "It's humorous fiction because it wasn't even well hoaxed."

The chief piece of physical evidence supporting the UFO incident's reality is a military incident/complaint report, which purportedly details the alleged events of the night in question. Boyd, however, laughingly dismisses the document, noting it reflects numerous and blatant inaccuracies.

"The chain of command is totally screwed up and they even have the wrong zip code for the base," says Boyd.

A similar conclusion about the report was reached by the National Institute of Discovery Science, a Las Vegas, Nev. based collection of scientists and investigators, whose probes into a variety of paranormal phenom-

enon are financed by aerospace/real estate tycoon, Robert T. Bigelow.

NIDS gained fame in recent years for a book called "Hunt for the Skin-walker", based on the organization's investigation into a bizarre range of paranormal episodes - ranging from Bigfoot and UFO sightings to shape-shifter and poltergeist activity - at a ranch in a remote corner of Utah.

After conducting a preliminary investigation of the McGuire case, NIDS investigators determined that neither the base commander at McGuire in 1978, nor four other key Air Force officials, "admitted any memory of the incident."

Although they could not locate the principal eyewitness, NIDS investigators decided the case smelled enough like a hoax that no further investigation was necessary. However, NIDS through its website "encourages" anyone with information about the alleged McGuire encounter to contact them, noting, "the case is still pending."

The case's biggest continuing supporter is Richard H. Hunt, a Brentwood, Md.-based author specializing in the Civil War and UFOs, who has formerly been associated with the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomenon, an organization that has enjoyed a good reputation for at least its sincerity.

NICAP was founded during the UFO flaps of the '50s, by retired Marine Corps Major Donald Edward Keyhoe, who became world famous for his articles in True Magazine maintaining that "Flying Saucers are

Real."

Hunt picked up on the McGuire investigation upon the death of another NICAP stalwart, Leonard H. Stringfield, who also served for such other respected UFOlogy organizations as the Mutual UFO Network.

Stringfield, or so the story goes, heard from the principal eyewitness after giving an interview broadcast over Armed Services Radio. That interview had inspired the witness, a man Stringfield and Hunt identify as Jeff Morse, to write the letter containing the graphic account of the MP shooting the strange creature.

Before his death in 1992, Stringfield had interviewed Morse numerous times, although there were apparently big time gaps between conversations. Morse reported, and Stringfield believed, that the interruptions owed to federal agents intercepting mail and phone calls.

Finally, Morse mailed Stringfield a copy of the report, written on what military officials agree is a standard DD 1569 form. The report seemed authentic to Stringfield, who acknowledged at the time having no way of being sure. What impressed him most, though, was Morse's demeanor.

"I got to know Morse as amiable, bright and alert and inclined toward reticence," wrote Stringfield, who said he was encouraged that Morse at no time claimed that what he saw was an extraterrestrial.

Morse, a rookie Air Force security officer at the time of the alleged incident, reported actually seeing the creature sprawled on the runway as

he and other security officers worked to secure the area.

He later said the creature was whisked away on a C-141 to Wright Patterson Air Force Base, near Dayton, Ohio, where, according to UFO lore, several of the dead aliens from the famous Roswell incident are said to be stored.

Morse has said he and other low level security officers were also taken to Wright Patterson for a tough debriefing session, but a Morristown, N.J. attorney he identified as one of his interrogators has denied ever taking part in, or knowing anything about, any debriefing related to UFOs.

Morse went on to earn a bachelors degree in business management and a masters in human relations, according to Hunt who is equally impressed with Morse the man.

"I have a full picture of his family background and professional career," Hunt writes. "At this point there is no doubt in my mind whatsoever that the report is authentic, and since it literally represents a case of corpus delicti, it is of the first order of importance."

"The fact that several of the officers involved have denied to other investigators having any knowledge of the incident is not surprising," Hunt continues. "I have long since come to the conclusion that this case is so important and held in such complete secrecy that it will take a thorough Congressional investigation to pry loose the full story."

HERALD, Circleville, OH - July 3, 2007 CR: J. Fry

❖ Viewpoint ❖

Roswell revisited

The 60th anniversary of the Roswell Incident is fast approaching. In 1947 a strange object crashed near Roswell, New Mexico. The first press release by the Roswell Air Base was that a flying disc had crashed and it was later recovered by our U.S. Army Air Corps. They backtracked a few hours later and stated it was only a weather balloon. It was a description similar to the weather balloon recovered near Circleville, just a few days earlier. The Circleville story was carried nationwide by the Associated Press. It is accepted that this is where the cover story originated. Circleville is mentioned in some of the Roswell books.

Over the years, I have heard stories of alien bodies being stored at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton. I have had several second-hand reports from witnesses confirming this. Some of these were from my good friend Len Stringfield of Cincinnati, who was our country's top civilian UFO crash researcher at the time.

Bill Richardson, present Governor of New Mexico, states "the mystery sur-

rounding this crash has never been adequately explained — not by independent investigators, and not by the U.S. government."

Dick Chaney, our Vice-President, has publicly stated that if he is or ever has been briefed about UFOs, it surely would be classified and therefore he would not be at liberty to discuss it.

Before he passed away, Congressman Steven Schiff from New Mexico accused the U.S. Air Force of a massive cover up regarding the Roswell Incident.

In 1993, the Government Accounting Office (GAO) discovered that all documents covering the Roswell Incident had been destroyed years before without explanation or apparent authority. There can be no innocent explanation for this.

New testimony has come out about this 60 year-old event. A new book titled, "Witness to Roswell," is authored by by Donald Schmitt and Thomas Carey. During the course of Schmitt and Carey's investigation they amassed a growing roster of more than 600 people directly or indirectly associated with the events of Roswell who support the initial claim of a flying saucer recovery.

Former Secretary of the

Air Force, Sheila E. Widnall, under President Bill Clinton, issued an order in 1994 freeing a former servicemen of any secrecy restrictions that may have prevented them from talking about what they knew about the 1947 Roswell Incident. No longer would they have to fear recrimination, loss of pension, or even prison for violating any "oath of secrecy" forced upon them by the military long ago. This action expanded the potential witness pool. Schmitt and Carey seized the opportunity and thus have gained testimony from many older servicemen who had not spoken about Roswell before.

A growing number of military and civilian witnesses are providing deathbed testimony, all admissible in a court of law, confessing to direct knowledge about "non-human" bodies recovered at Roswell in 1947. Some of these witnesses state that there was indeed a survivor of the crash. Many witnesses never talked publicly about their part in Roswell. The information from some was released after their death.

The Personnel Information Officer at the Roswell Air Base in 1947 was Walter Hunt. He had been a greeter at the local



Pete Hartinger
RUFOS

Roswell Museum for years. He is the one who gave the press release in 1947 about recovering the "flying disc" and then later retracted it. Haut has since passed away. Upon his death a sealed affidavit was given for the historic record. In his affidavit he states that he also saw the wreckage of the object and the bodies in the hangar at the Roswell Air Base.

Jon Fry, our chief researcher, loaned me this book. His book review will appear on our website, www.roundtownufosociety.com. I highly recommend this book for the ones who are interested in the Roswell Incident. I intend on getting my own.

We have monthly meetings at the Circleville Library on the second Thursday of each month, which is open to the public. We discuss the latest events and past history of ufology.

If anyone has questions about Roswell or ufos in general, please contact me at 740-477-6252 or e-mail me at rufos@columbus.rr.com.

Conference brings out dedicated UFO hunters

By Vimal Patel

Denver Post Staff Writer

Chuck Zukowski said he is used to skeptics deriding his belief in UFOs as silly escapism, but that's OK.

"There's more physical evidence that UFOs exist than there's physical evidence that Jesus Christ existed," the Colorado Springs resident and reserve sheriff's deputy said.

Zukowski was one of about 70 people, ranging from college students to retired professionals, who flocked to the Tivoli Student Center at the Auraria Campus on Saturday to talk about evidence of unidentified flying objects and convince skeptics.

No bug-eyed costumes with dangling Slinkys were in sight at the annual Colorado UFO Briefing. It was serious business.

"The evidence is simply overwhelming," said James Carrion, international director of the Mutual UFO Network, a national group that studies sightings.

Carrion used to flip through his mom's National Enquirer magazines when he was 11, sparking his interest in the topic. At that time, the tabloid actually used to hire real investigators to dig for information, he said.

The 38-year-old network is the world's largest UFO investigative group, with 2,500 members and 800 field investigators, Carrion said. Devouring thick books and attending seminars is a requirement to become a certified investigator.

Jefferson County resident Rick Nelson said he once saw three barrel-shaped objects fluttering in the sky over Arvada. One of the shimmering gold and copper things was about one-quarter mile away before it shot to the sky and out of sight, he said.

"Anyone who spends time researching it can't dismiss it," he said.

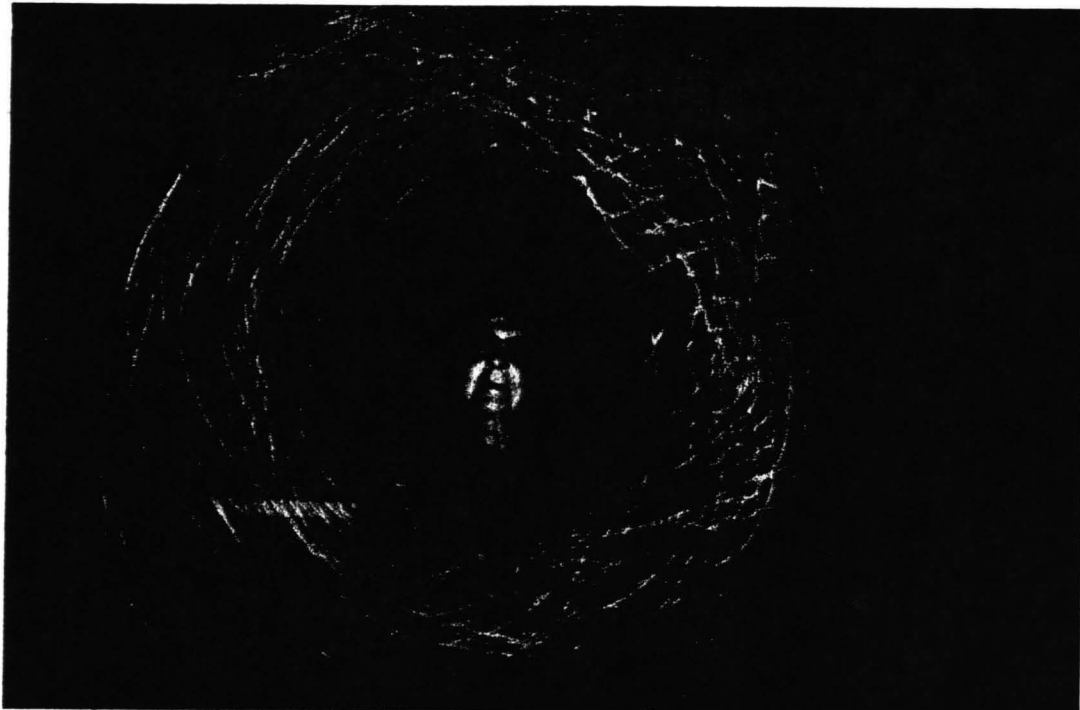
Colorado has a disproportionately high number of UFO sightings — about 5 to 12 a month out of a national 150, according to the Bellvue-based group.

It's unclear why, said Alejandro Rojas, the group's education director.

"We have a lot of cutting-edge (air) defense going on here," he said, explaining part of the sightings spike.

An annual UFO conference is set for Aug. 10-12 at the Denver Tech Center

Marriott, where the negatives of McMinnville, Ore., UFO photos — pictures declared authentic by a group of University of Colorado scientists — will be shown to the public for the first time, Carrion said.



JASON HUNT/Press

It all began with a blinding light for Joy French, whose interest in UFOs was kindled by her own experience in Washington years ago.

Seeing is believing

Experience prompts woman to start group

By LYNN BERK
Staff writer

COEUR D'ALENE — Joy French is looking for true believers.

And according to local UFO expert Jan Rosco, she's going to need all the help she can get.

Rosco, a Coeur d'Alene resident who was past director for the Northern Counties' chapter of the worldwide Mutual UFO Organization, says French is going to need to be strong.

"Idaho's a non-talkative, 'It's none-of-your business' state," says Rosco. "In Montana and Idaho, you're going to come across people who don't want you on their property."

"You need something here, but you also need to have a certain kind of understanding about nature. If she opens it up to the public without something to back her or help her psychologically, she's not going to know if that person is there because they didn't have their dose of drugs today or if they really saw something."

"You need to be familiar with the science of the mind as well as the science of the physics."

French is undaunted. "Three hundred people attended a meeting regarding UFOs in Post Falls a few years ago," French says. "So this needs to move forward to stop hiding our human right to the truth."

French said her journey into the realm began in the early 1980s when she lived up on a hill in Washington, just south of Mt. St. Helen's.

"I had never even much known about UFOs," she says.

Then one day, a neighbor who lived down by the lake invited her to watch a movie.

That's when her life took a step toward the outer limits.

"I thought I drove down to his place," says French, 83.

"The whole evening is kind of fuzzy, and we weren't drinking."

"The next thing I remember vividly is him driving my car up

If you believe

Local UFO organizational meeting:
7 p.m. Saturday, June 9, at the Best Western Coeur d'Alene Inn
Info: 664-9503

French, who had her own experience with an unexplained flash of bright light on a dark hilltop road some 20 years ago, wants to start a club, or some kind of group, for those

who believe that something is out there.

She doesn't care who makes fun of her, either.

"People are talking about UFOs here," says French. "and nobody thinks I'm crazy, and I don't give a damn. We need to open our minds. I might get a little flack, but I don't care."

to my place, to an open space where there were lots of trees but no trailers, and the light appeared like broad daylight."

It was very dark in those mountains at 1 a.m. — "You can't even find your way to your trailer from the bath-houses at that time of night" — but French says the light surrounded them. And then the car stopped.

"All this time, the light was above us," the Coeur d'Alene woman says. "I never saw anything but the light."

Her neighbor popped the car's hood and said, "There's nothing wrong with this car." He slammed it back down, turned the ignition, and the engine started right up.

"That's the last thing I remember until the next day," she says.

She met her neighbor at the park's community kitchen, but they talked around it and never brought it up again.

But as she grew older, French says, she wanted to know more, so she went to Roswell, N.M. — the mecca for those who believe in UFOs and aliens.

"Last year, I thought, before I die, I'm going to find out what I saw."

She met a woman there who she says underwent her own alien abduction.

Gloria Ann Hawker, author of "Morning Glory: Diary of An Alien Abductee," convinced French that she'd experienced a genuine sighting.

French has since invited Hawker to be the keynote speaker for her group's organizational meeting at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 9, at the Best Western Coeur d'Alene Inn.

Rosco, who wants very

much to meet Joy French, is very matter-of-fact about her own encounters.

"I see them in Coeur d'Alene quite often," Rosco says. "Most people are just looking down. Most people just don't sky-watch anymore. But if you do look up and see something, it becomes a satellite."

About 15 years ago, she says she was asleep in her house on Lake Coeur d'Alene when she woke up and saw a rounded craft with lights going around its sides hovering on the lake.

But before she could put her glasses on, it was gone.

She says North Idaho's hot spots for UFO sightings run both south and north up to the Canadian border.

"Sandpoint is very, very heavy," she says. "So is Benewah County."

According to the National UFO Reporting Center in Davenport, Wash., Idaho has been buzzing with unidentified sightings for some time. Their database lists a total of 280 sightings from Jan. 1, 1985 through April 22, 2007.

According to the center's founder, Peter Davenport, those sightings don't exclude hoaxes or misidentified phenomena such as aircraft, or weather balloons.

But contained over those 12 years are seven reports from Coeur d'Alene; one from Dalton Gardens; 15 from Sandpoint; two from Hayden; and three from Post Falls. The overwhelming majority were reported in Southern Idaho.

The latest sighting in Coeur d'Alene is dated Feb. 9, 2006, involving "changing colored lights on an object" sighted

at 6:35 p.m. The lights were viewed "from Dalton Gardens, possibly traveling low over Coeur d'Alene to the south."

The sighting lasted five to 10 minutes.

Still, Davenport says, "Only 1 out of 1,000 Americans will ever report a sighting."

Davenport also thinks French's goal is short-sighted, adding that "anyone who ever had a sudden gas pain wants to start a UFO group."

"She should simply feed the information to existing and experienced organizations to it goes to one source."

According to another UFO expert, a native of Moscow and a speaker at an upcoming "Annual UFO/Friendship Campout" near Area 51 in Nevada, it takes a lot of courage for someone like French to put herself out there.

But Dr. Simeon Hein also says French has a lot of company.

"I think if you talk to the average person, a lot of people have had sightings over their life and I think you're going to find the average person is interested in the subject even if they're afraid to admit it in public," said Hein, a researcher of those enigmatic crop circles and executive director of the Institute for Resonance in Boulder, Colo. He earned a Ph.D in sociology from the University of Washington.

"There are documentaries showing there is something there, so what are we seeing in our skies that our government isn't telling us about?" says Hein, 44. "I don't totally know what the phenomena is, but it's there, and I applaud someone who has the courage to talk about it."

The campout by Area 51 is scheduled for May 25-27, where \$150 gains you entrance into the Saturday and Sunday speaker sessions, a dry camping spot for three days, three meals at the Little A'Le' Inn, and nightly skywatches and book signings.

A \$75 fee assures three meals and speakers. No rooms are available, and visitors are encouraged to bring a travel trailer, motorhome, tents, and other alternatives. Rooms are available in Alamo, approximately 50 minutes from Rachel.

Contact The Little A'Le' Inn at (775) 729-2515. Early registration is recommended.

Hein is a former statistics teacher, so he is familiar with evaluating data. UFOs, he says, deserve attention.

"We're afraid of new things, but there are always new things being invented and if we pay attention, we can learn from them," he says. "Remember, people laughed at the Wright Brothers."

"But there has been a consistent effort to keep people from investigating (UFOs). There have been a lot of sightings in the last several months and we don't have any better explanation now than we did in the 1950s."

"It's just that more people are talking to us and telling us these are structured, metallic vehicles, and that we're not making them."

Hein has three stories for those 10 percent of sightings that have defied explanation. One, that they're interplanetary craft; that they are possibly our own selves, coming back from the future; or that they are from a hidden civilization currently on Earth.

"We just need people to decide it's time to look at this seriously," Hein said. "People who have seen them deserve to have a decent explanation."

Years ago, some UFO experts said the public should not be told that there are aliens from outer space landing on Earth. "How would you like," one writer said, "to meet a race of people who say 'Hello' with an ax?"

Hein doesn't think people would panic.

"A study by the Brookings Institute said people would panic, but that was 40 years ago," he says. "I don't think they'd panic now."

"I grew up with 'Star Trek,' and while people would be confronted with something strange, and different, and a little weird, I'm not sure they'd panic outright."

"Right now, we think we're the most intelligent thing around," he says.

"It would be a bracing experience to meet someone more intelligent and more advanced than we are. It would cause us to evaluate who and what we are."

Meantime, Joy French is collecting believers right and left.

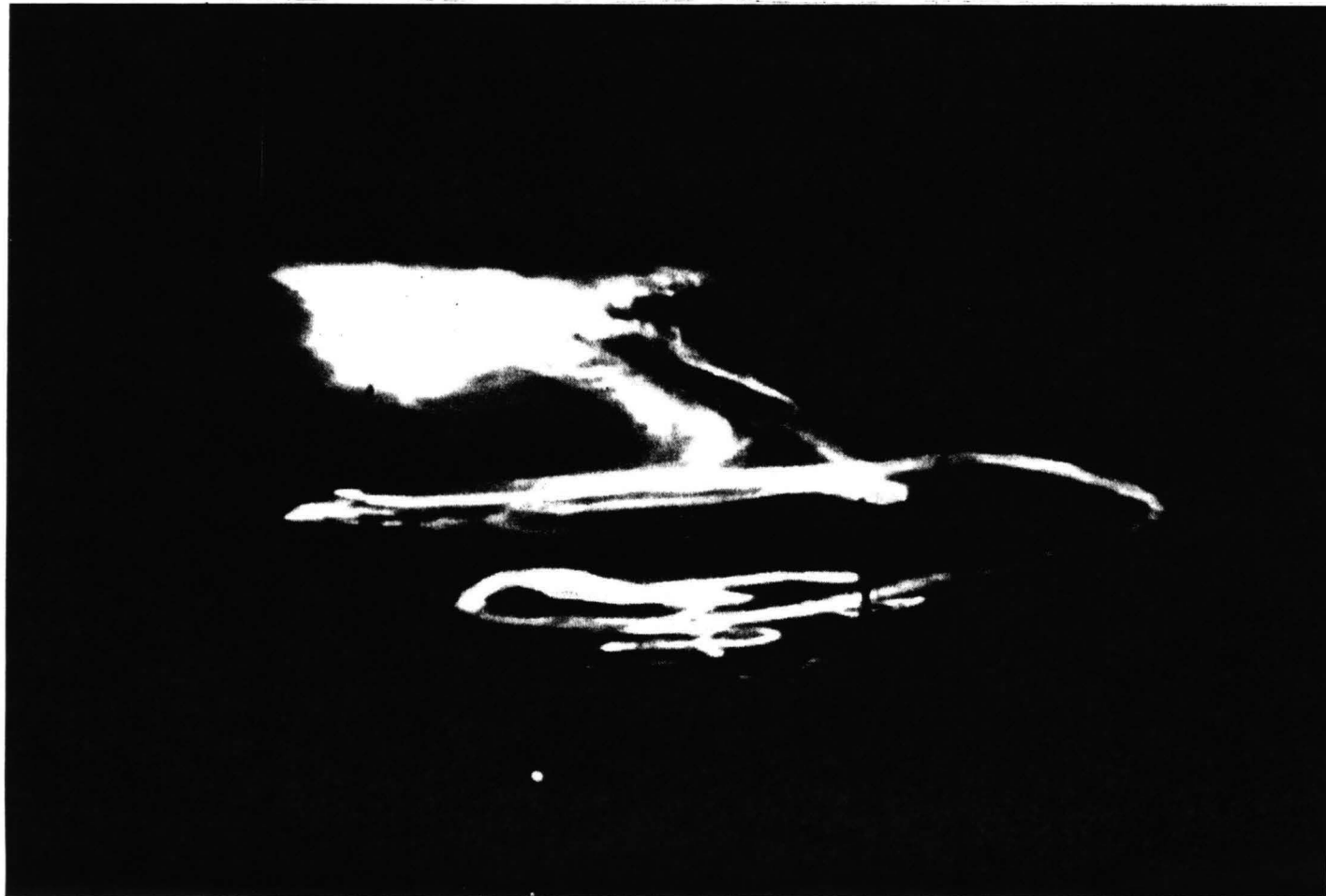
"Start speaking up!" she says. "It's just closed-minded people who would think we're crazy ... people thought that man who invented the airplane was weird or crazy, and now the skies are full of planes."

For more information, call French at (208) 664-9503.

Staff writer Lynn Berk can be reached at (208) 664-8176, Ext. 2016, (208) 691-4006, at lynnberk49@yahoo.com and at lberk@cdapress.com.



NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - April 9, 2007 CR: G. Duplantier



GEIPAN

France is the first country to put its files on UFOs on the Internet. A new Web site documents 1,600 cases spanning three decades. Many of the investigated incidents in the French archives turned out to be natural phenomena such as the effects of the aurora borealis, mist or thunderbolts.

Half of French UFOs remain unexplained

1,600 CASES

France puts three decades of archives online

BY ALLISON HANES

For three decades, an arms-length branch of France's national space agency quietly gathered reports of strange apparitions in the skies over the republic, from bright lights zig-zagging in the dark night to calls about flying saucers.

A small team of investigators dutifully probed each sighting, and either reached a logical conclusion, or consigned it to enigma.

Now, after decades under lock and key in dusty filing cabinets, France went public with its "X-Files" late last month. The Centre national d'études spatiales decided not only to declassify more than 1,600 cases, but to scan each official page and post it online for all to see.

"When the site went live, it was hit by so much traffic it went down almost immediately," said Chris Rutkowski, a co-ordinator for the Winnipeg-based Ufology Research Centre, noting the popularity of the project.

With more than 100,000 documents the archives of GEIPAN,

the Grouperment pour l'étude et l'information sur les phénomènes aérospatiaux non identifiés, contains official police reports, statements by witnesses to bizarre scenes — even colourful hand-drawn diagrams resembling children's artwork.

Each incident has been slotted into one of four categories: definitely solved, likely solved, unsolved for lack of sufficient information or unsolved mystery. More than half — 58% — of the phenomena investigated by the experts remain unexplained while just 9% have been definitely figured out.

For example, when two farmers in Royan came across a 50-

centimetre metal cylinder in a field in 1985, GEIPAN launched a thorough investigation that involved contacting NORAD about satellite orbits and missile tests. It was finally determined the two men had discovered a piece of Nazi-era war machinery left behind when the Third Reich retreated.

An explanation was more elusive when GEIPAN inherited a case that had taken place 11 years before the body's creation.

Two children out herding cows in Cussac in 1967 came upon a sphere hovering over a field with little black beings running around underneath. The strange creatures were sucked

into the sphere headfirst, which then flew away moving in an upward spiral pattern.

The frightened children ran home crying to tell their parents, who summoned the gendarmerie. The adults who returned to the scene remarked a strong odour of sulphur that lasted for days as well as burn marks on the grass five metres in diameter.

France is not the first country to peel back the layers of bureaucratic secrecy often surrounding the official study of bizarre phenomenon — though it is the first to make its data so universally accessible.

The vault of the national Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa contains information from five different departments on UFO sightings and investigations in Canada, although the bulk of it can only be consulted in person. Britain's Ministry of Defence released a chunk of information last year and Sweden, Italy and Chile have made some data public.

While many governments have kept their UFO research under wraps or simply denied its existence, France has released "absolutely all" of its collection to the masses for the sole purpose of furthering science.

Jacques Patenet, who oversees GEIPAN for the French national space program, is quick to emphasize the distinction between studying unidentified flying objects in the literal sense of the term and the stigmatized pseudoscience of UFO visitors from outer space.

Most sightings are simply lights dancing in the sky, he said in a statement posted on the space agency Web site, adding he is hopeful the release of the data may yield new meteorological or astronomical discoveries.

"Scientists must absolutely separate the UFO file from the paranormal," he said. "It's an

subject of inquiry like any other. At GEIPAN, we regularly collect observations from tangible facts brought to our attention by witnesses in good faith and we attempt to explain what happened. In the cases where hypotheses elude us, we want to call on scientists to help and make all our investigative reports available to them to study."

The material is the motherlode for UFO research, said Mr. Rutkowski, and it will be interesting to see if countries like the United States and Russia follow France's lead.

"In terms of real verification of data, or well-investigated, high-quality data, there are very few other examples," he said.

Chris Matzner, a physics professor at the University of Toronto, said he sees the online archives being good public relations aimed at piquing the curiosity of the general public or arousing the interest of school children.

"It's an interesting cultural phenomenon if nothing else," he said.

Marc Nantel, a physicist at the Ontario Centres of Excellence, said he doubts there is much of strategic or scientific value to be learned in the GEIPAN archives.

"To me what this says is that the French government [agency] said: 'This isn't worth anything. Let's give the people bread and circus.'"

But to those who actually believe there may be proof of alien life contained in France's files, the opening of the archives is a "breath of fresh air," in the words of one Canadian enthusiast.

"It's not right to lie to people and if we are in fact being visited by beings from other worlds, should anyone be able to keep this information from us?" Nick Balaskas of Toronto said.

National Post
ahanes@nationalpost.com



GEIPAN

A French investigator examines markings on the ground in 1989.

'Did you see this UFO hovering over town?' asks spotter

'Flying saucer' mystery



■ ABOVE: Carer Spig Ulan with the photographs he took of the mystery object he spotted over Slough.

■ RIGHT: Ringed in white, the saucer-shaped UFO flying at the height of an aircraft.

By Sam Matthew

A UFO spotter is keen to hear from anyone else who saw an unidentified object in the sky on Thursday.

Met Office experts have been unable to offer an explanation for a white arc-shaped object spotted by Spig Ulan.

Quick-thinking Mr Ulan grabbed a camera to snap the object and sent his images to the Observer for help in solving the mystery.

He said: "I looked up into the sky and there it was. I was completely amazed by what I was seeing. I knew it wasn't an aeroplane. It was a silver and shaped just like a flying saucer."

Mr Ulan, 46, a full-time carer, spotted the unidentified flying object (UFO) as he struggled to carry out emergency pruning on a fallen tree in his garden in Upton Road, just after 3pm during the storms on Thursday last week.

He said he had never believed in UFOs until the sighting and said the object appeared to be travelling from the south of Slough and paused over the old Co-op site, before heading down Wellington Street and disappearing.

A spokesman for the Met Office said: "I cannot think of anything in the area that would have explained these unusual sightings. We had nothing planned meteorologically and there were no thunderstorms. I'm afraid I cannot explain this."

Mr Ulan believes the mysterious



object was travelling at the same height as a plane and was hovering over the town.

He said: "I just know it wasn't a plane. We are right below the flight path and see planes go over every day. This was not on the normal flight path and did not have a vapour trail."

"I know people will think I am mad, but I know what I saw. I never used to believe in UFOs."

After getting his pictures developed Mr Ulan was disappointed by how small the object appeared and called on the

help of a neighbour to enlarge the shots. Using a scanner and computer software the pair were able to zoom in on the object and get a clearer view of a strange crescent-shaped object in the clouds.

Mr Ulan said: "The pictures prove what I saw and it cannot be explained." The sighting is now being investigated by the UFO research organisation's Oxford branch.

If you saw a similar object email newsroom@sloughobserver.co.uk or call 01753 627321.

GAZETTE, Witney, England - March 14, 2007

Residents report strange sightings, but RAF did not see anything

UFO over Witney?

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 at the same time as the lunar eclipse on Saturday, March 3.

Among those who spied the object, shortly after 10.30am, were Derek Hall, from Jacobs Mill, Witney, and his girlfriend, Paula Siford.

There were also reports of one or more unidentified objects flying over Oxford.

Yet more than 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 moved round to the east. It disappeared in the direction of Woodstock.

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

He said it wasn't a plane, and couldn't have been a meteorite as it changed direction.

"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.

Lewis, a pupil at Wood Green School, in Witney, said: "It wasn't a plane or a satellite."

"I don't know what it was, but it seemed quite strange."

In a search for answers, Mr Hall contacted UFO

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

A spokesman for RAF Brize Norton, Katie Zasada, said no aircraft had been taking off or landing at the base 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, at Langford Lane, Kidlington, said no unusual reports had been received. James Godfray, the airport's head of development and marketing said: "There was absolutely no activity here at all."

"We would have been closed."

● If anyone else saw the object, or captured it on camera, please contact the *Witney Gazette*, on Witney@nqo.com



Mystery ... "There was no sound at all. It was very strange," said Derek Hall

Picture:
Yuri Andereg
Order No. 100307825

Events company says it can solve mystery of night-time sightings WHAT UFO? THAT'S OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY LIGHTS

by Joanna Sugden
newsdesk@newswhits.co.uk

SWINDON'S UFOs were nothing more than a Christmas party light show, says the man claiming responsibility.

Since December 11, Swindon residents have been keeping a close eye on the sky after student Chris Moran and his friends reported seeing a bright, silvery object scooting over the town.

But now events company director Simon Maddison has stepped forward to claim responsibility.

Mr Maddison, 39, from Purton, is director of Planet Pursuits, based at Purton House.

He says the UFOs were lights shown in to the sky to guide guests into Christmas parties at the Steam Museum.

"We were holding a theme party for 20 days in this workshop and had a light outside that radiates a massive beam," Mr Maddison said.

"That's what people thought the UFO was."

"I saw the report in the paper and thought it was quite funny - 'that's our light' I thought."

The light is so powerful the company needs an aviation licence for it.



FLASHBACK How we reported Chris Moran's close encounter and, a light cannon in action

"About 2,500 people have been through these doors in eight days for our themed parties," Mr Maddison said.

"The light was outside to show people where the party was."

The Sky Rose 2500 HMI beam lit up the sky and could be seen for three miles.

Mr Maddison said: "I'm not surprised people thought it was a UFO, it emits 10 different beams and moves across the sky."

But UFO spotter Chris Moran is not convinced.

He said the UFO was too solid to be a beam of light, however strong the sky can-



non. "I have seen those but it was nothing like that," said the 18-year-old student.

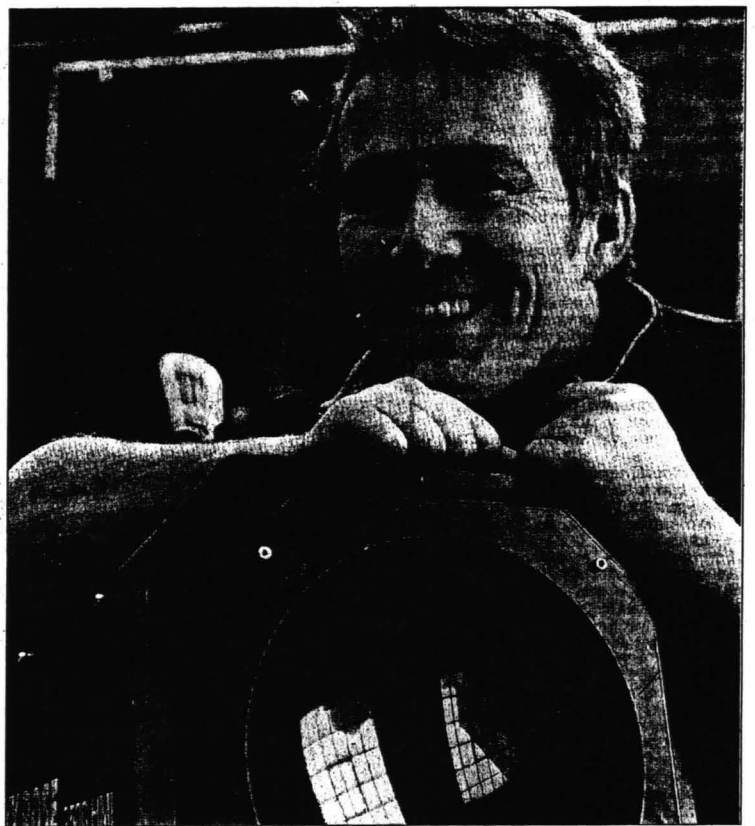
"What I saw was an oval object, silver metallic and in the front there was a white glow."

"It disappeared within three seconds."

Swindon astronomer Andy Maguire believes they could be explained by an annual meteor shower.

He said it was possible that the sightings could be meteors from the Geminids shower.

The meteor shower can be seen every year between December 7 and 16, with the



MYSTERY SOLVED? Simon Maddison with his light cannon

Picture: ELOISA WILDSMITH

Stillunexplained

THE phenomenon of December 11 could be solved but another unidentified object remains outstanding.

These spots of light were seen and photographed crossing the sky by BMW worker Pete Munday on November 5. His four sons, Gary, Chris, Matthew and James also spotted them and they have been the talking point of the household ever since.

Pete snapped them using his digital camera, and the pictures you see here have been zoomed in to try to bring out what detail there is.

Pete, 43, said: "It was the night of Bonfire Night, and

we had been out in the garden watching some of the fireworks when we spotted these objects in the skies.

"At first it looked like one of those which hangs from a parachute and floats down, but it didn't drop or go out, it just hung there."

"Later more appeared and

they all seemed to converge on the same spot, it was really odd. It wasn't an aeroplane or helicopter, it just glowed."

"We were so intrigued that we looked it up on the internet and there was a news report about similar-looking objects which were seen over Newbury."

bulk of the meteors falling between the 11 and 12 - dates which coincide with the strange sightings.

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - June 16, 2007 Are we truly alone?

Re: We're Still Alone, Scott Van Wynsberghe, June 15.

I would like to clarify some misconceptions about the search for extraterrestrial life and the perceived connection with UFOs.

The reality is that people around the world continue to observe and report unusual objects in the skies overhead, many of which do have prosaic explanations. Citing my own research, Mr. Van Wynsberghe notes that 88% of Canadian UFO sightings in 2006 are explainable. But as clearly categorized in *The Annual Canadian UFO Survey*, this value is actually the combination of explained cases, cases with possible explanations and those with insufficient data to allow explanations.

As for his 10 reasons to dismiss the possibility that aliens are visiting Earth, few have any bearing on that possibility at all, and all are trivial to the problem of UFOs. To cite a few examples, "Humanity has yet to detect a single, extraterrestrial civilization." This is not surprising, since our technology is only now capable of detecting planets around even the nearest stars.

He also notes that, "Nor is there a government conspiracy to conceal alien visitations." What's his military clearance? How would he know if there was or was not a secret such project? Either our government and military are effective, competent and capable of clandestine operations - or they aren't.

In the end, if UFOs are not a physical phenomenon, then they are at the very least a psychological or sociological one, and in any case they should be taken seriously and studied in detail.

Chris Rutkowski, *Ufology Research*, 11 Winnipeg.

CR: G. Duplantier

DAILY TELEGRAPH, London, England - March 23, 2007

Bob Taylor

Forester whose claim to have been attacked by a UFO at Livingston sparked a police investigation

BOB TAYLOR, who has died aged 88, sparked a police enquiry after claiming he had been attacked by a UFO; the case remains unique in British history as the only example of an alien sighting becoming the subject of a criminal investigation.

On November 9 1979 at around 10.30am, Taylor, a Scottish forestry worker employed by the Livingston Development Corporation, parked his truck at the bottom of Dechmont Law and took his red setter for a walk up the hill. By his account, as he emerged into a clearing he came across a strange metal sphere about 20 ft across "like a spaceship, a huge flying dome". It appeared to be made from a dark metallic material with a rough texture like sandpaper.

As Taylor approached, two smaller spheres, each about three feet wide, with protruding metal spikes like naval mines, dropped down from the mother craft with a "plopping" sound, rolled



Bob Taylor at the site of the attack and an artist's impression of the alien assault on him

towards him and attached themselves to his trousers. There was a hissing sound and an acid smell that made him choke, and he felt a sensation of being grabbed by the legs and tugged forwards. The next thing he knew, he was coming round with his head pounding and a bitter taste in his mouth, unable to walk or talk. His



dog was running round in circles, barking furiously. Taylor calculated that he had been unconscious for about 20 minutes. Eventually he managed to crawl back to his truck, but could not get it started so had to walk the mile to his home in Livingston. His wife was shocked by his muddy, dishevelled appearance and

rang the police and doctor. The police treated the matter seriously and returned to the site with Taylor.

They found ladder-shaped marks in the soil where the spaceship was said to have hovered, and marks following the path of the mine-like objects. The doctor found grazes on Taylor's legs and chin, but no other signs of

injury; however the heavy trousers he had been wearing were ripped round the ankles. Despite exhaustive enquiries the police confessed to being "completely baffled". They filed the incident as a criminal assault, and the case remains open.

The site of Taylor's encounter became a magnet for UFO enthusiasts around the world, who erected a plaque to mark the spot. In 2004, on the 25th anniversary of his sighting, a group visited the site to meditate in silence. The spaceship failed to materialise.

It was generally agreed that Taylor, who moved away from the Livingston area after his disturbing adventure, was not a man given to concocting fanciful stories. He never sought publicity or gained financially from the ensuing media interest - and he continued to stand by every word of his account.

Robert Taylor was born in 1918 and died on March 14.

REVEALED: THE HIDDEN X-FILES



by
**Julie
Carpenter**

WHEN unassuming French farmer Renato Nicolai heard a strange whistling sound during an otherwise tranquil January afternoon, he had no idea that what he was about to confront would baffle not just him but some of Europe's finest scientists.

As he looked up across his field in Trans-en-Provence, a village near Avignon in the South of France, he saw an object about eight feet in diameter "in the shape of two saucers, one inverted on top of the other" hovering in the air in front of him.

While Nicolai watched, open-mouthed, the unidentified object descended gently and landed at the edge of his property.

"At that moment," he was to later report, "the ship began to emit another whistling - a constant whistling. Then, after a minute or so, it took off rapidly towards the north-east. There were two cylindrical objects under the ship as it rose to the height of the pine trees. They could have been reactors or feet. There were also two other circles which looked like trapdoors."

Needless to say, a man who had hitherto thought all talk of unidentified flying objects and aliens was utter rubbish was suddenly unable to explain what he saw.

This was no crackpot loner or UFO addict desperate for "proof" of extraterrestrial life, but a simple farmer who feared what he had seen was not of this planet.

Confused police who examined the scene were just as astonished by the physical evidence. Most significantly, the mysterious object left burn marks all along the ground. Scientific analysis established that the ground in Nicolai's field had been compressed and heated at up to an astonishing 600C. Traces of phosphate were found and chlorophyll levels in the alfalfa plants nearby were up to 50 per cent lower than expected. "This UFO had severely disturbed the plant life in the area," said the police report.

The French Army, who were testing new equipment at the nearby Canjuers military base, denied all knowledge of it. Since that day in 1981, it has never been explained.

But Renato Nicolai's extraordinary story is just one of more than 1,600 UFO cases that have just been revealed. They are the French government's secret "X files", investigations into what some believe were encounters with extra-terrestrials. Now the French agency for the study of "non-identified aerospacial phenomena" has set up a website documenting every reported UFO account.

For years sightings have been kept hidden from the public, labelled "classified" and "top security", but whereas other governments have maintained a contemptuous veil of secrecy over similar

encounters, France has suddenly decided the public has a right to know exactly what's out there. It is an unprecedented step.

Such is the interest in UFOs - or OVNIs as they're known in France (objet volant non identifié) - that the website crashed as soon as it was launched last week. "It exploded in two hours," explained Jacques Patenet, who heads up the UFO division of The National Centre for Space Studies, the French equivalent of Nasa. "We suspected that there was a certain amount of interest, but not to this extent."

But Patenet underestimated how seriously people take "evidence" that could help answer the question: Is there anyone out there?

As Nick Pope, who ran the Government's UFO research programme and worked at the ministry of defence for 21 years, says: "Just the implication is so profound and life-changing - imagine if we found out we weren't alone."

Paranoia aside, Patenet says he hopes the ground-breaking French files will aid serious scientific investigation into UFOs.

Dr David Clarke, a historian at Sheffield University who has requested a number of British documents on UFO sightings under the Freedom of Information Act, believes the website highlights how the French take far more seriously investigations into UFO sightings than the British. "The fully-funded French agency have done a far better job than our MoD," he claims.

In particular, he refers to a MoD case of a sighting by British RAF Tornado jet fighters who, on November 5, 1990, reported to Dutch military air traffic control that they had all seen a large unknown flying object.

ON THE same day, French records show that 1,000 witnesses saw flashing lights but, after examination, the French website explains it as nothing more than a Russian rocket fragment falling back into the atmosphere.

"The RAF squadron report went down in the British records as 'unexplained', but most serious investigators - and it seems the French - were able to correctly identify what they saw as space debris," argues Dr Clarke.

He is backed up by astronomer Gary Anthony. "Space debris is an underestimated element in the misperception of some UFOs and the release of these French files further proves that," he says.

Dr Clarke believes that over here, "the best reports have been so poorly investigated that they are largely worthless. UFOlogy is so disorganised and belief-driven that it is never likely to be taken seriously by mainstream science."

He hopes the French website will bring that possibility one step

closer. "I'm all for opening up the investigation. I've been fighting for years to get the British government to open all its files."

Nick Pope thinks this is inevitable, despite the fact there is already a sizeable amount of UFO information at the National Archives in Kew. "What the French site will do is both focus public and media attention on UFOs and up the pressure on the MoD," he says. "It'll be a case of, 'If the French have released their whole X Files, what have you got to hide?'"

According to the French website, almost one in 10 of the extraordinary phenomena reported have been explained while experts have found likely reasons for another 33 per cent of cases.

Some sightings were easily identified as being aircraft lights or satellites while others took years to unravel. When in 1985 two farmers near the city of Royan saw a burning object drop into a field nearby, French experts first concluded that it was part of the propulsion device of a recently launched satellite. Only later did they discover it was actually a piece of leftover German Second World War ordnance that exploded four decades after the war and launched into the sky.

The site includes the inevitable hoaxes, such as a man in 1979 in Cergy-Pontoise outside Paris, who told police his friend had been abducted by a UFO, explaining how a bright light appeared on the road and swallowed up his car.

When the "abducted" man reappeared in a field a few days later, 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 concluded he was a fraud.

However, it is the numbers of inexplicable cases that remains fascinating - a quarter of all reports investigated by experts are classified as "type D". This, says the government, means that "despite good or very good data and credible witnesses, we are confronted with something we can't explain".

Some of these defy the laws of physics and where physical evidence is concerned - such as in the Trans-en-Provence sight - no scientist has so far been able to provide adequate explanation.

One of the most perplexing concerns a 1994 Air France flight. While flying over Paris, the airplane's crew noticed a large brown-red disk hovering on the horizon and constantly changing shape, randomly becoming bigger and smaller. The case "has never been explained and leaves the door open to all possible hypotheses", says the agency.

Another involves a British family who, on July 15, 2005, were on their way home from a holiday in Brittany when they came across a bizarre sight as they neared the northern port of Roscoff.

It resembled an airliner flying east to west... except that it had no wings, or even tail fins, and was bright white. It moved steadily at the speed of an airliner and then, suddenly, accelerated to such a speed that it was out of sight in a matter of seconds.

Not surprisingly, no one has yet presented a rational explanation.

Unusual aerial phenomena have been reported throughout history, dating back to 1450BC, but modern ufology has its roots in the post Second World War era. The term "flying saucer" was first used on June 24, 1947, when American businessman Kenneth Arnold reported seeing nine very bright objects flying across the face of Mount Rainier, Washington. They were, he said, "shaped like saucers".

It caught the public's imagination and soon US newspapers were littered with front-page stories. There were several thousand other reported sightings in the next few weeks alone.

THIS coincided with the notorious Roswell incident of July 8 the same year, when the Roswell Army Air Field (RAAF) in New Mexico issued a press release stating that personnel from the field's 509th Bomb Group had recovered a crashed "flying disc" from a nearby ranch. The US military subsequently stated it was a research balloon, but many UFO proponents still believe it to be a strictly confidential military cover-up of alien wreckage.

Significantly, Patenet hopes that opening up the French archives will put an end to the secrecy that fuels all the conspiracy theories.

"There's always this impression of plots, of secrets or wanting to hide things. We do not have the least proof that extraterrestrials are behind the unexplained phenomena, nor do we have the least proof that they aren't," he says.

Even the most recent case reported on the site, from just a few months ago, remains unresolved.

In an office in the upmarket resort of St Tropez in the south of France, a man was diligently working at his desk. Suddenly his wife ran in. She yelled: "Look outside now!"

There in the sky was what looked like a glass balloon, which was around three-quarters of a mile in diameter. The unidentified object travelled vertically in a straight line and took around three minutes to disappear across the horizon. The couple contacted the military in utter panic but no one has yet responded with any explanation.

Now, at least, they have the knowledge that what they saw has been officially classified as a UFO.

● Website: cnes-geipan.fr though access is currently difficult.

NEWS & JOURNAL, Stroud, England - Feb. 28, 2007

UFO's star trek stops at Stonehouse

TEACHER Richard Pearce is adamant that he spotted a UFO from his garden.

Richard, who manages the achievement centre at Maidenhill School, Stonehouse, was driving along Ebley by-pass at 5.30pm on

Wednesday, February 14, when he saw a strange object, and he doesn't believe it was an aircraft.

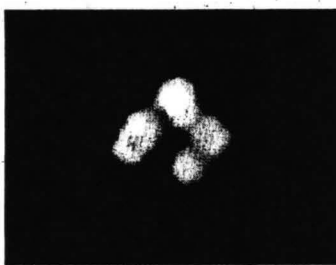
"I arrived home three or four minutes later and the object had become obscured," said Richard, a father-of-three from Bridgend, Stonehouse.

"It was a beautiful, clear evening and about an hour later when I went into the garden I saw two very bright lights, not moving and not making any noise."

"They were too bright for stars and were not planes because they didn't move - I wondered if they were helicopters but they made no noise and were extremely high."

Richard rushed inside to get his camera.

"It went overhead, moving from the southern horizon to the northern horizon in 30 seconds - it was very bizarre but wonderful to see," he said.



◆ Is this a UFO? The picture taken by Steve.
ZS377707

OSWESTRY & BORDER COUNTIES ADVERTIZER,
Oswestry, England - Jan. 31, 2007

UFO sighting lives with me still

I WAS most interested in the UFO article in the January 10 issue of the *Advertiser* as I, too, witnessed one in the mid 70s.

I awoke at about 3am to hear a soft whirring sound in the near distance, which became louder as it approached the property. The craft hovered for a minute or two over the bungalow, during which time I felt a kind of soft vibration.

The UFO moved over to the garden and I could see lights flashing through the curtains. I

was both scared and excited as I dared to peep through the side of one curtain. I was amazed to see a greyish, cigar-shaped craft hovering just a few feet away with spinning lights underneath. I would guess that the craft was about 20-25ft in length.

Within a few minutes, however, it had gone. What was truly amazing, was that I did not see it go - it just seemed to make itself invisible - and then it vanished, silently! Mrs M. JONES, Mount Road, Oswestry.

Strange lights in the sky

Sixty years ago something crashed at Roswell, New Mexico.

The United States government says it was a top-secret weather balloon. Conspiracy theorists contend it was a flying saucer. Further still, they claim the air force recovered alien bodies from the spacecraft. This week, 35,000 stargazers flocked to this desert town to mark the anniversary and hotly debate the merits of both claims. Roswell, and the alleged cover-up, is truly the genesis of the UFO phenomenon.

So much is in dispute with Roswell. What did farm hand William Brazel find when he came upon that strange wreckage on the Foster ranch in July, 1947? The large debris field, 200 yards long and brightly lit, was composed of an odd metallic substance. Brazel reported what he saw to sheriff George Wilcox who informed the authorities. News of the discovery quickly reached town-folk, with the Roswell Daily Record proclaiming a spaceship had crash landed. The Roswell Army airfield even issued a press release stating the base's 509th Bomber Group had recovered a "flying disc." Later that same day, the airfield's commanding general denied this, saying it was an experimental weather balloon. The controversy has engrossed ufologists ever since.

Before Roswell, there was always this suspicion we were not alone - that our blue speck in the universe would attract attention. During the Second World War, allied fighter pilots reported intercepting strange lights. Pilots called these celestial intrusions "foo fighters."

However, you don't have to poke around Roswell to uncover UFOs.

There's substantial evidence to suggest the Ottawa Valley has had its share of extraterrestrial visitations.

For instance, could it have been a "foo fighter" that streaked over Pembroke late one evening in November, 1944? J.P. Sammon, the night watchman at the shock mills, was startled by the two balls of light dancing in the sky above him. He said the balls were travelling at a terrific speed and appeared to converge at one point. This was followed by three violent flashes of lightning. Sammon thought he'd seen an aircraft breaking up. Only this thing didn't crash.

In the 1950s, a similar sighting was made by Fred Gates. Driving to work in Deep River with two fellow employees, the Pembroke man was momentarily blinded by a blazing light dropping suddenly out of the sky. Gates lost control



Petawawa Points
by
Sean Chase

of his car and drove off the highway near Brindle Crossing. The unidentified flying object grazed the tree tops before disintegrating in a burst of smoke (an event of Roswellian proportions considering its proximity to Camp Petawawa). The Dominion Observatory in Ottawa deduced it was a large meteor that had struck

the Petawawa ranges.

It was an unusual cloud, and not a meteor, that was seen by Jane Chaput on the night of Nov. 3, 1965. Her 11-year-old daughter frantically ran into their Normandy Avenue home screaming she'd been followed home by a "dancing light." It was around 8 p.m., so Jane went outside to investigate. She looked up to see the shimmering egg-shaped white cloud. She couldn't believe her eyes. The object drifted slowly over the Petawawa PMQs before disappearing. The cloud had also been observed by countless witnesses in Arnprior.

"At first I thought it was someone playing with a flashlight," she told reporters. "It was quite high and quite plain. It moved over a wide area near our home."

An equally bizarre apparition jumped across valley skies the following spring. Driving from Chalk River, James Turcotte and his family saw a fireball streak across the car's windshield. It had a green light and discharged a multitude of colours before fading away. He suspected it was a military aircraft, as they were nearing Camp Petawawa.

On the outskirts of Pembroke, Orville Wasmund's wife noticed the object from her kitchen window. She thought it was silver, and promptly alerted her neighbour, John Murack, who described it as a "big ball of light." On Chamberlain Street, Shirley Corrigan saw this spectre, which was shooting particles and emitting a greenish glow. It abruptly disappeared somewhere over the Ottawa River. Scientists observing the same object from Ohio determined it was probably a meteor travelling at an orbit 80 miles above the earth.

Were meteors the answer to all these sightings? Possibly. But then how to explain away what Leo Chaput saw? One night in May, 1969, the 54-year-old mill worker was sitting in his summer kitchen when he saw a white light soaring above

the Wabush Line. The "machine," as he called it, landed in the field behind his Chapeau farm house. Chaput investigated the next morning and found three crop circles burned into the grass. The rings were 27 feet in diameter. The needles on a nearby pine tree appeared singed off and there was no indication of carbon deposits. Chaput professed he got a good look at the UFO.

"I was standing near the field and watched this bright object travelling below the tree-line," he explained to a horde of skeptical reporters. "The front of it had two large red eyes. I watched it for about 10 minutes, then it disappeared."

The most serious close encounter occurred weeks later in Petawawa Village. In the early morning hours of July 13, a woman ran into the Arrow Taxi stand with an incredible story. She was in a hysterical state but calmed down long enough to recount what she saw to the on-duty cabbie, John Chesson. She had been driving down Black Bay Road when a huge light swooped down from out of nowhere. It hovered over the car for a couple of minutes, lighting up the roadway. What terrified her was the UFO then followed her for a few miles before bolting from the scene. Chesson stepped out to see for himself. In the far distance, he caught a glimpse of what he described as a "bright star" sailing through the sky.

Meanwhile, panicked phone callers flooded the police switchboard. Others had seen the entity. Provincial constables Jack Mackay and Grant Chaplin were dispatched to investigate. Entering the village, the officers suddenly stopped their squad car. There in the sky was the UFO, moving slowly in a south-easterly direction. The officers were soon joined by a small crowd of 12 other disbelieving motorists who had pulled over to watch the anomaly. Mackay figured the object was cylindrical in shape, hovering some 1,500 feet above the ground. What puzzled Mackay was it had no solid body or form. From the main gate of the base, three military policemen also watched the object in amazement. The UFO moved in a slow, continuous orbit for another 40 minutes before it disappeared west of Pembroke.

While the Petawawa incident garnered national media attention, this incredible night was all but forgotten a week later. Every person on the planet with a television set was watching American astronaut Neil Armstrong step onto the surface of the moon.

schase@thedailyobserver.ca

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - April 11, 2007
CR: G. Duplantier

UFOs deserve serious study

Re: Half Of French UFOs Remain Unexplained, Allison Hanes, April 9. Some content in this article denigrates those of us who investigate the UFO phenomenon. I have devoted 19 years looking into pilot reports of UFO sightings. This article notes that the physicist Marc Nantel believes there is "not much of strategic or scientific value to be learned in the GEIPAN [an arm's-length branch of France's national space agency] archives."

He's joined in his UFO disbelief by Chris Matzner, a physics professor at the University of Toronto, who says the online archives are only useful in piquing the curiosity of the general public or arousing the interest of school-children. "It's an interesting cultural phenomenon if nothing else," he is quoted as saying.

Humbly, I am a 62-year-old, responsible adult, a pilot, a writer, father of three, grandfather of seven. I know a damn sight more about this phenomenon than someone who hasn't spent 20 minutes doing the research. If Professors Nantel and Matzner have not read the GEIPAN study, why did Post reporter Allison Hanes ask their opinion? Worldwide there are approximately 100 UFOs reported daily. Millions of UFO reports exist from every country on Earth going back to the 1940s, from pilots, air traffic controllers, the police, the military and scientists.

This is not a faith-based phenomenon, such as religion, as hundreds of thousands of fact-based documents exist. Those people who believe they saw a UFO are not children, Prof. Matzner; they don't subscribe to some "bread and circus" atmosphere," as suggested by Prof. Marc Nantel.

Don Lédger, Moiege Lake, N.S.

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - June 18, 2007

The proof is out there: UFO's are real

Re: Sixty Years Later, We're Still Alone, Scott Van Wynsberghe, June 15.

Mr. Van Wynsberghe's skeptical article about UFOs needs to be challenged. He needs to do deeper and wider research to bring his readers up to date. My oh my, what he has left out. I would suggest he look into the written and filmed evidence of the Mexico City sightings in the past few years, especially those in which thousands of citizens celebrating a holiday made video recordings of the extraordinary ships hovering over their city.

I would suggest that he view the recent film, *Fastwalkers*, in which 30 witnesses testify to the reality of alien visitations. He should also attend a presentation by Michael Horn, a North American expert on UFOs.

The evidence of alien contacts is so abundant that those who gain say the existence of aliens haven't done their homework.

Jim Deacove, Perth, Ont.

CR: G. Duplantier

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Scunthorpe, England - Feb. 26, 2007

Five years since UFO sightings



COUN MARK KIRK

UNIDENTIFIED flying objects appear to have given North Lincolnshire a wide berth, according to official records kept by the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

The last sightings of flying saucer-type objects in our region were almost five years ago.

The MoD UFOlogy files reveal things were really buzzing over the skies of North Lincolnshire in 2002, with three sightings reported in an eight-month spell.

At 2.15am on March 31, an observer from Scunthorpe reported two lights circling around each other.

They were yellow, red, green and blue in colour.

Just a week later the MoD received another local alert, this time from Scawby at 1.50am on Saturday, April 7.

The witness testified he saw a blue light, then yellow

shooting stars, followed by a loud bang.

It was the second UFO sighting in the otherwise sleepy village of Scawby in nine years.

UFO activity in North Lincolnshire then went quiet until 2.30pm on November 2, 2002.

This time the mysterious object seen at Walcot was described as dark blue and torpedo-shaped and was followed by a white plume of smoke.

Anyone who believes they have spotted a UFO is asked, in the first instance, to contact Humberside Police.

The police, who pass on the information to the MoD, require a detailed report.

UFO spotters have to list nearby objects like high voltage lines, rivers and buildings, give names of any witnesses and describe the weather conditions.

They also have to give a full description and exact positioning of the sighting and the direction in which it was first seen.

Coun Mark Kirk (48), deputy leader of

the opposition Labour group on North Lincolnshire Council, and his wife Tina, know the routine only too well.

In July 1978, the Kirks witnessed their very own close encounter of the first kind near Market Rasen.

"I don't know what we saw, but it was something we had never seen before," said Coun Kirk.

"I used to be sceptical about UFOs, but if anyone ever told me they had seen one I would have to believe them.

"The object was about 150ft away, around 50ft above the ground and making no noise at all."

Coun Kirk knew it was neither an aircraft nor a helicopter, and he started to drive off with the object slightly above the car.

"It was travelling at 40mph in a sideways position, and was displaying two very large white lights," he said.

"Then a series of coloured lights started flashing and the object swept overhead."

Second sighting of UFO in county

A second sighting has been reported of an unidentified flying object in the night sky over Shropshire.

Engineer Ian Adams was dropping his wife, Shirley, off to work at the Bayley Club in Wellington at 7.20pm on Wednesday when they saw a metallic cylinder-like object above them.

He said: "It was exactly like that reported by the man in Wellington in the Shropshire Star on Thursday. It had red and yellow flames which

seemed to be pushing up into a cylinder. We couldn't get a really good look at it because of the street lights.

"I had a camera in my car so I chased it over towards Wrekin College sports ground where I thought I would get a better view, but because of the traffic I lost it."

Mr Adams, an engineer with Ogihara at Hortonwood, said he was used to being logical and looking for rational explanations for things but this had

baffled him. "I watched the trajectory as it moved off towards Newport but it didn't fit in with any aircraft I could think of.

"I had thought it might be a hot air balloon, but it didn't really look like one and you wouldn't find one flying at that time of night."

Retired policeman Mike Lindop had reported seeing the UFO at 7.30pm, also on Wednesday, outside his home in Moorhouse Close, Wellington.

TRANSLATIONS

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

June 4, 2007 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina and *La Gaceta*, Tucuman, Argentina — ARGENTINA: UFO Seen Over Tucuman — ***Several witnesses were treated to the sight of strange lights. "It moved slowly and suddenly made a turn, making a rapid course change," said a local resident.

***Strange lights were seen last night over the [provincial] capital, said numerous witnesses who contacted this paper's newsroom. The incident occurred at approximately 21:30 hours.

It has not been possible to determine the origin of the Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) up to now, although various informants agreed in their stories about what they were able to see. "My mother saw a white, somewhat dim light that made a rapid turn and changed course swiftly," said a resident of Yerba Buena.

Non-official sources told *La Gaceta Online* [www.lagaceta.com.ar] that airport records do not show "any flights over the skies of Tucuman at that time, with the exception of a landing by Austral AU2470, although the flight did not pass over the capital.

Another witness noted that he had seen an unidentified flying object "that moved in an irregular manner" and then disappeared. — CREDIT: Guillermo D. Gimenez

June 13, 2007 — *NOUFA* and *La Estrella*, Iquique, Chile — CHILE: Possible UFO Detected over the Cordillera — Felix Reales Vilca, a correspondent for Chilevision and TVN, recorded an unidentified flying object with his camcorder over the mining region of Dona Ines de Collahuasi. The video was taken while the newsman was at an elevation of 3400 meters and 800 meters over the surface. In the sky, in broad daylight and in the vicinity of the Urruputuncu Volcano, he managed to see a multicolored light that moved to and fro. He was standing with a group of miners, who were shocked by the sight. All indicated that it was an unidentified flying object, as the zone is not a route employed by airliners.

Reales turned the images over to TVN to have them examined by specialists in order to ascertain or dismiss the likelihood of the object being a UFO.

Reales explained that "he was engaged in recording work at the mining operations when the miners told me that there was a UFO. It could be clearly seen, but through the camera I could see that it was a powerful, multicolored light and we were facing an unidentified flying object." — CREDIT: Raul Nunez

June 14, 2007 — *www.analuisacid.com* — Mexico: Airliner Personnel Sees Spherical UFO — **A report from Ana Luisa Cid** — According to a report from researcher Alfonso Salazar, the crew of Flight 735 saw a spherical UFO entering and exiting a cloud on Monday, June 11, 2007.

The sighting took place at 1500 hours when the Boeing 737-500 (registration XA-MAA) was flying through the air corridor at an altitude of 10,000 meters heading for Mexico City from the city of Huatulco in Oaxaca.

Captain Edwing Adame Cuevas, the first officer, was the first to notice the object, and in turn informed flight captain Hector Coss and mechanic Emmanuel Esquivel of the sighting.

Mr. Esquivel was able to see the UFO, but the commander, who was reading the instrument panels, did not.

Witnesses describe the object as a sphere with a metallic appearance and did not consent to releasing the airline's name. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

June 14, 2007 — *www.analuisacid.com* and *Hoy Tampico*, Tampico, Mexico — MEXICO: Chupacabras Reported in Tampico (Tamaulipas, Mexico) — According to the news story published by the *Hoy Tampico* newspaper on June 14, 2007, residents of the El Pueblo district called the 066 emergency number for help, as they claimed having seen a very strange animal on the prowl. They associated it with the "Chupacabras," describing it as a hairy animal that walks on two legs and makes strange noises.

Members of the metropolitan police in the port of Tampico were mobilized shortly after one in the morning on Thursday, June 14, after having received the news by phone.

Police forces reported to a hill located next to Avenida Cuahutemoc and Calle Guadalupe, where the "Chupacabras" had allegedly been seen, but did not find it.

It should be noted that this occurred 8 hours before the Mexican president engaged in a tour of southern Tamaulipas. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

June 23, 2007 — *INFOBAE* — CHILE: Southern Chilean Lake Evaporated by UFO? — This is the outlandish explanation considered in the Andean nation to account for disappearance of a body of water. Experts in the field claim that "extraterrestrial" activity has been detected in the area.

The Chilean government is thoroughly astonished by an unusual situation in the world which had a powerful impact on public opinion in Argentina and Chile. For this reason, government authorities requested the aid of geologists to find out what happened to the lake, located in the Tempanas Fjord, located 2000 kilometers southeast of Santiago de Chile, in the Bernardo O'Higgins National Park. The lake's disappearance was discovered on May 27, 2007, but was only made known on Wednesday. Theories are now circulating everywhere that are unusual, whimsical and not at all serious. There are even "experts" who believe that the water's disappearance could have been the result of "UFO suction."

Chilean Ufologist Rodrigo Fuenzalida stated that the theory that suggests the presence of extraterrestrials at the nameless lake has grounds. "We have on record that certain UFOs draw water. There is a case in Lago Colbun that is supported by eyewitness accounts from Carabineros (state police) and civilians who saw something hover over the lake and extract water," he noted.

The expert added that "over 60%" of all UFO sightings in Chile occur in this region.

Another theory - perhaps the most respectable - indicates that a huge crack caused the southern lake to empty its contents in a matter of water, allowing water to flow "to the center of the Earth," according to Chilean newspaper *Las Ultimas Noticias*. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez, *Planeta UFO*

July ?, 2007 — *La Teja*, Costa Rica — Costa Rica: A UFO Over Tres Rios — Reporter: Jeison Granados — "I was working on a top floor when I saw something that looked like a star. I was very surprised because only a powerful light could be seen. That's when I started recording with the cellphone because the event was very intriguing. When I saw the video, I was startled at what I'd recorded, since it was a flying saucer, no more, no less."

This is how Angel Brenes describes how he recorded the unidentified flying object (UFO) that appeared over Tres Rios on Sunday, June 24, 2007.

Angel is a security guard at the local ICE facility, particularly at the "Quebrada del Fierro" plant, where there are many antennas present and other co-workers had reported seeing strange things.

"Since it's an open field, I think the UFOs come over to siphon off electricity," he said.

The worker said that he didn't believe in such things. "I can tell you that I wasn't scared because I didn't believe in such things, but after seeing this, I can tell all non-believers that we are a country chosen by extraterrestrials," said the guard, who is still astonished by his experience.

Sightings in this country are very common, especially in the San Carlos region, due to the presence of the Arenal volcano. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

June 26, 2007 — *Caracol*, Colombia — A UFO REPORTED IN PASTO - NARINO — Experts at the Observatorio Astronomico of the Universidad de Narino are analyzing the images they managed to take at a distance in excess of 500 kilometers and which appear to show an "unidentified flying object." This was confirmed to Caracol Radio by the director of the Pasto-based research facility, Alberto Quijano Vodniza, who explained that the UFO was photographed by one of the teams and remained within the atmosphere for one hour.

The astronomer noted that he doesn't dare suggest that the object is a spaceship from another galaxy, but it is a rather strange body that is not commonly seen. He added that the optical equipment will be in place again tonight in an effort to observe the phenomenon again, and the analysis shall be forwarded to an observatory in the United States. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez, *Planeta UFO*

June 27, 2007 — *Caracol Radio*, Colombia — Colombia: Images of Pasto UFO to be forwarded to NASA — Alberto Quijano, director of the Observatorio Astronomico de la Universidad de Narino, said that he will forward images of the unidentified object taken by his team to several NASA experts in an effort to discern its origin. In an interview with Caracol Radio, the astronomer said that object was definitively not a comet, because it did not follow a defined trajectory, and because no heavenly bodies of that type have been detected in the area of the sky being studied.

Quijano indicated that the sequence of 400 photos taken of the UFO allowed him to ascertain its very strange behavior, as it remained practically motionless for an entire hour.

"It wasn't an airplane or a helicopter, because the telescope only permits the observation of objects that are far from the Earth's surface, and because the object had no motion for a long period of time," he explained.

The observatory's director explained that when there is talk of an unidentified flying object, reference is not always being made to the extraterrestrial presence.

The 400 sequential images were placed into an hour-long video to be sent to distinguished astronomers all over the world in order to find an explanation for this phenomenon. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez, *Planeta UFO*

June 28, 2007 — *Pasaje a lo Desconocido*, Spain — SPAIN: A Teleportation Incident in Galicia? by Marcelino Requejo — On May 7, 2007, Juan M.L. and Bernardo D.G. became the protagonists of a bizarre incident in the vicinity of Lugo. The events took place around 15:00 hours as they traveled in their car toward a sawmill located near the city. Apparently they were barely one kilometer from their destination at a location known as Piugos da Pena, and had just left behind a well-known automotive dealership, when the witnesses noticed a dense fog that appeared to emerge from their vehicle.

They pulled over on the shoulder to see what was going on. The smoke vanished. Only seconds after continuing their journey, they realized that they were in a completely different location from the one they had been before.

"We had no idea where we were," said Juan. "We were only meters away from the sawmill and we suddenly found ourselves next to a road sign that read: 'Santa Eulalia de Boveda.' So, completely astonished, we decided to continue driving to Santa Eulalia to see if we could get to the sawmill from there."

In the wink of an eye, they had traversed the 6 kilometers that separate the environs of the sawmill and the detour to Santa Eulalia de Boveda. While they looked for the way back, both men witnessed an odd phenomenon: the Sun appeared to be right in the middle of a gigantic, smoky triangle.

[Translator's Note: To those who may not know him, Marcelino Requejo is one of the foremost UFO researchers in Spain's Galicia Region, a contributor to a number of paranormal and UFO magazines and a speaker at UFO conferences in that country]. — CREDIT: J. Manuel Duran and *Pasaje a lo Desconocido*

July 15, 2007 — *En Linea Directa*, Mexico — Chupacabras Strikes Again in Reynosa, Tamaulipas (Mexico) — According to an article published by journalist Armando Garcia in the *En Linea Directa* newspaper, rural growers of Reynosa fear for the lives of their animals...and their own lives as well, since a strange animal has appeared out of nowhere to mutilate cattle.

A rancher from the "El Porvenir" collective farm reported the deaths of several animals on the property,

since after a two day absence from the farm, the owner returned to find that part of his herd was also dead, while other animals were still dying. Alarmed, he informed the authorities in hopes of starting an investigation.

Ricardo Humberto Varela, 50, lives at Rio Alamo 61, Colonia Longoria, and filed his complaint before Gerardo Trevino, a public magistrate, who in turn reported what had taken place at the "Artecitas" ranch in the El Porvenir collective farm.

The statement said that the rancher was startled to see what was happening in his ranch, since after a two-day absence, he found part of his herd dead. He checked each animal physically and found two puncture marks on their necks through which something had exsanguinated them.

He then inspected each corner of the ranch to determine what had taken place. He found the print marks of two small feet or claws, seemingly those of a strange entity or animal that broke into the ranch several times, slaying the livestock. The rancher lost 14 sheep, 10 chickens and five goats. While this official report makes no mention of the Chupacabras, it is believed that the modern mythical entity is responsible for this attack.

Ricardo Humberto Varela noted that he would destroy the carcasses by fire, but before doing so, he took several photographs that were appended to the investigation, which was given the number 295/007, as evidence of what had transpired at the "Artecitas" ranch in the El Porvenir collective.

It will be up to the police to ascertain the nature of the mysterious assailant on the ranch. It should be noted that in previous years, similar cases had been reported. If a new "Chupacabras" wave is involved -- a creature believed by some to be an invention or pure fiction, the collective ranchers of Reynosa will fear for the lives of their animals and their own, as no one has been able to guess the creature's true nature. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

July 15, 2007 — *Diario La Republica*, San Luis, Argentina — Strange Creatures Seen in San Luis, Argentina — ***Residents of Merio claim having seen imps near a hundred year old eucalyptus tree*** — ***A strange story from Valle de Conlara*** — The Municipality trimmed the tree because its large branches were jeopardizing motorists traveling along Avenida del Inca. After work, some residents reportedly saw "little men" coming out [of the tree] in single file from that location."

The landscapes described by the prolific South African (sic) writer John Ronald Reuel Tolkien - author of *The Lord of the Rings* - as the habitat of imps, elves, trolls and fairies that appear in his works do not vary all that much. These creatures enjoy living in forests, trees, small rivers and clean environments. They tend to dwell within trees or openings in the surface.

Described thus, an infinite number of similar landscapes can be described in a number of points throughout the country, and Merio is no exception, even though humans may be accused of making these places fewer and fewer.

Days ago, the Municipality of Merio, at the request of local residents, trimmed a hundred-year old eucalyptus that is next to the Leopoldo Lugones Library in Piedra Blanca, on a tight curve by Avenida de los Incas. The large branches obscured visibility for motorists and jeopardized light and telephone wires on windy days.

While the trimming operations took place on the avenue, adjacent to a stream, traffic was interrupted and once restored, locals driving through the area, lighting it with their car headlights, claimed to have seen the strange figures. They reportedly saw "some little men coming out of the amputated tree and walking single file toward the library. Most witnesses did not offer details, but one woman described their clothing as having a brownish hue," said Cecilia de Gabrele, an employee at the library who fielded several phone calls at her workplace from locals who sought confirmation for what they had seen nearby. However, neither the employee nor her coworkers noticed anything unusual.

Cecilia added that for many years there have been stories of "imp" sightings in that district. "That's where Aguariabay Street begins, which has abundant native flora, and many claim having seen tiny beings between the branches and shadows."

Once the trimming operation was over in what some believe may have been the dwelling of these little people, the landscape "was devastated," according to De Gabriele. The eucalyptus has a reddish wood and after being trimmed, this shade became visible. Faced with the bizarre scene, some have done as far as to suggest that "the strong coloring gave the impression that the tree was bleeding." — CREDIT: Mario Bracamonte, *Proyecto CATENT*

July 23, 2007 — *Cronica*, Chile and Ana Luisa Cid — UFO over Lenga, Chile — According to the Chilean newspaper *Cronica* for July 23, 2007, 18 year old Victoria Ampuero photographed an unidentified flying object.

The events took place on Thursday, July 19 at 14:49 hours as she was photographing the landscape visible from her home in Lenga (Chile).

According to Victoria, the UFO was not visible to her eyes and [she] only became aware of its presence when she checked the images on screen, describing the object as a "craft."

Until now, no photographic expert has checked the material. However, the paper's newsroom contacted astronomer Paris Bustos of the Penco Observatory, who said that the image is interesting and that many UFO sightings are really astronomical objects, atmospheric phenomena or camera problems.

Cronica has not published the photo in question, although it does dedicate a segment of its cover to this news item. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

July 26, 2007 — *Telenoticias de Costa Rica* [www.teletica.com] — COSTA RICA: Amateur Video Captures Alleged UFO by Luis Diego Quiros — Scientist neither confirm nor deny that the images appearing in an amateur video are those of an extraterrestrial spacecraft.

As he does on a daily basis, Angel Brenes leaves his home for his job at the Tres Rios Electric Substation. But this June 24th would be different -- that evening he was able to record a video of the two tallest electric towers, using his cellphone.

Although Angel says that the light moved in a way that he cannot explain, he did feel that it was an unidentified flying saucer (UFO).

However, Oscar Sierra, an expert in the UFO subject, believes that the video needs further study, although it presents characteristics that would make it real.

Jose Alberto Villalobos, a physicist, has a different opinion. He believes that it is a UFO because it is unidentified, but he cannot say that it is an extraterrestrial craft.

The amateur video is similar to a photo taken in France several years ago. In a similar fashion, an artisan from Aguas Zarcas managed to record one in 2006 over the Arenal Volcano.

Despite the fact that there is no officially acknowledged proof, UFO experts believe that hundreds of extraterrestrials visit our world every day. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez



REBEL YELL [Univ. of Las Vegas], Las Vegas, NV - April 30, 2007

Loch Ness legend persists

Mythical monster challenges theories of modern science

By Shirley Robinson
The Rebel Yell

Bigfoot. The Abominable Snowman. The jackslope.

These commonly known but rarely seen cryptozoic creatures have become part of our culture. One, in particular, has become widely known in the western world from repeated and credible sightings: the Loch Ness monster of Scotland.

Nicknamed Nessie by locals and supposedly spotted by thousands for more than hundreds of years, "she" has become a modern legend for most, a reality for many and a challenge for a determined few. The majority of professional scientists might agree that the evidence for the Loch Ness Monster is sketchy, unreliable and likely the product of either hoaxes and/or misidentified species or objects.

However, there are those who have regarded it as a potential discovery worthy of being pursued. The mystery is far from being solved, but continued research could either silence or add to the debate of a prehistoric "monster's" presence in the modern world.

The earliest indication that a monster lingered in Scottish waters dates back at least 1,500 years to the Scottish tribes known as the Picts. These "painted people" left behind carvings of long-snouted, flippered beasts. Word of this aquatic creature did not surface, however, until early May of 1933 when a new road was completed through the remote ancestral highlands of the Picts. A young couple reported seeing a large, unwieldy animal rolling and heaving out of the water of Loch Ness.

The term "Loch" refers to a lake or a sea inlet and originates from Scottish Gaelic, a Celtic language still spoken in the region. Loch Ness is one of several interconnected water bodies in Scotland, and spanning 21 square miles, is the second largest lake in the United Kingdom. Filling a glacially carved basin that plunges more than 800 feet, Loch Ness is one of the world's deepest lakes. Although it is freshwater, Ness is known for having very poor water visibility as peat (decaying organic matter) inundates and darkens its depths. In addition to being deep and murky, Loch Ness has been described as being very cold and forbidding as it has taken the lives of several divers and boatmen who, according to the NOVA

broadcast of "The Beast of the Loch Ness," reportedly "sank without a trace in[to] the icy depths."

Although the water alone may have been the cause of the drownings, the lake's mysterious qualities would seem to make for an ideal habitat for elusive and potentially dangerous aquatic life. However, the largest, verified fish that frequents Loch Ness's waters is a migratory salmon. Because of the low amounts of light that penetrate the water, a relatively limited ecosystem is believed to be supported.

Despite this, the lake is known worldwide as the home of the giant, almost serpent-like Loch Ness Monster, which was named by a local newspaper shortly after the 1933 sighting. A media frenzy quickly ensued, and lofty rewards were offered for its capture. In-depth investigation by scientists, however, was quickly terminated in light of falsified foot prints and photos.

Still, accounts of land and water sightings continued to be reported throughout the following decades. Of the more than 4,000 documented encounters and sightings, nearly all of them give similar anatomical and behavioral descriptions. Also, as noted by Stephen Lyons, author of the online NOVA article "Birth of a Legend," many of these eyewitnesses are very credible citizens and professionals. Seasoned fishermen, constables, educators, lawyers, scientists and even a Nobel Prize winner have claimed to have caught a glimpse of Nessie. In fact, aside from the Picts' stone depictions, the very earliest account of the Scottish monster was from the revered Saint Columba in 565 A.D., who is credited with introducing Christianity to Scotland.

The interest of the scientific community in Nessie picked up in the 1950s when several reputable British universities began experimenting on Loch Ness with SONAR, a system that utilizes the reflection of sound waves to detect underwater objects. Although none of the expeditions were conclusive, each one reported the detection of large, mobile objects.

In the 1970s, a series of expeditions led by Robert Rines, scholar, inventor and founder of the Boston-based Academy of Applied Science, combined the technologies of SONAR, strobe lighting and underwater photography in the quest for Nessie. In 1975,

he obtained several photos, one of which was the image of a six-foot long flipper-like object.

Rines told NOVA during a later expedition, "I got this strong feeling everybody was not lying. Everybody wasn't a fool, that there was something out there."

Rines and team quickly got the backing of British naturalist Sir Peter Scott, who claimed to have been an eyewitness of Nessie. From the flipper image, Scott suggested that it resembled that of a plesiosaur, an extinct aquatic reptile often found fossilized in European marine sediments of the Jurassic Period. These long-necked reptiles are thought to have been able to swim swiftly (based on the size of their paddles) and devoured their prey with needle-like teeth.

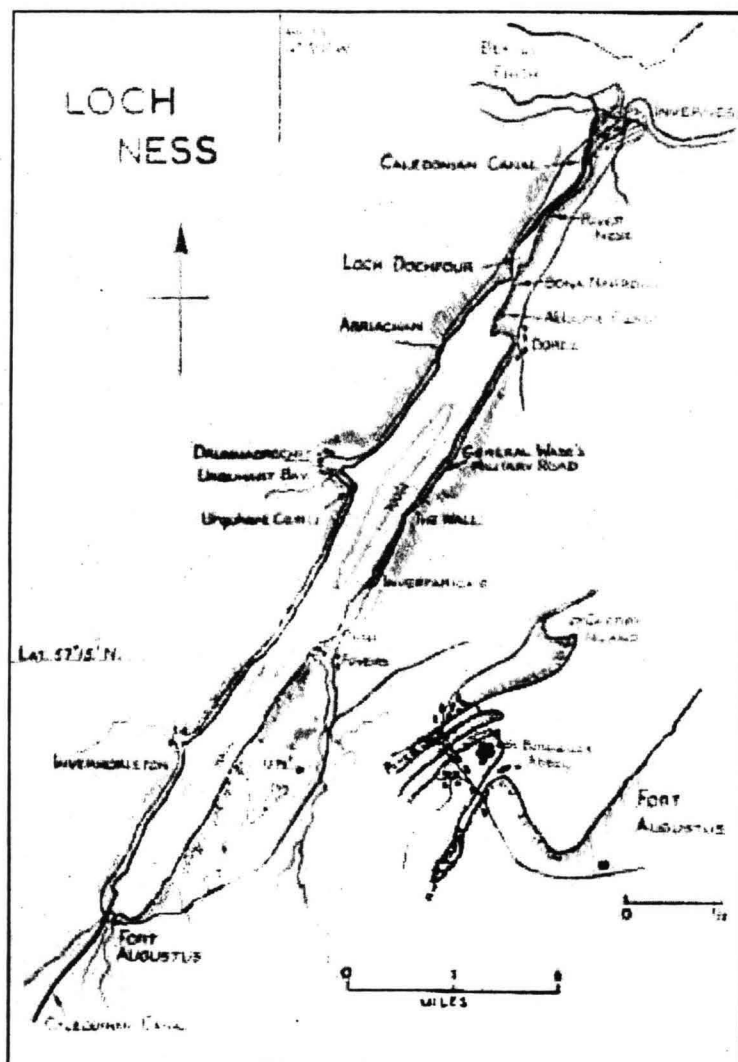
However, the proposal that Scotland was home to a prehistoric dinosaur population was just too far-fetched for most biologists and paleontologists to take seriously. Plagued with the suspicion that the image was overly enhanced, Rines' work fell out of the limelight of the scientific community.

Most geologists and paleontologists regard it as a fact, verified through radiometric dating of the rock record, that dinosaurs lived between 250 and 65 million years ago. This vast span of time, divided into the smaller segments of the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods, is collectively called the Mesozoic Era. Although hotly debated how it was initiated, it is scientifically accepted that a massive extinction event suddenly killed the dinosaurs along with nearly every other land animal weighing much over 50 pounds.

It is also widely accepted, however, that "living fossils" exist. These are animals, such as crocodiles and turtles, which are found in the fossil records of the Mesozoic yet obviously avoided the downfall that the dinosaurs experienced.

One of the most publicized zoological discoveries of the 20th century was that of the coelacanth, a primitive fish which was thought to have been extinct for the past 70 million years. Just recently, in January 2007, a rare frilled shark, thought to be a member of a 350 million-year-old family, was caught alive off of the coast of Japan.

If Nessie is another "living fossil," specifically a plesiosaur, then humans and dinosaurs could be



Courtesy Image

Loch Ness is a large, freshwater lake located in the Scottish Highlands. The Loch Ness monster first appeared as a legend in 565 A.D.

coexisting, a situation that could potentially challenge the theories of modern science. Interestingly, anthropological and historical evidence suggests that large reptilian animals were part of the lives and cultures of ancient man around the globe.

Such evidence lies in the American Southwest Desert. The area comprising the state of Utah is known by paleontologists worldwide for its abundance of well-preserved dinosaur tracks and fossilized bones. It is also rich in archeological history. As featured in a 2003 article in the publication "Reason and Revelation," petroglyphs on the canyon walls of Utah's Natural Bridges National Monument and the San Rafael Swell depict not only modern animals, but what appear to be standing, long-necked and flying lizard-like creatures. Many

visitors agree that they show a remarkable resemblance to the *Brontosaurus* and the pterosaur.

Although the authenticity of this rock-art can be debated, other Native American artifacts, such as Incan burial stones that portray *Triceratops* and *Stegosaurus*-like creatures and dinosaur figurines uncovered near Acambaro, Mexico have raised questions. Are they just imaginary animals? Did ancient cultures happen upon fossilized remnants and incorporate interpretations of the animals into their artwork?

The idea of man and reptilian monster coexistence manifests itself in numerous tales and legends. Interestingly, dragons are the "mythical" animals common to the Middle East, the Orient and medieval Europe. Were these creatures the collective figment of Eurasia's creative imagination,

or was there a living, breathing basis to their legends? Even highly regarded historical documents, such as the Bible, include detailed descriptions of formidable, dinosaur-like beasts. For instance, the Old Testament's Book of Job, chapters 40-41, describes the land animal, Behemoth, and the sea monster, Leviathan. Reportedly, Leviathan could "make the water boil with its commotion" and "leave a shining wake of froth behind it," not unlike the behavior of the Loch Ness Monster.

The plausibility of Nessie being a plesiosaur is still not well entertained. As explained by NOVA, these presumably cold-blooded animals would have had to make extreme adaptations to be able to survive in the cold and limited environment of Loch Ness.

However, most scientists

(continued on page 18)

(continued from page 17)
- REBEL YELL
[Univ. of Las Vegas], Las Vegas, NV - April 30, 2007)

do believe that organisms are capable of such changes brought about by environmental pressures (i.e. evolution).

Some members of the scientific community have theorized that Nessie is possibly a known yet rare species, such as a Baltic Sturgeon or large eel, which may occasionally wander into the loch from connective waterways to the ocean. Another explanation is that decaying, gas-emitting logs could be mistaken for a large life form rising from the loch's bottom and violently surfacing.

As reported by Wikipedia.org, a 2001 expedition made by the Academy of Applied Science videoed a V-shaped wake plowing through the placid waters of the Loch. An extensive 2003-2004 project carried out by the British Broadcasting Company reportedly detected no SONAR images and saw no evidence of a large animal. They concluded that the Loch Ness Monster did not exist. Many eyewitnesses, however, including scientists like Rines, remain adamant that Nessie, whatever it is, is real.

"If you don't have an open mind, in my judgment, you're not a scientist," Rines told NOVA. Although the idea that the Loch Ness Monster could be a surviving dinosaur does not fit with mainstream science, nature has been known to surprise even the most educated.

POST, Denver, CO - July 8, 2007 CR: P. Noonan

"Fetid beast" still haunts Amazon

Scientists say common tales of the mapinguary, a deadly South American monster, may come from tribes' contact with the now-extinct giant ground sloth.

By Larry Rohter
The New York Times

Rio Branco, Brazil — Perhaps it is nothing more than a legend, as skeptics say. Or maybe it is real, as those who claim to have seen it avow. But the mere mention of the mapinguary, the giant slothlike monster of the Amazon, is enough to send shivers down the spines of almost all who dwell in the world's largest rain forest.

The folklore is full of tales of encounters with the creature, and nearly every Indian tribe in the Amazon, including those that have had no contact with one other, have a word for the mapinguary (pronounced ma-ping-wahr-EE). The name is usually translated as "the roaring animal" or "the fetid beast."

At least one scientist says he can explain the beast and its origins.

"It is quite clear to me that the legend of the mapinguary is based on human contact with the last of the ground sloths" thousands of years ago, said David Oren, a former director of research at the Goeldi Institute in Belém, at the mouth of the Amazon River. "We know that extinct species can survive as legends for hundreds of years. But

whether such an animal still exists or not is another question, one we can't answer yet."

In some areas, the creature is said to have two eyes, while in other accounts it has only one, like the Cyclops of Greek mythology. Some tell of a gaping, stinking mouth in the monster's belly through which it consumes humans unfortunate enough to cross its path.

But all accounts agree that the creature is tall, 7 feet or more when it stands on two legs, that it emits a strong, disagreeable odor, and that it has thick, matted fur, which covers a carapace that makes it all but impervious to bullets and arrows.

"The only way you can kill a mapinguary is by shooting at its head," said Domingos Parintintin, a tribal leader in Amazonas state. "But that is hard to do because it has the power to make you dizzy and turn day into night. So the best thing to do if you see one is climb a tree and hide."

The giant ground sloth, *Megatherium*, was once one of the largest mammals to walk the Earth, bigger than a modern elephant. Fossil evidence is abundant and widespread, found as far south as Chile and as far north as Florida. But the trail stops cold thousands of years ago.

"When you travel in the Amazon, you are constantly hearing about this animal, especially when you are in contact with indigenous peoples," said Peter Toledo, an expert on sloths at the Goeldi Institute. "But convincing scientific proof, in the form of even vestiges of bones, blood or excrement, is always lacking."

WEEKLY NEWS, London, England - June 16, 2007 CR: R. Archer

WAS THE CAR INVENTED 1400 YEARS AGO?

by Mike Edwards-Smith

PLANES, trains and automobiles are all fairly recent inventions, right? Wrong!

An amazing new investigation has revealed that these technologies can be traced back many hundreds of years.

The History Channel reveals all in a major new seven-part series beginning this week.

Ancient Discoveries will be challenging widely-held assumptions about the origins of inventions we regard as "modern".

Surprising archaeological finds and ancient manuscripts have led historians to new conclusions about the mechanical abilities of ancient peoples.

For example, a railway dating back to 6th century BC Greece has been uncovered.

Imagination to experiment

It was a four-mile track connecting the Gulf of Corinth with the Minoan Sea.

The railway consisted of limestone blocks, cut with two parallel grooves five feet apart to hold the wheels of transport vehicles.

Small warships or empty cargo vessels were pushed along the track on huge trolleys by their crews and slave gangs.

But if ancient peoples knew about railways, did they also experiment with vehicles which could move under their own power?

There are references to "wind cars" being used in China 1400 years ago.

Experts believe one inventor constructed a carriage powered by the wind which carried 30 men and could travel hundreds of miles per day.

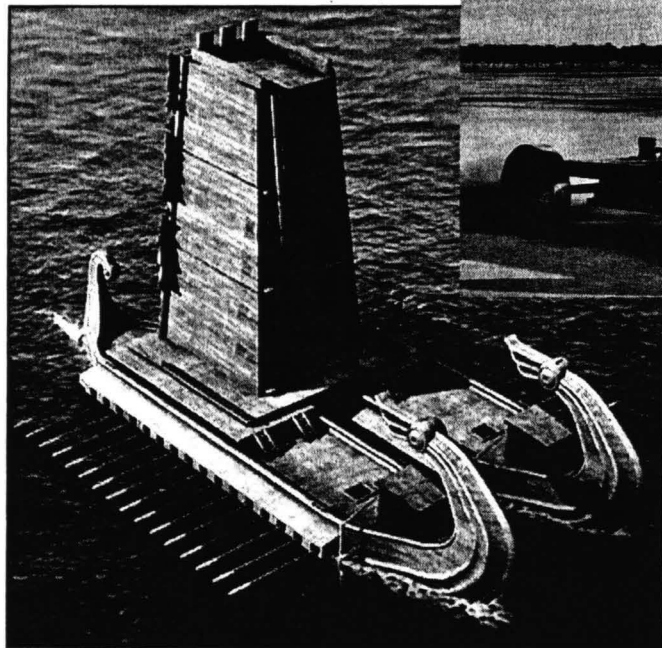
It's estimated this vehicle travelled at 30 miles per hour, far faster than the first steam railways of the 19th century.

And, amazingly, the concept of a rocket car was first thought of in 15th-century Italy by

engineer Giovanni Fontana.

His idea was that the vehicle would be propelled forward on its two rollers by a gunpowder-based fuel, which Fontana kept top secret.

There's no evidence that the car was built, but it's startling to realise



A computer-generated image of a wind-powered car. Left, an ancient siege ship.

there's the tale of the Khufu Boat, also discovered in Egypt.

It was buried next to King Khufu in 2551BC and, when uncovered in the 1950s, was in remarkable condition.

It's a stunning example of ancient ship-building techniques.

What amazed experts most was that not one metal nail was used on the boat.

Launched

Its construction was based around sewing all the timbers together using fibre thread.

The Egyptians knew precisely what they were doing for, when the boat was launched into the Nile, the planks would swell and the fibre ropes would tighten, making the vessel watertight.

Then there were the

noted Greek inventors, Heron and Philon, who were working in the third century BC, and were famed for their automatic devices such as a water supply machine and robotic temple doors.

Warfare features strongly in the series. An investigation into the 3000-year-old siege of Troy goes behind the Hollywood myth, and claims that the walls of Troy may have been shattered using chemical weapons!

And as far back as the 10th century, it's claimed that the Chinese managed to create a substance that powered flame throwers and rockets for use on the battlefield.

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● *Ancient Discoveries* begins on The History Channel at 9pm on Tuesday, June 19.

TRACK this

WHITEY



THE CREATURE FEATURE

In search of the White River Monster.

by contributing writer
charlie gocio

photo by mandy sams

The Natural State has a long, rich history of unexplained creatures, from the Gowrow, a tusked 20-foot lizard that dwelled in Ozark caves, to the Fouke Monster, which left cryptozoologists puzzled and a handful of Texarkana kids forever immortalized on film.

So when a buddy told me about the White River Monster, a quasi sea-beast that pops up every 40 years or so in the murky waters between Newport and Jacksonport, I decided to spend my Fourth of July taking a road trip ... in search of "Whitey."

We take off down U.S. 67, a strip of highway strewn with four-by-fours and patriotic bumper stickers. My girlfriend, Mandy, is coming along and acting as photographer. On the way, I call my contact, Phyllis, who runs the state's only freshwater pearl shop and is kind enough to Xerox an onslaught of literature on the famed monster.

The legend of the White River Monster is said to have its roots in American Indian lore. The height of Whitey's popularity came in 1937, when tenant farmers on Bramlett Bateman's plantation, located on the river six miles south of Newport, told Bateman they had seen something fishy in an eddy off the bank. Bateman and three others signed sworn affidavits, claiming they had seen something other eye-witnesses

described as being "as wide as a boxcar," as long as three and with skin like an elephant.

Soon, word of the sightings spread. Journalists from all over the country descended on the small town of Newport. Divers searched the river for days while crowds watched, drinking and dancing far into the night.

The next Whitey craze came in June 1971 when Ernest Denks claimed to have seen a "long, gray" creature with a "pointed horn" sticking out from its forehead. Later that month, Cloyce Warren sold a Polaroid of what he claimed to be the White River Monster to the local newspaper. In July, a set of three-clawed, 14-inch tracks were found on Towhead Island.

Two years later, Sen. Robert Harvey introduced a resolution, which the Arkansas Legislature adopted by voice vote, making it "unlawful to molest, kill, trample or harm" the local phenomenon while in a stretch of the river set aside from the southern point at Old Grand Claize to the northern point of Rosie, which was to be known as the White River Monster Sanctuary and Refuge.

Wait ... molest? Is this a monster story or a scene out of *Deliverance*? (It's at this point that Mandy's law degree comes in handy — "No, Charlie, not like that.")

After checking in to our hotel,

our tummies start to rumble, so we decide to go venturing for a restaurant that serves dishes from south of the border. After ordering, I can't help but overhear the man from the next booth, demanding another round of sir-vay-suhs.

"Sorry, but I don't speak 'Mexican,'" he chuckles to the nice Hispanic waiter, who just looks at him.

He notices me looking his way and asks, "What do you want?" I tell him I'm looking for Whitey, and his fists clench. Frantically, I explain that I'm on assignment, and he belts out a laugh and invites us into his booth.

Our new friend lets us in on "the fact" that he knows a guy who knows a guy who helped fake the famous Polaroid, which the paper "lost track of" several years ago, and how the whole legend started when local shell-diggers at the turn of the century overturned and sank a scow after finding a valuable bed of mussels. When people would get too close to their secret claim, they would pull an intricate series of strings, making it appear that something was rising out of the water.

Feeling enlightened, and a little disheartened — I grew up obsessed with *Unsolved Mysteries* and was hoping to crack the case — we made our way back to the hotel. Later that night, as I was reading about Jimmy

Driftwood songs, Richard Wood poems and Japanese film crews, I fell asleep to the soft humming of a bugmobile driving by to spray for mosquitos, which are thicker'n thieves in the Delta right now.

First, I dreamt that I was a 14-year-old Cherokee. My elders were having to answer to passing settlers in search of missing gold from a sunken Confederate riverboat. To try and thwart them away, the elders told them about a mysterious "island" that pops up along the river at various locations and the brave young warrior who dared to ride it.

Next, I slipped into a town meeting in the wake of 1997's devastating tornado that ravaged the town of Jacksonport, killing three and leaving the county reeling in the aftermath. Town tourism officials started a campaign to capitalize on Whitey's fame, producing signs, stickers, T-shirts, coozies and magnets featuring a lovable Puff figure.

When I woke up, the irony of the White River Monster came to me: The myth that was once used to scare people away has been transformed to entice tourists to visit, stick around and spend some hard-earned cash.

Whether the monster exists is irrelevant. It's oral tradition that continues to make Whitey real ... and the kids love it.

Lab technician claims capture of Loch Ness monster on video

By BEN McCONVILLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDINBURGH, Scotland — The Loch Ness monster is back — and there's video.

A man has captured what Nessie watchers say is possible footage of the supposed mythical creature beneath Scotland's most mysterious lake.

"I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw this jet black thing, about 45 feet long, moving fairly fast in the water," said Gordon Holmes, the 55-year-old lab technician from Shipley, Yorkshire, who took the video Saturday.

Nessie watcher and marine

biologist Adrian Shine viewed the video and hoped to properly analyze it in the coming months.

"I see myself as a skeptical interpreter of what happens in the loch, but I do keep an open mind about these things and there is no doubt this is some of the best footage I have seen," said Shine, of the Loch Ness 2000 center in Drumnadrochit, on the shores of the lake.

Holmes said whatever it was moved at about 6 mph and kept a fairly straight course.

"My initial thought is it could be a very big eel, they have serpent-like features and they may explain all the sight-

ings in Loch Ness over the years."

Loch Ness is surrounded by myth. It's the largest inland body of water in Britain, and at about 750 feet to the bottom, it's even deeper than the North Sea.

"There are a number of possible explanations to the sightings in the loch. It could be some biological creature, it could just be the waves of the loch or it could some psychological phenomenon in as much as we see what we want to see," Shine said.

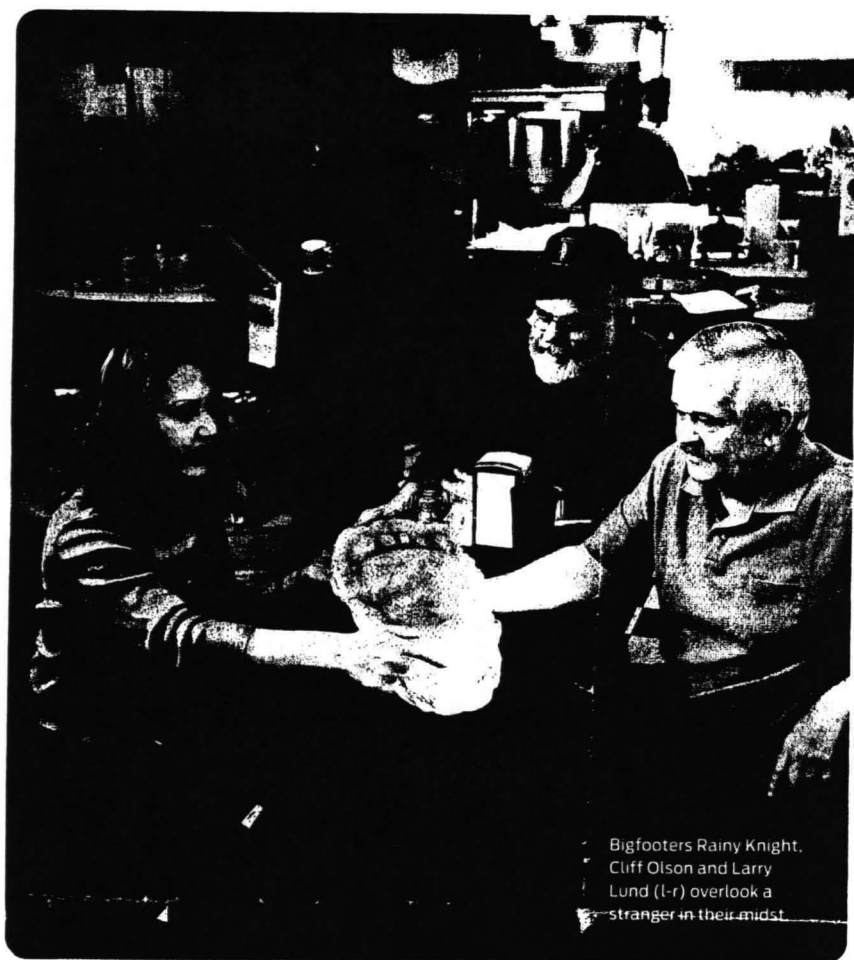
While many sightings can be attributed to a drop of the local whisky, legends of Scottish monsters date back to one of the founders of the Christian

church in Scotland, St. Columba, who wrote of them in about 565 A.D.

More recently, there have been more than 4,000 purported Nessie sightings since it was first caught on camera by a surgeon on vacation in the 1930s.

Since then, the faithful have speculated about whether it is a completely unknown species, a sturgeon — even though they have not been native to Scotland's waters for many years — or even a last surviving dinosaur.

Real or imagined, Nessie has long been a Scottish emblem. But the Scottish media is skeptical of Nessie stories but Holmes' footage is of such good quality that even the normally reticent BBC Scotland aired the video on its main news program Tuesday.



Bigfooters Rainy Knight, Cliff Olson and Larry Lund (l-r) overlook a stranger in their midst

• STREET SCENE

Squatch Watch

LARRY LUND, a self-proclaimed Sasquatch sleuth, gazes past the poodle-skirt-clad mannequins crowding the jukebox at Pattie's Home Plate Café and asks the assembled for a show of hands: "How many of you have actually seen Bigfoot?" A murmur rises from a corner of the diner, but only two hands go up. "I envy you folks," says the silver-haired Lund. "Some of us have been looking for years and haven't seen anything."

It's Saturday night in St Johns, and time again for the International Bigfoot Society's regular meeting. Once a month, Home Plate—which also hosts needlepoint circles and cribbage tournaments, not to mention a weekly sock hop—clears a few tables for the small cohort of die-hard Bigfooters to chomp cheeseburgers, trade tales and chew on the latest evidence in the search for Sasquatch.

Between bites, the mostly middle-aged members of the club, which was founded in 1991, confer about footprints and DNA while poring over "blobsquatches"—purported images of Bigfoot so dark or blurry that only the right mix of conviction, squinting and wishful thinking reveals the elusive beast said to stalk the woods of the Pacific Northwest and Canada. (The *Oregonian* first reported Sasquatch sightings in Washington in 1924 but, shockingly, no conclusive evidence of the creature's existence has ever been produced.)

"They call me a skeptical believer," says Lund to the congregation of 10 seated beneath a vinyl constellation of 45s dangling from the rafters. "I just need to see one to believe it."

Further down the table, a woman named Leann adds, "You have to look at your methodology and your consciousness." Leann

belongs to a sizable minority of aficionados who believe that Sasquatch travels in and out of our dimension, appearing only to the enlightened, like a long-departed aunt who appears only when the Ouija board is out and the candles lit. "Bigfoot won't show itself if all you want to do is capture it."

The rest of the Bigfooters grin in Leann's direction; the debate over the beast's natural existence has kicked around as long as the legend itself has. In fact, it's just such controversy—along with the tasty Home Plate grub—that provides the fuel for these monthly meetings.

Lund rises and asks the group what they thought of Tom Biscardi, the camera-loving Bigfoot hunter from northern California who appeared in Portland in March to hawk his *Bigfoot Lives* documentary and

The Oregonian reported the first Bigfoot sighting in Washington in 1924.

drum up interest in his \$400-a-person Sasquatch hunting expeditions. Given the contrary nature of the International Bigfoot Society, it's not surprising that Biscardi receives mixed reviews.

"He seemed like a huckster," harrumphs one woman with an aluminum cane. "It was all showbiz."

"He thinks he's going to catch one and put it in a cage. It's repulsive," Leann adds.

Despite the underwhelming support, Lund produces a handsome wooden plaque and announces that the society has bestowed Biscardi with its highest honor: the Bigfooter of the Year award, a controversial choice reminiscent of Taylor Hicks's victory on *American Idol*. Still, polite applause ripples among the tables.

The formal part of the meeting dissolves into chatter, and Leann passes around photos she took during a recent communion with Bigfoot in the woods. "Right there," she says, pointing to a space between two underexposed trees.

The group leans forward, squinting hard at the dark, amorphous image. Three heartbeats pass without comment. Could this be the proof that will finally solve an enduring mystery and end the Bigfooters' disagreements?

And then someone breaks the silence, sighing, "I'm just not seeing it." Disappointment washes over the group. It's a classic blobsquatch: status undetermined.

—Jonathan Fine

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANTHONY ANTHONY

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SUN, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - June 1, 2007 CR: G. Duplantier

New footage some of best of monster Nessie

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — She's as much an emblem — and a tourist draw — as tartan, bagpipes, and shortbread.

And now Nessie's back.

An amateur scientist has captured what Loch Ness Monster watchers say is among the finest footage ever taken of the elusive mythical creature reputed to swim beneath the waters of Scotland's most mysterious lake.

Lab technician Gordon Holmes took the video last Saturday. He says he saw a jet-black object about 15 metres long moving fast in the water, and thought it could be a very big

eel with serpent-like features. "I couldn't believe my eyes," he says.

The object was moving at about 10 km/h and keeping a fairly straight course, said Holmes, a 55-year-old lab technician from Shipley, Yorkshire.

Deeper than sea

Loch Ness is surrounded by myth and mystery, as it is the largest and deepest inland expanse of water in Britain. About 230 metres to the bottom, it's even deeper than the North Sea.

Nessie watcher and marine biologist Adrian Shine of the Loch Ness 2000 centre in

Drumnadrochit, on the shores of the lake, viewed the video and hopes to properly analyze it in the coming months.

"I see myself as a skeptical interpreter of what happens in the loch, but I do keep an open mind about these things and there is no doubt this is some of the best footage I have seen," Shine said.

He said the video is particularly useful because Holmes panned back to get the background shore into the shot. That means it was less likely to be a fake and provided geographical bearings allowing one to calculate how big the creature was and how fast it was travelling.

SUN, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - March 26, 2007

Sasquatch sighting by humanoid

VANCOUVER — A B.C. man is reporting he may have spotted a sasquatch, the mythical ape-like creature in the Enchanted Forest near Tofino, on the northwestern tip of Vancouver Island. "My brother and I had a strange encounter with a large, dark humanoid in the forests of Tofino," the unidentified man says in the introduction to a video — *Strange Humanoid Encounter* — posted recently on youtube.com. The man said he's sending the tape to the Cryptozoology Society "for an expert's advice."

CR: G. Duplantier