

UFO

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ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Aug. 6, 2007

Crop circles in Arkansas flummox farmers, visitors

One researcher calls them gentle signs from aliens

BY KENNETH HEARD
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

DELAPLAINE — Something is flattening the crops in intricate patterns at night in western Clay County.

Residents of Delaplaine, Knobel and Peach Orchard have awakened to find three complex designs pressed into wheat fields over the past four summers. The designs are so large that only crop-dusters who fly over them can fully comprehend the scope of the agricultural art.

The latest one occurred on Fred Gates' wheat field near Delaplaine, with 127 residents, along Arkansas 90 in June. The design looked like a beetle with

pinchers on either end. One of the pinchers appeared not to have been completed.

Gates declined to comment on the circle.

The first pattern appeared in Todd Young's wheat field on June 6, 2003, near Knobel, a town of 358 people, and featured a large circle with nine smaller circles spiraling away from it.

Another popped up in Peach Orchard, with 95 residents, in the summer of 2004, looking like a pointed sprocket on a bicycle wheel.

Self-proclaimed experts of the phenomenon claim people aren't sophisticated enough to shape the complex designs.

"We don't believe they were made by humans," said JoAnne Scarpellini, a 74-year-old crop-circle investigator from St. Louis who has crawled through numerous flattened crops in the United States and England. "We're in the dark about Clay County. Something likes the place a lot."

Ask someone what could be causing the anomalies and the answers vary.

Some think it could be rogue aliens in spaceships carving out the designs with their tractor beams.

Others suggest it's a hoaxer knocking over the wheat with a plow and his John Deere tractor.

But Nancy Talbott, one of the owners of BLT Research Inc. of Cambridge, Mass., a private firm that inspects the phenomenon, believes the circles could be "gentle" signs from aliens. The markings gradually alert humans of a pending visitation from critters from a different world, she said.

"The designs are kind of pretty," Talbott said. "It may be another life form's way of making us think we're not alone. They are preparing us for a friendly visitation, not a war-like situation like if they just suddenly showed up."

For the most part, though, local residents aren't concerned about the crop circles. They're more of an annoyance than a wonderment.

Farmers in the area are more worried about their little green soybean crops than they are about little green men.

The only invasion on their minds, in fact, is that by Greene County Tech School District, which after merging with the Delaplaine School District in 2006, plans to bus elementary students from Delaplaine to the Paragould campus this fall.

MAGNETIC MYSTERY

"Hopefully, that's the last circle we've had," Young said of June's circle.

People went to his field in droves to see the design, tramping down the rest of his wheat that year.

"The only thing that impressed me was the magnetism," he said.

When Scarpellini held an electromagnetic field meter over the crop design, the meter peaked, indicating the presence of magnetic metals. Readings outside of the circle showed no such signs.

Scarpellini thinks the magnetism comes from the earth, attracting whatever makes the circles.

People in these parts aren't so impressed.

A handful of farmers hanging out at the Knobel Feed Store recently scoffed after the circles were brought up. None would talk openly about what he thought caused the circles and none would give his name.

"Go on down to Delaplaine," one farmer said. "They'll talk to you. That's where the last one happened."

Another farmer offered a quip about the Delaplaine circle and a funeral. The man said a local farmer died the day after the circle was discovered on Gates' property. Friends and family gathered for the funeral. "One of 'em said, 'Well, I guess the aliens got him,'" the farmer said.

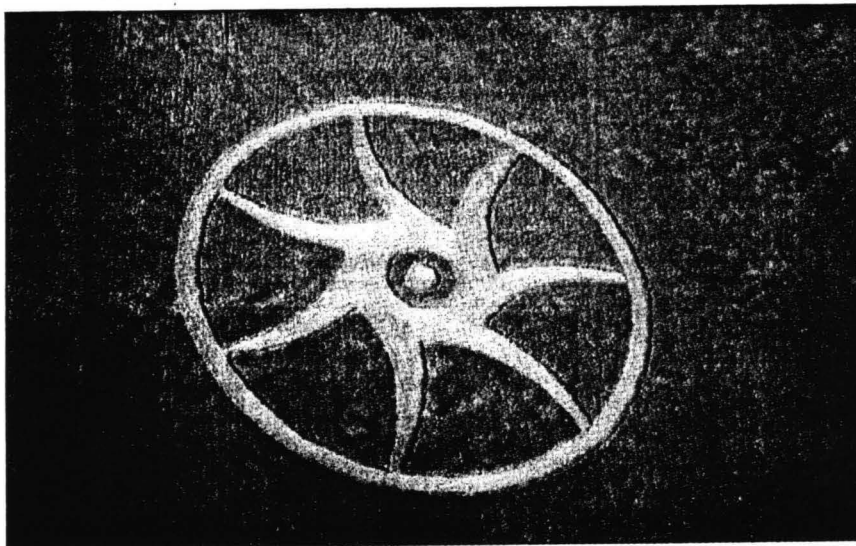
"I'm not saying things don't live on other planets," Mona Coe, Knobel's city clerk, said of the suggestion of extraterrestrial visitations. "But I don't believe that aliens are coming down here just to put circles in crops."

Clay County Cooperative Extension agent Andy Vangilder said the circles caused \$250 to \$500 in damage to wheat fields.

"All I've heard from farmers now is that they hope it doesn't get started in their corn," he said. "The designs are pretty awesome, but I think it's humans who've figured out how to do this precisely with [Global Positioning Systems]."

Still, he said, the county is in no position to turn away anyone or anything.

"As depressed as this county's economy is, we'd be happy for any visitors, alien or otherwise."



BLT Research Inc.

An aerial view of a crop circle in the Clay County town of Peach Orchard in May 2004.



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Clay County's unemployment rate is 8 percent, compared with 5 percent in the state as a whole.

EXPERT: CIRCLES WILL RETURN

Crop circles have been a farming phenomena for centuries. In 1678 residents of Hertfordshire, England, blamed such a circle in a field of wheat on the "mowing devil," suggesting the cause was demonic.

In the 1980s, the occurrence of circles in England escalated tremendously as humans began learning techniques to make them. Investigators such as Scarpellini estimate at least 80 percent of all circles now are hoaxes.

People can make circles, she said, by tromping down crops with wooden boards, sheets of plywood and rope. With the advent of Global Positioning Systems, designing large patterns are somewhat easier, she said. The system, which uses satellite positioning, creates pin-point accuracy when mapping out routes for travel, locating certain spots or designing complex, repetitive patterns.

But a few circles still flummox Scarpellini.

The Delaplaine circle had blades of wheat interwoven inside it, for example.

"It would have taken days or weeks for someone to weave those together," she said. "Not just one night."

Scarpellini, a retired neurochemist who inspects crop circles for BLT Research, has studied each of the three Clay County circles. She shoots aer-

ial photographs of the designs, takes compass readings to line up the fields, measures the artwork and checks for radio, microwave and electronic energy emitting from the pressed wheat.

"We look at how the plants are bent, how the nodes are bent, if the nodes exploded or changed color," she said. "We look for magnetic particles, how deep the wheat has been pressed. We take samples of the dirt and look for any kind of variations."

Her conclusion: "There's no evidence we've found that indicates they were made by people."

Scarpellini won't come out and say she believes the circles were made by flying saucers or alien creatures, opting instead for a standard, prepared line she gives everyone: "I think they are caused by multiple energy given off by an unknown source."

Regardless of their origin, the circles will return to Clay County, Scarpellini said.

"I guarantee it. You'll have another circle in a year," she said. "It's too good of an area. Something is attracting them here."

She suspects the next circle will appear farther south on Arkansas 90 in O'Kean.

Terry Murray, who works at the Countryside Packaging Store in O'Kean, hopes the circle comes soon.

"Everybody's been talking about the circles here," he said recently as he loaded a six-pack of beer into a bag. "I hope whatever is doing them is friendly and I get to meet them."

Delaplaine Mayor Larry Myrick has had time to think about the patterns as he recovers at home from bypass surgery.

He thinks the designs are made by "intelligent youngsters" who take on the mosquitoes at night just to flatten wheat.

"I'm not blaming any in particular, but I don't want to say it's aliens," he said. "I don't believe in aliens."

"Whoever is doing it isn't doing much talking about it," Myrick added. "But I bet they're doing a lot more laughing."

PhilStanford



ON THE TOWN

Aliens couldn't resist the parades

Tomorrow may be Independence Day to some, but as students of this city's extraterrestrial past are well aware, it also happens to be the 60th anniversary of P-town's biggest UFO flyover in recorded history. ... Local UFO-ologist Jefferson Kincaid is hoping that anyone who witnessed the event will show up at a seminar he's holding 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday at It's a Beautiful Pizza at 3342 S.E. Belmont.

Believe it or not, but on July 4, 1947, scores of local residents, including police officers and pilots, reported seeing mysterious flying objects over the city. ... The next day, the front page of no less an authority than The Oregonian ran the story at the top of Page 1 under the headlines: "Air Liner Crew Confirms Flying Discs Over State — Many Seen During Day Over City". ... And then on the July 6: "Flying Saucers Everywhere — New Tales Convert Skeptics." Bet someone even yelled "Stop the presses!"

TRIBUNE, Portland, OR - July 3, 2007

—THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE—

FRONT PAGE

Recent events at Ft. Dix breathe life into supposed alien hoaxes

By RICK MURRAY
Staff Writer

A Fort Dix Military Policeman supposedly pumped five bullets into what looked like a gray-type space alien, and then fired one more round 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.

INSIDE

■ PAGE 6: An account of what happened in 1978

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

NIDS gained fame in recent years for a book called "Hunt for the Skinwalker," based on the organization's investigation into a bizarre range of paranormal episodes - ranging from Bigfoot and UFO sightings to shapeshifter 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 Key-

hoe, 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 1994, 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 incident 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 by plane 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 Hall, who is equally impressed with Morse the man.

"I have a full picture of his family background and professional career," Hall 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."

NIDS investigators claim they made an exhaustive computer search of phone records to locate this same Jeff Morse. Their efforts, they said, were unsuccessful.

Meanwhile, UFOlogists themselves have acknowledged being hoodwinked in the past by phony military records about UFOs. One such case occurred at the Ellsworth Air Force Base in Rapid City, South Dakota.

But the jury is still out as to the authenticity of the so-called Majestic-12 documents, which are considered by many UFO believers to be the Rosetta Stone of UFOlogy.

UFO dogfight ended in Flatwoods, author says

■ Researcher says U.S. pilots under order to engage aliens in battle

By MANNIX PORTERFIELD
THE REGISTER-HERALD

BECKLEY — Sci-fi buffs flocked to a fantasy film in 1984 bearing a title prediction that 2010 would be the year earthlings make contact with aliens.

Actually, contact has come, and it was less than friendly, says one UFO researcher.

Three decades earlier, in fact, back in 1952, the American military engaged a convoy of alien aircraft with orders to destroy them in a pitched air battle right off the Atlantic Coast, says Frank Feschino, author of "The Flatwoods Monster," a phenomenon that rocked a tiny West Virginia town that year.

An illustrator and writer, Feschino has produced a follow-up book, this one titled "Shoot Them Down," an effort produced after years of painstaking research of the U.S. Air Force's once-classified files on unidentified flying saucers and digesting countless magazine articles.

His years of exhaustive study have convinced Feschino that American jet fighters did indeed make contact — at the point of their guns.

"Shoot Them Down" draws its name from orders Feschino says President Truman gave military commanders while an American public was growing increasingly jittery over coast-to-coast UFO sightings.

"There are tons of documents right there, intelligence reports, talking about pilots chasing these things, going after them," Feschino said, citing the once-hidden reports on the Air Force's so-called Project Blue Book.

UFOs were buzzing the entire country that year, "and a good chunk of them were over military installations, and power plants, like Oak Ridge," the author says.

Feschino pulls his theory largely from the writings of Air

Force Capt. Edward Ruppelt, a decorated World War II veteran, recalled to duty when hostilities erupted in Korea.

Roswell might stand out as the mother of all UFO stories, but 1952 was the most prolific year by far for aircraft sightings — by one account, some 30,000 alone in the United States, many of them reported in local newspapers around the country.

Craft ranged from discs to round balls to elongated, cigar-shaped ships, the Port Orange, Fla., resident said.

Feschino flatly says the Air Force took on alien aircraft just off the coast with orders to destroy them in a move to pacify a public growing ever restless over bizarre sightings. In the battle, apparently one craft hobbled back inland, resting on a knoll in a West Virginia community known as Flatwoods. And it was there on Sept. 12 a group of boys, accompanied by some adults, scampered up the hillside and saw a metallic, 12-foot object emitting a sulfuric odor. Locals dubbed it "the Flatwoods Monster."

Based on his interviews with some 200 residents of Flatwoods, however, the author believes the aliens remain interested in rural West Virginia.

"There are people in West Virginia who have been seeing UFOs for the past 50 years, and there are key locations where they are being seen — Wheeling, Huntington, and quite a few south of Charleston, around Cabin Creek, even down in the Beckley area," he said.

Feschino is a headliner for a Sept. 7-8 UFO summit in Charleston organized by promoter Larry Bailey. Joining him will be Freddie May, a witness to the Flatwoods incident, and nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman, considered the leading UFO researcher in the world.

MONROE CO. BUZZ, Madisonville, TN - June 1, 2007

CROP CIRCLE CLOSED! Do Not Enter. Period.

Saying that continued public tours into the Monroe County crop circle - situated on property where he has grown a wheat field - constituted "too big a liability," Madisonville farmer Larry Lay said Thursday that there would be no more traffic allowed into the unusual formation.

"This comes from the landowner, David Kefauver," Lay told the BUZZ around 5 p.m. "So we're stopping all visits from this point on."

"No trespassing" and "private property" signs were posted, Lay said, and everyone not affiliated with the property or wheat crop itself would be prohibited from entering upon the land.

"It's too dangerous to my crop, too," Lay said. "Several people have smoked while touring the crop circle, and with the dry conditions a single spark or ember could burn the entire field."



Lay said he had 90 acres in wheat at the location, with a big investment in the crop. "Neighbors are becoming irritated with all the cars parking in their yards. The police and sheriff's officers have been called to move the traffic along on the road. The noise and activity late at night has begun to disturb their sleep. Frankly, they're tired of it."

Until further notice, Lay said, Kefauver was calling the area "off limits" to visitors of the formation.

"David doesn't want to assume the responsibility of someone getting hurt or becoming injured while walking on his land."



Dena Blatt, a believer in extraterrestrials, says she bought her house just outside of Anacortes after having seen the view through the windows of the home in her dreams for years. Blatt has been writing a book about a Vancouver, B.C., surrealist artist who says she had a two-year friendship with an alien.

THE BELIEVERS

UFO
DEVOTEES
SHARE
TALES OF
STRANGE
EVENTS,
UNUSUAL
LIGHTS IN
THE SKY

STORY BY
BEVERLY CRICHFIELD

PHOTOS BY
FRANK VARGA

SKAGIT VALLEY HERALD

People who have had encounters with UFOs don't talk about it in polite company.

No, if you mention that you believe in aliens — let alone that you think you were abducted by extraterrestrials — it's likely you will get that look, said "Ruth," as she gazed around the living room of her Mount Vernon-area home.

Ruth isn't her real name; she doesn't want to deal with the stares and whispers of people she knows who might read this story and recognize her. She's never been interested in drawing attention to herself, she said.

She is willing to admit that she believes she's seen things — unexplained lights in the sky — on more than a few occasions.

More importantly, she has what she says may be hard, physical evidence that she's been visited by beings from other worlds.

She picks up a small photograph taken four summers

ago, of a triangular-shaped red mark on her left shoulder. Ruth doesn't know where it came from. In fact, she says she'd been sleeping and woke up to find it burning on her shoulder.

It's not the only mysterious mark she's suffered.

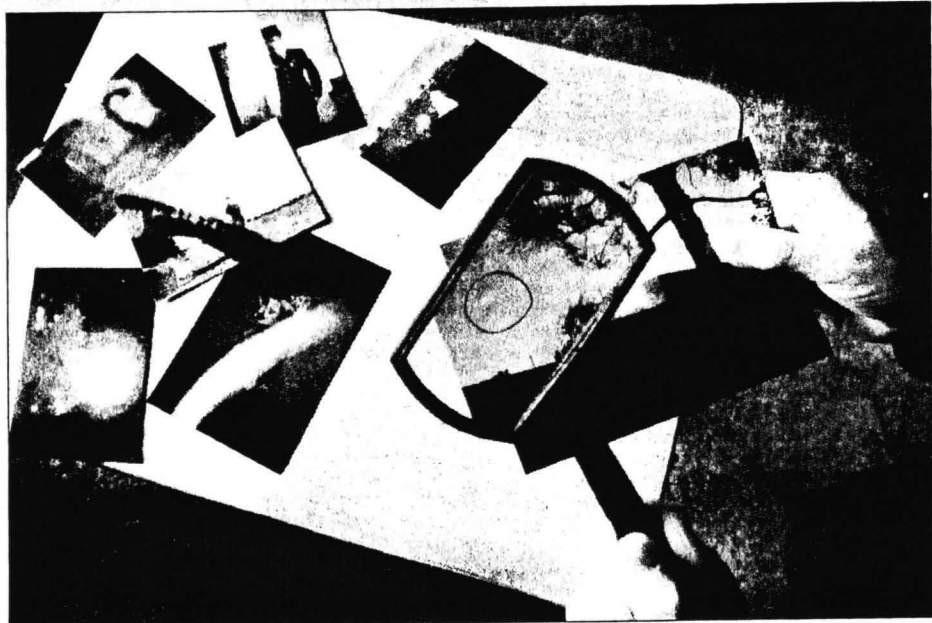
"It's not that uncommon for me," she said softly, running her hand along her opposite arm. "I remember waking up with scratches on my arm and shoulders and wrists, bleeding enough to leave scabs."

Not alone

For Ruth and a small group of other Skagit County residents, the evidence is clear — we're not alone in this universe.

It's getting easier to talk about UFO and extraterrestrial encounters, thanks in part to widespread media attention and even mainstream television shows,

(continued on page 4)



UFO believer "Ruth" (not her real name) shows some of the photographs she's taken over the years that she says reveal UFO sightings or strange "energy" that's picked up by the camera and shows up in the photos, although it can't be seen by the naked eye.

including the highly popular X-files in the 1990s. Some television channels, including Discovery, have recently produced documentaries that examine the UFO phenomena from a scientific and investigative perspective.

Even opinion polls, including a 2002 Roper Center for Public Opinion Research Poll (one of the more respectable and recent available on the subject), found that about 48 percent of Americans believe that UFOs exist, while 37 percent believe there has been contact between aliens and humans, and 25 percent that aliens have abducted humans or animals.

"Most folks seem to be much more open to the topic these days," said Matthew Thuney, founder and director of the Center for Ontological Action, or CONTACT, the Bellingham chapter of the National UFO interest group, Mutual UFO Network, known as MUFON. The group aims to investigate UFO sightings and collect data for other scientific researchers.

Thuney, a columnist, freelance journalist and print manager, started the group in 1989 after attending a UFO conference in Bellingham. He's been fascinated with the subject since he was a boy, and through the years, says he's witnessed strange, unexplainable lights in the sky, usually in the company of other people. In the 1990s, Thuney said he believes he might have been contacted by extraterrestrials.

Thuney said he gets less eye-rolling now from people he talks to about his experiences than he did when he first started the group.

"In fact, once they become aware of my interest in the subject, it seems that almost everyone I meet has a story of their own to share and are more than eager to share it," he added.

The group started with just 12 members and within the first few years, blossomed to 450 on its informational mailing list. Now the number hovers around a steady 250, Thuney said. Group members mostly come from Island, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties.

Peter Davenport, a UFO investigator and director of the National UFO Reporting Center, says he believes there's been an increased interest in UFOs, although he said the issue has been largely buried by the press and a federal government that wants to hide their existence.

"I am astonished, flabbergasted, more confused and mystified by why the press in this country is not addressing this subject more frequently than I am mystified by the UFOs themselves," Davenport said from his home just outside of Davenport, Wash. "We ufologists have presented not just proof, but cogent data, much of it with multiple reliable witnesses and the press is wide asleep."

UFO reports blossom

The number of reports to the UFO Reporting Center has more than tripled over the past nine years, from 1,213 in 1997 to 3,855 in 2006 and 1,174 in the first four months of this year. Part of the increase, UFO investigators say, is that people are more comfortable than they were a decade ago about reporting their UFO sightings.

But the numbers of people who actually believe they've seen UFOs or have been contacted by extraterrestrials is much higher than the numbers show, investigators say, because many people still don't report — they don't want to be labeled as "crazy."

According to Davenport, about 90 percent of the UFO reports are later found to be explained by natural phenomena or a man-made aircraft, satellite, etc. Davenport tries to contact

those who report a sighting and decipher whether they've actually seen an airplane, a planet, or sometimes even just a strange cloud and light show — perfectly natural, he said.

"You know how easily the human visual system can be deceived," Davenport said. "And maybe 80 to 90 percent of the people who call us have no idea even which direction they're looking."

The UFO debate heated up once again late last year with a large-scale sighting of a mysterious silver disc at about 4:30 p.m. Nov. 7, hovering low in the sky above Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

About a dozen United Airlines employees working at the airport at the time reported the sighting to their supervisors and air traffic controllers. Other visitors reported seeing the disc, too.

But airport officials and the Federal Aviation Administration stated that they aren't investigating the incident and labeled it a "weather phenomena."

News of the incident spread across the country in reports by CNN, National Public Radio and the Chicago Tribune, and sparked intense debate about the existence of extraterrestrials. UFO believers once again pointed to the reactions of the FAA and United Airlines officials as more proof that the government is trying to hide what it knows about UFOs.

Many UFO believers say they don't know why they think the government would lie about UFO encounters. But they don't discount the idea that the government knows more than it will divulge.

And they emphatically counter that they're "crazy." Many believers are ordinary people with stable jobs and no reason to make up stories, they say.

When it comes to UFO believers, the trend has shifted from a belief in little green men in spaceships coming to abduct the unwary to a more spiritual, holistic view that connects the metaphysical and psychic, and the possibility that extraterrestrials may actually be in some way controlling the lives of human beings.

Unexplained contact

Ruth's experience with UFOs goes way back, to a clear, bright day in the 1950s when she was just 10 years old playing in the front yard of her home in Eastern Washington.

According to Ruth, 61, she looked up in the sky and noticed a disc-shaped object zooming at a distance overhead, glistening in the sun. As it whisked out of sight, her mother called out, "That must have been one of those flying saucers."

"That was right after the Roswell incident," Ruth said quietly. "You know, at that time it was kind of a fad. There were flying saucers this, and flying saucers that."

No sooner did the disc zip out of sight, but what looked to be a fast-flying aircraft came zooming after it, Ruth said. That incident seared itself into her memory and reemerged later in her life to create a deep fascination with what she calls "otherworldly" or "unexplainable" phenomena.

As Ruth grew up, she noticed other things in the sky — cigarette-shaped objects flying overhead, red-colored orbs just hanging still on the horizon.

She began learning and researching about UFOs on her own until she met CONTACT director Thuney. Ruth had read one of Thuney's weekly columns, "Thuney Casserole," in the Echo advertising paper. Thuney used the column one week to ask if anyone in the Bellingham area had seen strange lights in the sky and if they'd be interested in joining a group to talk about it.

Ruth was eager to discuss her



Frank Varga / Skagit Valley Herald

Extraterrestrial believer Dena Blatt of Anacortes has a large collection of books about UFOs and aliens. Many of the books propose theories about why UFOs would visit the Earth, including that they are actually the ancestors of human beings.



Submitted photo

Extraterrestrial believer "Ruth" (not her real name) of Mount Vernon says she once woke up with a triangular-shaped burn on her shoulder and sometimes wakes up with strange scratches and other marks she can't explain — evidence, she says, that shows she may have been abducted or experimented on by extraterrestrials.

experiences with someone who could relate. Since then, she's been involved with the group and has attended international UFO conferences.

She's even done some hypnotic regressive sessions in hopes of uncovering buried memories of abduction. So far, those sessions haven't uncovered much.

"In all the years I've studied this, what I've learned is the more you study, the less you know," she said.

UFOs and synchronicity

Dena Blatt knows all about the widespread UFO enthusiast belief in synchronicity. The former real estate investor, medical technologist and owner of an electronics store said she can see it every day through the windows of her Fidalgo Island home.

Even before she moved to the house from Santa Barbara in late 1989, she knew what her current view across Burrows Bay from her large picture window in the livingroom would look like. She'd seen it in her dreams.

For most of her life, Blatt had never really thought about UFOs.

"When I'd seen these things (UFOs) talked about in magazines and TV, they all looked so stupid," Blatt said, laughing.

But Blatt's UFO story would begin in 1996, when she attended a WholeLife Exposition in Seattle. The exposition included hundreds of vendors, speakers and teachers who explore different aspects of sustainable living, spiritual growth and natural health.

Blatt had been walking out the door of the exposition building when she heard a woman speaking about having a two-year relationship with an alien.

Blatt felt compelled to stop to talk to the woman. "When I saw her, I knew she was telling the truth."

The more she spoke with the woman, an artist from Vancouver, B.C., named Sherlé Klein-Carsh, she discovered an unusual list of similarities between the two.

For instance, both women's parents came from the same area in Russia, both women married survivors of the Holocaust, both had a common friend, although they lived in different cities. They had lived in Montréal at the same time, and went to the same college at the same time.

"I knew from the moment I saw her that I was supposed to know her," Blatt, 80, said. "Since then, I've had one synchronicity after another."

And somehow, Blatt said she's sure other extraterrestrial races or higher forces have been guiding some parts of her life.

After her initial meeting with Klein-Carsh, Blatt began to research the UFO phenomena and the paranormal by reading dozens of books published on the topics.

What Blatt discovered through her readings was a bevy of different theories about UFO races, movements, contact with Earthlings, psychic abilities and the long-standing knowledge by the government of extraterrestrial activities.

But the best evidence of extraterrestrials came from Klein-Carsh, who detailed her contact with extraterrestrials and their warnings to the human race. Blatt said Klein-Carsh already has written a book entitled "Permutation. A True UFO Story," released in 1993, about her two-year contact with an alien. The book is no longer in print.

"She was given a mission to paint planets that had already been destroyed," Blatt said, gazing up at a painting on the wall of her livingroom. The painting by Klein-Carsh shows what looks to be a city, full of bright, tall buildings, and a disc-shaped aircraft hovering just on the outskirts in the sky. The city is supposed to be the mythical Atlantis. "They (aliens) seeded us here. They don't want the planet ruined."

Ironically, Blatt said she thinks she's only seen one UFO, while in Bellevue in 2004. Blatt announced out loud one day that she wanted to see a UFO — as a joke. A short time later, while standing in front of a window, she saw a rectangular-shaped object with no tail or wings traveling across the sky much more slowly than an airplane.

"I said, 'If you're a UFO, do something to prove it,'" she told the strange shape so far away. "It went down suddenly, and then vanished."

She added, "That's how they do things. It was given to me because I asked for it."

During the past few years, Blatt has been working on a book about Klein-Carsh's experience. According to Blatt, the book

carries an important message through Klein-Carsh's experience and what she learned from the extraterrestrials who she says contacted her: The human race must change its destructive ways.

"They stress over and over that we have the choice to change things," Blatt said about the extraterrestrials. "We can choose not to be destroyed. We can choose not to go down that route."

A no-contact believer

Rick Major has been fascinated with UFO sightings since he was in high school. Despite all his interest, research and late nights looking at the skies of Skagit County, he said he's never actually seen what he believes to be a possible UFO.

But that doesn't stop him from believing that UFOs exist, even if they may not turn out to be the little green men that have become so much a part of the extraterrestrial stereotype in popular culture, he said.

"I'm not sure that the whole UFO thing is about aliens," said the ceramic-tile contractor, who again has become involved in CONTACT after a five-year hiatus. "It might be a very terrestrial thing."

The Burlington resident found himself drawn into the UFO phenomena as a high school student living in Skagit County. He remembers the night when a friend working at a service station off Highway 20 told him about two women who came into the service station, terrified and claiming they'd been chased by a disc-shaped object in the sky. Major's friend told him that it hovered around and waited for the women to begin driving again.

"I knew that guy, he wouldn't have any reason to make that up," Major said. "He isn't a far-out guy. To bring all that ridicule on yourself at the time wouldn't be something you would want to seek out."

At the time in 1967, newspapers had reported several other sightings in the area. Major, once again fascinated by the reports, dug into them and later met with a local family whose members said they had seen a UFO in the sky.

Years later, Major said he ran into some other people who told him they had seen the same strange lights in the sky. That meeting proved one thing to him: Something out there meant for him to meet more than a few people who had seen those lights on that strange, far-away night.

Synchronicity, Major thought. "Years after it happened, the idea that you could bump into these people seemed far-fetched," he said. "I thought it was more than coincidence."

At one point, Major said he asked for a sign to prove that some invisible force — maybe extraterrestrials — was guiding him.

He received what he says was a sign in the way of the words on a bumper sticker on the back of a truck in front of him on the road one night. He was listening to the radio at the same time, and the disc jockey said the exact word sequence on the bumper sticker, Major said.

"You get these feelings that something is leading you on, an interaction is going on there," Major said. "That's just a little thing that convinced me that something happened."

Since then, Major has researched UFOs, psychic phenomena and the paranormal, met with the CONTACT group and traveled around the region to attend discussions by experts on those topics. In the end, Major said he's still not sure that those mysterious lights are caused by extraterrestrials.

(continued on page 5)

Were UFOs already flying around in 1897?

Until he's proven wrong, he said he plans to keep an open mind.

Healing the unbelievers

Elke Macartney knows people are skeptical when she mentions her belief in UFOs — even those she counsels, who often say they saw strange, unexplainable lights in the sky or have broken memories of strange encounters they can't explain.

"When they come to me, they're fairly remiss, they're shy," Macartney said, while sitting back in a comfortable chair in her cozy La Conner office.

"They don't want to be seen as a cuckoo-head, even though I tell them that a good percentage of the population believes in UFOs," Macartney said.

Macartney has been a spiritual guidance counselor and ecumenical minister for about 20 years. She has a degree in psychology from the University of Florida and has traveled around the world to learn about spirituality from other cultures.

People come to her from around the world, she said, usually after being referred by friends or family.

Not many of her clients come from Skagit County, though.

Most people who come looking for her help are what would be considered perfectly normal — waitresses and airplane pilots, engineers and college students. She's helped people as young as 4 and as old as 96. Only between 2 percent and 5 percent of them Macartney would classify as having a mental illness, and those she tries to direct to physicians who can help.

Her clients also are often surprised by how normal she seems, she said.

"There's that look they give me," she said, smiling. "They say, 'I thought there was going to be a big crystal ball or something.'"

Since she was a young child, Macartney always knew there was something different about her. She says she's seen people's auras — bright-colored halos of light that hover around people's heads — all her life, but kept relatively quiet about it until she hit her early 20s. Her parents weren't interested in hearing about her "supernatural" experiences, and discouraged her from telling others.

She also said she believes in the connection among psychic phenomena, ghosts, synchronicity and UFOs.

She was just 6 years old when she saw what she believes was her first UFO. She remembers her family parking on the side of the road along with other cars whose drivers were looking up to the sky and watching a football-shaped light glistening in the sun.

Nobody said much about it, although it was sighted by a large group of people, she said.

Years later, Macartney said she and her son were walking on a beach in White Rock, B.C., and looked up to see strange lights hovering on the horizon. They asked others on the beach if they'd seen the lights, and once again, no one seemed concerned or interested, Macartney said.

Somehow, she said, people don't want to admit that what they're seeing can't be explained.

"It's like they're in denial," she said.

And that denial continues through the clients she said are referred to her for help.

Macartney said her first rule of her counseling is not to tell a person that they're wrong about what they believe they've experienced. She's careful not to lead them into believing they were abducted by aliens or saw an extraterrestrial, but she focuses on helping them cope with their

Most of the column's I write are on local history and pertain to people and happenings in Sheboygan and Sheboygan County. However, sometimes research comes across happenings that involved not only Sheboygan and Sheboygan County but also the entire state and sometimes the entire Midwest. This column covers just such an incident.

Bill Wangemann



Historic Sheboygan County

In 1897, the country was very much enthused in the then-infant aviation industry. Inventors around the world were attempting to construct flying machines, some of them so outlandish that they were beyond belief. Balloon ascensions drew gigantic crowds wherever they took place, and Sheboygan was no exception.

On several occasions in the city, to attract large crowds to picnics, balloon ascensions were held. But, large airships that could fly long distances and maneuver at will were still some 20 years off in the future.

In late 1896, strange reports

began to appear in newspapers in the western United States of a mysterious airship cruising over cities. The Galveston Daily News carried the first of these stories on Nov. 23, 1896, and it told of a mysterious airship that was seen cruising slowly over the city of Galveston the previous night at about 2 a.m.

The story went on to relate that this cigar shaped object had what appeared to be a large headlight, similar to, but brighter than what would be found on a railroad locomotive. This headlight, according to witnesses, could be swiveled back and forth and directed up and down so that it could illuminate objects on the ground.

The newspaper article also related that a similar incident had taken place over numerous cities in California.

Soon the story began to spread and more and more airship sightings occurred. Then on April 19, 1897 a report was received from the small city of Aurora, Texas. The story went on to relate that while cruising at a low altitude across the Texas landscape a large airship collided with a windmill and

crashed to the ground, killing its sole occupant. Local residents rushed to the site and claimed to have recovered the body which they described as being badly injured and after an examination by a local doctor they stated that the strange crafts occupant was not of this world. The article then goes on to relate a local pastor gave the strange creature a

Christian burial in the Aurora Cemetery where supposedly it remains today.

Soon airship sightings spread across the country to the Midwest. Reports of strange flying objects were received from Kansas, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. Wisconsin newspapers soon picked up the story and began publishing reports of sightings.

The Daily Northwestern of Oshkosh on March 29, 1897 reported that on four successive nights in cities in Kansas and Nebraska the mysterious airship was sighted.

Then on April 10, 1897, the same newspaper reported that the airship was seen by thousands of witnesses as it drifted slowly across the city of Chicago. Soon cities up and down

the shoreline of Lake Michigan all reported sightings. Further sightings were reported over Oshkosh, Fond du Lac and Lake Winnebago by hundreds of people who all gave similar descriptions of the strange aircraft.

By the year 1898 the Spanish American War had pushed the mysterious airship story off the front pages of newspapers. To this day no plausible explanation has ever been given which would account for the great airship craze of 1897.

Today's Tidbit: During the great airship craze newspapers reported young lovers were organizing airship parties to watch the night skies for strange flying objects, perhaps similar to young lovers watching submarine races in later years.

A new book is being prepared that will cover the column's I wrote in 2005 and 2006 and will be entitled "How Come Years Ago Sheboygan was All Black and White?" This book should be available after Oct. 1. For more information on this book e-mail schre@execpc.com or call (920) 467-4667. Or, if you have comments on this column please feel free to contact me at wwangemann@charter.net, or call (920) 458-2974.

Note: Each Tuesday morning at 7:20 a.m., a discussion of today's column can be heard on radio station WJUB 1420 AM.

MONROE CO. BUZZ, Madisonville, TN - May 31, 2007

Researcher "Dreamed" Monroe Crop Circle Four Months Ago Told Co-Workers the Pattern Would Appear Somewhere in World

A member of a group of crop circle investigators who spent this past Memorial Day weekend in a wheat field off Rocky Springs Road in Madisonville admitted Wednesday that approximately three to four months ago the image of the Monroe County crop circle came to him in a dream.

Roger Sugden of the Independent Crop Circle Researchers Association (ICCRA) replied affirmatively to the question regarding the dream when asked by the BUZZ. The BUZZ learned of the dream from one of the local individuals who talked at length with Sugden on Sunday.

"Yes, it's true," Sugden said from the Midwest over the phone. "The image came to me in a dream. I drew it on a scrap of paper and showed to the others and told them I wanted to mention it before the crop circle appeared."

Sugden said he was convinced by the dream that the formation would appear somewhere in the world this year.

"I said the key would be the offset pathways that we actually found when we got to Monroe County. I also said the swirl patterns in the circles would be flowing in

the same direction, counterclockwise, which they were."

Further, Sugden told the BUZZ that prior from leaving his home in Indiana he impetuously picked up a lapel-type pin which displayed the Encyclopedia Britannica milk-thistle logo, attaching it to his ICCRA badge. When he stepped into the Monroe crop circle Saturday, he was amazed to find an abundance of the native milk-thistle plants bent down with the flattened wheat plants.

"The milk-thistles, and there was a bunch of them, were lined up along north-south lines," he said. "Coincidence? Not to me."

Sugden said he believes there is "human consciousness" involved in all authentic crop circles.

"Human consciousness is involved in everything else on the planet, so why not this?"

Sugden said his observations were "not good science," but he felt a good scientist would "look at everything."

He said he also believes that the people who live the closest to crop circles "factor into the formation" in some manner, moreso than others residing at a greater distance.

"The triangle in the center circle points to the property owner's house," he said. "The opposite direction points to a great running stretch of the valley spanning Monroe County."



So what does it mean? Sugden could not say.

But he felt the center part of the crop circle had something to do with the morning star, he said.

"This Monroe County crop circle is a very specific symbol," Sugden said. "It's the first large event we've been to this year. And from what we saw, it is not a hoax. But what does it signify? I just don't know. Something like this leaves you with more questions than answers."

Sugden said several people he spoke with on Saturday and Sunday informed him they had seen the pattern before. But most could not remember where or when. The pattern is geometrical in design, a large center circle surrounded by four identical circles and four smaller circles.

"I don't know what to make of it. But just as I know I saw it in my

dream and I have seen it somewhere else, I deeply feel it is connected to the sacred areas of Monroe County."

He said his co-workers, Jeff and Delsey Wilson of Ohio, were still at work measuring plant stems and analyzing soil samples.

"Is it authentic? We think so, but until the stem measurements are completed, the answer is inconclusive. We're only left to speculate. And should it prove to be a real crop circle, then you have to ask, 'what is it?' and 'why is it?' I, too, would like to know the answers to these questions."

Sugden said that he, the Wilsons, and another ICCRA members, all of whom investigated the formation, concluded that no indications existed to suggest the crop circle was a hoax.

"And we did find indicators pointing to the fact that it's not a hoax,"

he added.

As to the Monroe County crop circle's almost letter-perfect geometric configuration? The fact that nature rarely produces anything that appears so academically mathematical in design?

"What about snowflakes? And crystals? The mathematics of music that occur when a vibration of a plucked string creates sound as pleasing to the ear as this crop circle is pleasing to the eye?"

Sugden referred to his WBIR Channel 10 News interview four days ago.

"As I told Josh (cameraman), the mystery of crop circles is a \$64,000 question. But it's a mystery you can walk into and perhaps someday find a way to solve."

(continued from page 4 - SKAGIT VALLEY HERALD, Mount Vernon, WA - May 27, 2007)

emotions and find acceptance for what they've been through.

"You can't prove or disprove a person's experience like this," she said. "I don't deny a person their experience."

Rainier: Birthplace of the Flying Saucer

LIBRARY: Investigator
James Clarkson Shares
His Expertise on the
Mysterious Flying
Saucers

By Holly Miller
The Chronicle

On June 24, 1947, pilot Ken Arnold took off in a small plane from the Chehalis Airport into the clear sunny sky over the Cascades.

Little did the businessman realize that he would return with a legacy still remembered by students of Unidentified Flying Objects, or UFOlogists.

During his flight Arnold spotted strange objects flying near Mount Rainier resembling saucer shapes. As a respected and successful member of the business community and a trained pilot, his story of the encounter was given more than skeptical coverage, resulting in serious national press coverage of the issue for the first time.

The discs, which Arnold described as "flat, like a pie pan," and later as "saucer-like" spurred the press to coin the term "flying saucer," now the most common descriptive phrase used in identifying the physical appearance of a UFO.

Reports of UFO sightings continued after the event over Mount Rainier, including what may be the most famous in Roswell, New Mexico occurring just 12 days after the event in Lewis County. Although 60 years has gone by, little has been determined about the origin or mystery of the bizarre objects, but this does not seem to deter

IF YOU GO:

- **What:** The Mystery of Unidentified Flying Objects by James E. Clarkson, state section director for the Mutual UFO Network, Thurston County & Vicinity
 - **Where:** Winlock Timberland Library, 322 First St., Winlock
 - **When:** 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
 - **Cost:** Free
 - **Some cases to be covered:** Emphasis on Northwest UFO cases, to include the Elk River (Westport) Crash Retrieval Case of November 25, 1979, the Black Triangle Cases from Mount Rainier and Shelton, and other enigmas from our area
 - **Information:** Contact the library at 785-3461
- Can't make it to Winlock? James Clarkson is also presenting his UFO program to teens at Centralia Timberland Library at 2 p.m. on Aug. 11.

the curiosity of individuals.

Those intrigued by the thought of extraterrestrial life visiting the Earth may learn more on Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Winlock Timberland Library through a talk by James Clarkson, a UFO investigator.

Clarkson, a 55-year-old retired detective from the Aberdeen Police Department, is fascinated by UFOs and now volunteers as a section director for the Mutual UFO Network.

The Mutual UFO Network, an international non-profit organization dedicated to studying UFOs, is made up of about 2,500 to 3,000 volunteer members from all over the country, Clarkson said.

Considering himself an active member, Clarkson said he chose to take the course and exam that certified him as an investigator in 1986.

"I've been interested in the subject for many years," he said. "I want to get people to go away (from my talk) and ask their own questions."

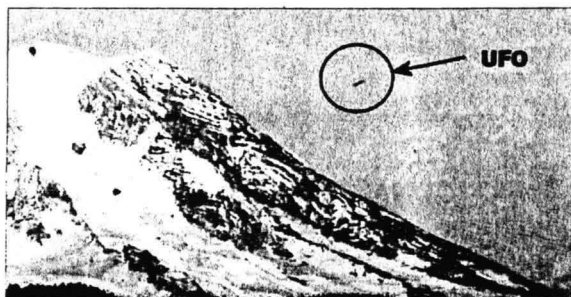
Jamie Allwine, library man-

ager at Winlock Timberland Library, is responsible for helping bring Clarkson to the library to speak. After hearing his program praised by other organizations who have brought him in to do his presentation, Allwine said she thought it would be a great addition to the library's summer readers program line-up.

This year's theme, "Get a Clue" is focusing on teens and aims to get them interested in reading and investigating. Allwine said since the theme brings about the topic of solving mysteries, discussing UFOs seemed to fit right in.

"We want (teens) to see the library is a neat place to come and investigate," she said.

Knowledgeable in Lewis County's historical involvement in the viewing of UFOs, Clarkson, who lives north of Olympia, plans to talk about the story of Kenneth Arnold along with other Pacific Northwest UFO cases. He said because Arnold was a respected businessman and former United States marshal it allowed people to take his



A woman from Eatonville was taking scenic photos of Mount Rainier while driving west on State Route 706 in October 2005. Upon uploading her photos, the witness saw an unexplained object in all of her pictures. Pilot Ken Arnold was the first to see a flying saucer over Mount Rainier.

observations seriously.

"I always talk about the fact that Washington state has a rich UFO history," he said.

Most fascinating to Clarkson is that Arnold's descriptions match what many of those in Roswell described only 12 days after the sightings over Mount Rainier.

However compelling and interesting the similarities are, Clarkson said the bigger goal is using stories and experiences from individuals who have encountered these objects to gather more evidence about the possibility of other intelligent life.

Clarkson said he hopes his talks enlighten people to what the study is all about and how complex it is. Ultimately he wants to open people up to the idea that communication may have already happened and if that is the case, there is the possibility of a government cover up.

"We're all hoping for the same thing," he said. "We're all hoping to find some evidence of contact."

Holly Miller is an intern in The Chronicle's news department. She may be reached at 807-8232, or by e-mail at hmiller@chronline.com.

UFO investigator: The truth is out there

Learn about the history,
evaluation of sightings

BY HEATHER WOODWARD
THE OLYMPIAN

James Clarkson never has seen an unidentified flying object.

But the retired detective puts his police skills to work investigating a couple of reports every month from people who think they've spotted one.

Clarkson — a 55-year-old who lives north of Olympia — said the majority of reports of UFO sightings come from ordinary, honest people who believe they've seen something extraordinary. A flash of light in an otherwise dark sky. An aircraft flying faster than anything made by human hands.

Often, they have little more than their own eyes to back up their accounts. And most have seen objects — such as stars or military aircraft — that Clarkson later is able to identify through online research.

Although the work can be frustrating, he said it's never less than fascinating.

"If one UFO was actually a visitor, a nonterrestrial intelligence, then our whole view of the history of the universe has to change," said Clarkson, who is section director for the Mutual UFO Network. An international nonprofit organization, MUFON is devoted to studying UFOs.

Clarkson is set to talk about the history and evaluation of UFOs at three Timberland Regional Libraries this summer, including a presentation aimed at teenagers Wednesday at the Olympia library.

Jackie Marquardt, Olympia's youth services librarian, said she hopes the talk will inspire teens to pick up a book on the topic or other unexplained phenomenon.

"Teens are interested in all kinds of mysterious things," she said. "They're at that point where they're starting to make sense of science and the world but are still fascinated by mysterious things that aren't explained."



Courtesy photo

Retired detective James Clarkson will share his fascination with unidentified flying objects this summer through Timberland Regional Library.

IF YOU GO

UFO investigator James Clarkson is set to discuss the history and evaluation of unidentified flying objects with teens at three libraries this summer:

- **7 p.m. Wednesday** at Olympia Timberland Library, 313 Eighth Ave. S.E., Olympia
- **6:30 p.m. July 18** at Winlock Timberland Library, 322 First St., Winlock
- **2 p.m. Aug. 11** at Centralia Timberland Library, 110 S. Silver, Centralia

ON THE WEB

■ **Hear Clarkson** talk about what he hopes people will take away from his presentation.

■ **Read a transcript** of Clarkson's interview with June Crain.

Go to www.theolympian.com/living and click on the links with this story.

Triangular aircraft

Clarkson — who is retired from the Aberdeen Police Department and previously served as an Army police officer at Fort Lewis — has been giving such talks on and off since the early 1990s. His goal is raising awareness about UFO phenomena.

"I'm hoping maybe one or two people get interested in this and start studying it and telling other people," he said.

It's cases like one in the late 1980s when two men reported an unexplained triangular craft flying near Mount Rainier that really get Clarkson charged up.

"They were really scared and really excited by what they saw," he said. "They thought an airliner was going to crash on the highway. They saw an intense, bright light coming toward them."

UFO history

That wasn't the first time a UFO report came from Mount Rainier.

In 1947, a man flying a private plane near the mountain reported seeing nine objects flying incredibly fast. His description to a news reporter coined the term "flying saucer," Clarkson said.

Less than a month later came the conflicting reports about an incident in now-infamous Roswell, N.M. Military officials initially said they had found the wreckage of a flying disc. But they later retracted that claim, stating that what they'd found was a fallen weather balloon.

The incident sparked intense public interest in UFOs. And as a result, the U.S. Air Force investigated UFO sightings from 1947 to 1969 under a project headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Force

Base in Ohio.

June Crain — an Ocean Shores woman who died in 1998 — worked there at the time as a typist and relayed what she saw and heard to Clarkson. She contacted him in 1997, a few years after hearing one of his presentations on UFOs.

Crain told Clarkson she handled a strange metal piece from the Roswell wreckage that was completely unbreakable and different from anything she'd ever seen or touched. And she said she heard talk of alien bodies.

"We became friends," Clarkson said. "She trusted me. She decided I was the one she was going to tell her story to."

When the Air Force's UFO project was terminated in 1969, 701 of the 12,618 reported sightings remained "unidentified," according to the Air Force's Web site. However, the Air

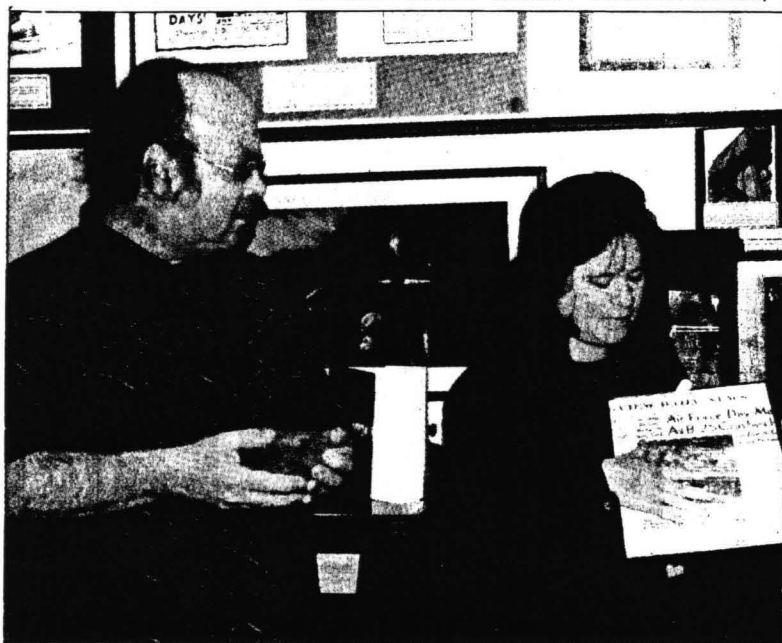
Force determined that none posed threats to national security or represented technology beyond modern scientific knowledge, and there was no evidence that any were extraterrestrial vehicles, the Web site states.

Since then, "Nothing has occurred that would support a resumption of UFO investigations by the Air Force," the site states.

Clarkson said there are too many accounts like Crain's to support the military's official position, especially in regard to the Roswell incident.

"I don't know how many witnesses we've got to have before they say, 'This is wrong,'" he said. "If this was a case in a court of law, we'd have a conviction."

Heather Woodward can be reached at 360-754-4225 or hwoodward@theolympian.com.



Kelly Chess photo
Philip Lipson, co-director of the Seattle Museum of the Mysteries, holds the rock he discovered near Kelso, Wash., in April. Charlette LeFevre, the museum's other director, holds a copy of the 1947 Longview Daily front page that has the only known published photo of the Air Force's first airplane crash.

Maury Island's UFO: 60 years later, the mystery lingers

▼ 'Donut-shaped aircraft' off Maury started it all.

By AMELIA HEAGERTY
Staff Writer

Roswell, once just a military base in the New Mexican desert, is known today as the site of the United States' most high-profile and controversial UFO sighting and crash. But few Islanders know that Maury Island was home to the first alleged UFO sighting in U.S. history, and it took place weeks before two crafts fell from the sky in Roswell.

Tomorrow marks the 60th anniversary of the Maury Island Incident, as it was later dubbed in books and newspaper articles. It took place in June 1947, two years after World War II ended. The nation was abuzz with paranoia and suspicion, and it was in this atmosphere that first one, then two, then hundreds of Americans reported seeing strange, unidentifiable, usually saucer-shaped, objects whizzing through the sky.

These were the incidents that triggered UFO hysteria, which gripped the nation for decades and spawned countless movies and books. But it all started with one close encounter. One X file. It all started with Maury Island.

"I consider (the Maury Island Incident) the most complex mystery in Washington," said Charlette LeFevre, co-director of the Seattle Museum

UFO believer wants to get skeptics on board

BY HOPE BRUMBACH
Staff writer

It was nearly three decades ago that Joy French lost her memory of an entire evening.

After watching a movie, a friend drove French to her home in the hills south of Mount St. Helens in Western Washington. It was close to midnight on a summer evening when the sky brightened with a searing light, French said.

"The whole sky lit up like broad daylight," the Coeur d'Alene woman said. "I could see the trees ahead of us and all around us and the hood in front."

Her 1966 Cadillac came to a halt, and her friend, a mechanic, jumped out to check the engine. He found nothing wrong. The light faded and the car started again, French said.

And that's the extent of her memory until the following day.

It was a road-to-Damascus experience for French, who is working for increased attention on alien abductions and sightings of unidentified fly-

ing objects, the state's only paranormal science museum. "It wasn't as well promoted as Roswell, but it was the beginning of modern UFOlogy."

While no one can say for sure what happened that afternoon in the Puget Sound, after cobbling together the various eyewitness, secondary, government and media accounts, a story with a life of its own emerges:

At 2 p.m. on June 21, 1947, Tacoma seaman Harold Dahl was trolling the waters just east of Maury Island, looking for loose logs, which he collected and sold for profit.

"As I looked up from the wheel on my boat I noticed six very large donut-shaped aircraft," Dahl later told one of the investigators of the incident. "I would judge they were about 2,000 feet above the water and almost directly overhead."

He said the ships were 100 feet in diameter, had no "visible signs of propulsion" and made no noise.

One craft wobbled and dipped to about 500 feet, he told investigators. It then spewed what Dahl described as thin sheets of white metal and several tons of hot lava-like rocks or slag. As the slag rained down on Dahl, his son and his dog, it punched holes in the vessel, burned Dahl's son on the arm and killed the family dog.

Another of the six saucers seemed to come to the assistance of the ship in distress, "jump-starting" it, according to Dahl. Then the crafts took off. Dahl gathered samples of the rocks and the white metal and went home for the night, shaken.

The next morning he had what modern UFOlogists refer to as the first encounter with a "Man in Black" — an ominous individual who warned Dahl his family would

be in danger if he went public with his story, according to Kenn Thomas, who wrote the book "Maury Island UFO." Although Dahl had not yet told anyone about his UFO sighting, the man in black knew many details of the incident, he later reported. Dahl said he suspected the man was a government official.

Later that day, Dahl told his supervisor Fred Crisman about his UFO sighting. Crisman, dubious, visited Maury and collected his own samples of the slag. He then contacted Ray Palmer, an adventure magazine publisher, to see if Dahl's story was fodder for his magazine.

The next day, three days after Dahl's sighting, UFOs went from obscurity to front-page news. On June 24, 1947, U.S. Forest Service employee and pilot Kenneth Arnold reported seeing nine "saucer-like" objects flying in formation at speeds of up to 1,200 miles per hour near Mount Rainier. Arnold contacted the press immediately, and the tale spread like wildfire. Soon, U.S. media were saturated with reports of Americans spotting UFOs, almost always saucer-shaped. "Flying saucer" became a household term.

Because Arnold had the eye of a highly trained pilot, his story became big news. Dahl's story, however, remained obscure until Arnold was dispatched by Palmer to investigate just what it was Dahl saw off the shores of Maury.

Arnold flew to Tacoma in July 1947 and rented a room in the Winthrop Hotel, where, according to FBI reports, Arnold met with Dahl, decided the sighting was authentic and called two U.S. intelligence officers to tell them the news. The men, Capt. William Davidson and Lt. Frank Brown, became the first two Army officers to investigate UFOs, Arnold said in a book he later wrote.

After Arnold phoned Davidson and Brown on July 31, 1947, they flew to Tacoma within an hour, gathering in Arnold's hotel room where they pored over the details of the incident and collected samples of the slag and white metal, according to Arnold.

The officers' plane was due back the following morning for inaugural Air Force Day ceremonies, marking the separation of the Air Force from the Army. So, although it was after midnight, they returned to their plane, allegedly carrying UFO slag and metal, and headed for Hamilton Air Force Base in California. Twenty minutes into the flight, their engine caught fire, igniting the left wing. The two crew members aboard the plane with

Davidson and Brown parachuted to safety. But neither intelligence officer jumped nor radioed distress, according to news reports. Instead, both died when their B-25 plane crashed near Kelso, Wash.

"Why didn't they call in to land?" LeFevre said. "It was like they made up their minds they were going to go down with the plane."

The military promptly sealed off the crash site and cleaned up the rubble from the U.S. Air Force's first accident. But they left some of it behind.

Only a few locals knew the location of the crash, and none investigated it fully, LeFevre said. But in April 2007, now-owner of the site Bob Grear visited it, accompanied by LeFevre and Philip Lipson, co-directors of the Seattle Museum for the Mysteries.

The three retrieved a blackened, lava-like rock from the site, which now sits in their museum, as well as mangled pieces of the B-25 that went down that night.

Bill Beaty, a research engineer at the University of Washington and a member of the museum's board, analyzed the rock and found that it was "almost certainly an Earth rock." But more analysis should be done before writing the specimen off, he said.

After the fatal accident, the government staunchly denied any classified material had been on board the B-25.

But the media knew the names and mission of the deceased officers before the military released them. An anonymous caller contacted various Washington dailies on July 31 through Aug. 3, 1947. The caller gave such intimate details of the conversations that took place in Arnold's hotel room that Arnold thought the room was bugged. The identity of the caller remains unknown.

While newspapers differed on details, they were in agreement on one thing — the government wasn't telling the whole truth.

The U.S. military cited Dahl and Crisman's signed confession that the Maury Island Incident was a hoax. But upon government questioning, the two said they had only sworn their story was a fabrication to protect their families.

It wasn't until 1979 that the government declassified the FBI files admitting Davidson and Brown had been investigating the Maury Island flying discs at the time of their deaths.

"It didn't start with Roswell. It started here in the Pacific Northwest," LeFevre said of UFOlogy. "People should be aware of that."

If you go

What: The public is invited to attend a lecture on UFOs by New Mexico author Gloria Ann Hawker, who wrote "Morning Glory Diary of an Alien Abductee."

When: 7 p.m. Saturday

Where: Best Western Coeur d'Alene Inn, 506 W. Appleway Ave.

Cost: Admission is \$6.36

For more information: Contact Joy French at (208) 664-9503

ing objects. She has organized a lecture this weekend by a New Mexico author, Gloria Ann Hawker, who wrote "Morning Glory Diary of an Alien Abductee."

French is inviting both the believing and disbelieving public to the UFO talk, which will include a time for people to share any alien experiences they've had.

"The thing I'm trying to do mainly is to wake people up," French said Monday. "I'm also after why in the heck is the government keeping this from us when there are so many people speaking out."

French said she's heard stories from dozens of people in North Idaho who have had encounters, ranging from seeing strange lights to large machines leaving unearthly imprints in the ground.

She wants to remove the social stigma surrounding UFO sightings and experiences, French said.

"There are a lot of people that want to get it out," she said.

French said she hopes to mobilize the public and demand that the federal government release information about sightings or discoveries, such as the

Roswell, N.M., alleged spaceship crash in 1947.

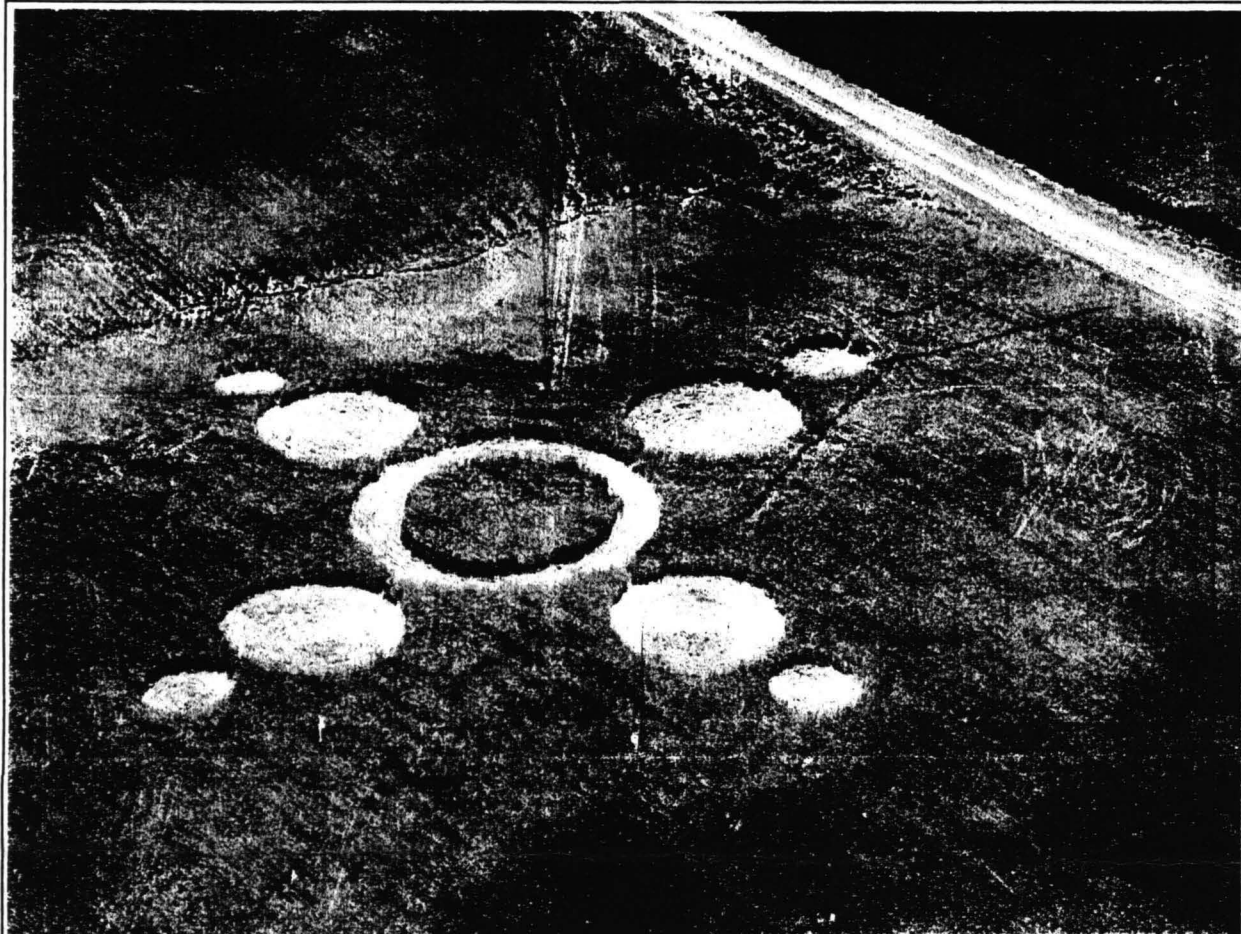
"I don't care if people think I'm crazy. I'm 83 years old. I have a right to be a little crazy," French said. "I'm weird on some things, but not on this."

She attended a UFO conference last summer in Albuquerque where she met Hawker, the speaker at this weekend's gathering. Hawker told French she likely experienced an alien abduction the evening her memory went blank nearly 30 years ago, French said.

Extraterrestrials may be trying to communicate, providing advanced technology and knowledge or warning about the way humans are caring for the world, French said.

"Anything is possible," she said.

Phenomena of crop circles comes to Lincoln County



A formation of crop circles found last week in a wheat field north of Wilbur has intrigued the public ever since the word got out of their existence. There have been numerous visitors to the rural site - but no one has been able to offer a plausible explanation about how or why they were formed. This photo of the circles was taken from the air during a Sunday flight

provided by Greg Leyva of Greg's Crop Care. Trails to the site can be seen through the standing wheat, but people had been walking through the field to view the circles for several days before the photo was taken.

—Photo by Peter B. Davenport, Director, National UFO Reporting Center.

Crop circles here? Who would have guessed?

We thought this strange phenomenon only happened in the Mid-West or in Great Britain, but now Wilbur has its very own crop circles! How did they get there? No one knows - unless someone is out there snickering at all the fools who fell for his trick. But the truth is, we may never know how or why they were formed.

One afternoon in the middle of last week, Mitch Sorensen and Steve Reed were driving on the back roads north of Wilbur, looking over the wheat crops in Sorensen's fields. Suddenly, Sorensen told Reed to stop the vehicle. He had just glimpsed something "weird" in a wheat field belonging to the Engelson heirs and farmed by Jim Llewellyn.

They immediately stopped to explore the strange sight Sorensen had spotted an estimated 50 to 80 feet off the dirt road. It was most definitely a formation of crop circles.

Reed agreed with Sorensen that there were no tracks leading through the wheat to get to the area where the circles were located. However, a dry drainage ditch passed nearby, which potentially could have created a path for someone to access the site. The two men were looking for tracks, but when they passed through this ditch, they found it was so dry and packed they couldn't see their own tracks.

According to Sorensen, while they were looking over the formations, they kept an eye out for indications that someone had moved through the wheat to get from one circle to another. They saw some wheat that may possibly have been disturbed between a few of the circles, but Sorensen was uncertain about that, one way or another.

However, one thing he was certain of was that they never did see an

Yesterdays

BY JENNY OLIVER
SPECIAL TO THE LOG CABIN

25 Years Ago
(1982)

Several residents of the Conway Housing Authority complex said they saw something UFO-like Friday evening when it suddenly appeared before them while they were sitting outside. Darkness had set in. Only a touch of daylight remained. Suddenly, strange bright lights lit up the sky. They seemed to be just a few yards from where the spectators were sitting. "I hollered," said Ottie Maltbia. She said she closed her eyes once, twice, three times, and finally the lights vanished. "I don't know what it was," said Margaret Abrams. Whatever it was the woman said it had two large circles, each with a diameter of about five feet or more, and it hovered horizontally about three feet off the ground. Mrs. Abrams said she, Mrs. Maltbia, Gwen Crenshaw, Louella Reece and seven children all saw the lights. When policemen arrived shortly after the incident they thought it could have been a bolt of lightning. They looked for burn marks on the site, but found nothing. "I don't know what it was," said Patrolman Rick Fason. "It's just strange," Mrs. Maltbia said.

actual footprint.

The two men called Jim Llewellyn and told him what they had seen, but Llewellyn didn't arrive on the scene with his sons for a couple more hours. He, too, looked for tracks and could see a trail through the center of the large ring in the middle of the formation. However, he was uncertain if it had been made by Sorensen and Reed, or if someone else had visited the site before he arrived.

What puzzled Llewellyn, as well as the other two men, was the location of the crop formation. Llewellyn indicated it was on a little traveled road at a place where it would not have been seen by anyone coming from the north. It could only be seen by someone coming from the south.

"If someone had the expertise and know-how, and went to all this trouble to make these crop circles, why didn't they do it in a place where it could be more easily seen?" the men wondered, noting that the formation can barely be seen from the road.

Nevertheless, Reed believes that a person came in and "smashed those circles in there - somebody who knew what they were doing."

Sorensen isn't so sure. "When you see something like that, it makes you wonder," he said. "Visually, I think there should be a better sign that someone drug something in there (to make the circles)."

He indicated that when he and Reed first saw the circles on Wednes-

day afternoon, they noted that it had to have been a fairly short time since the wheat was knocked down because it would have dried out quickly.

Word of the crop circles north of Wilbur spread through the area like wildfire, and by the weekend, Peter Davenport, Director of the National UFO Reporting Center, had received a call from a local grower. When he heard about the formation of circles in the wheat field, he arranged with Greg Leyva of Greg's Crop Care for a flight over the area.

The National UFO Reporting Center is nearby, located at the old missile site south of the town of Davenport, and when Davenport came to Wilbur on Sunday for his flight, he was accompanied by Michael Heit of Harrington.

The two men, as well as Leyva himself, took photos of the circles from the air, and later, Heit and Davenport returned to the site by car and spent two hours measuring and inspecting the formation.

On Monday, Davenport told the Wilbur Register that the total length of the formation is about 150 feet from north to south and again, from east to west. The large center ring is 50 feet in diameter, while the second circles are 28 feet in diameter, and the smallest are 15 feet.

"Is it a genuine crop formation of unknown origin - or is it of human origin?" Davenport asked. "It's hard to tell." He said he found no clear

indicator that it had been made by humans, but couldn't be sure one way or the other.

"To my eye, the formation is very interesting," Davenport continued. "Principally because of the way the grain has laid down (in a definite counter-clockwise pattern in each of the circles). I find the formation intriguing, but found no distinct way to tell how it was formed."

Davenport said he has called Nancy Talbot of Cambridge, Massachusetts, who runs BLT Research and who is an expert on crop formations.

To learn more about the National UFO Reporting Center, log on to its website at www.ufocenter.com. You may also e-mail Davenport at director@ufocenter.com.

Someone driving north from Wilbur on State Route 174 can view the crop circles by turning left on Baghdad Road until you come to Birchill Road. Turn left on Birchill and continue on another 3/4 of a mile to the site.

On Monday evening, Mitch Sorensen's wife, Diane, said so many people had already visited the site that there would be half a dozen people parked along the road at any one time. Fortunately, most of them are careful not to damage the crop circles during their visit.

No matter how they were made, the circles are definitely intriguing.



FOREIGN NEWS

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

EXPRESS, Wakefield, England - March 23, 2007

The news is out there

Are mysterious lights in Wakefield's sky UFOs? GRAHAM POUCHER wants to believe

'We still don't know what the lights were'

THERE are not many more impressive things than watching a lunar eclipse, but there's a first time for everything.

When three friends were out on College Grove watching the planetary clash of the titans earlier this month, three unidentified white orbs shot overhead around a mile high in the sky.

The friends' close encounter happened at around 10.45pm and while reeling from the shock of their first UFO encounter, another two orbs appeared followed by two single flypasts, the last of which banked off steeply according to witness, Ben Wright.

The 22-year-old, from Thornhill Close, Middlesbrough, was watching the eclipse with his girlfriend, Emma Callaghan, 19, and friend, Adam Armitage, 25, near North Avenue when the aerial acrobatics began.

He said: "You'd normally think they would either be a plane or even a shooting star. But there

were no red or green flashing lights like on a plane and a comet leaves a trail and there wasn't one either.

"They were moving quickly and we tracked them for about three seconds before they started moving independently of each other. Then they disappeared.

"I know what some people must think, but it was weird and we hadn't had anything to drink."

Mr Wright said they were kicking themselves for forgetting to take a camera.

He added: "There was a mixture of bewilderment and scarieness as we didn't and still don't know what they were. I'm just glad that I wasn't the only one who saw it."

Staff from air traffic control at Leeds Bradford International Airport said nothing showed up on the night's logs and nightclub lights were probably the cause and not little green men. What do you think?



LIGHT FANTASTIC: Friends Adam Armitage and Ben Wright at the site of their close encounter. w7734a710

Pictures: ANDREW BELLIS

Gary keeps an eye on the sky

MOVE over Mulder, Wakefield's own X-Files cop is now leading the pack to find out the truth behind mysterious sightings across the region.

DC Gary Heseltine splits his day between solving crimes and investigating UFO sightings and is one of the leading authorities on them in these parts.

The Crofton-based transport cop, who is the editor of *UFOmonthly.com*, lent his expert knowledge to the latest UFO sighting, spotted above College Grove on March 3.

He said: "There is not too much information here to go on, but I often see laser lights reflecting off low cloud above Wakefield from

my home in Crofton. "That said, the lights appear and move in a set circular motion for a few seconds and then go off."

"I have never seen them do flypasts, so based on what I've been told, I would rule out the laser explanation. If that is the case, the lights are definitely more interesting, especially as a series of multiple lights were seen minutes apart."

He added: "While aircraft fly low over Wakefield on a flightpath to Leeds Bradford International Airport, they do not fly in formations on effectively the same track."

"Single bright white lights are the most common sighting in the form of a genuine UFO."

Visitors from another world

STRANGE lights across the city's skies, close encounters and eyewitness reports – is the truth really out there in Wakefield?

Supporter or sceptic, UFO sightings never fail to generate interest whether it be a raised eyebrow or an all-night sky-watching camp out.

Now there is a growing feeling that the Merrie City may be a magnet for visitors from farther afield than London – and they're not just here for the rhubarb.

Sightings of strange and unex-

by Graham Poucher
grahampoucher@wakefieldexpress.co.uk

plained lights in the sky and even a possible alien abduction have been reported by local folk during the past few decades, but with the advent of digital photography, more and more people are trying to capture their experiences on film.

But not all sightings are as alien as they might first appear, with naysayers putting flying orbs down to nightclub spotlights being shone from town centre – hotspots hoping to abduct punters in their own way through music and beer.

Most recently, three friends spotted three strange lights in the sky during the recent lunar eclipse over College Grove, leaving them baffled and even afraid.

Seventy-two-year-old UFO spotter George Wild, of Ossett, now believes there would be more credible sightings if people simply adjusted their eyeline and opened up their minds, rather than worrying about traffic jams and bank queues.

"People spend too much time looking down at the feet rather than up at the sky," said Mr Wild.

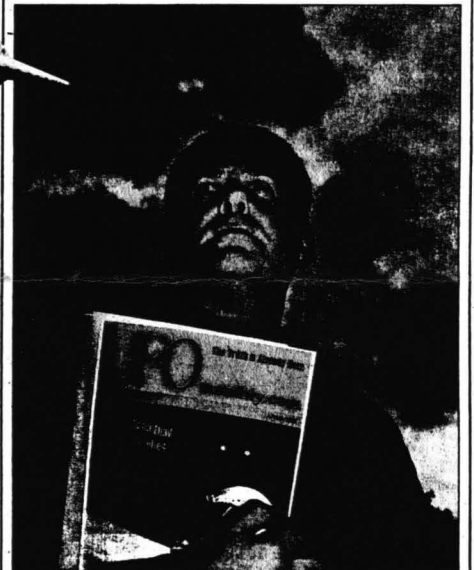
"But these three people were looking the right way and what

they saw is not unusual.

"Many credible unexplained sightings tend to be the same and when three lights are seen they are likely formed by a triangular shaped object which is normally taken for a craft of some kind. When they move, they spread out and it's very difficult to explain."

With a well-established UFO society and an X-Files style UFO cop, Wakefield is beginning to have a credible edge when it comes to strange aerial activity.

Maybe now more than ever, fact could well over take fiction and change the way we look skywards forever.



THIS COULD BE A CASE FOR... DC Gary Heseltine, police officer and UFO investigator. w0488a535

MERCURY, Hertfordshire, England - March 23, 2007

UFO mystery has an earthly explanation

THE mystery surrounding the UFO which terrified a Hertford family appears to have been solved.

Maxine Abbess, 44, feared her family would be "wiped out" when a strange dark cylindrical object plummeted towards her home in Pages Lane on the Sele Farm estate last week.

The bizarre phenomenon baffled several witnesses in the county town, as the *Mercury* reported.

But it looks like there was nothing to fear – apart from being hit by a very large, wobbly, black balloon.

We were contacted by Jani Melender, a spokeswoman for Above Top Secret Aliens and UFOs forum, the biggest UFO watch on the internet.

She said: "We took notice of your story and from the description of the UFO we immediately came to a conclusion that this was

By RAYMOND BROWN
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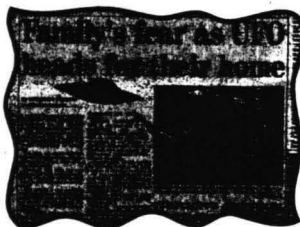
nothing else than the latest gadget fad – a large, black balloon named Solar Airship, which is on sale in the UK right now.

"The balloon is filled with hot air, not helium as one might think, and that makes it susceptible to rapid rises and drops in altitude."

"It's also very large, which would explain the fear of the family."

She added: "Above Top Secret is a cluster of experts and we've more or less come to the conclusion that this was nothing else than a balloon."

When Maxine saw the shape, she was with husband, Paul, 41, the head chef of Braughing's Axe and Compasses pub, their eldest son Sam, 18, and other sons, Aston, 11, Ayrton, 10, and Jensen, 8 – pupils at Wheatcroft School in



FLASHBACK: The UFO sighting was reported in last week's *Mercury*

Hertford who are named after fast cars and Formula 1 drivers.

But Maxine was not convinced.

She said: "If it had just floated in the air I would agree that it was a balloon, but it plummeted at an incredible speed and stopped dead. Then it slowly floated up again."

"I wish it was a balloon – but I don't think so."

CARRIED AWAY: The mysterious sight has been put down to a modern fad called Solar Airship, a large cylindrical balloon filled with hot air (s)

Probe as two UFOs spotted by pilots

By JOHN COLES

AIR investigators are probing sightings of two UFOs off the Channel Islands – one up to a MILE wide.

The huge cigar-shaped objects were reported by pilots on separate flights. Aurigny airlines captain Ray Bowyer, 50, saw something strange hovering west of Alderney.

He said: "It was about 40 miles from us. A very sharp, thin yellow object with a green area. It was 2,000ft up and stationary."

"It could have been as much as a mile wide." He later spotted an identical object to the west – nearer Guernsey.

Capt Bowyer, a pilot of 20 years, added: "It was visible for nine minutes. I've never seen anything like it before."

An unnamed pilot on a Blue Islands airline also saw the objects, which didn't register on radars.

Air traffic controller Paul Kelly, 31, said the pilots saw the objects from opposite sides on Monday afternoon.

SUN, London, England - April 27, 2007

Close encounters of the blurred kind



BIZARRE flashing lights, spinning silver orbs and black triangles hovering in the air - all have been reported to the Government as UFOs by the regions sky-watchers, The Northern Echo can reveal.

Records held by the Ministry of Defence show that scores of sightings have been reported by residents in the North over the past eight years.

Witnesses who said they had seen the mysterious aircraft include police officers and RAF pilots.

The reports came to light after The Northern Echo submitted a Freedom of Information request to establish the number of reports in the past year.

The MoD confirmed that none had been recorded over the region's skies this year, but revealed that a total of 63 had been received since 1999.

The objects include a silver pyramid reported over Sunderland in October last year, and an arrow-shaped craft the size of ten football pitches reported flying above Corbridge, Northumberland, in February 1999.

In the early hours of September 4, 2005, four police officers reported a diamond shaped object the size of a large

By Neil Macfarlane
neil.macfarlane@nne.co.uk

helicopter over Wolsingham, County Durham.

A Durham Police spokesman said: "The officers reported the incident after radioing in to ask if there were any air support operations going on involving the RAF or the police in that area, but there were not."

One entry was submitted by an RAF pilot in November 1999 who tracked a moving red light over Whitby.

One intriguing pattern shows five reports received within hours of each other on October 16, 2005, from people in Hull, Scarborough, Whitby and Redcar, who all said they had seen a silver or orange ball with bright lights moving along the coast.

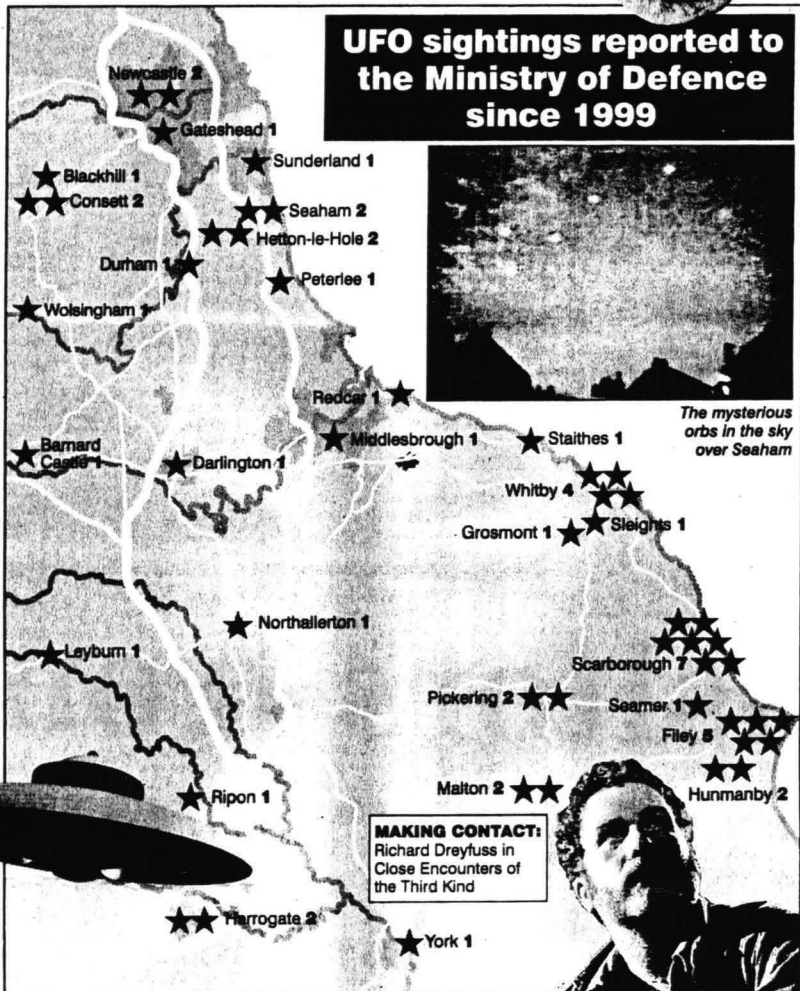
An MoD spokeswoman said none of the incidents had been officially investigated.

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

Nick Pope, the former head of the MoD's UFO project, said the number of reports received from North Yorkshire could be down to the area's military presence.

He said: "Many of these objects will have been misidentified, but the incidents that have been reported by the police or pilots are the most interesting. The police and the military are trained observers. When they spot something they have never seen before, that is when we should sit up and pay attention."

One incident can be easily explained. In July last year, partygoers at a barbecue in Seaham, County Durham, saw mysterious orange lights floating in the night sky. It later emerged that the glowing orbs were paper lanterns released by a local couple at a house-warming party.



UFO sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence since 1999



The mysterious orbs in the sky over Seaham

MAKING CONTACT:
Richard Dreyfuss in Close Encounters of the Third Kind



FILM ROLE: Jodie Foster in Contact, in which she plays a scientist searching for alien life

Yoursayonline

Are we alone? Share your views on our online forum.

<http://forum.thenorthernecho.co.uk>



SEARCH FOR ALIEN LIFE FORMS:
The USS Enterprise, from Star Trek

STARGAZER SPOTS MYSTERY OBJECT NIGHT LIGHTS

A STARGAZER has appealed for explanations after inadvertently capturing what appears to be a UFO on camera.

A week after the mystery of the west Oxfordshire UFO was solved, the Oxford Mail has been contacted by another reader who spotted a different object in the sky.

Frances Morrill, of Blankstone Close, Eynsham, was in her garden taking pictures of last month's lunar eclipse, when she realised she had also snapped something rather more unusual.

A series of pictures show a white object moving erratically across the sky, leaving a long tail behind it.

Following the eclipse, the Oxford Mail received reports of a string of sightings from people in Witney and Oxford, who saw a strange light in the sky.

The 'craft' turned out to be a Chinese paper fire balloon, which was launched by Steve Iltot, of Moorland Close, Witney, as a birthday treat for his wife Gail.

But unlike those sightings, Mrs Morrill is convinced that hers was no balloon.

The 51-year-old mother-of-two said: "I don't know what it is, but it's not the same thing that those

By Tim Hughes
Witney Reporter

people in Witney saw that night.

"I didn't see it at the time, as I was so busy looking at the moon, but I captured it on camera.

"At first I thought it was a shooting star, but it can't have been. And it was certainly not a balloon.

"Visibility was really good, as there are no street lights behind our house. I'm really interested in the sky and am always out there looking at the stars.

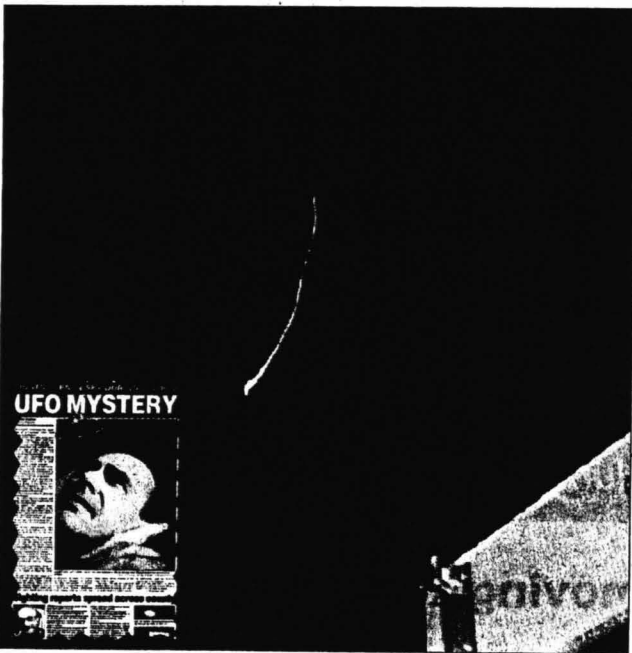
"But this is spooky. I'm completely perplexed. I would be interested to know if anyone else saw it."

It is not the first time Mrs Morrill has had a brush with the unexplained.

At the age of 22, while walking to midnight mass with her sister one Christmas Eve, she saw what she described as "a big orange orb" rising from nearby Wytham Woods.

"That was a real UFO," she said. "We were really frightened, and didn't dare tell anyone, in case they thought we'd been drinking. I've never forgotten it and have heard of other phenomena in the area since."

witney@nqo.com



UFO MYSTERY



FRESH MYSTERY: One of Frances Morrill's pictures and, inset, our report on the separate 'sighting' above Witney

Implant put there by aliens - claim

THE TRUTH is out there according to a Rugby man who claims that aliens planted a probe into his arm.

Steve Munday, 46, has become an internet cult figure after a video interview with him was broadcast on 'You Tube'.

The video, in which Steve reveals the tic-tac size object in his left arm, has had a big response and opened up an online debate into the paranormal.

Steve, who works in Rugby town centre, claims the probe was planted when he was 13 and ever since then he has believed in alien activity.

He said: "It happened when I was cycling to see a friend near Northampton. It was 6.30pm on a light summer's evening when I left home.

"But I got to my friend's house two hours later, despite it being a 15 minute journey. By then it was pitch black and I remember my friend shouting 'where have you been?'

"To this day I still don't know what happened during those two hours. I feel that I lost those two hours from my life."

Steve, who claims to have had two other paranormal experiences during his youth, has no plans to get rid of the probe.

But he admitted that everyday life is far from straight-forward with the object inside his arm.

He said: "When I go through metal detectors and counters at supermarkets, the probe soon sets them off."

"But I don't mind that. It's become a part of me and it's here to stay. It doesn't hurt me and I can't even feel it unless I prod it."

"My friends get squeamish when I show them it and my brother wants to get me drunk so he can cut the

Steve recalls lost time during abduction

probe out and get it analysed!"

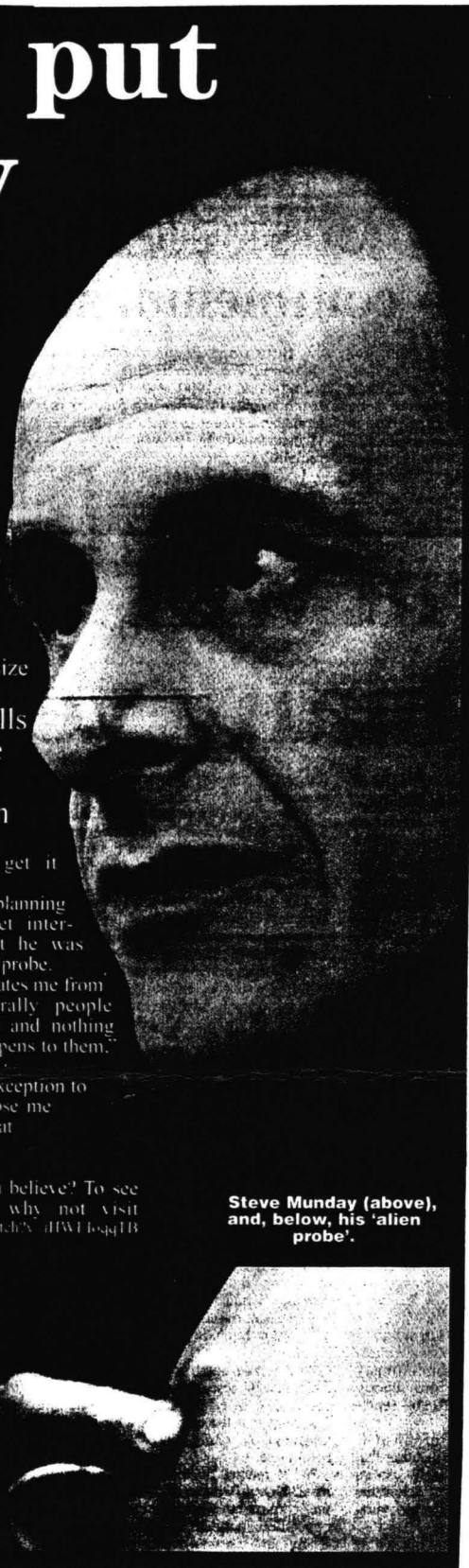
Steve, who is planning a second internet interview, added that he was proud to have the probe.

"I think it separates me from normality. Generally people lead boring lives and nothing extraordinary happens to them," he added.

"I feel like an exception to that. If aliens chose me to abduct then that makes me special."

● What do you believe? To see Steve's video, why not visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJWf1oq4IB8.

Steve Munday (above), and, below, his 'alien probe'.



UFO mystery's final answer?

Comment



Lynne Mortimer

THE Ministry of Defence is to unleash the real X Files.

These are the documents surrounding UFO incidents over the past four decades and, although an exact date hasn't been given, they are expected to be released in the next few weeks.

Over here in East Anglia, we have a very particular interest in this because we have a grade-A top-notch UFO incident of our own. And we are all on the edge of our seats, waiting to find out what sort of new evidence might be revealed about the Rendlesham Forest UFO sighting in 1980.

The files should show whether or not reports that radiation was detected at the site were correct.

If there was radiation, then sceptics might want to think again about what exactly happened that December night while those who have always believed an alien craft landed in Suffolk will be able to nod their heads sagely. On the other hand, if the documents do not support the claim then the conspiracy theory that there was some sort of cover up will probably not lose momentum.

Coming from the LOH (Load of Old Hooey) school of thought on UFOs, I am nonetheless intrigued by the prospect of finding out a bit more about the sightings of the last 40 years - especially the one on my doorstep.

A poll on www.rendlesham-incident.co.uk, asking what happened on that winter's night in Rendlesham shows that 83% of the 339 respondents believed that the sighting was of "a real object of unknown origin (UFO)"; 5% thought it was "a lighthouse, or a police car, a tractor etc" and 12% opted for "a military accident; the UFO was created as a distraction".

The Rendlesham Incident remains one of the great UFO mysteries of all time. It regularly features in TV documentaries about unexplained flying objects and there have been books written about it and a dramas based on it. Although it was only 27 years ago, it is already the stuff of legend.

It was the night of 26 December when lights were first spotted at about 11pm by a local resident and then at 2am by two American airmen on security duty at the east gate of the airbase at Woodbridge. Concerned that a plane could have crashed, they got permission to go and investigate with their patrol sergeant. On entering the forest they found a metallic object, about the size of a car, hovering among the trees and giving off a bright white light.

The next morning, three depressions about 7in across and 1.5in deep, were found on the ground. The trees were reported as scorched, with their tops broken off, as if something had smashed into them. Local people also reported seeing lights in the sky.

The UFO returned the next night and Col Charles Halt, of Bentwaters airbase, was sent to look into it. He recorded the search on audio tape and led a party into the forest with Geiger counters and arc lights that failed.

He reported the findings and was later (1994) to comment: "To this day I'm very puzzled why no one ever came back and asked for additional information, asked questions, or even interviewed me. It doesn't really add up."

Are we about to find out why?

Sighting is 27th to be reported in Essex in five years

UFO lights mystery spotted over village

A MYSTERIOUS UFO has been spotted in the skies of Colchester.

The Gazette can reveal the "unexplained" bright lights were seen hovering over the village of Boxted for half an hour.

Police were informed after an intrigued resident phoned to ask if the force helicopter was out because she could see an object but could hear no noise.

Staff checked the logs and confirmed the helicopter was not in the area.

The sighting comes almost four years to the day a ball of light was seen in the skies of Mersea Island.

by LOUISE SASSOON

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A police spokesman said: "We were called by a member of the public at about 4.30am Sunday morning who asked if the police helicopter was up because she could see an object but couldn't hear any noise."

"The caller was not distressed but said she wanted to make us aware in case we got calls from worried callers."

"The police did not attend and it has been put down to an unexplained meteorological phenomena."

The sighting is the 27th UFO to be spotted in Essex since 2002.

In April 2003, the Gazette reported a UFO spotted over Mersea Island just 90 minutes before a passenger plane reported a similar sighting at Stansted.

The experienced pilot thought the ball of light was another plane but calls to air traffic control confirmed it was not.

Michael Joyce, of the Essex UFO Research Group, said the latest sighting was truly unexplainable.

He said: "I doubt it would be lanterns - one of the things we have to be careful about is peo-

ple spotting these birthday lanterns people put up."

"This really is an unexplained object."

Weatherman Terry Mayes confirmed there were no meteorological phenomena he knew about which could have created the bright lights.

However, he said there was a small possibility it could have been a comet.

● WHAT do you think? Write to our Postbag at Oriel House, 43-44 North Hill, Colchester, CO1 1TZ, or e-mail us at gazette.postbag@nqe.com with your views. You can also leave your comments on the web at gazette-news.co.uk



Robert Taylor

Robert Taylor, a possible victim of alien abduction, died on March 14th, aged 88

WHAT was it about Bob Taylor? He was an unassuming man, steady, phlegmatic, with a thick brush of white hair and a craggy outdoorsman's face. He liked a pint, and a dram too, but not when he was working. He smoked, but not too many. In his house at the edge of Dechmont Woods near Livingston in West Lothian, where he had worked all his life as a forester, there were very few books. And certainly there was none that could explain what happened to him on November 9th 1979, and why his trousers, of thick navy serge like a policeman's and with useful pockets in the sides, should have ended up in the archives of the British UFO Research Association.

Mr Taylor set off that morning, with his red setter Lara, to check the woods on Dechmont Law for stray sheep and cattle. It was a damp day and, after he had parked the van and set off down the forest track, even the noise of the Edinburgh-Glasgow motorway was muffled by thick, dark fir trees. The dog ran, and Mr Taylor's trudging wellingtons made the only sound. Then he turned a corner into a clearing filled with light, and saw it.

It was a "flying dome", 20 feet wide, hovering above the grass. No sound came from the object, and it did not move. It seemed to be made of grey metal, shiny

but rough, like emery paper. About half-way down it had a circular platform, like the brim of a hat, set with small propellers. There were darker areas on it that might have been portholes, but the strangest thing was that the dome would be solid one moment, transparent the next, so that Mr Taylor could see the fir trees through it, as if it was trying to camouflage itself.

Both he and the dog stood stock-still with surprise. But then, suddenly, two smaller spheres dropped out of the dome and came trundling across the grass, one to his right, one to his left. They were covered in long spikes, like navy mines, that made a ghastly sucking sound as they dug in and out of the mud. They grabbed his trousers, one on the right leg, one on the left, ripping right through to his winter long johns, and giving off a foul choking smell like burning brakes. Mr Taylor felt himself being pulled towards the craft; then he blacked out. When he came to, the visitors had gone.

So far, so impressive a story to explain a dishevelled homecoming on a Saturday night. But it was in mid-week and at mid-day that Mr Taylor crawled home, with the dog but without the van, with a graze on his chin and his trousers torn, covered in mud and with a thumping headache. His wife called a doctor and the police. Mr Taylor felt no need for the doctor, and after

two days of a wild, craving thirst and the weird brake smell, he felt fine. But he took the police to the scene.

And there was the evidence. A large circle and inner "ladder" marks, which had flattened the grass but not dented the ground, as if a heavy craft had hovered but not landed. Forty little round holes, leaving the circle clockwise and anticlockwise, as if spiky "mines" had indeed rolled out of it. But no track entering or leaving the clearing, making the machine's arrival impossible unless it was a helicopter or something dropped by a mobile crane; and nothing of that sort had been seen in the area that day or the day before.

Lights over Livingston

The detective sergeant in charge of the case did not believe in space visitors. Mr Taylor's boss at the Forestry Department did not believe either, and thought it was probably some secret device being tested by the government. UFO debunkers thought Mr Taylor might have seen a magnified image of Venus distorted by the earth's atmosphere, which had made him fall down in an epileptic fit. The press came; and by the time the story reached Edinburgh, it was "small furry creatures" that had poured from the spacecraft to attack him. "I know what I saw," said Mr Taylor. So doughtily and drily did he stick to his tale (and kept a camera with him ever after, to take the aliens' pictures if they ever came for him again) that the police opened a criminal investigation for assault, the only one in Britain to arise from a UFO "sighting". It remains open.

Mr Taylor's neighbours proving much more sceptical, he eventually moved away to an undisclosed address. But he also became the most famous "witness" to aliens in Britain. His trousers were taken to spiritualist meetings to be analysed by psychics ("I feel pain from these trousers"), and on anniversaries of the sighting UFO-spotters would gather in the clearing, just on the off-chance.

The aliens, meanwhile, did not give up. Since that November day they have filled the skies of West Lothian with glimmering discs, strange lights and bouncing balls of fire. The "Falkirk Triangle" now registers more UFO sightings, around 300 a year, than any other spot on Earth. A good many happen outside the Forge restaurant in Bonnybridge, where fireballs sail over the trees and "wingless planes" are seen in the fields. Some experts say West Lothian may be a "thin place", offering a window from the Earth into another dimension; others say the sightings are linked to the lack of jobs locally, and cheap liquor. But some know the aliens are just looking for Bob Taylor, or his dog, or his van, in the place where they last saw him, suddenly amazing them in a clearing among the trees.

SUN, London, England - March 30, 2007

£50K ON ET PROBE

UFO study rap

EXCLUSIVE by JOHN TROUP

THE Government has been blasted for spending £50,000 of taxpayers' money on a secret probe into UFO sightings.

Defence Minister Adam Ingram admitted the cash went on a report titled Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region.

But after being quizzed about the ET survey in Parliament he refused to say who undertook it or reveal its findings.

Mr Ingram was forced to acknowledge the report's existence after being quizzed by Lib Dem Norman Baker. He told MPs: "The author was a contractor employed by the Defence Intelligence Staff. As recommended by the report, the DIS ceased to monitor UFO reports as they contained no information of defence intelligence interest."

But Mr Baker said: "It begs the question just what was found."

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ET... film alien



NEWS & STAR, Carlisle, England - March 31, 2007

Pensioners claim UFO sighting

POLICE in south-west Scotland are investigating reports of a UFO sighting by a pensioner.

Brian Stead, of Ecclefechan near Annan, was standing with Frank Tweats when they saw a mystery object fly past them "at a hell of a speed".

He described seeing a white light coming towards them. The object also possibly had a red light at the back and possibly a blue one underneath. Mr Stead said: "It was going high and much faster than a jet. There was not a sound."

His sighting, on March 15, is the second of its kind in Dumfriesshire in recent weeks. A woman at Tinwald, near Dumfries, spotted a similar thing.

Dumfries and Galloway Police have carried out an investigation involving the RAF and air traffic control officers, but have found no explanation. A spokesman said: "We do get reports from time to time and we do take them seriously."

A mother and daughter from Dumfries also reported seeing a UFO on the same night when they drove down Glasgow Street in the town.

METRO, Derby, England - July 25, 2007 CR: K. Potts

Avon-calling UFOs

BY JOHN HIGGINSON

MORE than 100 people had a close encounter of the X-Files kind when they saw five unexplained flying objects hovering over a town centre.

Dozens of people spilled out of a pub to watch the spectacle - with one likening it to the Hollywood sci-fi blockbuster Independence Day.

The UFOs lit up the otherwise clear night's sky above William Shakespeare's birthplace of Stratford-upon-Avon in Warwickshire.

Tom Hawkes, 30, took pictures from outside the One Elm pub.

He said: "Three had formed a triangular shape and one was to the right. Then another one came hurtling towards the rest at what looked like a very fast speed."

"But as it neared them it suddenly slowed and stopped altogether."

"The objects were there for about half an hour. It was very eerie because they didn't make any sound and they stayed still before moving slowly beyond the horizon. It was the most extraordinary thing I've ever seen and the way in which everyone gathered in



the street to watch them reminded me of a scene from Independence Day."

Chef Kern Griffiths, 26, said: "I saw five lights. We all thought they were

hot-air balloons at first because the glowing spheres looked like a burst of flames. But I couldn't see any outline of the balloon itself and they were trav-

elling far too fast. They were unlike any aircraft I've seen." Military chiefs and airports denied responsibility for the lights, which appeared on Saturday.

Is it a bird? People outside a pub in Stratford-upon-Avon look to the sky

Picture: Caters

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.]

July 30, 2007 — *El Once Digital* — ARGENTINA: Cattle Mutilations on the Rise Again — Sudden deaths concern local residents — A cattleman from Macia showed his concern when he found one of his cattle "mutilated, with perfect incisions." As reported by *Canal Once*, this event is disquieting because similar cases have been reported in the area.

Alfredo Crettaz, a cattleman from the town of Macia in the department of Rosario del Tala, Entre Rios, was "visibly concerned" by the strange appearance of a seven or eight month animal found dead. "The perfect cut on the jaw is striking," he says, alarmed, and describes that "the animal has its entire nape of the neck peeled off, the tail completely peeled," he stressed in the report offered by *Canal Once* in Parana during the *Semanario Entererriano de Noticias* broadcast.

Crettaz suggested that "it wasn't possible that the animal was sick, because he fell in this place and what is strange is that other creatures haven't come to feed off of it."

Crettaz found the animal during the first days of the week and according to him, "this is the first time that this happens in this field." The countryman made this clarification because similar cases have been occurring in the region and cases with similar characteristics continue to repeat over and over. In mid-May of this year, a Hereford cow was found in Macia by Moises Enrique, its owner. In early June 2007, Felipe Weber, another local rancher, found a dead cow with the typical characteristics of mutations: extirpation of genitalia, jaw muscles, eyes, tongue and udders. Weber had also experienced a similar occurrence a year earlier.

"Those who have seen this do not know what it could be," said Crettaz, looking at the animal and unable to dismiss his amazement in the interview with the *Semanario Entererriano de Noticias*. He said that a local vet told him, after seeing similar cases, that it could be "an instance of sudden death." Faced with this, Crettaz did not doubt that it could've been a case of sudden death because "the animal fell dead and stayed there." He added, however, that "the animal looked somewhat flayed - that's what doesn't make any sense."

As a farmer, he dismissed the possibility that "a red-muzzled mouse" could've been the cause of the death.

The strange factor in mutilations are the nature of the injuries: The cows had perfect, cauterized incisions on their heads and bodies, their tongues and saliva glands had been removed, and their mammary glands, rectums and large intestines were missing. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez, *Planeta UFO*

July 31, 2007 — *Ana Luisa Cid* [www.analuisacid.com] — A UFO EAST OF MERIDA, YUCATAN (MEXICO) — According to the research of Emilio Cetz and the *AUM* and *Ovni Merida* groups, a very important item of UFO evidence was secured in the city of Merida.

These are the photos taken by Alberto Perez Valencia, who employed his cellphone camera to take a video of what he could see in the sky.

According to his report, he was sleeping in his room when he heard strange metallic noises which caused him to get out of bed and take a look. Looking straight ahead through the window, he saw a large object at some 50 meters over the ground over an abandoned lot. The witness says that the UFO was as big as a truck.

The cellphone employed was a Sony Ericsson K300 and recording took place at 3:00 pm.

Mr. Alberto Perez, according to the Merida-based ufologists, is a cook from a humble background and has no computer image manipulation skills. They add that there is a "cenote" (a sacred Mayan well) near the place where the sighting occurred, and that very large carved stones were unearthed as the street was being paved.

Preliminary investigation suggests that this event is neither a hoax nor a prank and that the video, over a minute long, appears to be genuine evidence. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid and Emilio Cetz

August 2, 2007 — *ARGUS-PR*, Puerto Rico — Puerto Rico: UFO Sighting Over Guanica — A report received from Jose A. Martinez of the *ARGUS-PR Project* — An Unidentified Flying Object was seen overnight in the town of Guanica on Puerto Rico's southern coast. Several witnesses spending the night at one of the many beaches in this community, commonly known as "el pueblo de la amistad" (the town of friendship), reported seeing the object from a beach known as El Tamarindo, located near the Copamarina Hotel. The witnesses numbered some 17 people, some of who were enjoying the cool seaside breeze, others fishing.

At approximately 21:00 hours (9 pm), a strange light reportedly emerged from nowhere, described as a multicolored object shaped like a spinning top. Witnesses Maritza Martinez and her husband, Geraldo Cuevas, contacted this researcher to say that a smaller light emerged from the object and fell into the sea; another witness who did not want to be identified said that this was not the first time that he had seen lights exhibiting similar behavior, and he had had other experiences as a nocturnal fisherman in the vicinity of the Guanica beach area. — CREDIT: Jose A. Martinez

August 7, 2007 — *Territorio Digital*, Argentina — Entre Rios Province: Growing Concern over Mutilated Animals — Cattlemen from the department of Parana, Entre Rios, reported finding strangely mutilated animals in this province.

The animals, all of them beef cattle, have had their genitals, tongues and udders removed, according to peasants.

The circumstance repeats itself relatively frequently in rural locations of this province and occurred this time in fields near Tabossi and Viale, to the northeast of the provincial capital. Abel Gunter, one of the affected cattlemen, described the situation as "strange" and claimed that rural dwellers are displaying "concern" and intrigue over the mysterious animal deaths.

"We say that extraterrestrials are coming to mutilate our cows," said the cattleman in an interview with a local station. He insisted that there is "something odd" in the animal deaths, because dogs and wild animals in the area generally feed off of the dead cow remains, but refuse to approach the mutilated specimens.

"This is very strange, because no wild animal comes close to eat the remains of the dead cows," he said.

Gunter explained that he found a mutilated cow in a densely wooded region in his fields and added that "the animal has such a perfect cut on its jaw that it inspires bewilderment."

The cattleman added that similar events have occurred in neighboring fields and disclosed that the cow found dead on his property "has a burn on its hind leg that extends up to the knee," and whose origin he cannot explain. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez, *Planeta UFO*

The Estancia La Dulce Case (Argentina) – A UFO Encounter with the Presence of Amorphous Entities By Guillermo Daniel Gimenez, Necochea, Argentina — The year 1978 marked some significant chapters in the UFO chronicles of the Republic of Argentina. The entire region of Necochea, in the southeastern end of the Province of Buenos Aires also echoed these manifestations of UFOs, landings and even encounters with the occupants of these objects.

But there was an incident of significant characteristics that took place in late August of that year some 56 kilometers from the city of Necochea, more specifically in the locality of La Dulce, a rural community located northwest of the city in question.

The incident was important not only because of the events that transpired, not only due to the presence of a large object over the ranch, but also the presence of amorphous entities that surveyed the location. But let us see what the TELAM news agency had to tell us around that time:

Necochea, Sep. 7 (TELAM) - Two small lights descended from the strange object and reached a shed. They later moved swiftly and something like two silhouettes or hard-to-define figures emerged.

That is how the story begins, as experienced by the Arias family, today the publishers of the local newspaper *Ecos Diarios*.

The family, made up by Manuel Arias and his wife Leonor Turiella, said that on the night of August 31, 1978 shortly before 10 pm, there was a blackout. Suddenly "we felt drawn by an extraordinary source of light originating from a sector of the ranch" - which they occupy in the town of La Dulce.

[The couple] was able to see "a very large object, similar to a grain storage silo, either stationary or suspended in the air some 800 meters from the house." Two- lights broke away, according to the Ariases, which "also appeared to float in the air."

The newspaper adds that another neighbor, Lorenzo Parrachini, saw "a singularly bright object suspended over some trees when the city was plunged into darkness due to a blackout. I went to find other witnesses, but since I couldn't find any, I returned to the site just in time to see how the light went away, giving off some greenish flashes. The time was 23:15."

"Drivers on Provincial Route No. 88, according to the [report], also saw the strange object." This is the information provided to us by TELAM. An incident that captured public attention and also that of the UFO community due to the presence of strange amorphous creatures seldom seen in the Argentinean Republic.

La Dulce, Ground Zero

As stated earlier, La Dulce is 56 km northwest of the city of Necochea, 48 km along Provincial Route No. 56, with geographic coordinates of 38° 20' Latitude South and 59° 12' Longitude West, at an elevation of 88 meters above sea level. Its name commemorates Nicanor Olivera, owner of the La Dulce Ranch, which took its name from a lagoon located in the vicinity. His children founded the train station and in 1908, Nicanor Olivera yielded property for families to occupy and for the town to be laid out. It is surrounded by fertile soil that enables it to have a large agricultural yield (wheat, corn, sunflower) and good cattle pastures.

The UFO and the Amorphous Entities

At 21:55 hours on August 31, 1978, a storm lashed the area. At that time, Mrs. Leonor Beatriz Arias (née Turiella) was taking a shower and was startled by a sudden blackout. She was forced to leave the bathroom and head to the kitchen to find a dressing gown. It was there she noticed that a strong light was pouring through the window to her house. Her husband, Manuel Arias, 55, had gone to bed, due to the blackout and did not see the light coming in through the window in question. Leonor remarked: "The glow was hard to describe, but its intensity gave me the sensation of having gone right through my body." The phenomenon was like a compact beam of light, iridescent white in color that poured through the window blinding her. "When I tried to see myself, I couldn't," Mrs. Arias would later remark. The light appeared to be coming through the walls of the house. Its point of origin was from the exterior, piercing the farmhouse's right corner. Outside the farm, there was a large dark object suspended, oscillating, over a group of 6 silos located some 30 meters away from the house.

Mrs. Arias decided to wake up her husband, who moved quickly toward the window. Both were now witnesses to the [object's] maneuvers. The object was moving away from the house, flying over some cultivated land 80 meters away from the witnesses. It continued its horizontal trajectory slowly, perhaps at 15 meters over the surface, until it paused over a eucalyptus grove some 800 meters away.

This object had an estimated diameter of 8 meters. It was dark, had an oscillating motion, and seemed to be solid, according to Manuel Arias, Leonor's husband.

It had a row of 10 luminous windows that surrounded the object's central section. The windows were rectangular, vertically elongated, separated by fine dark partitions. They issued an intense light that varied between bright white and orange. The UFO's upper section was dark and oval shaped, while the lower section was less visible, as it merged with the surrounding darkness. The Ariases believe that it was also oval in shape. The UFO was to the right of the wilderness. From their vantage point, the Ariases were privileged witnesses due to the excellent visuals they had from their kitchen. The object emitted a buzzing sound that could be heard despite the intervening distance, and which was similar to a turbine, according to Arias, increasing and decreasing in cycles, while the same occurred with the lights. At that time of night, the winds were strong and the darkness did not allow them to see the reactions of the animals to the proximity of the phenomenon.

A few minutes went by and two objects resembling flashlight bulbs came out of the object, descending softly and moving one behind the other toward the witnesses. These bulbs [appeared to correspond to] dark silhouettes moving at an approximate speed of 20 kmh. Their estimated heights were between 0.70 and 1 meter, and their aspect was impossible to ascertain due to the prevailing darkness. The light sources appeared to constitute the faces of these amorphous entities. These beings did not touch the ground; rather, they floated only centimeters from the surface.

Their movements were continuous but rigid. When they reached the barbed wire fence, the beings avoided it by rising in the air and descending on the other side, continuing their march. The entities came close to a shed that contained machinery and vehicles. They made a 90-degree turn and entered a space between the shed and wire fencing. They disappeared for a few moments and then reappeared, dodging other obstacles such as the eucalyptus tree stand and a timber chute with a brick floor, measuring 2 meters wide and 13 meters long.

At this point, the beings were close to another shed, reducing their speed to a more normal stride, a slow one. These beings or enigmatic figures made a second circuit of the area, and perhaps many others, always

around the shed, while the UFO continued hovering in the sky and making the buzzing sound. It was then that the Ariases decided to go to their bedroom and give up on the observation. Moments later, they came back to the window and ascertained that the large object and the beings had vanished. The entire phenomenon had an estimated duration of almost an hour.

At the time, the Arias family was made up of Manuel, 55, his wife Leonor, who was younger than her husband, and their 3-year-old son. No footprints were found after the event. Mrs. Arias experienced emotional shock as a result of the sighting.

The area where the family's house is located is rich in agricultural and cattle activity, being producing fields. At the time that the incidents took place, the property belonged to the four Arias brothers, but has now been subdivided. There is a large saltwater lagoon located 3 km southwest of the place where the events occurred.

Related Phenomena

During the events experienced by the Arias family on the night of August 31, 1978 at Estancia La Dulce, Necochea, Argentina, there was a blackout in the area. Manuel Arias believes that the blackout affected not only his ranch, but the entire area as well, due to the passing of the UFO.

The local newspaper, *Ecos Diarios* of the city of Necochea, reported that: "Strong winds caused a power outage in several sectors of the region."

After these events, the news spread by word of mouth throughout the town of La Dulce and neighboring communities until journalists from *Ecos Diarios* covered the story. The entire country soon learned of the incident.

The Arias family found having to deal with all of the print and/or TV media journalists onerous. It was around this time that the local police "invited" the Arias family to file a formal report on the facts.

It is because of all this that Manuel Arias no longer wants to know anything about the case. Moreover, he says that if he should ever see another UFO and beings descended, he would tell no one.

His wife remarked: "Now I'm more peaceful. I have no doubts about what we saw and ever since that night I look outside, knowing that they are there, that they're near us and want to communicate. They have no intentions of attacking us. If they came back today, I think I would go outside without any fear whatsoever. I'm not a fan of the subject, although I do read something, but I never watch science fiction movies that could have influenced my thinking."

Days after the event, Leonor Arias herself was a witness to other UFO manifestations in the area. Manuel Arias says: "It was a craft, a module, let us say, suspended in the air giving off light. I think they always do the same ... they flood everything with their lights and then take off. They do whatever they want and then leave..." It should be noted that a mini-flap of 21 UFO cases occurred in the vicinity of Necochea in the months of August and September 1978.

* Case 1: 22 August 1978, Necochea, 20:20 hrs. A circular object, very luminous, flew from East to West on Tuesday 22 August, having its origin in the southeastern section of Buenos Aires Province, extending to La Pampa, Rio Negro, Neuquen and then Chile. Simultaneous observation in over 30 cities.

* Case 2: 22 August, vicinity of Coronel Dorrego, 20:30. Three hunters thought they heard strange footsteps similar to those of a man or a very heavy animal, coming from a small forest. After a fruitless investigation, they ascertained that the meat they were roasting on a spit tasted of sulfur, making them ill later. When they boarded their pickup truck, they saw an object measuring 30 meters in diameter and 1 meter tall, surrounded by a potent white light and with a black turret. The UFO approached and the electrical system of the vehicle shorted out as the UFO flew over them at an altitude of 50 meters. After it was gone, the vehicle started up and the hunters that they were traveling in the opposite direction to which they were heading before seeing the UFO.

* Case 3: 22 August. Ramon Santamarina, Necochea, night, 21:45 hrs. Saw a strange "gaseous cloud" with a transparent aura, emitting a powerful light.

* Case 4: 22 August. Ramon Santamarina, Necochea, night. An object, larger and brighter than the Moon, flew at low altitude and approximately the witnesses car swiftly, accompanying them for a brief stretch before pulling away, issuing flashes.

* Case 5: 22 August, Coronel Dorrego, night. A UFO maneuvered slowly over the town.

* Case 6: 25 August, Ramon Santamarina, Necochea, 20:30 hrs. An object issuing a strong intermittent light was seen over a tree stand, issuing strong red and orange flashes, vanishing later.

* Case 7: 31 August, Estancia La Dulce, near Necochea, 21:55 hrs.

* Case 8: 31 August, vicinity of La Dulce, Necochea, night. Another local resident reports: "A singularly bright flying object suspended over the trees" while the city was dark due to a power outage. "I went to find other witnesses, but since I couldn't find any, I returned to the place just in time to see how the light departed, giving off greenish flashes."

* Case 9: 31 August, night. At approximately the same time, drivers traveling along Route No. 88 also saw the strange object.

* Case 10: 4 September, San Cayetano, night. A young man sees a powerful light, 30 meters long, behind a stand of trees.

* Case 11: 4 September, San Cayetano, night. A farmer heading toward this town sees a UFO traveling toward the west.

* Case 12: Early September, Paraje San Jose, Necochea, night. Two witnesses see a luminous UFO.

* Case 13: 5 September, Route 86. Mrs. Arias (protagonist of the 31 August event at La Dulce) sees a medium-white, glowing cloud transform into a reddish half-moon. It increased in size before vanishing.

* Case 14: 8 September, La Dulce, Necochea, 20 hrs. A false sun lit the entire field, bathing it in throbbing red light for 5 minutes.

* Case 15: 8 September, Route 86, Km. 20 (a few kilometers from Necochea). At 20:15 hours, a beam of blinding red light lit a ranch from a stand of trees. Horses were spooked and two recently butchered lambs began to roast themselves due to the heat issued by the UFO.

* Case 16: 9 September, Necochea, noon. Three luminous objects flew over this city's downtown area.

* Case 17: 10 September, Route 86, Km. 85, night. A potent light appeared to be "resting" on a high-voltage line. It departed swiftly after 15 minutes.

* Case 18: 12 September, La Dulce, Necochea. A "star" breaks off from a powerful light, descending in 8 successive stages.

* Case 19: 14 September, Necochea, night. An object issuing alternating red and green lights flew overhead at high speed from West to East.

* Case 20: 14 September, Juan N. Fernandez, Necochea, 22:30 hrs. Took place 500 meters from a house at an altitude of 30 meters. A silver object producing a powerful light hovered over a stand of trees.

* Case 21: Mid-September, Necochea, night. A large, oval, red-colored light passed over the city toward the north.

This mini-flap, which I discovered and researched, falls within the vast region of Necochea. What was the

reason for the number of so many UFO manifestations and the presence of strange beings in the region, in so short a time?

A new UFO incident is therefore added to the global case history, With the presence of entities or beings of enigmatic appearance, highly reliable witnesses, in the southeastern end of the coast of Buenos Aires, in the Necochea region.

A Similar Case

We can provide, as an example of a similar occurrence, an incident that took place 120 km from Necochea, where the Estancia La Dulce events befell the Arias family in August 1978. It occurred in the early days of January 1988, when Leonardo Fuster and his friend Gabriel (surname unknown), both 18, residents of the La Serena district of Mar del Plata, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, were leaving a get-together at a friend's house and were walking around a corner in the cited district, when they became witnesses to an anomalous event. The time was nearly 1:00 a.m. when Gabriel saw a white light coming from the Peralta Ramos forest. It was about 100 meters away, the light was larger in size than a star and looked much like a streetlight, according to the witnesses.

The object was making circular and zigzagging movements at high speed, not making any sound whatsoever. They were staring at for a minute until Leonardo told his friend: "Quit staring at it."

They continued to walk and talk until a powerful beam of white light approached them and engulfed them, leaving them completely blinded. Moments later, the beam turned off and a kind of multicolored fog or smoke began to emerge; after it dispersed, a small creature appeared. Gabriel used his jacket to cover his face and not see any more, since he was frightened, while Leonardo continued to look.

The being, or "the thing" as they called it, was between 50 and 60 cm tall, brown-colored and had two square red eyes. It had no arms, legs, hands, nose, mouth ... no other feature aside from the eyes.

The creature floated in the air over the edge of the sidewalk. It moved toward Gabriel and then toward Leonardo, fixing its stare on him. The creature was some 3 meters distant. Gabriel told his friend Leonardo: "Quit looking at it, leave it," but Leonardo's gaze was riveted. At that moment, the multicolored fog reappeared and covered the being, causing it to vanish. The white beam of light also came back, blinding the two teenagers. Gabriel reached out to touch Leonardo, thinking that his friend had been spirited away. Leonardo said no, and both saw the source of the light: a large circular, silvery object with several windows. The light that had blinded them retreated into the object. The object's windows revealed the presence of creatures moving back and forth, black in color.

The UFO was over some properties at a distance of 8 and 10 meters. It later took off at an impressive rate of speed toward the Peralta Ramos forest. A buzzing similar to the sound of wind could be heard as the object departed.

At the end of the experience, Leonardo asked Gabriel for the time and the latter replied in astonishment that it was now 5:30 a.m.! Four and a half hours had elapsed while they observed the creature, although to them, the experience had lasted only a few minutes. Leonardo experienced painful stomach ache and dark colored vomit when he returned home, according to his mother.

The next day, they discussed their experience and local residents told them that seeing "strange lights" was quite common. They were startled by a powerful electric storm that took place in the area, causing power outages. A few days later, Leonardo and his mother would witness other phenomena in the sky, involving objects moving in different directions.

The similarities between this case and the experiences of the Arias family are remarkable:

- * The beams of light aimed against the witnesses at the start of the event.
- * An oval shaped object with windows in both incidents. The object is highly similar in both cases.
- * Entities having rather similar characteristics in both cases, despite the fact that Estancia La Dulce case involved two beings, while there was only one in La Serena. However, these were amorphous silhouettes lacking arms, legs, noses and mouths - only the glowing eyes in both cases.

In the Arias case "the bulbs appeared to make up the face of these silhouettes." They were two red lights. "The thing" also had two red, square eyes.

Leonardo Fuster had the impression that it was "a robot," a lifeless thing that was sent to do research. To Manuel Arias, "they do whatever they want and then leave..." In both cases, the entities floated over the ground. Their heights were between 0.70 cm to 1 meter in the first case and between 0.50 to 0.60 cm in the other.

As far as animals are concerned no strange behavior was recorded, or at least not noticed. We can also mention the storms as related phenomena, as they occurred during one case and hours later in the other. There is also the power outage in the Arias case and the power outage days later in the La Serena events.

Although we have records that a power interruption occurred in the Necochea-Mar Del Plata system during the first days of January, it should be noted that the witnesses are unclear as to the exact date of the events they experienced. However, they state that it occurred in the first week of January, according to Leonardo and Gabriel.

After the events in the La Serena case, both Gabriel and Leonardo felt much better, as though endowed with more energy. This lasted approximately two days. Only Leonardo Fuster had complaints after he returned home. In both cases, the experiencers became witnesses to other events, such as the UFO sightings of Mrs. Arias and Leonardo Fuster and his mother.

Other witnesses also reported various UFO manifestations in Necochea and Mar del Plata before, during and after the events described. We are faced, without a doubt, with two very important incidents that occurred only a few kilometers away from each other ... two encounters with UFOs involving the presence of amorphous entities, with reliable witnesses, having very similar characteristics, being recorded thus within the global case histories of the phenomenon: the Estancia La Dulce in Necochea and the Barrio La Serena cases, both of them occurring in the southeastern coast of the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Sources:

- * *Ecos Diarios* de Necochea, provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- * Retomo a La Dulce, an investigation by Ruben Morales, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- * Revista Cuarta Dimension Nro. 188, Direccion: Fabio Zerpa, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- * Research conducted by Guillermo Daniel Gimenez.



SENTINEL, Santa Cruz, CA - June 28, 2007

For Sasquatch aficionados,
Bigfoot conference is a ...

BIG DEAL



ABOVE: Michael Rugg explains local Bigfoot sightings at the Bigfoot Discovery Museum in Felton.
TOP: Paula Yarr minds the counter near a primate exhibit at the Bigfoot Discovery Museum.

Researchers, eyewitnesses convene to sort fact from fiction when it comes to hairy, scary ape

By GWEN MICKELSON
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

FELTON — They're said to have a weakness for cinnamon graham crackers.

True or not, tidbits such as that, along with stories, sightings, theories and thoughts, will join more serious study when researchers, field investigators, eyewitnesses and others convene in Felton and Santa Cruz to discuss evidence that the much-fabled — and ridiculed — Bigfoot exists.

For the county's first-ever Bigfoot Discovery Day on Saturday, associate profes-

sor Jeff Meldrum of Idaho State University will present evidence from tracks, skin ridges on the soles of the feet, film footage and DNA, which he compares to primate and various other species.

Meldrum, a professor of anthropology and anatomy, has never seen Bigfoot, "but I've seen fresh footprints," he said in a phone interview. "Everything is relative to what your expertise is, and to my eye these footprints were almost as good as seeing the real thing because of the details and the message there in that trackway."

physical evidence.

Rather than trying to convert anyone to a certain belief, Meldrum's new book, "Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science," approaches the question of Bigfoot as a scientific hypothesis — what if there were Bigfoot creatures? What would it take? What would be the implications of the discovery of such an animal? What is the nature of the evidence?

The book features a front-cover endorsement by renowned primatologist Jane Goodall and is a companion volume to a Discovery Channel documentary.

"For me, it's a way to increase the level of dialogue, the level of discourse, because frankly I'm one of the few professional academics who speaks publicly on this subject," Meldrum said. "I hope that if I'm talking about this it will give some pause to other academics who will say, 'Hm, I know Jeff's work in paleontology and physical anthropology, maybe there's something to this.'"

Meldrum, who is also affiliate curator at the Idaho Museum of Natural History and has made many appearances as a featured expert on TV and radio, including the Discovery Channel, the History Channel, the National Geographic Channel, the "Today Show" and

National Public Radio, speaks on the topic regularly.

He was invited to speak locally by Mike Rugg, proprietor of the Bigfoot Discovery Museum in Felton.

"We want to educate the populace that people are seeing these things and they're out there," said Rugg while standing next to a life-size diorama featuring two large and impassive Sasquatch mannequins staring out from between a couple of fake pine trees. "So what the heck are they?"

Rugg, who's been researching the lifestyles of the big and hairy for more than 50 years, said he had a Bigfoot sighting himself at age 5, along the banks of the Eel River. The results of his efforts, both humorous and serious, are on display at the museum on Highway 9 he opened with wife and fellow Bigfoot aficionado Paula Yarr in 2004.

Of course, said Meldrum, he hears from critics and those who take exception to some of his evaluation of the evidence.

One of Meldrum's most vocal critics, Benjamin Radford, managing editor of Skeptical Inquirer magazine, said he sees the "legend" part of Meldrum's book, but not the "science."

"We're dealing with stories —

not plant leaves, not bones, not teeth, stories of something people saw in the wilderness and they can't explain," said Radford, who works out of Albuquerque, N.M. "Anyone familiar with scientific processes and methodologies, that should raise a big red flag."

Bigfoot researchers don't have remnants such as bones and teeth. "They don't have a live one, they don't have a dead one," Radford said.

For Carla Benejam, an instructor of anthropology at Cabrillo College and a Sasquatch enthusiast, Bigfoot Discovery Day sounds like fun. She plans to go with a colleague to check out what Meldrum has to say and hear some Bigfoot stories.

"I think as long as we have myths, we have hope — that's kind of what the human condition is," said Benejam. "I'm all for it."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Contact Gwen Mickelson at gmickelson@santacruzsentinel.com.

Paula Yarr and Michael Rugg stand by their belief in local sightings of Bigfoot.

Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel

Letters

Bigfoot sighting

EDITOR:

I am writing this letter in regard to the Bigfoot coverage, and yes I did see Bigfoot, or a I guess that's what they call this huge, hairy apeman.

I went to Marquette to meet with the (BFRO) research people, hoping to get some answers on what I saw. It was exciting to finally talk to people who believe this creature exists. But after talking to them, I realized none of them ever saw his face. But I did.

I was about 17 years old when I saw this apelike creature and to me it seemed like a prehistoric apeman. That's what my impression was. It stood there on the side of the road and looked right at me, like a deer would when you drive upon one, and when the headlights hit the eyes. They glare red.

It was such an eerie feeling, almost like it wasn't real. But it was there. He then turned and disappeared into the woods (as I sped by in fear). My whole body was shaking, like I couldn't believe even myself, what I just saw. Nobody ever believed me.

Now I'm 43 years old, and I really don't care if anyone believes me because I know I got to see something so rare and prehistoric or even extinct. I'll always remember it.

I don't believe you can track down or hunt a creature such as this. It would be like hunting for an alien — impossible. It finds you, or you just happen to see it, because I think it doesn't want to be seen.

Are there really beings out there that do exist? If so, where do they hide.

Are they so primitive that they never want to be seen, only by mistake? We don't really know what this creature is. But I believe it does exist, and I saw it here in the U.P. of Michigan.

Sylvia Carrington
Bark River



DAILY PRESS, Escanaba, MI - July 26, 2007



Lalo de Almeida for The New York Times

Amazon tribes relate tales of confronting the mapinguary. A statue depicting the fearsome creature has been erected in remote Rio Branco, Brazil.

A Huge Amazon Monster Is Only a Myth. Or Is It?

By LARRY ROHTER

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 here 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 another, have a word for the mapinguary (pronounced ma-ping-wahr-EE). The name is usually translated as "the roaring animal" or "the fetid beast."

So widespread and so consistent are such accounts that in recent years a few scientists have organized expeditions to try to find the creature. They have not succeeded, but at least one 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."

Dr. Oren said he had talked to "a couple of hundred people" who had said they had seen the mapinguary in the most remote parts of the Amazon



Photo Researchers

Scientists link the current mapinguary legends to the Megatherium, one of the largest mammals ever. It vanished thousands of years ago.

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."

Geovaldo Karitiana, 27, a member of the Karitiana tribe, claims to have seen one about three years ago, as he was hunting in the jungle near an area that his tribe calls "the cave of the mapinguary."

"It was coming toward the village and was making a big noise," he said in a recent interview on the tribe's reservation in the western Amazon. "It stopped when it got near me, and that's when the bad smell made me dizzy and tired. I fainted, and when I came to, the mapinguary was gone."

Mr. Karitiana's father, Lucas, confirmed his son's account. He said that when his son took him back to the site of the encounter, he saw a cleared pathway where the creature had departed, "as if a boulder had rolled through and knocked down all the trees and vines."

Though the descriptions of the mapinguary may resemble the sasquatch of North America or the yeti of Himalayan lore, the comparisons stop there. Unlike its counterparts in the Northern Hemisphere, the creature is said not to flee human contact, but to aggressively hunt down the hunter, turning the tables on those who do not respect the jungle's unwritten rules and limits.

"Often, the mapinguary gets revenge on people who transgress, who go where they shouldn't go or harvest more animals or plants than they can consume, or set cruel traps," said Márcio Souza, a prominent Brazilian novelist and playwright who lives in Manaus, in the

central Amazon, and often draws on Amazon history and folklore in his works.

Amazon folklore, in fact, is full of fanciful creatures that are used to explain unwelcome or embarrassing phenomena. The boto, for example, is a type of dolphin that is said to be able to transform itself into human form, wearing a white hat to cover its air spout, and seducing and impregnating impressionable young virgins.

When a hunter or woodsman gets lost in the jungle, he often blames the curupira, a mischievous red-haired elf who has feet that face backward and takes delight in making trails that lead travelers astray. And when an experienced navigator inexplicably disappears or drowns in calm waters, he is usually said to have fall-

en victim to the iara, a cross between a siren and a mermaid.

"If you're a rubber tapper and you're returning to camp empty-handed, you'd better have a pretty good explanation for your boss," said Marcos Vinícius Neves, director of the government's department of historical and cultural patrimony in Acre State, where a statue of a mapinguary has been erected at a public plaza here in the capital. "The mapinguary is the best excuse you could possibly imagine."

Mr. Souza, the writer, counts himself among those who believe the mapinguary is a myth. The deforestation of the Amazon has accelerated so rapidly over the last generation, he argues, that if the creature really existed, "there would have been some sort of close encounter of the third kind by now."

Partly for that reason, most zoologists scoff at the notion that it could be real.

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."

Glenn Shepard Jr., an American ethnobiologist and anthropologist based in Manaus, said he was among the skeptics until 1997, when he was doing research about local wildlife among the Machiguenga people of the far western Amazon, in Peru. Tribal members all mentioned a fearsome slothlike creature that inhabited a hilly, forested area in their territory.

Dr. Shepard said "the clincher that really blew me away" came when a member of the tribe remarked matter of factly that he had also seen a mapinguary at the natural history museum in Lima. Dr. Shepard checked; the museum has a diorama with a model of the giant prehistoric ground sloth.

"At the very least, what we have here is an ancient remembrance of a giant sloth, like those found in Chile recently, that humans have come into contact with," he said. "Let me put it this way: Just because we know that mermaids and sirens are myths doesn't mean that manatees don't exist."

Even so, the mystery of the mapinguary is likely to continue, as is the search.

"There's still an awful lot of room out there for a large sloth to be roaming around," Dr. Shepard said.

Ancient memory may explain a legend. But is the beast still out there? Stay tuned.

and a handful who had said they had had direct contact.

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, seven feet or more when it stands on two legs, that it emits a strong, extremely 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



Tales of mapinguary encounters are common in Rio Branco.

WESTERN TALES



C.F. Eckhardt

Cattle deaths without blood are no mystery

In the news over the past several years there has been a rash of 'mysterious' deaths of livestock, most notably cattle.

Apparently, the animals have been sucked dry of blood, as a general rule the genitals have been cut out, apparently surgically, the eyes are usually gone, often the tongue is gone, and the rectum has been removed. These have been blamed on everything from UFOs to Satanic cults. They are the result of neither.

My friend Mike Bradshaw, a Texas lawman with 37 years field experience, has been a Texas Game Warden for most of those years. In a letter to me he explained what's happening to those cattle.

"I've watched with great interest the 'investigators' in Colorado and New Mexico who gave their TV testimonials regarding animal mutilations. None had used the crime labs or veterinary science colleges. I couldn't believe seasoned investigators made such mistakes in their crime scene processing — that is, until I realized these were city-boy investigators unaccustomed to dealing with animals and natural influences. Give these boys a dead man in downtown Denver and more than likely they would have solved the crime easily, but they were out of their league on these particular types of investigations.

"We've had the same situation here in Dimmit County, Texas, when I assisted Warren Allee (brother to Captain Alfred Allee of the Texas Rangers), a Special Ranger with the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association."

I was green as a gourd and had little practical field experience while Warren was, without a doubt, the finest country-boy crime scene investigator ever to dig through a gutpile.

"The case involved about eight or ten 650-lb steer calves that died on the Piloncillo ranch near Catarina. The caretaker found them a day or two later strung out around the same hill on which they'd bedded. They'd been on the property for a month and all were healthy upon arrival. On nearly all the steers the penis had been removed from the belly, leaving a circular mark, sometimes an

elliptical mark, ranging from silver-dollar size to about the size of a quart oil can lid. An eye from each was missing, the anus was hollowed out, and the tongues had been removed. The caller said his dogs barked in the night and he'd found a spot where he suspected a spacecraft pod had touched the ground. He'd even tested one of the animals by cutting it and found that it didn't bleed. 'Damn,' he said. 'They've even sucked out all the blood just like in those other places I've been reading about.' As soon as Warren stroked his hand over the animals and heard a distinctive crackling noise he shook his head and told the fellow he was dead wrong.

"The guy asked about the lack of blood. Warren explained that

when an animal dies, the lack of blood pressure allows the blood to sink to the lowest spot. Then over the course of hours the blood clots to the thickness of Jello, and of course, won't bleed a drop if you cut the animal. He even stripped out the jugular vein on one animal and demonstrated by mashing out the thickened red goo.

"Well, how about the missing penis?" the guy asked. Warren carefully cut out a section of the hide from the circular spot and held it sideways where the man could compare the cuts. Imagine looking at a piece of leather, holding it flat and looking at it edgewise. I saw the sharp, clean edge of Warren's cut. It looked like this:|

The top and bottom of the bracket is the outside and inside of the hide, while the vertical piece is the cut. He invited the man to compare his cut with the one that had been left on the steer. As he pointed out, rats had chewed the hide off while going after the salty urine.

As they bit and stripped off the edge, their upper and lower incisors and canine teeth made a mark like a lazy V, looking like this: >.

The pointed end is where the rat pulled and his choppers popped shut. 'I'll be darned,' the fellow said.

"The guy wouldn't give up. 'Okay, what about the eye?' Buzzards will habitually peck the eye of an animal to see if it's dead. Warren explained that as well. The hollowed-out rectum was the tender spot where buzzards always enter first on a large-framed animal. On smaller animals, they usually go directly for the guts through the belly. The wood rats removed the tongues, as well.

"And the pod mark where the 'spacecraft' set down? That was the best one. The fellow had even placed a bucket on top of the track so nothing would disturb it. Three steers had obviously stepped in the same spot while going different directions and left a goofy-looking mark. Warren had to take a stick and trace out the three hoofprints before the fellow would believe it.

"The cracking sound? That's the sound of gas bubbles under

the skin. This is one of the primary field tests for Blackleg. When you run your hand down a bovine's back or legs, mashing while you do so, it sounds like thin ice cracking and breaking. If animals haven't been vaccinated for Blackleg, they'll often die like flies when rainy weather hits."

Mike went on to say "In the past 37 years I've been present to assist or direct nearly every kind of dead-animal investigation you can imagine and have assisted in over a hundred human death investigations in one way or another. Several of the animal investigations involved non-bleeding carcasses. So far, the cases have had logical explanations."

In the case of the death of a human, once the heart stops beating, the blood will settle in the lowest parts of the body and coagulate, exactly as it does in an animal. Since human skin is largely hairless or very thinly haired at best, the blood will show up as a purplish discoloration of the skin. This is called 'post-mortem lividity,' and is a very important tool in death investigation. It tells the investigator what position the body was in at the time of death. It also tells the investigator whether or not the body has been moved. If, for instance, the post-mortem lividity of a corpse is located in the lower legs, the buttocks, the backs of the thighs, and the forearms and hands, the individual was probably sitting in a chair when death occurred. The body remained in the chair probably for well over an hour. The body, though, is found lying on its back. There is no post-mortem lividity on the back or the back of the head. The body has been moved from where death occurred. If no one admits moving the corpse, the death should be treated as a homicide.

In a dead animal, the post-mortem lividity is there — but the thick, colored hair on the hide conceals it.

This would lead someone familiar with post-mortem lividity in human death investigation — or not familiar with the phenomenon at all — to assume the body has been drained of blood.

Group goes on 2-day hunt for a sasquatch

KAMAS, UTAH — A group of about 45 people spent two days in the Uinta Mountains searching for the legendary Bigfoot.

Members of the Bigfoot Field Research Organization used sophisticated equipment such as parabolic microphones and night-vision goggles to search for the apelike beast.

BFRO Director Matt Moneymaker, a lawyer from Capistrano, Calif., said he founded the organization to be a clearinghouse for sightings nationwide of Bigfoot, also known as sasquatch.

Those who say they have heard or seen a sasquatch say they are never quite the same. Scott Taylor of Tacoma said he saw a Bigfoot in 2005 while deer hunting on the coast of Washington.

"It's not like going out and watching deer and elk," Taylor said.

"These are creatures that don't want to be seen. But when you see one, it changes your life forever."

Moneymaker said he once was as close as 15 feet from a sasquatch in 1994 in Portage County, Ohio.

POST-INTELLIGENCER, Seattle, WA - June 28, 2007

Nursing home cat has a sixth sense

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Oscar the cat seems to have an uncanny knack for predicting when nursing home patients are going to die, by curling up next to them during their final hours.

His accuracy, observed in 25 cases, has led the staff to call family members once he has chosen someone. It usually means they have less than four hours to live.

"He doesn't make too many mistakes. He seems to under-

stand when patients are about to die," said Dr. David Dosa in an interview. He describes the phenomenon in a poignant essay in today's issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

"Many family members take some solace from it. They appreciate the companionship that the cat provides for their dying loved one," said Dosa, a geriatrician and assistant professor of medicine at Brown University.

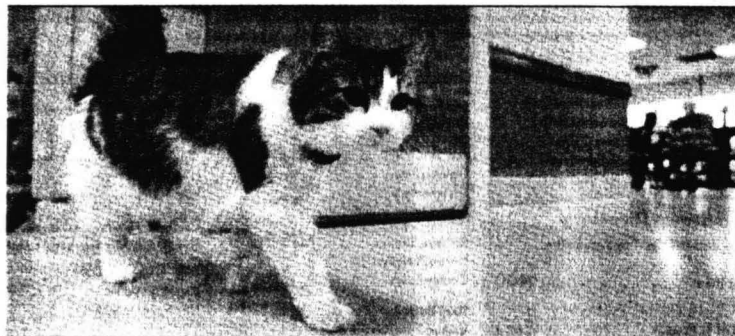
The 2-year-old feline was adopted as a kitten and grew up in

a third-floor dementia unit at the Steere House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. The facility treats people with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's disease and other illnesses.

After about six months, the staff noticed Oscar would make his own rounds, just like the doctors and nurses. He'd sniff and observe patients, then sit beside people who would wind up dying in a few hours.

ing Oscar, so long as he gives families a better chance at saying goodbye to the dying.

Oscar recently received a wall plaque publicly commending his "compassionate hospice care."



AP

Oscar, a hospice cat at the Steere House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Providence, R.I., walks past an activity room Tuesday at the facility.

Dosa said Oscar seems to take his work seriously and is generally aloof. "This is not a cat that's friendly to people," he said.

Oscar is better at predicting death than the people who work there, said Dr. Joan Teno of Brown University, who treats patients at the nursing home and is an expert on care for the terminally ill.

She was convinced of Oscar's talent when he made his 13th correct call. While observing one patient, Teno said she noticed the woman wasn't

eating, was breathing with difficulty and that her legs had a bluish tinge, signs that often mean death is near.

Oscar wouldn't stay inside the room though, so Teno thought his streak was broken. Instead, it turned out the doctor's prediction was roughly 10 hours too early. Sure enough, during the patient's final two hours, nurses told Teno that Oscar joined the woman at her bedside.

Doctors say most of the people who get a visit from the sweet-faced, gray-and-white cat are so ill they probably

don't know he's there, so patients aren't aware he's a harbinger of death. Most families are grateful for the advanced warning, although one wanted Oscar out of the room while a family member died. When Oscar is put outside, he paces and meows his displeasure.

No one's certain if Oscar's behavior is scientifically significant or points to a cause. Teno wonders if the cat notices telltale scents or reads something into the behavior of the nurses who raised him.

Nicholas Dodman, who

directs an animal behavioral clinic at the Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine and has read Dosa's article, said the only way to know is to carefully document how Oscar divides his time between the living and dying.

If Oscar really is a furry grim reaper, it's also possible his behavior could be driven by self-centered pleasures like a heated blanket placed on a dying person, Dodman said.

Nursing home staffers aren't concerned with explain-

by
**William
Hartston**

THE Earth, as we all know, is a globe spinning on its axis once a day and orbiting the Sun once a year. Anyone who doesn't believe this is a Flat-Earther - an ignoramus fighting against progress who refuses to accept modern ideas. Now ask yourself why you believe the Earth is a sphere. Is this just something you have been told or do you have some real evidence to support it?

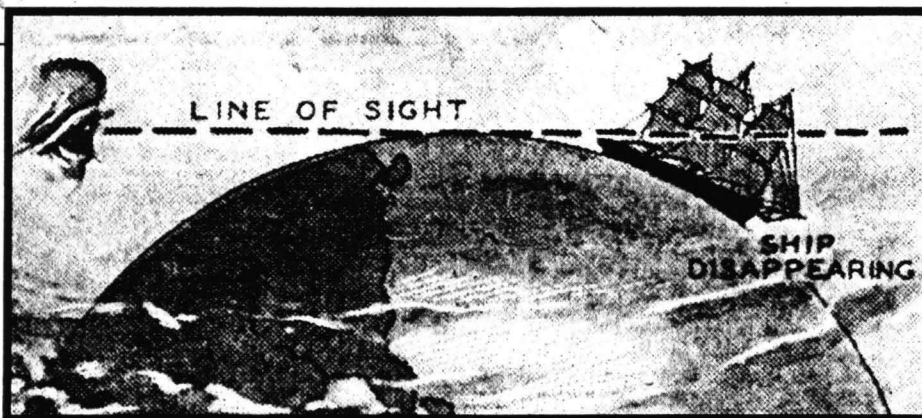
OK, ships sail over the horizon - but people watched ships sail over horizons long before anyone suggested that the Earth was a sphere. They had other ways of explaining it. OK, there are pictures from space - but they're easy to explain, even without believing in a NASA conspiracy. OK, Christopher Columbus silenced medieval Europe's Flat Earthers and proved the Earth was round when he discovered America. Well, didn't he?

Actually, no. He didn't. And the Great Columbus myth is the starting point of a new book about competing views of the shape of the Earth. Christine Garwood's *Flat Earth* is a glorious romp around the world of Flat Earthism concentrating on the era when that belief was at its height, which wasn't in the pre-Columbus Middle Ages but in the middle of the 19th century.

Let us first, however, dispose of the Columbus myth. Frank Sinatra sang it - "They all laughed at Christopher Columbus when he said the world was round"; Bugs Bunny endorsed it in the 1951 cartoon *Hare We Go*, which depicts Columbus arguing the shape of the Earth at the Spanish court. "It is round like your head," Columbus says. "No," comes the reply, "Eet is flat like your head" and a mallet flattens Columbus's head to prove the point. Can Sinatra and Bugs Bunny both have been wrong?

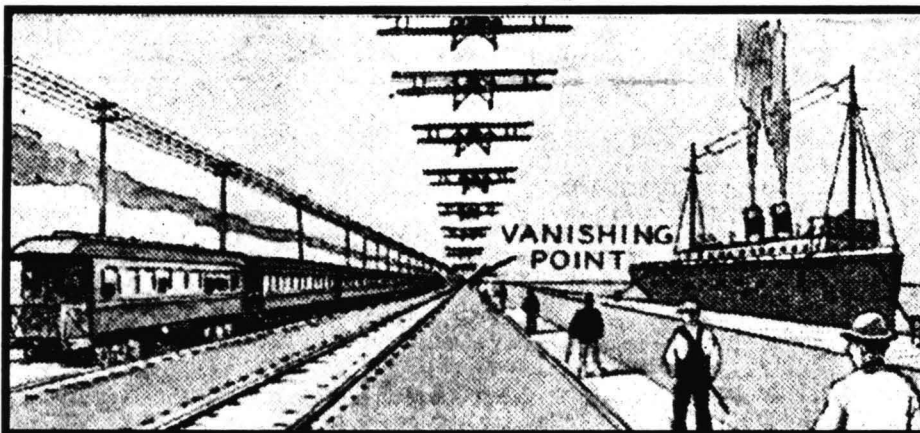
Indeed they were. As Garwood points out, almost everyone since the Ancient Greeks knew the true shape of the Earth. Pythagoras was the first to write about it being a sphere in the sixth century BC and around 300 years later Eratosthenes was the first to calculate its size. For the next 2,000 years everyone may have believed that the sun and moon and planets and stars all moved around a universe with the Earth at its centre but hardly anyone questioned the spherical nature of the Earth.

HARDLY anyone, that is, until the 19th century when a group of Flat Earthers sprang up and began to re-write history as well as astronomy, geography, geology and physics. What lay at the heart of their mission, however, was the battle between science and religion, a conflict that was being reopened by the findings of Charles Darwin and others. In reality, the Church may have come into conflict with Copernicus and Galileo when they dared to suggest that the Earth was not at the centre of everything but the idea of a spherical earth had never bothered them much. For hundreds of years, only a few hardcore fundamentalists, who insisted that every word of the Bible was true, had persisted in maintaining that the Earth was flat but now, feeling threatened by



NOW YOU SEE IT: Aristotle held that the Earth was round by this line-of-sight demonstration of a disappearing ship

SO IS THE EARTH FLAT AFTER ALL?



...NOW YOU DON'T: Wilbur Glenn Vollva argued that a vanishing ship was an optical illusion of perspective

TEN REASONS TO BELIEVE OUR PLANET'S NOT ROUND

1. It looks flat.

2. The Bible says it's flat.

3. People at the Equator would be flung into space if they were spinning round at 1,000mph.

4. Pictures from space are no evidence: the Earth's apparent curvature is caused by the refraction of light through the atmosphere.

5. ...and anyway, camera lens distortion would also make the Earth look curved.

6. Conventional globist theory says the sun is

93 million miles away. That's obviously nonsense. We'd never feel warmth over that distance.

6. Australians and New Zealanders would be upside down and fall off if the Earth were a globe.

7. Ships disappearing over the horizon are no evidence: everything seems smaller when it's further away. If it's far enough away, you can't see it at all.

8. ...and also, the gravitational pull of the moon causes a bump in the water so you can't see the ship.

10. Circumnavigations are no evidence. Sir Francis Drake and Ferdinand Magellan were just sailing in a circle round a flat Earth with the North Pole at its centre.

● To order a copy of *Flat Earth* (Macmillan) by Christine Garwood, priced £20 with free UK delivery, please send a cheque or PO made payable to the Express Bookshop to: Flat Earth Offer, PO Box 200, Falmouth TR11 4WJ, or telephone 0871 521 1301 with credit/debit card details (calls cost 10p per minute from BT landlines), or order online at www.expressbookshop.com

the advances of science, their number seemed to be growing.

Some people felt suspicious of scientists, others felt uncomfortable at science venturing into areas that were impossible for the ordinary person to understand, others were horrified at what they saw as its growing challenge to the word of God, while there were also apparently some who felt that all this growing hostility to science could well be an opportunity to make a fast buck.

Out of all this, the new and very dodgy science of Zetetic astronomy grew, the brainchild of one Samuel Birley Rowbotham, who went by the name of "Parallax" and delighted in writing pamphlets and giving lectures denouncing modern science and all its practitioners and arguing eloquently for the flatness of the Earth. "Parallax" took the word "Zetetic" from a Greek verb meaning "to enquire or seek" and he encouraged those who attended his lectures to challenge beliefs that were foisted upon them and use their own common sense to seek out the truth.

Nobody is quite sure whether he truly believed the Earth to be flat, or even whether he believed the word of the Bible, but there is no doubt that Rowbotham was a consummate showman and charlatan, who developed a marvellous repertoire of arguments and accounts of fictional experiments to support the Flat Earth theory and counter all arguments thrown at him.

Ships disappearing over the horizon? It's an optical illusion. Everything looks smaller further away. It just gets too small to see.

WHAT about ships' hulls disappearing first, with the mast last of all? Well, obviously that's because the sea is darker than the sky and the bottom of the ship just doesn't stand out so well.

Circumnavigations of the globe? Magellan went round the flat Earth exactly as a needle goes round a gramophone record. The Earth is a disc with the North Pole at its centre. Compasses point North, circumnavigators sail at right-angles to the compass, so they go in a circle. Nobody's ever sailed North-South round the world, have they?

And so on and so on. The fact is that it's very difficult, in a church hall, to come up with a convincing reason for believing the Earth is round, especially against such a practised debater as "Parallax".

And after "Parallax", the Flat Earth baton has been taken up by a wondrous series of charlatans, eccentrics and religious fundamentalists, all documented in Garwood's book, right up to present day believers who will even turn scientific advances against themselves. Well, of course the Earth looks round in photos from space. It's a natural consequence of Einstein's curvilinear space-time continuum, innit?

The trouble is that science rarely, if ever, proves anything. It just comes up with hypotheses that make predictions about the world that can be tested by observation and experiment. The hypothesis that the Earth is spherical, however, has stood up pretty well for the past two and a half millennia. But perhaps we do all take on trust everything "experts" tell us a little too easily. If the Flat Earthers make us all think a little more about everything we are told then they still have an important role to play.

OR
NEWS-REVIEW, Roseburg, OR
June 12, 2007

Bigfoot threatens all of humanity

I really appreciate the philosophical references to bigfoot as a metaphor, but it was no metaphor that attacked the trailer I was staying in as a child in 1975.

Those of you who have never experienced the raw visceral terror of actually being in the vicinity of one of these creatures will never understand the facts.

These are living beings with plenty of proof available, hair

and fecal samples aplenty.

Unfortunately, most scientists are incapable or unwilling to fathom the truth outside the box of their textbooks, making them as narrow-minded as preachers with their bibles. It is only human arrogance that blinds society to the fact that there exists a creature somewhere between ape and man that threatens the secure paradigms of the pulpit and the laboratory alike.

Todd Partain
Bossier City, La.

SUN, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

June 28, 2007 CR: G. Duplantier

On the path of Bigfoot truth

MANISTIQUE, Mich. - Researchers will visit Michigan's Upper Peninsula next month to search for evidence of the legendary creature known as "Bigfoot" or "Sasquatch."

The expedition will focus on eastern Marquette County, said Matthew Moneymaker of the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization.

Skeptics have long challenged accounts of Bigfoot sightings, and practical jokers have staged hoaxes that have included grainy film footage of people dressed in costumes.

- Sun wire services