

UFO

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NEWS

THAT'S NO MOON

Many uncrazy Clevelanders have seen strange lights in the sky. Who – or what – is buzzing Northeast Ohio?

BY JOHN LASKER

TO SUGGEST THAT NORTHEAST OHIO could be witness to the next mass UFO sighting does not officially make you a member of the tin-foil hat crowd. If you believe even just a few of the witnesses, Cleveland and its surrounding communities might already be a hotspot.

During the previous two years, the Cleveland UFOlogy Project, considered the oldest of its kind on this side of the globe, has documented 20 credible sightings. The 2005 documentary *Dan Akroyd: Unplugged on UFOs* highlighted the peculiar lights over Lake Erie near Eastlake, where witnesses reported their latest sighting just this past June. Earlier this year, an "orb" was videotaped over the Key Bank Tower during a peace rally, and the incident made it on the CBS nightly news.

The hype continues: Literally hundreds of thousands have downloaded Internet videos of Northeast Ohio UFOs. The Cleveland Office of Homeland Security has investigated. And one of the Eastlake UFO witnesses says he's signed a contract with a History Channel for a documentary.

"If you take all of the people in Ohio who are interested in this subject, I bet half of them are from that part of the state," says Central Ohio-based William E. Jones, state director for Ohio MUFON, or Mutual UFO Network. "A lot of folks up there have seen things over the years. More people are interested up there. I don't know why."

SAM PHILLIPS has long been a fixture of Cleveland's music scene. He's an accomplished drummer and "hand snapper," and appeared on *The Arsenio Hall Show*. When interviewed for this story, however, he was homeless and sleeping at the homes of friends and family. Phillips taped a strange light spinning and hovering over the Key Bank Tower on March 10, during a peace rally.

"This is not about me," says Phillips, who admits he has become obsessed with what he saw that night. "There's a pattern here. There's a riddle here. And I want answers. I want an explanation."

He believes it wasn't coincidence the sighting took place over a peace rally. During the sighting, he recalls saying that our "brothers and sisters are going to come down from the universe and humble our ass."

Phillips' story, however, is but a sidebar in the current wave of Northeast Ohio UFO mania. Taking center stage is Lake Erie, and Michael Lee Hill of Eastlake.

Hill, like Phillips, is a musician. In 2001, Grammy-award winner and guitar legend Steve Vai picked Hill as the winner of a national guitar contest. Hill is gregarious, upbeat and likeable. He's unconventional and complex. He's certain that the UFOs he has seen are targeting him.

"I've had contact my whole life," he says. "I remember asking my mother, 'Why do Santa's elves keep visiting me?'"

The recent visitations started in earnest five years ago, not far from the coal-burning power plant, he says. While walking on the beach, not far from his home, Hill said he witnessed a top hat-shaped craft hovering and pulsating over the shoreline. This same area is also famous in UFO lore for a 1988 encounter documented by the Coast Guard.

Hill started taking a video camera to the lakefront. Since then he's captured scores of bright lights that appear to hover over Lake Erie. He's uploaded many of his videos to YouTube, and those caught the attention of David Sereda, who directed the Akroyd documentary. Hill created the music for Sereda's latest project, *From Here To Andromeda*. Hill also says he recently signed a contract for a History Channel project, but the channel did not return *Free Times*' calls.

"I really do consider myself a spiritual messenger; I know it sounds freaky," says Hill, adding that the UFO filmed over the Key Bank Tower is one of the same orbs he captured over Lake Erie. "There's a huge story unfolding here. I think they're absolutely sending us a message. I believe they are here to help us become a galactic society."

AT THE OTHER END of the spectrum is Eastlake resident Gary Strauss, who says adamantly, "I'm not one of those UFO people." He's a chemist and a supervisor at a local laboratory. He's lived in his home on the lake since 1984, in the same neighborhood as Hill, though they've never met.

Early on the morning of June 21, Strauss and his son saw four bright lights, shaped like the tip of a Sharpie marker, high above the water. The lights were in a line parallel with the shoreline, positioned at 11 o'clock and 30 degrees above the horizon.

Then one vanished. Then another. Soon all four were gone. Suddenly, they reappeared in the shape of a diamond. Then they went flat again. This went on for more than an hour.

He called the Eastlake police and they dispatched an officer. Strauss remembers the officer saying, "What is that?"

The following day, his son checked the Internet for lights over Lake Erie and found one of Hill's videos. He recalls his son shouting, "That's it! That's what we saw!"

But unlike other Lake Erie witnesses, Strauss doesn't believe the lights are extrater-



KEEP WATCHING THE SKIES A UFO hovers over downtown in March

restrial. He guesses they're the result of government or aerospace industry experiments with new technology. "They're bouncing radar off some type of object," he speculates. "Some form of radar reflection technology. I'm just making an educated guess."

Nevertheless, he's intrigued.

"I look outside a lot more. I want to see it again," says Strauss. "This time, I'm going to have my camera." But he rejects the suggestion that it's anything more than curiosity: "No. I'm not obsessive. Absolutely not."

THE EASTLAKE POLICE actually had two witnesses that night. A detective, who asked not to be named, told the *Free Times* that he too saw the lights, but from a different vantage point.

The Eastlake police asked the Cleveland office of Homeland Security to look into the sighting, and the detective says he was told later that on the night of the sighting, the Canadian Coast Guard was near the opposite side of the lake searching for a man who had been reported missing. A Canadian Coast Guard helicopter dropped flares, connected to miniature parachutes, over the water. Later it was discovered the man had drowned.

Strauss finds this implausible, believes the lights appeared in a straight line, then vanished, then reappeared in a diamond formation.

The Bush administration reportedly has funneled billions to the aerospace industry to develop space-based weapons under the guise of missile defense. Secret military space-plane programs are believed to have been revived as well.

Another possibility are LAGEOS, or Laser Geodynamics Satellites. Publicly,

the government says two are in orbit, and both are roughly the size of a basketball. They are made of brass and partially covered with a retro-reflection material that returns light in the direction it comes from, similar to a road sign.

There's also NASA's Glenn Research Center at the Plum Brook site in Sandusky. The site is home to the world's largest space environment simulation chamber. That chamber will test NASA's new spacecraft, Orion, which will take the US back to the moon. Recent upgrades to the Plum Brook site will also allow it to test "next-generation lunar landers, robotic systems, and military and commercial aircraft," according to NASA's Web site.

"SO HERE I COME walking out of the TV station one night in November maybe a decade ago after our early evening newscast," says Ted Henry of New Channel 5. "In perfect formation there were five large objects flying smoothly in my direction. It was stunning."

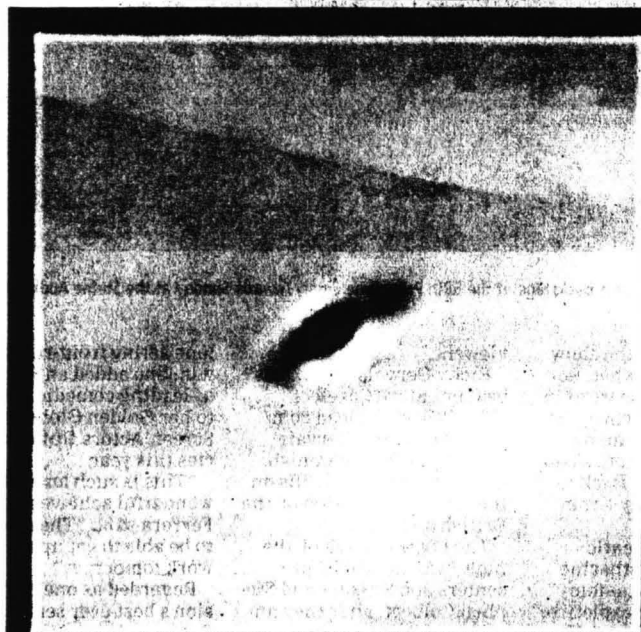
"What I saw was the undersides of five flat objects flying in exact formation. The front two were enormous, maybe the size of several football fields, and the three trailing were smaller, flying in a slightly irregular pattern."

"What do I think they were? All I can really tell you is what I saw."

Henry has talked about his sighting many times on the air. He puts the experience this way: "One thing is certain, for people who see something in the sky, as I did over Cleveland years ago, it can be a life changing experience."

news@freetimes.com

UFOs in Cadillac: Real or sci-fi?



A possible UFO took flight near Mitchell Street in downtown Cadillac in July 2006. "I don't see how that can be a bird," said Dave Dunford said about this photo. "There are shadows on the sides, there's a bright spot that shows a curve and light reflects off the top and bottom."

Cadillac man claims to have seen strange objects in sky

BY KAYLA KILEY
CADILLAC NEWS

CADILLAC — Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Or, is it from another world ...

Whether or not the "disk-shape" and "slender rectangular" objects in Dave Dunford's photos are UFOs, they sure are strange.

"I can't say they're being piloted by little green men, but they're UFOs," said Dunford of Cadillac. "I saw what I saw — they're unidentified, they're flying and they're objects."

THE SIGHTING

Dunford was photographing the Cadillac sky on Aug. 27 at about 8:30 p.m. near his residence in Pheasant Ridge. The self-proclaimed amateur photographer was taking pictures of planes and the clear blue sky for his self-described "deviant art" Web site — and that's when he had his first sighting.

"When I brought my camera down, I noticed something strange and silvery in the sky," he said. "There had been several planes in the air, and all had vapor trails. This one had no vapor trail and, unlike the planes, it made no sound. ... It also wasn't a blimp because there was no platform for people to stand on."

Dunford quickly shot a few frames of the silver object and ran inside his home to tell his family to come outside. He was in-and-out of his house in less than 10 seconds, but when he returned outdoors, the object was out of sight, he said.

A little disappointed, Dunford downloaded the pictures to his computer to see what his digital photos would reveal.

"I didn't get as clear of shots as I wanted to, but you could definitely see the object and tell it wasn't a plane or blimp," he said of his zoomed-in photos.

Dunford's finger then slipped on the touchpad of his laptop, and he was "shocked" to discover "three dark objects" in the sky above the silver UFO.

These three dark objects were not visible to Dunford when he was outside, but his 4.0 megapixel camera picked up the images and he was able to see them in an enlarged photo.

"The three dark objects do not appear in any of the other pictures, even though the shots were all within about a minute of one another," he said, noting that the objects must have been in motion.

After sharing his photos with some relatives, Dunford's anonymous relative decided to zoom-in on some of her own pictures, which were taken near Mitchell Street in July 2006. Dunford calls the dark, disk-shaped object in his relative's photos, "one of the best pictures of a UFO that I've ever seen — it's just amazing."

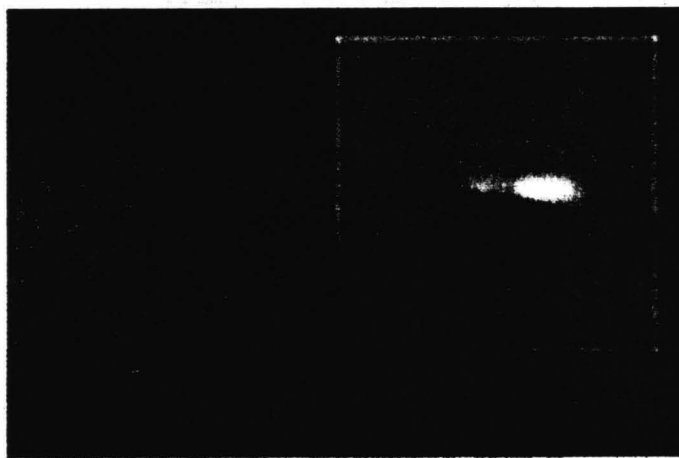
According to Dunford, he considers all other rational options before deciding that the objects are UFOs.

"I try to debunk my own beliefs before I say anything about it," he said. "Before I say anything, I'll do anything to make sure it's something to look into."

Dunford said he's taken numerous photos of planes and birds, so he knows what to look for in a picture when trying to identify an object in a photo. He's also said he's taken pictures with dust on his camera, so he knows what dust looks like compared to UFOs. And in the zoomed-in photos, he looks for 3-dimensional objects, light reflecting off the surface, shadows being cast, a differentiation in color and a "halo" glow in order to deem the images possible UFOs.

If you wonder why you've never seen a UFO, Dunford would simply tell you, "You probably have."

"I see (UFOs) because I look," he said, noting that most people don't notice the world around them. "Most people's minds want to make associations with things that they already know about. The subconscious doesn't like to think outside the box and will try and put it (objects) into something rational — like it could be a plane, blimp or bird. ... I had to look at it (objects) and think, 'Wait a minute.' It took a conscious effort to say, 'That's not what I think it is.'"



Dave Dunford said this shiny, silver flying object did not make a sound as it flew over Cadillac Aug. 27 at about 8:30 p.m. He believes it's not a plane because it didn't have a vapor trail, and it's not a blimp because it didn't have a platform for people to stand on.

THE EXPERT'S OPINION

Cadillac News submitted four of what Dunford thought were the best photos to National UFO Reporting Center's Web site in order to get another opinion on whether the objects in Dunford's pictures are UFOs. Two of the four photos that were the least blurry were published with this article.

Peter Davenport, director of National UFO Reporting center said he inspected the four photos, and said, "none of them, in my opinion, is a photo of a genuine UFO."

"Despite the photographer's apparent belief that he has 'UFO's' on film, I don't think the data provided allow a serious-minded investigator to make that conclusion," said Davenport, who is more focused on UFOs in terms of alien aircraft.

Davenport said the photo taken near Mitchell Street "clearly is a bird ... with its wings extended." In the photo of a silver, shiny object, Davenport said it's not a genuine UFO craft from another world and noted "it's blurry, it's too far away in distance, and it's indistinct." He also stated that Dunford's photo of "three dark objects" is too blurry to gather enough information to determine that they are alien aircraft.

Noting that photos of genuine alien craft are "extremely rare," Davenport estimated that one out of every 1,000 photos sent to his center is a genuine UFO photo.

"I have seen probably not more than half a dozen (photos of genuine UFOs) in the 13 years that I have served as director of the National UFO Reporting Center," he said.

While there is no one test for deciding whether an object is a UFO, Davenport holds strong to his belief that the Dunford's photographs are not genuine UFOs.

"There's no test that is definitive," he said. "I cannot certify that they are not UFOs ... but in the final analysis I assume they are not."

AIRPORT AND POLICE REPORT

In some of Dunford's photographs — whether they were UFOs or not — there were clearly objects in the sky.

If the objects were planes, John Jenkins, airport attendant at Wexford County Airport, said it could simply be the case that planes were in the air, but weren't logged on Aug. 27; he also noted that no UFOs were reported on that date.

(continued on page 3)

YOUR LOCAL CONNECTION

PHOTOGRAPHING UFOS

- Set your camera or video camera on a tripod. This way any apparent motion evident in subsequent photos is a result of the motion of the UFO, and not the camera.
- It's fundamental that people take good quality photos when photographing a UFOs, because blurry photos or tiny specs on the film cannot be analyzed sufficiently.
- Take multiple shots of the same scene. If you do this, you'll better be able to tell if the object in question is in motion. UFOs are typically in motion, which is something Dunford typically looks for.
- Photograph planes, birds, insects while they're in flight, because these objects are often confused for UFOs. This way you'll be better able to distinguish a genuine UFO from a regular object.
- Take all the pictures you have of the sky and put them on a computer. This way you'll be able to zoom-in on your photos and look for UFOs.
- Follow the scientific method. Look for dust and scratches, among others. And try to disprove yourself as much as possible before concluding that the object is a UFO.
- Look for 3-dimensional objects, light reflecting off the surface, shadows being cast, a differentiation in color and a "halo" glow in order to deem the photos possible UFOs, according to Dunford.
- Log all dates, times, places and witnesses of sightings.
- Don't get scared. Dunford said, "If this is true alien technology and they plan to invade, they would have."

Source: Peter Davenport and Dave Dunford

YOUR LOCAL CONNECTION

ABOUT THE SIGHTINGS

- What UFOs he saw: Dunford saw a strange and silvery object in the sky; then three dark objects in a zoomed-in photo; a relative's picture revealed a dark, disk-shaped object.
- What he believes: "I can't say they're being piloted by little green men, but they're UFOs ... they're unidentified, they're flying and they're objects," he said.
- Dunford's camera: Nikon Coolpix 4300 4.0 megapixel digital camera
- Dunford's message: If aliens are out there, Dunford said, "Come closer, I want a better shot of you!"
- Report your findings: www.ufocenter.com
- Reported findings in Michigan: www.nuforc.org/webreports/ndxIML.html
- Michigan's standings: With a total of 1,080 reported UFO sightings, Michigan is currently ranked No. 10 out of 69 states in North America. California zooms into first place with 5,405 reported sightings, while Virgin Islands zaps in the lowest number with only two reported sightings. Currently, there are nine reported sightings in the greater Cadillac area.

The only thing Cadillac's airport would've tracked is if a plane had radioed the airport or if a plane landed at the airport and checked-in, Jenkins said. Pilots are not required to check-in at the Cadillac airport, and if it was after 5 p.m., there are no employees there to witness whether a pilot had landed and checked-in their plane, Jenkins added.

The operations manager of Minneapolis Air Route Traffic Control Center, whose traffic control center supervises Wexford County Airport, also said nobody at his station remembers anything about planes or UFOs being logged on that day; normally pilots won't log anything "because it's paper, and he's not required to," he said.

Elizabeth Cory, spokeswoman for Federal Aviation Administration, said there haven't been any recent unusual sightings near the Cadillac area. But with 6,000 planes flying over the U.S. at a given time, she said the sky gets pretty congested.

"There's going to be aircraft at any given time flying over your (Cadillac's) area, and they're not always logged," said Cory, referring to the notion that the objects may simply be planes that haven't been logged.

And according to Jenkins, the silver, shiny rectangular object Dunford saw could've been a low-flying plane.

Planes that fly at very high altitudes will leave vapor trails because the air is colder at higher elevations and the exhaust from the plane is hot, which creates the vapor trail, Jenkins said. However, if a plane is flying closer to the earth, the plane may not have a vapor trail, because the air temperature is warmer. Jenkins also added, "it's not unusual for a plane not to make a lot of noise."

Wexford County Sheriff Gary Finstrom said there were no reports regarding UFO sightings in Cadillac's area on Aug. 27; Finstrom also has been an officer for 30 years and does not recall any reports of UFO sightings in the area. Michigan State Police Sgt. Sergeant Michael Salasky also said he didn't receive any reports regarding sightings on Aug. 27; Salasky also has no knowledge of reported UFO sightings while he's been in office for the past 20 years.

If there are aliens manning saucers in Cadillac's sky, it seems they're just like their buddy E.T. and want to go home, because police and traffic control centers in our area have not recently logged any UFO sightings.

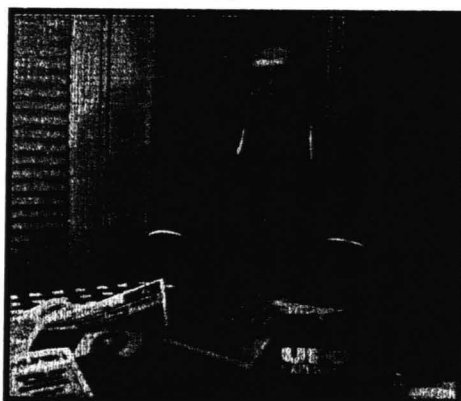
But while there may not be any official documents of UFOs in our area, National UFO Reporting Center's Web site shows there has been 1,080 reported sightings in Michigan to this date. With a total of 1,080 reported sightings, Michigan is currently ranked No. 10 out of a total of 69 states and provinces in North America. According to the Web site there have been nine sightings in the greater Cadillac area; the most recent sighting in our area was in Evart on approximately Aug. 27, 2006 at 1 a.m. two miles from M-115 on M-66 northeast of Evart. The report detailed a person witnessing an object that looked like a satellite, which turned very bright then went out of sight.

If any aliens are reading this, Dunford has a message for you.

"Come closer, I want a better shot of you!" he said.

OUTLOOK, Gresham, OR - July 25, 2007

Right: Tom Bowden, of Gresham, says the best way to learn about UFOs is to read books. Here he displays some of his extensive library on the subject. One of the best books, he says, is "The UFO Experience, A Scientific Inquiry" by J. Allen Hynek.



MUFON MEETINGS

What: Mutual UFO Network's monthly meetings.

Where: In an office building at 1441 S.E. 122nd Ave.

When: 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month.

For more information: Go to www.mufon.com or e-mail tomr.bowden@verizon.net.

Beyond belief

For Gresham's Tom Bowden, UFOs are serious business

BY KARI HASTINGS
staff writer

Tom Bowden knows he can be a bit long-winded when it comes to UFOs. But who could blame him? It's taken him a lifetime to learn what he knows. His passion for science fiction and space travel began when he was a child in the 1950s, when all the country was abuzz with talk of astronauts, space-ships and ... yes, flying saucers and aliens, too.

The Gresham resident has read countless books, studies and reports on unidentified flying objects and their implications for the human race. It is ridiculous to expect him to sit down with a visitor and explain the UFO phenomenon over the last 60 years in a mere two hours.

He's not always forthcoming about the fact that he's the state director for MUFON (Mutual UFO Network). He doesn't readily talk about his work as a field investigator who conducts lengthy interviews of "experiencers" (people who have seen a UFO or been abducted) or about his painstaking documentation of the incidents, which he files with MUFON's world headquarters in Denver, Colo.

To be too open about this subject is to invite ridicule, raised eyebrows, laughter.

Some think he's buying into propaganda. Some offer up an alien joke. Some think he's drunk. Or nuts. Or both.

But Tom Bowden, in his words, is just a "fairly average person."

He lives in a quiet suburban neighborhood in Southwest Gresham, at the end of a cul-de-sac, with his wife, Sue, and their cat.

His back deck looks out on a lovely pond surrounded by tall, mature trees. On a recent summer night, the sky seems to stretch endlessly toward the horizon in deep shades of midnight blue.

The computer programmer and outdoorsman scans the night sky and sighs.

"I don't see them," he says. "I'd like to. I want to. But I'm just not lucky. Some people see them all the time. Some people attract them. We don't know why."

Well, there was that one time. A little silver object. There, then gone. No rational explanation.

But it most certainly was not "noteworthy," he says.

That's another thing about Bowden. He's not an alarmist. Nor is he reactionary or prone to exaggeration.

In fact, much of his fieldwork is spent explaining away "sightings."

For example, several reports came in to the Oregon MUFON Web site between June 18-20 — sightings of two bright lights, one chasing the other. Bowden knew there was activity on the international space station. He knew the space shuttle Atlantis was ready to depart. He knew Russia had two service modules in the air.

That's what people saw.

But there are other cases he can't make sense of, like the one in August 2003. A Portland man was driving down Division Street and saw lights.

He turned onto Angeline Avenue and saw that it was a dark shadowy triangle, about 70 to 90 feet in length with lights on the corners, hovering about 500 feet above ground. He blinked, tried to rationalize it. Maybe it was a plane, a stealth bomber, a military craft.

He turned onto Fifth Street. It was right in front of him.

While he was reaching for his camera, the triangular object swiveled in place and sped away.

The man knew then that it wasn't a plane. A plane would have had to bank as it turned. This thing turned, as if on an axis.

If one person saw it, Bowden thought, most likely others did too.

He created an ambiguous flier, with a crude drawing of a triangle with lights on it and put his phone number on the bottom. He posted them all over the neighborhood. Three weeks later, a woman called to say she'd seen it.

The woman's story mirrored the man's almost exactly. The report is on file with the MUFON database.

In May, another woman reported seeing a bright light just below the moon. Her sighting was from Gresham, toward the east. It couldn't have been landing lights from an airplane — the bright light was still and then disappeared. It wasn't the right place for Jupiter or Venus.

It too, will be logged as an unidentified flying object.

It's easy to be skeptical, Bowden says. It's easy to be a naysayer. But when you've read and studied the mountains of available evidence and reports, it changes you.

"For me, it's beyond belief," he says. "I know intelligently controlled UFOs are real. ... There's something going on that can't be denied."

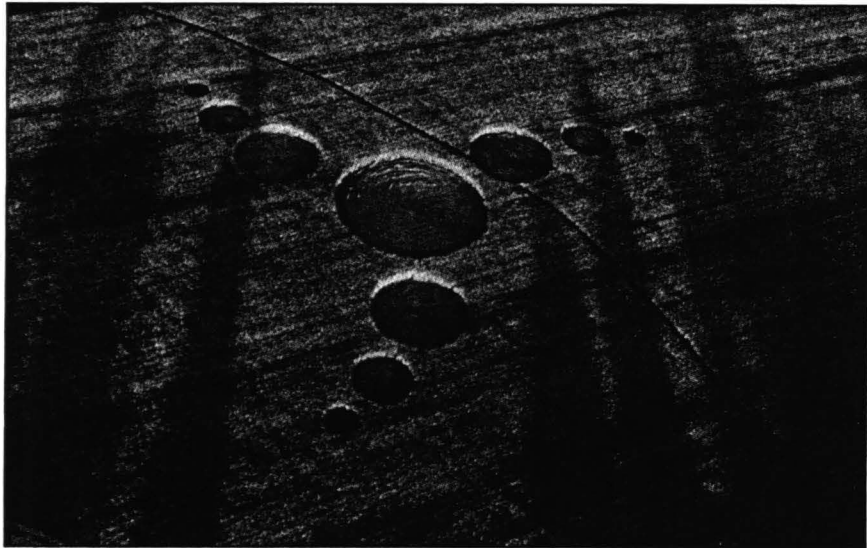
Bowden believes there are several races of extraterrestrials. And they are not, he says, necessarily nice.

"I would not want to assume that they're benevolent," he says. "I don't think that would be safe."

It is very possible, Bowden says, that aliens are working on some sort of human/alien hybrid that would eventually replace humans on earth.

His theories may seem far-fetched to some, but Bowden believes that's because of an effort to keep the people in the dark.

(continued on page 4)



Crop circles in Todd Young's wheat field June 10, 2003 shows 10 circles, the largest of which is more than 40-feet in diameter.

Recalling those crop circles

by Fred Martin

June 8, 2003 began as any other Sunday morning in the Knobel area including Bruce Catt flying his ultralight aircraft over rich farmland covered with maturing wheat and rice levees directing water as they are designed.

Catt spotted one exception. Todd Young's crop on the Gibb's Farm was different. Right in the middle of Young's 82-acre wheat plot, just 100 yard east of Bond Cemetery was a symmetrical design consisting of 10 circles, each perfectly positioned in relation to the other.

Clay County had its first reported "crop circle."

By mid morning, Catt's telephone call to Young broke the news of this unusual occurrence of which no one knew the exact origin of its cause.

Early the next day, Monday, June 9, 2003 Young accompa-

nied several persons to the scene for pictures. While many thought the crop circles were of an unknown nature, Young remained skeptical. He was hesitant in expressing his feelings concerning how the circles got there, but spoke of a "lot of wasted time by whoever may be responsible."

On the other hand, the clockwise direction that each plant had fallen raised a doubt as to how this could have been accomplished.

"If anything odd has to happen, it always happens to me," Young stated. "I really don't know what did it. Why was this place chosen? It's hard to tell if there are trails through the wheat. Animals make trails or paths, but none look like the path we just made coming into the area."

The largest crop circle mea-

sured approximately 42 feet in diameter, as Young stepped off 14 steps and multiplied by three. Three circles approximately 28 feet in diameter were adjacent to the larger one, as if they were spinning away. Six other circles, three measuring 15 feet and the other three eight feet in diameter, fanned out in a clockwise turn. They were all in a symmetrical pattern that appeared to be to an exact measurement.

While in the wheat field, Young related that Bruce Catt had told him that it would have taken someone with a GPS (guidance) system to do the job that had been done.

"It is definitely unexplainable," Young added. "I don't know what happened, but by sundown today (Monday), this field will be cut."

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Recalling happenings of four

years ago, today Todd Young says he still doesn't know any more about it than when it happened. He still contends "someone wasted a lot of time."

Young remembers how his telephone rang "off the wall" immediately following the report of a crop circle. "Since then, there hasn't been much said about it," he adds.

This year, Young did not worry about crop circles in wheat because he didn't plant any. "It was so wet in the fall I couldn't get in the field, so there was no wheat planted this time," he explains.

May 25, 2004

Less than one year later, a second crop circle in the Knobel area was reported on the Schimming Farm.

At that time, The Courier's account honored a request from Rodney and Judy Schimming to refrain from using their names for fear large numbers of persons would converge on the wheat crop that was two to three weeks from maturity and harvest.

Tuesday of that week while standing in the midst of the design in his wheat, Schimming said he had heard from a pilot that the circle had been there for a couple days. "I've never seen anything like this," Schimming added. "There are no tracks coming in and no evidence that anyone has yet been in this field. There's not much difference in the color of that (wheat) standing and that on the ground, so it must not have happened too long ago."

Several persons were present for the first close-look look at the wheat. Their examination found the downed-crop layered and individual stalks interwoven in at least three different directions, thus squashing a theory of persons with long boards or planks crushing the wheat.

As in the crop circle of 2003, at least two bird nests were found, still intact and uncrushed.

Circular design

Persons who have examined many crop circles described Schimming's wheat design as a "moving wagon wheel." Inside the inner circle, approximately

12 feet wide, wheat was flattened in a clockwise direction. Standing wheat encircled that which was on the ground and the width of standing wheat was approximately 10 feet wide. Another circle of downed wheat was approximately 25 to 30 feet wide. Seven spokes with slight angles to the left extended more than 100 feet joining an outer circle containing downed wheat approximately 10 feet wide.

2007

Today, three years after the Schimming's crop circle experience, not much more is known than when it happened.

Judy Schimming expresses her feelings that perhaps it was a man-made design, but then adds, "You never know what magnetic forces of the earth may cause." She recalls relatives speaking of strange lights (gas balls) rising from sloughs and moving about. "This was many years ago. They didn't talk about it much because people would think they lost their minds, but they saw the lights many times and knew for certain it was not caused by people. They never did know the exact cause and we aren't exactly sure what caused these crop circles."

When that "wagon wheel" appeared in 2003 Schimming's crop consisted of over 200 acres of wheat compared to 130 acres this year.

Analysis

JoAnn Scarpellini, High Ridge, MO, an agent for Burke, Levengood, and Talbott (BLT), arrived on the scene less than one week after Schimming reported a design in his wheat field. She explained she has spent years researching "crop circles" and expressed delight in an opportunity to investigate the occurrence while the evidence was still available (before harvest).

Her report was filed on BLT's online website, www.bltresearch.com.

Until this day Young, Schimming and several reporters who went with them to the scene remain amazed by an unknown cause, perhaps a phenomenon, that leaves circles, lines and other configurations in the midst of a crop.



This wagon wheel design was spotted in Rodney Schimming's wheat field in May, 2004. The center of the wheel is about 12-feet in diameter.

(continued from page 3 - OUTLOOK, Gresham, OR - July 25, 2007)

"For the general public, there is very little information," he says. "Someone doesn't want us to know what's really going on."

Hollywood's version of spaceships and aliens is frustrating to Bowden.

"Steven Spielberg has made millions of dollars off aliens, but do you think he's ever even admitted that they might exist? Or donated some of that money for research?" he says.

The movie "Contact" bothered him too. The movie romanticized the Seti Institute, he says, which used to receive government funding and now exists on private funding.

"So they're sending radio transmissions out into space, and they're getting funding for that," Bowden says. "Do they ever think about the fact that UFOs have already been here?"

Meanwhile, Bowden lives his life. Takes reports. Goes to the national MUFON symposium every year. Puts in a fair amount of time sky watching. And his passion for UFOs never fades.

"Belief is like religion," he says. "It's a leap of faith."

Mid-Ohio Valley has long history of UFO sightings — some recent

Latest encounter was in 2005

By BRETT DUNLAP
Staff Writer



PARKERSBURG — The truth is out there. Parkersburg and West Virginia have had a long history of unexplained sightings in the sky with more than one person believing we have been visited

by those from another world. One of the most recent reported sightings in the Parkersburg area took place on Sept. 4, 2005, said Brian Vike, director of HBCC UFO Research in Houston, British Columbia. At around 6 p.m. on that

witnesses continued watching the "star" for several minutes before they lost track of it. Thinking it may have been a star or planet, they looked for the object on following days and evenings, but did not see it again. One of the most famous UFO sightings in the Mid-Ohio Valley involved the late Woodrow Derenberger on Nov. 2, 1966, said local author Susan Sheppard who wrote "Cry of the Banshee," which details the

the jungles of Vietnam."

Derenberger was a salesman, commuting daily from his farmhouse in Mineral Wells to his job in Marietta. On Nov. 2, 1966, he was driving home along a darkened Interstate 77 around 7 p.m. when he encountered a UFO similar to "the shape of a glass chimney of an old-fashioned kerosene lamp lying on its side, with a dome-like top."

Within a few minutes, a hatch opened and a human-looking individual exited the craft. Derenberger later described the individual as "like any man you would see on the street," and added, "there was really nothing exceptional about his appearance."

The individual, who introduced himself as "Cold," told Derenberger not to be afraid, that he meant no harm and he only wanted to ask a few questions. "But the Marietta businessman was alarmed because while the man talked, his lips did not move at all," Sheppard said.

Cold apparently pointed toward the city lights of Parkersburg that glowed in the distance and asked what that was. Derenberger answered it was Parkersburg, a city. Cold replied, "Where I come from, we call it 'a gathering.'"

Cold held a 10 to 15 minute conversation with Derenberger, discussing topics such as cities and towns, the climate, population and the farming of livestock in the area.

Once the conversation ended and Cold gave his farewell, he got back into his craft and flew off. Derenberger went home, and his wife convinced him to call the authorities. He recounted the story to a number of authorities.

He also said Cold, who later revealed the first name of "Indrid," remained in contact with him for awhile. He also claimed mysterious "men in black" visited him and threatened him if he didn't stop talking about the encounter.

"What really happened to Derenberger after Cold's visitations is open to speculation," Sheppard said. "Some say that Woodrow Derenberger went about his life as normally as possible, ignoring both public sympathies and insults."

Derenberger's sighting occurred a couple weeks before the appearance of the Mothman, the insect-like being believed responsible for or which foretold the collapse of the Silver Bridge in Point

Pleasant. The figure said to be a Mothman was a winged creature with large glowing red eyes reportedly seen around the state during the mid-1960s, causing havoc where ever it went.

This weekend the sixth annual Mothman Festival is being held in Point Pleasant.

Vike said UFO sightings are happening every day across the United States, Canada and the world. He handles around 1,200 reports a year, including UFO reports from West Virginia.

"It appears that UFO sightings are an ongoing issue," Vike said. "Folks are seeing a great number of UFOs, some explainable and others are just unknowns."

"I believe if more people were to take some time and watch the night sky they would certainly see a lot of moving objects, most are either satellites, aircraft, etc. However, they just might actually see something that is really unusual."

Vike said most UFO sightings are not reported, either to UFOlogists, media or the authorities. In many reports he receives, the names are kept confidential unless told otherwise by the witness. Vike does a regular radio show involving the topic of UFOs and has interviewed hundreds of people who said they have seen something.

"We are lucky to receive maybe 2 percent of what is actually witnessed," he said. "People still are afraid to come forward to report what they have seen, mostly worried about what others will say about them."

Vike said any reported sightings in West Virginia are always taken seriously.

"I am sure the Mothman incident will never go away, and there are researchers who are still looking for any clue from folks who may hold some knowledge of what took place there," he said. "A case is never forgotten. We just are waiting for a possible break to carry on with a case."

"I must admit that it is a tough job trying to find answers for the really unusual things seen above. Each sight-

ing is looked at and we try to find the answer for what it may have been."

Vike admits many people are sincere in reporting their sightings to him, but there are many who fabricate reports.

"Sometimes this can be an extremely hard part of UFOlogy, trying to figure out what is true or a simple hoax," he said. "I believe that most folks are telling the truth over what they saw. They are willing to be contacted by way of phone to discuss what they saw, plus they have other people with them at the time."

Usually filing reports from multiple sources and having other witnesses to collaborate the story can help witness credibility.

The theories about what people see vary, from secret military aircraft to the extraterrestrial, Vike said.

"Some folks believe the alien visitors are here to save mankind and that is going to happen soon," he said. "Some believe they are here to repopulate their dying world or the beings are here carrying out experiments on us, like we may do with animals."

"The list goes on. Some are excited about their belief in this helping hand from the visitors, and others are scared to death due to what they are going through being treated like a lab experiment. I guess there is good and bad from both sides of the fence on this topic."

Vike said he likes to stick to facts and not go into a lot of speculation.

"For me, trying to come up with a reasonable answer for what people see is the goal," he said.

"There are a lot of reports that come in, folks claiming they watched an alien spacecraft, this has turned out to be a lot of explainable, everyday things we see flying overhead, such as military aircraft, jet airliners, planets, stars, satellites and meteors, and so on."

"I do, however, believe in my heart that there are just so many excellent cases in which there are no answers for, hence they truly are UFOs."

Contact Brett Dunlap at bdunlap@newsandsentinel.com

POST-JOURNAL, Jamestown, NY - Sept. 28, 2007 CR: D. Munson

Information Center

IN YEARS PAST

• In 1957, Mrs. C.A. Welter of Prather Avenue, Jamestown, called *The Post-Journal* shortly after 9 a.m. to report that she had just spotted an object flying west over the city. The object appeared to be white in color, flat and round in shape, heading slowly toward Lakewood. Mrs. Welter, who reported that seven years ago she spotted what appeared to be a "flying saucer" over Elmira, said she called her husband who also saw the object. She said she spotted the object from the north window of her home and that it was high in the sky. She stated that it bore no resemblance to a plane or possible weather balloon.

50 ago

"Crop Circle" visitors, theories grow as national interest rises

The formation of crop circles that mysteriously appeared three weeks ago in a wheat field north of Wilbur continues to draw a steady stream of visitors, each with his or her own unique theory about how they got there.

By now, the downed wheat in the circles has been so trampled by the hundreds of people who have visited

the site that it now looks like "bedding in a barn" noted Jim Llewellyn. Llewellyn farms the field, which actually belongs to his sister, Mary Alice Llewellyn and their mother, Alice Llewellyn. (Two weeks ago the Register received incorrect information and mistakenly reported that the land belonged to the Engelson family.)

Just recently, the crop circles

caught the attention of the Spokane media, so now reports have been made covering a wider area. However, followers of crop circles learned about them through access to the internet or through some network of their own, and were here long before the city media arrived on the scene.

Not only the crop circles, but the colorful visitors themselves have pro-

vided a continued topic of conversation locally. Rumors abound, and nobody seems to know for sure which are authentic. We've heard that people have arrived at the scene of the crop circles wearing foil on their motorcycle helmets to prevent aliens from being able to read their thoughts. People are describing visitors wearing strange clothing, or even no cloth-

ing at all.

Earlier this week, Jim Llewellyn spoke to people at the site wearing clothing of a different culture (possibly from India) and speaking with a strong foreign accent. They were pleasant and visited with him before telling him that they had just scattered the ashes of their mother on the circles. They said she liked this area

COMMUNITY NEWS, Browns Mills, NJ - June 7, 2007

Sgt. gives alien account

By RICK MURRAY
Staff Writer

Air Force Sgt. Jeff Morse was a member of the 418th Police Squadron on the cold, clear and windy night of Jan. 18, 1978, when a little known but still lingering story of a UFO incident began to unfold on and around McGuire Air Force Base.

That is a version of events offered by Richard H. Hunt, an author on UFO and other topics, who as a veteran Ufologist says he has extensively investigated the case.

"What started out as a routine - almost boring - 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift assignment gradually took on nightmarish qualities as time passed," writes Hunt, whose work on the case is now featured on Ufology web sites.

Hunt's report offers the following account of how the night unfolded:

The moon hung high and full as Morse and his partner, Sgt. Mark Larimer, endured the cold - a fact owing to a faulty heater in their patrol car.

Shortly after 1 a.m., Morse radioed into the command post, offering to relieve guards at various base gates, so they could go to the bathroom or grab a quick bite to eat. Morse was directed to gate number five. (McGuire Historian Gary Boyd says the base does not now have, nor has it ever had, a gate number five.)

The two security officers proceeded to this gate five, located just off Texas Avenue (Route 545), which runs between McGuire and Fort Dix, the adjacent Army base.

"As they were en route to the gate, the radio suddenly crackled alive," writes Hunt. "Morse and Larimer heard a tense voice admonish them that sightings of unusual lights in the sky flying in formation had started coming in from scattered locations; that they should be on the alert for anything out of the ordinary."

Morse and his partner took the radio report as a

joke. They nonetheless got out of the car to look up and see what all the fuss was about.

"High in the sky, formations of odd-looking bluish-green lights were cavorting over the base," Hunt writes. "At first Morse and Larimer were shocked... They were single lights, not the familiar running lights of aircraft. And they were performing some pretty amazing aerobatics."

They counted 12 of the lights in all. Sometimes the lights flew in straight formations. Sometimes they gathered into a giant arrowhead. They seemed to course back and forth across the sky.

It was now about 3 a.m., and the two men could in the distance make out two police type vehicles flashing their array of roof lights along Wrightstown-Cookstown Road. The speeding vehicles seemed to be headed their way.

They soon heard over the radio from the command post that one of the vehicles was a state police cruiser, the other a Fort Dix Military Police vehicle. The sergeant on duty in the McGuire Command post had a frequency enabling him to communicate with the state police vehicle, which now wanted access to gate five.

Morse and Larimer were dispatched there, whereupon they encountered the trooper, who said he and the MP had been in pursuit of a low-flying object.

Communications, meanwhile, had abruptly cut out between the MP and the McGuire command post but only after the MP had radioed the Fort Dix command post that he had encountered an "oval object giving off a bluish green glow."

Once radio contact was resumed, the MP stuttered through an effusive narrative of how the object had hovered above his vehicle.

The MP then reported "that out of nowhere this 'thing' (his words), a being of some sort, had suddenly appeared directly in front of his vehicle.

"It was about four feet tall, grayish brown in color, with a proportionately large head, long arms, and a slender body," Hunt writes. "Badly frightened, the MP had panicked and fired five rounds from his 45 caliber pistol into the creature, and one upwards into the object hovering above him."

Security patrols on both bases converged on their adjoining fence lines, when suddenly the headlights of Morse's vehicle "revealed a motionless figure lying prone on the cold concrete in the middle of the inactive runway about 50 feet in front of them."

As Morse approached the body, he noticed "a pungent, ammonia-like stench in the air."

Morse was soon ordered to escort the state police officer off the base, as higher level security police arrived on the scene, armed with M-16s. Amid the confusion, it was clear that these new troops, who bore rank on their sleeves but no unit insignia, would take charge of tightening security immediately around the body.

Meanwhile, Morse and his partner were reduced to guarding the far perimeter of the area. But even from a distance, Morse could see "the body did not appear human" and that "it appeared slimy, almost snake-like in texture."

He saw the base "clinic personnel" spray the body with an unknown substance, then watched as a recovery team placed it in a crate. He says the crate was soon brought aboard a cargo plane for a flight to Wright Patterson Air Force Base, just outside Dayton Ohio.

Morse was soon transferred from McGuire, as were many other airmen who bore witness to the events of January 18.

Morse wound up in Guam, where he first heard a radio show by Ufologist Leonard H. Stringfield, which ultimately inspired him to tell his story.

so much (and something about the circles seemed to fit some belief system of theirs), so they felt it was appropriate to scatter her ashes on the spot.

Nancy Talbott of BLT Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts, called Llewellyn to ask for permission to bring a team of crop circle experts to the field to investigate. With his permission, she sent in a team from British Columbia, who spent part of two days conducting a systematic study and taking samples of wheat from the site of the circles, as well as from sites outside the circles for purposes of comparison. Talbott has indicated that she will provide Llewellyn with a report once the testing is completed. Her website can be reached by going to www.BLTResearch.com.

A group from some sort of museum in Seattle visited, as did people from various locations around the country. Llewellyn said that everyone he has talked to has been friendly and polite, and they seem to represent every conceivable thought pattern. Some firmly believe the crop circles were created by man, while others are just as convinced they were created by aliens, or even by some mysterious force of nature we don't yet understand.

The formation has changed considerably since it was first discovered by Mitch Sorensen and Steve Reed on June 27. Obviously, it dried out in the heat and the standing wheat around it has begun to ripen. In addition, the many visitors have knocked down 1/3 of the center circle of standing wheat and there are trails from people walking through and all around the formation.

In addition, the perfect design has been impacted by a small circle, which someone "stomped down" near the

original formation. According to Peter Davenport of the National UFO Reporting Center in Davenport, "To the observer, it (this new circle) appears to be substantially different in nature than the original formation." It seems the extra circle was most likely added as a joke.

Llewellyn feels the initial rush of interest may be slowing down a bit. For example, he noted, earlier there were airplanes circling overhead daily, or even several times a day, but these have slowed down to every other day or so.

In any case, he expects it will all be over within the next few weeks when he harvests the field.

Oh, just one more thing... It seems that early in the morning on Sunday, June 24, a few days before the crop circles were first spotted, Pete Carstensen was driving east on Douglas Road when he stopped to pick up what appeared to be two high school age boys.

The boys, who were strangers to Carstensen, were walking toward Wilbur and when he asked them where they had come from, they said they had been on Bagdad Road and Birchill Road. In addition, they indicated they had been "left" and had been out all night. Carstensen took them to Wilbur and dropped them off in Dane Town.

The crop circles are located near Birchill Road, 3/4 of a mile from Bagdad Road.

Were the boys abducted by aliens in a UFO and left near the site of the mysterious crop circles, or were they left by a group of friends with the know-how and expertise to create the crop circles? Or is there some other explanation? The mystery deepens...

And, in any case, just who are these boys?

COURIER & PRESS, Evansville, IN - Oct. 18, 2007

UFO network meeting Saturday

By JACOB BENNETT
Courier & Press staff writer

Strange lights are still flashing above the Midwest, so Jerry Sievers and his friends with the Mutual UFO Network of Indiana are getting together again to try to figure out why.

Sievers is the state director of the network, which gets together twice a year to discuss recent cases and, sometimes, to hear witness accounts.

They're meeting from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Blue Jeans Community Center, 1242 Main St., in Monroe City, Ind.

The guests this time include

a Central Indiana woman who says she has been abducted numerous times since she was 5.

She doesn't want to be identified, but she told Sievers that she has been abducted from her bedroom window and examined by little gray beings.

"She's had quite a history of stuff happening to her," Sievers said. "I asked her to give me a rundown. She filled up three audio tapes."

Attendees at this year's meeting could also hear from Roger Sugdon, a Fort Wayne, Ind., man who investigates crop circles, and from witnesses of a February UFO inci-

dent near paranormal hot spot Lucky Point, Ind.

"The first witness said it came down like an airplane on fire from eight miles away from her," Sievers said.

"Within about half an hour we had 10 different witnesses from all over the area calling in, said it was playing around the tree line, then went down below the tree line and disappeared. They said it must have been 100 feet along, disc-shaped with three orange triangle lights underneath."

"It lasted about 10 minutes. It just disappeared. Nobody could find any wreckage or evidence of a crash."



FOREIGN NEWS

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

STAR & MERSEYMART, Anfield & Walton, England - Aug. 16, 2007

Throwing light on a moving mystery

THE LIVERPOOL LIGHTS

STRANGE lights are being seen across Liverpool, from Crosby to Kirkby, from Speke to Seaforth, and several readers have even provided me with photographic proof of these mysterious luminous entities.

On Monday, August 6, at around 7.30pm, a woman visiting a relative at Broadgreen Hospital was astounded to see a ball of light hovering less than 100 yards from the hospital main entrance.

"I thought it was a flare at first," says the witness, "but could plainly see no parachute. I took two pictures of the light with my phone camera, but it only came out on one. I didn't see it move off or vanish, I just looked back and saw it had gone."

My first thought was that the glowing orb had been 'ball lightning' - a



Local Mysteries

with TOM SLEMEN

poorly understood meteorological phenomenon in which a luminous sphere of energy manifests itself in mid-air, sometimes during thunderstorms, but also on clear sunny days.

These balls of what seem to be superheated plasma have drifted into houses through open windows and exploded, and in one local case in the 1970s, a housewife tried to swat a globe of ball lightning away with her hand, and her wedding ring melted instantly and dripped onto her kitchen floor, yet she never sustained a burn.

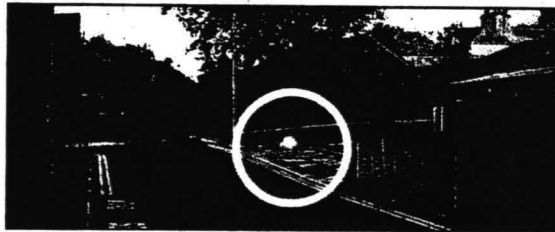
Instead, the ball exploded and she was left with mild concussion. If the lights being seen across this region are ball lightning, the weather may be to blame, as we have had alternating days of rainy and sunny weather recently, but the reports of the Liverpool Lights seem to defy such a rational explanation.

In West Derby Village on August 1, at 8pm, a small golf-ball-sized light was seen whizzing along Meadow Lane.

The light followed the curvature of the lane, flying about 6ft from the ground, and flew upwards over Muirhead Avenue East.

A 16-year-old girl named Chloe saw this mini-UFO heading straight towards her as she walked onto Meadow Lane from Parkside Drive, and thought it was a fireworks rocket coming in her direction.

An identical ball of light was seen on



● An alleged photo of the mysterious light (circled) seen outside Broadgreen Hospital

Code NA

the following night at rooftop level in Bootle, flying over Selwyn Street at 10.20pm, and later that same night, two unidentified lights which left a greenish trail behind them were seen flying over Queens Drive, Walton.

A 53-year-old man named Steven Garrett saw a bright light hovering outside his cousin's window on Park Road, Toxteth, on August 5, and he initially assumed it was one of Mer-

seyside Police's remote-controlled CCTV helicopter 'spy drones' but when Steven got a close look at the light he could see it not only had nothing attached to it, it was 'silent as the grave' and it suddenly flitted off at an incredible speed towards the Brunswick Dock.

● The Tom Slemen Ghost Walk is booked solid for the next six weeks. Email Tom at tom@slemen.com to get a place on the walk.

ADVERTISER, Oldham, England - Aug. 9, 2007



The truth is out there?

JOHN with an image he took of the object put through the video onto his TV screen and (above) an image he took on his mobile phone showing the bright light hovering in the sky

by Ruhubia Akbor

JOHN Tupman believes the eyes of fellow borough residents should be turned to the sky after a mysterious sighting has even peaked the interest of UFO experts.

Like something straight out of an 'X-File', 30-year-old John spotted an unusually bright light from the window of his flat on Abbey Hills Road.

The round, torch-like light remained static on the horizon between Harthead Pike and Tameside for almost two hours - giving John and his friend, Martin Hynes, plenty of time to grab their cam-

A baffled John told the Advertiser: "It wasn't even moving and it changed colours to green and purple and you could see patterns and lines within it."

"It just hovered for ages and it was much bigger than a plane - it lit up the clouds around it."

"I haven't got a clue what it was. I've seen planes and blimps, but never anything like this before."

"If you were stood on the hill it would be gigantic compared to the electricity mast next to it. The brightness caught my attention first as I have a telescope and it was so bright it nearly blinded me. I just can't explain it."

John's dad Harold also witnessed the phenomenon and is just as confused.

He said: "At first I thought it was the moon but I looked at it again and could see particles and patterns in it. It was a bit too low for the moon and too bright as well."

"I thought it was a spotlight of a police helicopter but it wouldn't have stayed up there that long. It was in the same position for two hours at least."

"I thought it'd be all over the TV the day after, but nothing was said."

The mysterious sighting took place back in November, but it's taken this long for John to get his claims taken seriously.

However, the video footage has now gone to the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) and John has also been invited to visit the Government's former top investigator - a real life 'Fox Mulder' - at a conference in Glastonbury.

John spoke to Nick Pope, who used to head the Ministry of Defence's UFO Project, and he has now suggested that the images should be sent to the MoD.

BUFORA will also analyse and evaluate the footage

before launching preliminary enquiries into the sighting.

A usually sceptical John said: "I believe more now that I have seen this. I've always been interested in this type of thing but never thought I'd catch something like this on camera."

"I haven't got a clue what it is so we'll just have to wait and see what the organisations say."

"It's all pretty scary - there are no man-made structures in that area and my friends went up in the car the next day and found nothing."

"I'm just glad I caught it on tape. I came out and it just disappeared. It's left me a bit gob-smacked."

John not alone in UFO sighting

SIGHTING of UFOs have been reported twice above Greater Manchester in the past year and four times in Oldham over the course of the past eight years. They were revealed last week under the Freedom of Information Act, which saw the Ministry of Defence open its books for the first time.

Defence officials admit they keep an eye open for sightings because of the possible implications for national security. Most of the UFOs reported are said to have either a rational explanation - or none at all.

Earlier this year three silver unidentified flying objects were seen hovering above Chorlton, South Manchester.

In a second sighting, an orange ball was spotted high above Irlam, Salford. Before John's sighting, the last recorded run-in with a UFO in Oldham was on September 9, 2006, when five orange fireballs were spotted in the sky. There was also a cigar-shaped object in 2004 and in 2000 in Saddleworth. The fourth, back in 1999, was a bright white light.

Between 2000 and 2006, air crews reported UFOs on 13 occasions. A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority said: "Sometimes UFOs are weather balloons, sometimes they are military jets and, sometimes, we just don't know."

ECHO, Lincolnshire, England - Aug. 3, 2007

29 sightings of UFOs in county since 1998

THERE have been 29 sightings of unidentified flying objects in Lincolnshire over the last decade, the Government has revealed.

UFO sightings in the county have been a talking point among professionals and experts for years.

And some county people are convinced they have seen strange aerial goings-on them-

selves. "It was like nothing I had seen before, it was conical-shaped with bright orange lights, so there was no chance of it being an aircraft," said Beth Clarkson (59) from Skellingthorpe, near Lincoln.

"The triangular-shaped object was hovering over the roofs of our houses. After contacting our local RAF air base at Scampton, they denied any sort of activity,

but there was definitely something unique about this."

Officially, the Ministry of Defence's policy is to examine reports solely to establish whether UK airspace may have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised military activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat, there is no attempt to identify the nature of each sighting reported.

Details of the UFO sightings by members of the public between 1998 and 2006 were released in response to a series of Freedom of Information requests.

It comes as the MoD prepares to publish its UFO files dating back to 1967.

The documents due for release are witness reports of apparent UFO sightings, many by civil pilots and military personnel.

'Strange light'

HAVE you seen anything strange over the skies of Grimsby?

If so, you are not alone.

Katie Jarvis (14) said she had spotted a silver dish with a bright light on the front hovering over Binbrook at around 3.15am on Friday.

She said: "It was hovering for about five seconds then it just suddenly spun off and I never saw it again."

● Have you seen anything out there? If you think you may have seen a UFO in the Lincolnshire skies let us know at newsdesk@grimsbytelegraph.co.uk or call (01472) 372236.

EVENING TELEGRAPH, Grimsby, England - Sept. 18, 2007

Close encounter recounted

BY KELLY SHIERS
The Canadian Press

HALIFAX — One night four decades ago, Laurie Wickens followed a familiar coastal road to Shag Harbour in southwestern Nova Scotia and landed in the middle of one of the world's best-known UFO cases.

He was just a couple of weeks shy of his 18th birthday back then, a young man from nearby Bear Point who had quit school the year before to fish with his father and uncle.

Now, 57, with that career mostly behind him, he recalls the drive with friends on a cold and clear autumn night as if it happened yesterday.

"What was happening, it's still vivid in my mind," he said recently, as Shag Harbour prepared to celebrate the 40th anniversary of its very own close encounter.

On Oct. 4, 1967, Wickens and his friends thought the flashing row of orange-yellow lights in the sky must be a plane, even though they had never seen anything quite like it before.

"One light would come on, then two, then three, then four, then they'd all go out for a second, then they'd repeat," he said.

"It seemed to be going along with us for, I don't know, three or four minutes, while we were driving up to Middle Shag Harbour. . . . As we started

to make the corner, the lights, instead of flying level, they started flying maybe a 45-degree angle down towards the water. We (were) at the bottom of the hill, and we only lost sight of it for a few seconds and when we made the top of the hill, the light was in the water."

Wickens rushed to the nearest payphone a couple of kilometres down the road.

He'd just seen a plane crash into the water, he told the skeptical officer at the Barrington Passage RCMP detachment.

"And the first thing the cop said was, 'What have you been drinking?'"

By all accounts, his was the first call to police that night — but not the last.

"The people who saw it coming down all thought an aircraft was crashing and that's what they reported," said Don Ledger, co-author of *Dark Object: The World's Only Government-Documented UFO Crash*.

As a result, local fishermen raced to the water with their boats, hoping to rescue survivors.

Within hours, a half-dozen boats, including one carrying Wickens, were searching the area under the direction of the RCMP and the military.

But the only thing found was a patch of bubbling water and strange yellow foam some 25 metres wide.

In the following days, navy divers scoured the ocean floor. Navy ships were anchored nearby. There were reports that American officials were in the area and speculation that the mysterious object might have been an experimental war machine.

"They spent a lot of money looking for what people said they seen going in the water . . . It's not like anybody was trying to hide it. Everybody was just trying to figure out what it was," said Ledger.

FRONT PAGE: The Chronicle Herald of October 7, 1967



District is UFO hotspot

OFFICIAL figures have confirmed Keighley's standing as a UFO hotspot. Information just released by the Ministry of Defence reveals it has recorded six UFO sightings across the district since 1999.

And many other incidents are believed to go unreported to the ministry.

Recorded sightings in Keighley include one just before midnight in June 2003, when the log states: "One large object/aircraft that had a bright white light was moving west to east".

In June 2001 there was a report of "three lights, triangle-shaped. There was a static

red light. They moved slowly in a straight line".

There have also been recorded sightings of objects above the moors between Riddlesden and Ilkley.

Every year more than 100 UFO sightings nationally are reported to the MoD, which is required to investigate each one.

A spokesman said: "We examine reports solely to establish whether UK airspace may have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised military activity."

"If required, sighting reports are examined with the assistance of the department's air defence experts."

"Unless there is evidence of a potential threat, there is no attempt to identify the nature of each sighting."

Over the years the Keighley News has reported on many sightings of unexplained objects in the district's skies and the area has long been considered a hotspot by leading UFO investigators.

Strange sights in the skies over Tamworth

By Laura Vickers
NEWS REPORTER

SOME spooky goings on have been spotted in Tamworth's night skies.

Reports of UFO activity have been followed by sightings of a supposed meteorite landing close to No Man's Heath.

Civic Society president Joyce Smith was witness to the UFO sighting in the early hours of Thursday morning (August 2).

She was dozing in her Hospital Street home when she became aware of a loud humming noise at around 3am.

Believing it to be a helicopter she opened the curtains but described being blinded by a huge saucer-shaped light hovering towards the house.

"I couldn't work out what the devil it was," said Mrs Smith.

"It was very bright with a blue coloured halo around it."

"It lit the whole area up for quite a while. It wasn't moving quickly, more like hovering."

The light travelled from the direction of Leyfields, floating over the railway line and across the fields behind Moorgate Primary School.

As it drew closer to Hos-



Unexplained sight... Joyce Smith was woken from her sleep by a strange object in the sky. (SI)

pital Street Mrs Smith became more concerned.

"I shut the curtains quickly. It was quite scary," she said.

"There was certainly something strange happening."

No Man's Heath resident Peter Stockton had an equally unexpected experience on Sunday night (August 5).

He told the *Herald* he was enjoying a rare balmy evening on the patio of his Austrey Lane home when a ball of light streaked across the sky about 100 feet above the ground.

He said: "It went behind some trees in my garden and I lost sight of it."

"It appeared to go towards Tamworth so I assume it must have landed somewhere in the town."

"It was over in 10 to 15 seconds and there was no noise."

"If a farmer finds it please tell my wife as she is very dubious."

Mid-August is regarded by stargazers as meteorite season as the nights get dark enough for Britons to appreciate them.

● See letter to the editor - p10

More reports of UFO lights

SOUTH LONDON PRESS, London, England - Aug. 14, 2007

REPORTS of UFO sightings have come flooding in to the *South London Press* following trails of bright lights being spotted in the night skies.

A number of witnesses have come forward after we reported on the mysterious lights being spotted flying in formation above East Dulwich on August 4.

Mike Hall, 63, of Therapia Road, East Dulwich, was in his back garden when the UFOs passed directly overhead.

He said: "I counted at least 20 and the light was intense, but as they passed over me they were completely silent."

"The night was still and there was no breeze, there was absolute silence."

"I have never seen anything

like it in my life."

Anton Raes, of Sydenham, caught the string of lights on his camera phone. But he said despite their brightness they hardly showed up in pictures. He said: "I never have believed in UFOs or aliens or anything like that before."

"I would normally laugh at things like that."

"I could clearly see it was not a plane or a star."

"You could see planes flying past and instantly notice the difference."

Despite several reports of the unexplained lights, the Ministry of Defence has remained silent on the matter, saying that it will only investigate such an incident if there is a perceived threat.

Nothing spatial in Macc UFO sightings

EXPRESS, Macclesfield, England - Aug. 8, 2007

WE ARE not alone — if mysterious information held by the Ministry of Defence about 'other worldly' activity in Macclesfield is anything to go by.

MoD witness reports of UFO sightings revealed that a strange sight on the Macclesfield skyline was one of the 97 incidents over the past year where unidentified flying objects were reported throughout the UK.

The information, made available by the Freedom of Information Act, revealed stunned onlookers lodged a report of a spinning object hovering over Macclesfield, on June 18, 2006.

At around 6.45pm, observers noted the unexplainable flying device — which was said to have been a dull grey metallic colour, with a triangular part on both sides — as it crossed the Cheshire skyline.

Although it may seem more akin to the X-Files, the MoD state their

by Laura Thistlethwaite

defence officials keep an eye open for sightings because of the possible implications for national security.

Most of the UFOs reported either have a rational explanation or none at all, but the Ministry do keep the records of all reports and analyse many of them in detail.

Dr Tim O'Brien, senior lecturer in astrophysics at Jodrell Bank, said it was unlikely the sightings were actually connected to extra terrestrial life. He said: "Most astronomers believe there is life out there somewhere, however, I don't believe that any other lifeforms have visited Earth."

"We do actively search for life elsewhere, for example on Mars, but that is not likely to be intelligent life. We also search for extra terrestrials using radio signals — but we've never found anything."



A sighting of a UFO in Macclesfield was just one of 97 nationally last year

However, there has been a flurry of UFO sightings in the Macclesfield over recent years. Residents have reported several strange sightings including whirling lights over the golf course, lasers in the sky over Rushton Spencer and even council leisure boss Bill North spotted a UFO hovering over South Park.

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation

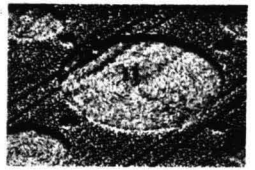
Authority said: "Sometimes UFOs are weather balloons, sometimes they are military jets, and sometimes we just don't know." The MoD reports feature other north west sightings, including an incident in Crewe when very bright lights were seen for over half an hour, hovering quite slowly from side to side and a giant orange ball seen over the skies of Manchester.

Saskatchewan farmer admits prank is to blame for crop circles in field

If you want to stay on Calvin Michel's good side, do not ask him about that circular patch of flattened wheat in one of his fields. After the crop circle was discovered on his farm on Aug. 26 near St. Gregor, Sask., Mr. Michel and his family were bombarded with media requests for interviews and calls from paranormal buffs wanting to visit the scene of the "phenomenon." The fact a circle showed up in a barley crop

on the same field back in 2005 made the latest discovery all the more tantalizing. The circles, similar to the ones pictured, received national press coverage. A field researcher with the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network inspected the latest circle and declared it "authentic." Not quite, Mr.

Michel said on Sunday he has learned that crop circles were a prank, pulled on him by an unnamed friend who admitted to making the circles over the past three years. CanWest News Service



WHEAT WONDER

ECHO, Sunderland, England - July 14, 2007

CROWDED SKIES

Government's X-files reveal a spate of UFOs over Wearside ...

But are they aliens?

By JANE O'NEILL
echo.news@northeast-press.co.uk

IS there anybody out there?

New Government files reveal an array of unexplained objects has been spotted hovering in our skies.

Records held by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) show seven UFO (unidentified flying object) reports have been logged across Wearside and East Durham since 1999.

And the Echo's archives show the area may be a hot spot for extra-terrestrial fliers.

MoD reports confirm one UFO incident at Sunderland, when a lone silver pyramid-shaped object was reported during October last year.

Two incidents of UFO activity were reported at Seaham, and a further two at Hetton. One incident was recorded in Durham, and one in Peterlee.

But Echo readers have been involved in close encounters since the 1950s.

Most dramatic was the tale of former Sunderland soldier Gordon Brown, who claimed to have seen a flying saucer above the pitch at Roker Park on September 22, 1951.

He spoke to the Echo in December 1993, after he claiming he had been sworn to secrecy by MoD experts, who linked his sighting with the famous Roswell incident.

The then 64-year-old appealed for witnesses and said the episode had dominated his life.

A large, bright object was spotted streaking across the skies over Sunderland on New Year's Eve 1978.

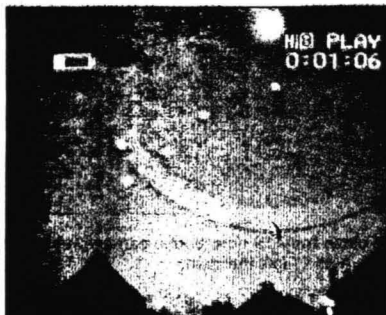
Scores of Wearsiders contacted the Echo to report the mysterious fireball. But military experts claimed it was part of a Russian spacecraft re-entering the Earth's atmosphere.

In September 1980, a silver flying saucer was seen hovering above houses on Deptford Road in Millfield, Sunderland.

Iris Turner, who spotted the mysterious silver craft, said it moved "like a frisbee".



MYSTERY LIGHTS: UFOs or balloons? Screen grab image from a DVD film captured on camera by Ian Craggs. Top, ET the loveable extraterrestrial from Steven Spielberg's film.



In the same year, cigar-shaped objects were spotted silently circling the former Sunderland Airport.

A bright "star-like" object terrified three friends after it shot in front of their car in the early hours of August 27, 1988.

Civil servant Steve Barksby, then 22, of Shiny Row, sister Jill, and friend Tara Patterson, saw the mystery light as they drove from Great Lumley to Shiny Row.

Just a few weeks later, pensioner Lily Bluett, of Nookside, Sunderland, was woken by an unexplained bright light.

The skies were silent around Wearside until August 1993 when there was another UFO flap.

other world could have made a return trip to the area in October 2000.

A five-foot pear-shaped piece of silver metal was spotted hurtling towards the ground by a trainee teacher in Hendon.

Ron Atwill saw the same object narrowly miss a passenger jet as it made its descent towards Newcastle Airport, while walking his dog near the old Herrington Colliery site.

The retired prison worker said: "I was looking up as a passenger jet was flying quite low in the distance on a flight path between the colliery and Penshaw Monument and I saw this thing almost hit it."

A spokesperson for Newcastle Airport said the pilot on board had reported no sightings to

Bright lights were reported in separate sightings over Seaburn and Southwick. One amazed onlooker even captured the event on video camera.

The mystery deepened after experts at RAF Boulmer in Northumberland confirmed there was no aircraft activity in the area.

A spate of sightings in April 1996 led to a flood of calls to Newcastle-based UFO experts.

The Probare Institute, which logs flying saucer sightings, reported strange craft over Thornhill, Hendon, and a pub in Ashbrooke.

But the incidents could have a simple explanation.

In May that year, The Echo received scores of calls from readers reporting mysterious circling lights over the city.

But the "space-ships" were found to be giant searchlights hired for the opening of Sunderland's then new nightclub - the Nite Klub in Newcastle Road.

Visitors from another world could have made a return trip to the area in October 2000.

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UFOs giving town a miss

IT is 50 years ago that a 19-year-old woman sparked the biggest UFO search that Rochdale has ever known.

When Gwyneth Fitton reported seeing a circular object with a light suspended underneath hovering above moors in Wardle, the story became the centre of a national controversy.

But despite Rochdale's alleged close encounters with unidentified flying objects, there have been no recent sightings in the borough.

Freedom of Information Act powers have revealed that there were two sightings in Manchester in the past year. Three silver UFOs were reportedly hovering above Chorlton and an orange ball was spotted high above Irlam.

Others were reported in the North West - hovering bright lights in Crewe and a spinning object in Macclesfield - and there were more sightings nationally including an oblong shape that looked 'a bit like a scooter' over Stevenage in Bedfordshire.

But the ministry of defence UFO section, which keeps records of all reports and analyses many of them in detail, has recorded none in Rochdale. Defence officials keep a close eye on reported sightings of UFOs because of the implications for national security.

Following the Wardle incident of 1957 local MP Tony Leavey demanded to know in parliament if the Air Ministry had been 'releasing objects which are normally described as flying saucers.'

A ministry of defence investigator quizzed five witnesses in the village, including Mrs Fitton, and warned them to keep quiet about his visit.

Inquiries into the strange occurrence came to an abrupt halt when a top man from the ministry of defence read the Official Secrets Act to Observer staff.

Are Urmston aliens still watching us?

IT'S 60 years since an alien spacecraft crashed near the town of Roswell, New Mexico, and even today UFOs still roam our skies.

In April this year, Aurigny Airlines captain Ray Bower, 50, reported two cigar-shaped objects, each up to a mile wide, in the sky near Guernsey.

Both were yellow and were also seen by a second pilot. He said: "I can't explain it. It was visible for nine minutes. I've never seen anything like it in all my years of flying."

Urmston is not behind the door when it comes to alien activity.

In the late 1970s, a local couple had a close encounter of the third kind with a UFO on Urmston meadows.

The police who attended the scene were also witnesses to this alien phenomenon.

Later, a television documentary was made regarding the actual events that happened that day.

Wherever do these mysterious flying machines come from? What are they here for?

It's a search for the answer to one of the most fundamental questions we can ask - are we alone?

HARRY WILD
Canary Road
Dover
Kent

Party lanterns mistaken for flying saucers over Seaham

PARTY pranksters were behind a mass of UFO sightings over Sunderland and Seaham in July last year. An MoD probe was launched after more than 20 readers contacted the Echo

after witnessing bright, orange-coloured orbs floating over East Durham and parts of Sunderland.

But Seaham couple Paul McKinney, 28, and Emma Henfrey, 30, revealed the truth.

They had celebrated moving into their new home by holding a party for friends and setting coloured lanterns into the air.

The systems analyst told the Echo: "We never thought for a

second that people would think that they were aliens. I wasn't going to say anything, but then my cousin saw something in the Echo about the MoD investigating so I thought I'd better tell."

UFOs in the skys over Gloucestershire

DEFENCE chiefs are convinced if the truth is out there - it could be in Gloucestershire.

Staff at the Ministry of Defence have recorded nine UFO sightings in county skies since 1998.

Details of the MoD's X-Files released under the Freedom of Information Act reveal Gloucestershire as an intergalactic hotspot.

Residents reported three close encounters in 2005 - one of the county's busiest years for UFO sightings.

These extra-terrestrial revelations come before the MoD publishes its UFO files dating back to 1967.

Stories of strange lights, circular objects and flashes in the sky from Cheltenham to

Gloucester feature in the MoD's records.

Strange lights were spotted in the sky "at a very high altitude" in Nailsworth, while mysterious objects were reported just days apart in Cheltenham.

A series of pink lights moving in an arc were seen in Lechlade in 2002, while earlier the same year, a bright semi-circle object was

reported moving in a straight line across the skies over Cirencester.

In 2000, there were a further three reports made including one in Uley where an object, with no vapour trail, was spotted following an airliner.

In the same year, in Dursley, in the early hours of the morning, a blue and white flash was seen from within the woods, and the sky "took on a red glow".

A round slow-moving intense white light was reported in Lydney in 1998.

It's thought most reports were simply collected and filed by a small, secret unit within defence intelligence, but a few were investigated by the military.

Although the MoD does not have any expertise in respect of UFOs, it is required to investigate every sighting to establish whether UK airspace has been compromised.

An MoD spokesman said: "The MoD examines reports solely to establish whether UK airspace may have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised military activity.

"If required, sighting reports are examined with the assistance of the department's air defence experts.

"Unless there is evidence of a potential threat, there is no attempt to identify the nature of each sighting reported."

WESTERN MORNING NEWS, Plymouth, England - Aug. 14, 2007

Was UFOs report an MoD whitewash?

WITH due respect, I found your recent front page headline and feature in on UFOs rather amusing and irritating.

We were told that MoD has at last published its secret UFO database, which contains information about 80 sightings in the SW area in the past eight years.

However, the article went on to state that this startling collection of all manner of strange things seen in our skies "has never been properly investigated by defence experts".

The article then referred to a top secret report into Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in the UK Air Defence Region, which allegedly dealt with the MoD's attempts "to establish if the UK airspace has been compromised by hostile and unauthorised activity". How amusing!

That MoD report was publicly released during May, 2006. With the assistance of ex-MoD author Nick Pope, I downloaded it from the internet. Contrary to the impression being given, the report turned out to be another MoD "whitewash".

UFO enlightenment

MY annual visit to Tremore Manor, Lanivet, coincided with your August 2 front-page headline, "West is official hot spot for UFOs".

Since 1947, I have been actively engaged in researching the UFO phenomena. This has resulted in a national and worldwide investigation linked with numerous interviews and encounters.

More recently there have been reported media sightings over Jersey by pilots of commercial aircraft, accompanied by

Consider this typical extract from it: "No attempt has been made here to apply the popular solutions which the public reach, following a set of UAP (UFO) behaviour". That seemed to exclude all the 'unauthorised activity' frequently reported by members of the public.

Furthermore, in the Preface, this statement was made: "Every effort has been made to take a wide systems approach, to avoid over-focusing on single events".

It could be argued that single, significant, events deserved special attention, but, as they were not isolated from the general mass of lights-in-the-sky reports, they were simply lost during the processing of the database.

The writer of the report seemed to be determined to explain all UAP (UFO) reports as being evidence of balls of electrified air (with no natural explanations) and as misidentifications of normal air traffic.

In contrast, my private professional

photographs. My office is based at Gloucester and UFO sightings have been reported during the recent floods over Stratford-on-Avon and other affected localities.

During my public lecture at Tremore Manor I gave a Biblical outline of the UFO saga, having arranged the first international convention of Ufologists way back in the 1950s at Woburn Abbey (Duke of Bedford).

An estimated 2,000 attended that

study of reports of "Strange Aerial Craft" (SAC) began during an outbreak of activity in the Greater Manchester area throughout the summer and autumn of 1967. Within a year of analysing the reports, I concluded that NW England had been surveyed by technologically-advanced aerial craft, which came from the skies and returned into them in breathtaking departures.

Those early discoveries led me to create a global database of similar reports. After years of processing that data collection, I was able to identify a programmed astronomical exploration activity stemming from favoured areas of the sky. These discoveries formed the basis of a testable Astronautical Theory.

I am sure that the MoD and the intelligence services all over the world have drawn similar conclusions, though they may not have derived the same theory. The official aim seems to be one of "not scaring the natives".

T Roy Dutton
Torquay

convention, with worldwide speakers taking part. I have distributed cassettes and lately DVDs and CDs of my lectures, which many have found most inspiring and enlightening.

Free copies are available upon request. Please communicate with Ann Whitaker, Tremore Manor, Lanivet, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL30 5JT. All we ask is help with postage stamps.

The Rev Peter Scothern
Mansfield, Notts

It's true...
UFOs
really do
exist
out there

IRISH INDEPENDENT, Dublin, Ireland - Sept. 3, 2007

A TOP UK government official admitted the existence of UFOs in a secret document about a dramatic sighting.

The Ministry of Defence boss made the astonishing claim after dozens of eyewitnesses reported a "hovering" flying saucer in the skies in Shropshire.

His confidential report features in a new book by Timothy Good, who is regarded as a world expert on alien phenomena.

Good's book, *Need To Know*, features previously secret government papers about UFO sightings which have taken place around the world.

A whole section is devoted to a mystery craft which "shot beams of light" near RAF Shawbury, Shropshire, in the early hours of March 31, 1993. It had earlier been spotted in the skies above Devon, Cornwall and South Wales.

Up to 70 credible eyewitnesses later came forward to report the sighting, including some military personnel and police officers.

The newly obtained document shows that a Head of Secretariat for the Ministry of Defence wrote to the Assistant Chief of Air Staff following the chilling encounter on the night and was convinced it was a genuine UFO.

The release of the book comes as the MoD prepares to publish other UFO reports dating back to 1967.

The documents to be released also include witness accounts from civilian pilots and military personnel.

GAZETTE, Hackney, England - Aug. 9, 2007

The truth is out there, but is it all fireballs?

Stamford Hill skies lit up after big bang

by SAMANTHA PAYNE

RANDOM fireballs lighting up the skies of Stamford Hill were one of 97 unexplained mysteries that occurred in the UK last year.

The sightings were reported to the Ministry of Defence and have been published following requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

There was a massive bang in Stamford Hill at 9pm on September 9 last year before two large fireballs were seen moving east to west across the sky.

Denis Plunkett, 76, a founder of the British Flying Saucer Bureau and a former lecturer for the London UFO studies group, said: "I don't think I have ever heard of that sort of description.

"Fireballs don't travel horizontally because of the force of gravity pulling them down.

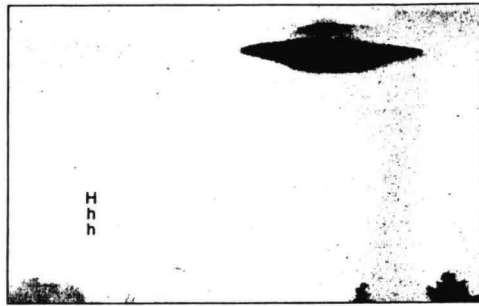
They disintegrate and just burn out."

He said the bang could have been caused by one fireball splitting into two.

The Stamford Hill sighting happened at the same time that another fast-moving fireball was seen in Manchester.

Nick Pope, who used to run the government's UFO project at the MoD and is one of the world's leading UFO experts, believes there is an astronomical explanation to the two sightings, such as a meteor entering the Earth's atmosphere and burning up.

"After investigation, most UFO sightings turn out to be misidentifications of ordinary objects or phenomena, although a small percentage



can't be so easily explained," he said.

It is not the first time Hackney has been touched by the paranormal.

A black, odd-shaped object was seen moving faster than a plane in Finsbury Park on February 26, 2000.

Two weeks later, on March 12, again in Stamford Hill, a bright white star was seen moving steadily along before vanishing into the night skies.

The Gazette reported how a couple awoke on February 15, 2001, to see a strange white

light above the rooftops close to their home in Thistlewaite Road, Lower Clapton.

Paul Scott, vice-chairman of the British Earth and Aerial Mysteries Society, told the Gazette during the summer of 1999 how the group had logged reports of sightings of unusually-shaped aircraft and strange lights in the night skies above Hackney.

A MoD spokesman said it only examined witness reports if UK airspace was under threat from hostile or unauthorised military activity.

Sightings by bomber pilots

FIREBALL sightings have happened as far back as 1944 when RAF pilots dropped bombs on Germany.

They reported seeing fireballs, known as foolfighters, moving alongside their aircraft.

Japanese pilots also saw these types of fireballs on their way to Tokyo.

It was known as "one of the most baffling incidents of the Second World War, an enigma that defies all explanation".

Hundreds of green fireballs were seen in New Mexico between 1948 and 1949.

On March 24, 1955, thousands of people witnessed a fireball blaze moving from the north to south of England.

It was seen from places up to 500 miles apart. It went from Lancashire to the West Country and was famously seen by crowds watching a Bristol City football match.

Kris sketches out his close encounter

A LORRY driver claims he saw a UFO cruising over Basingstoke – and he insists he hadn't been drinking!

Kris Reed, 29, from Richmond Road, said he had just returned home from work at about 11pm, on Saturday, August 4, when he heard a rumbling noise overhead.

He looked up and saw a pear-shaped reddish-purple orb in the sky, which he said hovered from left to right for about 20 seconds before disappearing.

Mr Reed said: "I opened my balcony door and couldn't believe my eyes. A pear-shaped craft was hovering in the sky."

"I said out loud 'What is that?', then I heard someone in the street outside say the same thing."

"I was scared. I heard a rumbling noise and the craft seemed to cruise from left to right for about 300 yards."

"I felt like it saw me and then, after about 20 seconds, it shrank and eventually disappeared."

But that wasn't the end of it, as Mr Reed explained: "Twenty minutes later, eight to 10 planes flew over in a uniform line."

Mr Reed then sketched what he had seen, so he didn't forget.

"When I told my friends they asked me if I had been drinking, but I was completely sober," he added. "I asked neighbours if they had seen anything but they hadn't."

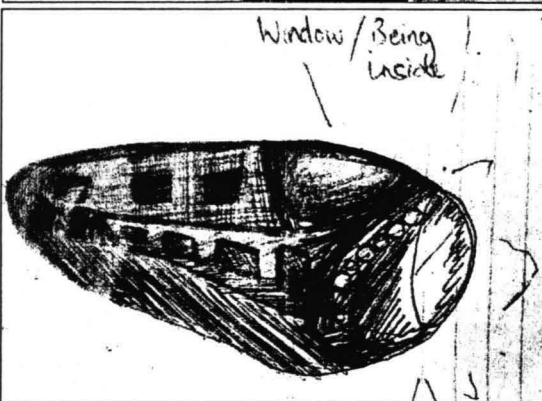
A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said reports of sightings would only be examined if there was evidence of a potential threat.

● Did you see the unidentified craft? Call Ben Ellery on 01256 337410 or e-mail ben.ellery@basinstokegazette.co.uk



● ABOVE: Kris Reed believes he has seen a UFO in the sky over Basingstoke from his apartment balcony
LEFT: A sketch of the UFO

Pics by Jason Allen



UFO sightings in Notts skies

The Ministry of Defence has given a first glimpse into Notts' own 'X-files' on UFO sightings in the county.

Details revealed under the Freedom of Information Act show the MoD has recorded ten UFO sightings in Notts since 1999.

The most recent, in 2005, featured "two extremely bright, round lights" with a "lozenge-shaped" object nearby. The spotter



A 1950s 'vision' of a flying saucer

reported the objects having "the speed of an arrow".

Other sightings logged by the MoD include one in Nottingham in 2002 which recorded eight objects which "joined into a circle, then separated."

'It's life folks but not as we know it' claims ET author

A SECRET war is raging between Earth and alien UFOs, according to an investigator specialising in extra terrestrial life, writes Martin Croucher.

After pouring through declassified and leaked government documents, author Timothy Good, of The Avenue, Beckenham, has come to the conclusion that there have been skirmishes between UFOs and American fighter jets.

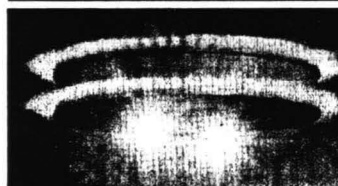
Moreover he believes there is still some conflict between certain types of UFOs and

He said: "It is quite obvious just how serious the government takes this. In one report it addresses airforce pilots quite strongly not to approach these objects."

"In May 1947 in America, the military began firing at the unknown aircraft. This led to phenomenal repercussions. They caused a number of aircraft to disappear or crash."

"There were hundreds of unexplained air accidents that were in my opinion attributed to UFOs. President Truman ordered an investigation into them."

'There were hundreds of unexplained air accidents that were attributed to UFOs. President Truman ordered an investigation into them'



the military. His book, *Need to Know: UFOs the Military and Intelligence*, compiles several hundred reports by military and civilian pilots, astronauts, naval officers and refers to documents previously classed as Top Secret.

"This wasn't just in America, it was around the world. Many planes couldn't get off the ground."

"Many of those that did get off the ground dropped out of the air soon after. Some

people said it was because they ran out of fuel but you don't get planes running out of fuel so soon after taking off."

"This was very disturbing for the military. There is still a conflict situation with some of them if not all."

A Ministry of Defence spokesman was unavailable for comment at the time of going to press.

Mr Good said that from his research there appeared to be different types of UFO and not all of them were hostile.

The revelations in the book may be due in part to a steady relaxation on the classification of the British government's UFO files.

Mr Good said: "The main reason this subject is covered up is because there is no way they could come out with all this material all at once. I have been told by informed sources that the agenda is for gradual disclosure."

Signed copies of his book are available in Waterstones in the Glades, Bromley now. martin.croucher@archant.co.uk

● If you've seen a UFO or know someone who has then why not give us a call at the Times news desk on 0208 269 7000



WRITER and ET EXPERT: Timothy Good.

Friend or UFO?

Reports flood in
of strange shapes
seen in night sky

Stargazers were left scratching their heads after mysterious orange lights appeared in the sky over Surbiton on Friday night. Radio reports said at least 12 people from Surbiton and Ewell phoned in after spotting the display, described as a series of lights in the shape of a ferris wheel. Since then, even more people have come forward with their description

by Lisa Williams

As seen from London, Surrey, England

of the phenomenon. Among them was Ron Johnson, from Worcester Park, a member of the Ewell Astronomical Society, who said he had never seen anything like Friday's light display in his 40 years of skywatching.

He said: "At 10.02pm there were 10 spherical lights which were a yellow, golden colour. To me they appeared to be drifting with the wind. I stopped to watch because it was not something I'd seen before."

Linda Hope, from West Ewell, said: "I was in the garden and these lights began appearing over the roofs of the cottages, quite close behind each other, but spread across the sky and quite high up."

"I realised my husband would think I was barmy if I were to tell him, so ran indoors where he was sound asleep on the sofa. I shook him and got him outside and we both watched in the garden as the lights still appeared from the west and disappeared into the clouds in the far distance."

"This went on for at least five minutes in all and I would think about 50 to

60 lights. Two of them seemed to 'play' with each other - darting across and overtaking. It was quite spooky, being silent, and so many of them."

Susan Stoud-Bury, from Stoneleigh, was also baffled by the sight and contacted surreycomet.co.uk to see if others had seen them.

She said: "My son and I realised they were too close to

gether to be aeroplanes and at first I thought they may have been the army or police. They all followed the same path and appeared as orange lights and crosses that pulsed."

"It was quite scary, because it was an unusual sight to see. I didn't count how many there were and they definitely were not hot air balloons."

No definite explanation has been given of the extraordinary light formation.

Past theories have included everything from laser shows in central London to "UFO balloons" - decorative oriental lanterns which drift with the prevailing wind and usually glow whitish-yellow, but can take on the orangy glow reported given the right atmospheric conditions.

Mr Johnson said he doubted the lights were anything supernatural. He said: "People tend to jump to conclusions about unidentified flying objects (UFOs) and try to sensationalise. What people think might be a UFO is usually something atmospheric."

Robert Rosamond, chairman of the British UFO Research Organisation, said: "At face value your orange lights would appear to fit a familiar bill - Chinese lanterns as opposed to an invasion from space."

"These pesky objects (the lamps, not UFOs) seem to be back in vogue once more, consequently they've been seen over the length and breadth of the UK recently."

"However, face value isn't an informed opinion and as such we would need to see the original reports and talk to the witnesses in an effort to ascertain the exact circumstances of their sighting(s) before making any kind of comment."

Can you explain the UFOs over Surbiton? Call the newsdesk on 020 8330 9546, email newsdesk@surreycomet.co.uk or comment on the story at surreycomet.co.uk.

See exclusive video
footage of the
mysterious flying
objects at
surreycomet.co.uk

CHRONICLE, Barnsley, England - Aug. 24, 2007

The mysterious case of the Royston UFO

By Adam Civoce

JUST when you thought it was safe to go out... is there a mysterious UFO above Royston?

A local man says he spotted it hovering over the area late at night.

Doorman Paul Gerhard saw flashing lights in the sky at about 11.30pm and thought it was a plane or the police helicopter.

But after taking a closer look he thinks he saw something more 'otherworldly'.

Paul, 29, of Wood Lane, Carlton, says he saw the lights as he was watching television. The bizarre object was hovering silently in the same spot before disappearing.

He said: "We saw the flashing and when I looked outside I said, 'that's no helicopter'."

"There were two red lights at the edge and a row of flashing lights in the middle. It was there for about a minute and half and then disappeared. It started high up and was hovering about. It was only slow then it just took off."

"As quick it was there it was gone. There were no trails from it and there was no noise."

Paul spotted the UFO last Wednesday and said he was aware there had been meteor storms and shooting stars last week. But he added: "That was not a shooting star, it was weird. I have never seen anything like it in my life, it was def-

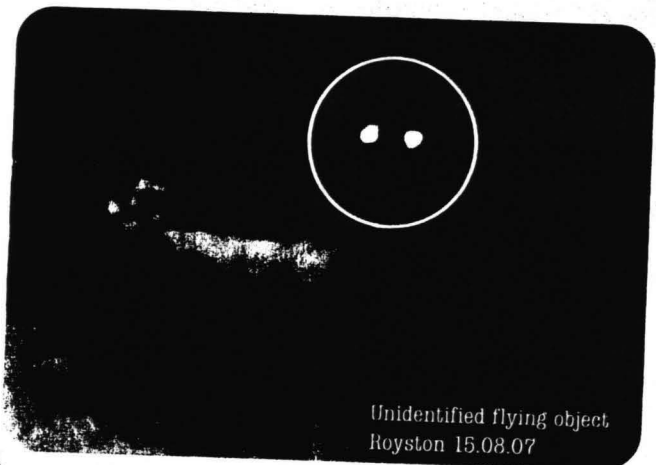
initely something strange.

"I'm interested in all this stuff and when you see it on documentaries they say people see flashing lights and that's what it looked like. It was clear night and I know you can sometimes see lights from Monckton coking plant but there is nothing in the direction this was coming from. No house, no lights, nothing."

Paul showed the Chronicle a mobile phone video of the

mysterious floating object. He said: "If it had not been on my phone nobody would have believed me."

Top Secret



The Barnsley Files

This is the transcript of what was said on Paul's mobile phone video.

Paul: "You can see it just on the thing, there."

"It's there it's flashing like f***."

Woman's voice: "Look it's shooting, it's shooting!"

Paul: "It's definitely a UFO this, I swear to God..."

Woman: "Is it coming back?"

Paul: "That's a UFO. It's gone down like that and it's coming round. It's definitely something strange that, isn't it?"

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.]

September 15, 2007 — *La Estrella*, Valparaiso, Chile — CHILE:UFO IMAGE CAUSES WIDESPREAD SURPRISE — ***Vanished after making loud reports; hundreds witnessed event which surprised even ufologists*** — The startling and crisp images of what would appear to be a UFO sighting recorded in broad daylight caused consternation among hundreds of witnesses only days ago.

The subject drew the attention of local and national experts in ufology. Some photographs and vidcaps of the strange event have been collected, all taken by amateurs. Although the clarity of these images has caused doubt among the researchers, who suspect a photomontage, they have been startled and even more interested in the subject upon learning of the existence of a video, since this would attest to the truthfulness of the event.

In spite of the fact that this spectacular sighting took place over the skies of Salamanca (Chile) in the nation's 4th Region, it represents the continuation of what occurred the previous evening in this location. This arises from the account given by Vladimir Puebla, who works for a bus company that covers the Valparaiso-Salamanca route and who also works as a cameraman for Channel 4 in the 4th Region. "The night before the event in Salamanca, I was traveling from Valparaiso toward that location. In the vicinity of Quillota, I noticed a light that began to exhibit strange movements," he explained.

But what hundreds of people saw the next day between 13:30 and 13:40 hours, over the skies of Salamanca, was even more impressive, said Puebla. "For 10 minutes, the object was suspended in the sky. Later, some loud reports were heard, lights resembling flares could be seen, and the object disappeared."

This fact was confirmed by people working for radio broadcasters and one local TV channel, who were also aware of the event. "Many people confirmed this event. Reports were even filed with Carabineros (Chilean state police)," said Sixto Quiroga, the assistant director for Channel 4 in Salamanca. — CREDIT: Leopoldo Zambrano, *Fundacion Cosmos A.C.*

September 18, 2007 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — Peru: Meteor Crash in Puno Leaves a Crater 30 meters in Diameter — An unidentified luminous object fell from the sky, leaving a hole six meters deep by 30 meters in diameter in the community of Carancas on the Bolivian border, according to the Puno based Direccion Territorial Policial (Dirtepol).

The alleged meteorite alarmed local residents. The community is located in the Desaguadero district of the Province of Chucuito.

At 23:45 hours yesterday, residents heard a stentorian noise that they believed was produced by an airplane, according to police sources. They then witnessed the impact of a luminous object in flames, which resulted in a loud explosion, according to the *Agencia Andina* news agency.

Remains of an unknown calcinated mass were found at the impact site. As it occurred in an unpopulated area, the incident did not affect any local residents. However, after the strange object gave off bits of lead and silver as it fell to earth, and the peasantry is worried that some illness may come about, according to *RPP Noticias*. Police and curiosity-seekers reported to the site.

Puno: Seven Policemen Become Ill After Gathering Meteor Samples

Puno, Sept. 17 (*Agencia Andina*) - Seven policeman took ill after collecting samples from the area where the alleged meteorite crashed in the community of Carancas (Puno) according to regional health director Jorge Lopez Tejada. He explained that the officers showed symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and dizziness and were sent to the Desaguadero Hospital and then to the Hospital de Sanidad de la Policia in Puno.

They were given oxygen and rehydration at Desaguadero, and were transferred to the other hospital after being stabilized, according to *RPP Noticias*.

[Tejada] also noted that a strong odor emanates from the impact site and which is not native to the area. This has caused commotion among settlers.

"Our cleanup crew has already reached the area and says that there is a hole filled with water. The odor is strong and (would be) affecting neighboring communities. There are some 500 families nearby and symptoms of nausea, vomiting, headache and body aches," he remarked.

He added that he has recommended that police authorities and the regional government should form a perimeter to keep people from coming near the site. He repeated that a medical brigade will set out from Puno [...] tomorrow to perform the corresponding tests upon the locals.

Lopez Tejada called upon the authorities in Lima to send out a special brigade equipped with suitable equipment to gather samples from the alleged meteor more efficiently, as his office lacks such facilities.

He explained that according to the settlers, the object fell on midday Saturday and the hole it left behind has an estimated depth of five meters and a width of 15 meters.

This incident has been considered by the locals as a bad omen.

October 2, 2007 — *www.analuisacid.com* — MEXICO: Another UFO Sighting By an Aviation Mechanic — [A] photograph [was] taken on September 21, 2007 by aviation mechanic Jose Camacho Cuevas during a test flight along the Mexico City - Ixtapa route.

The witness was flying on a Boeing 737-322, registration XA-MAI, belonging to the Magnicharters carrier.

Mr. Camacho advised researcher Alfonso Salazar that he had taken several photos on that occasion and that the luminous object was visible in only one of them. He was not aware of this until he examined the materials on a computer.

The photo was taken with a Nokia 3250 cell phone at 14:40 hours. — CREDIT: Prof. Ana Luisa Cid and Alfonso Salazar

October 10, 2007 — *www.analuisacid.com* — Colombia: A Chance UFO in Pasto? — A photo [was] taken on August 18, 2007 by Mr. Fredy Enrique Alonso Villamil of Pasto, Colombia. The witness says he was taking photos of his young daughter Isabella and that the object that can be seen in the sky was not

perceptible to him, adding that airplane and helicopter flyovers do not occur over the area.

A 5-megapixel Sony Cybershot was employed in taking the photos.... — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

October 11, 2007 — *CIUFOS/LAPAMPA*, La Pampa, Argentina — ARGENTINA: Chance UFO Over La Pampa? — [A] photo, displaying a sunset in the Pampas, was taken on August 12, 2007. The photo was taken only a few kilometers to the south of Santa Rosa, La Pampa, employing a Kodak Easy Share camera (C643). The photographer's goal was to capture a lovely sunset, and he only discovered the presence of an Unidentified Flying Object later on. The object was not visible at the time the photograph was taken. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

October 15, 2007 — Argentina: Orbs or UFOs? — Orbs or Chance UFOs? — **A Report From Raul Oscar Chaves** — [A] photo was taken at a rural property in the locality of Toay, some 10 km. southwest of Santa Rosa.

The image shows a specimen of the "calden", the representative tree of the Province of La Pampa, and the natural habitat of this specimen, which can be found only in the Pampas.

After having developed the film, the author of the photo detected the presence of an unidentified flying object in the upper right. A "sphere" with a clearly defined outline is clearly visible.

According to the witness, there was nothing at the moment that the photo was taken that led him to suppose the presence of any "objects."

The possibility that the object could be a weather balloon was dismissed due to the time at which the image was taken (noon). The Santa Rosa Airport's weather station launches its balloons early in the morning (0700 hs.).

Photo was taken with an analog Vivitar camera using 100 ASA film. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

October 15, 2007 — *Jujuy al Dia* (on-line newspaper) — In an exclusive interview with *Jujuy al Dia*, Oscar Galindez, a UFO researcher in this province, discussed the perspective of science with regard to this phenomenon, speculations, and explained what was believed in other times. Among other subjects he discussed the myths and truths contained within the subject, UFO sightings in Jujuy and the time periods in which they normally occur.

Galindez stated that "official agencies, non-profit civilian associations made up of professionals, meteorologists, physicists, astronomers, digital photography specialists [exist] to determine whether the alleged film or capture of the phenomenon corresponds to a real object. It is necessary to be prudent when it comes to appraising phenomena of this sort that could escape physical laws. For this reason there is a branch of contemporary science that recommends that such phenomena not be investigated, due to a belief that nothing can go against the laws of nature."

He added: "The most modern and sophisticated aircraft of the great powers cannot generate effects similar to the ones that people claim having seen in UFO phenomena. There is a branch of science that states that these manifestations are [an] impossibility, because they violate traditional physics. I have always maintained, humbly, that the laws of nature are determined by man, the researcher, and have not been handed down by divine revelation. They are not dogmatic laws, and can be modified over time."

Likewise, he noted, "Science has often had to acknowledge errors in the phrasing of its laws, concepts, criteria ... there can be no dogmatism in science. Phenomena of this kind are not a matter of belief or faith. They are a matter of information, and if one is properly informed, at least one must admit the existence of the phenomenon."

"To the degree that official bodies in the USA, Russia and recently France, have acknowledged that the phenomena studied have no reasonable explanations in terms of contemporary science, this does not detract from the event. Not enough to say - since we don't know what it is, we won't look into it. Science has the passion for inquiry, the need to find out other types of physical manifestations that are perhaps unknown to us." Oscar Galindez observed that "people, the witnesses of this type of phenomena, choose not to disclose their experience beyond a closed circle of friends and family, as disclosure can lead to ridicule."

With regard to sightings, he said: "Yes, I have witnessed manifestations that match the parameters of the UFO phenomenon. Official agencies have vanished almost throughout the world, but research continues in a cautious manner. Basically, the security agencies are interested in the phenomenon because during the Cold War and the World Wars, both Americans and Russians believed that these manifestations were spy planes belonging to the opposite superpower."

He continued by saying that "laws dictating the freedom of information, of classified data, concerning these sightings are supplied to the researcher but lacking important parts of the story, because some secrets still remain classified."

With regard to sightings in the province of Jujuy, he said: "One of the cases here in the province occurred during the appearance of Comet Halley, when many people went up to Tilcara, Humauaca. Two well-known Jujuy professionals would travel with their respective wives, and upon reaching the Tropic of Capricorn Monolith, saw a very powerful light in the sky, flying very slowly. At first they thought it was the comet, but later realized that this wasn't the case, because it began descending and coming closer to their position. It came to within a distance of 50 meters and an altitude of 10, allowing them to see that the object had an unconventional configuration. In other words, it was a silver object that they described as icebox-shaped, approximately 3 meters tall by 10 meters wide. It had impressive and powerful lights, flew over the road slowly, tilted 45° and rose 200 meters. It stabilized, crossed the road again, descended and vanished."

He added: "The first thing they wondered was: are they watching us, is it manned, is it a robot device? It was never known. No answer has been found to this very day." He added that the professionals involved confirmed that there was absolute darkness over the area. "This is from the electromagnetic effect, which is like a force field generated by the phenomenon's propulsion mechanism. Its radius would appear to be very large, being that it is in the air at a considerable altitude. Sometimes lights go out and radios die when one is close to the source of this phenomenon."

"Another case that took place here in the province involved a major businessman who was heading back from Paraguay with his wife, but already in Argentinean territory and in the vicinity of Joaquin V. Gonzalez, getting ready to enter the Metan - Ojo de Buey Expressway. They said that it was a very dark night around 22:00 hours in a place that's very desolate with only a few animals along the route. They saw everything light up suddenly, as though it were daylight, but continued driving. They noticed that behind their vehicle, at a distance of 400-500 meters, were two luminous orbs in the sky, noticing that the two objects merged into a single one. This leads to another way of interpreting the phenomenon as manifestations of some unknown energy or truly material objects, but they are violating the law of the impermeability of matter. We don't know. This is part of the questioning. The couple also managed to see, to their right, when the objects merged, what looked like a science fiction city with a bluish hue. But it lasted only a second. Upon merging, darkness

returned. They went back the next day but only found desert."

He added: "Cattle mutilations represent another episode with a worldwide, universal pattern. These mutilations have nothing to do with satanic rituals. They follow a common pattern, involving a laser-type scalpel with immediate cauterization, since no blood is even present. What they do is take the entire right side off of a bovine, and even its nose on some occasions, but with technological perfection. The incisions are very precise. Hides have been removed, and tongues, genitals and anuses have been removed from the root with astonishing technology. There are no signs of trucks or other vehicles having driven by." — CREDIT: Luis E. Pacheco, *Proyecto Stratocat*

October 20, 2007 — *ARGUS-PR*, Puerto Rico — Puerto Rico: Startling Light Appears in Guanica's Vivones District — **A report from Jose A. Martinez E.** — A strange yellow light was reported today (Saturday, October 20th) in the Vivones District of the city of Guanica. Mr. Dolores Toro and his wife, accompanied by a niece, were chatting calmly when they suddenly heard a sound described as "when a damaged hen's egg explodes." Shortly after, the witnesses reported seeing a reddish light appearing from the balcony to the house, and then passed in front of them. A neighbor [interviewed by J.A. Martinez] remarked that she had seen the strange light that lit her house "like daylight," according to Mrs. Diana Santiago, a neighbor of Mr. Toro.

Mrs. Santiago thought at first that Mr. Toro was shining a flashlight into her home, and he quickly told her that no, that it was that strange light that came out of nowhere and vanished. Another local resident was able to see the luminous object as it descended from the sky and according to her, the object that caught everyone unawares had something like "two tails."

Weather conditions: It had rained earlier in this area, not torrential however. As many people are aware, electric power lines may have a reaction to the rain which causes them to buzz, becoming only louder with the rainfall. When the case involving the reddish light took place, the rain had stopped for a number of hours and the night sky was completely clear and starry by 6:56 p.m., when Mr. Toro allegedly heard the buzzing sound. The possibility that the event was a natural phenomenon cannot be dismissed. — CREDIT: Jose A. Martinez E.

October 21, 2007 — *ARGUS-PR*, Puerto Rico — PUERTO RICO: Strange Object Reported Over Ponce — **A report from Jose A. Martinez E.** — As of the time of this writing, the Puerto Rico Police and the Rangers Department of Natural Resources of the City of Ponce (southern P.R.) have advised us that a strange fiery object has fallen from the sky before the startled eyes of hundreds of witnesses in the Anon district of the Ponce. The exact nature of these events is unknown; lights are emerging out of thin air in Guanica and travel across back yards, and now this object has fallen out of the sky in Ponce. We will see what the local press has to say about this in coming minutes. For the time being, authorities are classifying the strange fiery object as "a private plane." — CREDIT: Jose A. Martinez E.

A Brief Summary of Meteorite and Bolide Sightings in Puerto Rico, October 2007 By Luz Guzman - *OVNI.NET*

Date: None Given. Only described as "recently."

Place: Luis Munoz Rivera Housing Project, Guanica

Time: Predawn hours

Witness: No names given. Only "Residents of the Luis Munoz Rivera Housing Projects" mentioned.

Summary: On Saturday 20 October, researcher Jose Martinez of Guanica reported the fall of a strange bottle-shaped object in the town of Guanica on the Imprimatur message list. He reported that several residents of the housing project had seen a small burning object falling from the sky. Guanica district police seized the strange bottle-shaped object. He said "with this interesting case we cannot dismiss the possibility that space junk could be involved" and the Police do not wish to make any comments at this time until an expert establishes exactly what it was that fell in the vicinity of the old Munoz Rivera housing project.

Source: Jose A. Martinez E. del Puerto Rican Experimental Research Group, Inc, Brightlights Ufologist Digest, Historias Ufologicas de Puerto Rico y Exterior

Date: Saturday 20 October 2007

Place: From Juana Diaz, seen to the east of Ponce. Corral Falso District, in the Callabo neighborhood.

Time: 7:30 PM Approx.

Witnesses: Several

Summary: A strange explosion in the South. JUANA DIAZ - "Authorities have not been able to ascertain what caused an explosion, and its origin, which was heard practically throughout the western side of this municipality and some sectors to the east of Ponce on Saturday night. Yesterday morning a Police helicopter flyover detected the presence of charred treetops in the Corral Falso sector of the Callabo neighborhood. Some witnesses at this location reportedly saw an explosion they attributed to an aviation accident or flares being launched at the site. Others did not hesitate to suggest that it could have been produced by an alien craft, insisting that the [explosion] was like a lit ball that fell from the sky and struck a hill. After the explosion at 7:30, several policemen and Emergency Management personnel toured the site without finding anything."

Source: Miquel Rivera Puig, *El Vocero* newspaper

Reported to *OVNI.Net* by: Ana Del C Torres, MBA Oficial de Manejo de Proyectos

Date: Saturday, 20 October 2007

Place: Urb. Parkville, Guaynabo

Time: 7:30 PM

Witness: Reinaldo Mendez

Summary: On Saturday October 20, 2007 at 7:30 PM Mendez was with his family on the terrace of his house (facing the back yard) in Urb. Parkville in Guaynabo when he saw an enormous light. First he thought it was a very bright white flare descending from the sky to the ground. He asked those who were with him if they had seen it too, but no one else had. He also thought that it could have been a shooting star, as it traveled downward. Or it could have been a flare of some kind, but he never saw it ascend; only come down. He waited for the loud report made by fireworks but nothing happened. He gave it no further importance and made no other remarks, assuming it had been a flare. Upon reading the *El Vocero* newspaper and learning of a strange explosion in the southern part of the island in Juana Diaz and Ponce where only burned branches were found, he checked the orientation points of where he had seen the object. He employed a compass and the Google Earth software. He is almost certain that what he saw could be related with what he read in *El Vocero* (Page 22, Monday 22, Miguel Rivera Puig).

Source: As told by Reinaldo Mendez to Andrew Alvarez, [<http://www.andrewalvarez.net>]

Date: Saturday, 20 October 2007

Place: Amalia Marin, Playa de Ponce and Juana Diaz

Time: 7:30 Approx.

Witness: Pedro Cotto

Summary: The explosion (loud report) was heard both as a ground shock wave and as an air-carried sound in Amalia Marin, Playa de Ponce at that same time. First a ground wave was felt, followed by a sound wave. The sound appeared to be an explosion in a vacuum. As soon as the events took place, the witness called the Ponce Municipal Police's command center and the Playa precinct, but no one knew anything. He then phoned the OMMED office and the person on the phone told him that there was no information available. In both cases, he was the first person to call. Regarding the explosion (loud report) in Juana Diaz due to the alleged fall of a fireball, Pedro believes that it could be linked to the fragments of the Orionid meteor shower during these days.

Source: Andrew Alvarez [<http://www.andrewalvarez.net>]

Date: Saturday 20 October 2007

Place: Witness was in Guayama but [object fell] in Salinas

Time: 7:45 PM

Witness: Juan Carlos Menendez

Summary: Menendez was on Guayama on Saturday, more or less in the same place where a fireball was seen to fall. He saw something white in color fall from the sky. He thought it was a "flare gun" that had fallen in the Salinas area. This was around 7:45 PM and it was already dark, with the stars and Moon visible. To his surprise, he heard about it on Channel 2 and visuals were shown.

Date: Sunday, October 21 2007

Time: Predawn Hours, Phone call to anthropologist and paranormal researcher Andrew Alvarez at 2 a.m.

Witness: Pedro

Summary: Pedro informed Alvarez that he was seeing a UFO at that time. Lucy Guzman, Orlando Pla, Cindia Medina and Jule Alvarez were having breakfast at the Denny's Restaurant on Avenida Munoz Rivera at that time. They went outside to look at the sky but could not see it. (Waiting to call Pedro for greater information)

Source: Andrew Alvarez, PhD [<http://www.andrewalvarez.net>]

Date: Sunday 21 October 2007

Place: Juana Diaz, seen to the west of Ponce

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Witness: Ing. Edwin Fontanes and his girlfriend Sharon

Summary: Edwin and Sharon were heading toward Ponce along Route 52. Edwin was driving and Sharon was next to him in the passenger seat. In the vicinity of Juana Diaz, Sharon noticed a very bright sphere entering a cloud. She called Edwin's attention to it but he didn't look as he was driving.

Source: Reported by Ing. Fontanes to www.ovni.net

Date: October 2007

Place: Aguas Buenas, Caguas - San Juan Metro Area

Time: Night

Witness: Zaida Vega

Summary: Zaida lives in one of the tallest mountains in Aguas Buenas. She is concerned about the presence of an uncommon haze throughout the area. She checked the news to see if it was desert dust or volcanic ash, but the news had not reported any such event. She smelled to see if someone was burning copper or rubber, but the air was pure and odorless. This concerned her, as she can see the Aguas Buenas, Caguas and part of the Metropolitan Area and the entire zone appears to be covered by this strange haze.

Source: Andrew Alvarez [www.andrewalvarez.net]

October 25, 2007 — www.analuisacid.com — MEXICO - A UFO AT THE VIZCAINO POWER PLANT — ***A report from Ana Luisa Cid*** — [A photo of an apparent UFO] was taken at the Guerreron Negro 2 Internal Combustion Station, also known as Vizcaino, located in the Mexican state of Baja California Sur.

It was taken on June 8, 2007 at 9:52 a.m. using a Sony DSC-P41 camera.

The image forms part of an advance report on the installation of equipment at CCI Vizcaino and was taken by an engineer who holds a senior position with the company. For this reason he has asked me not to release his name.

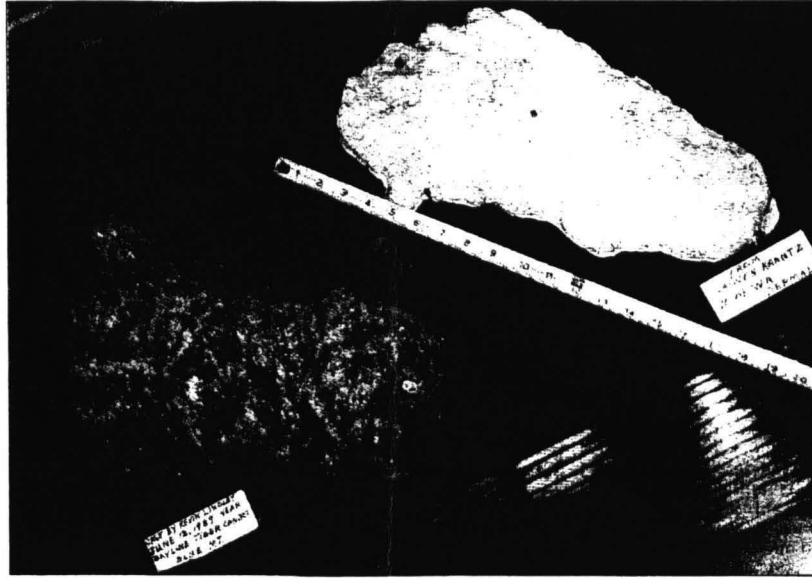
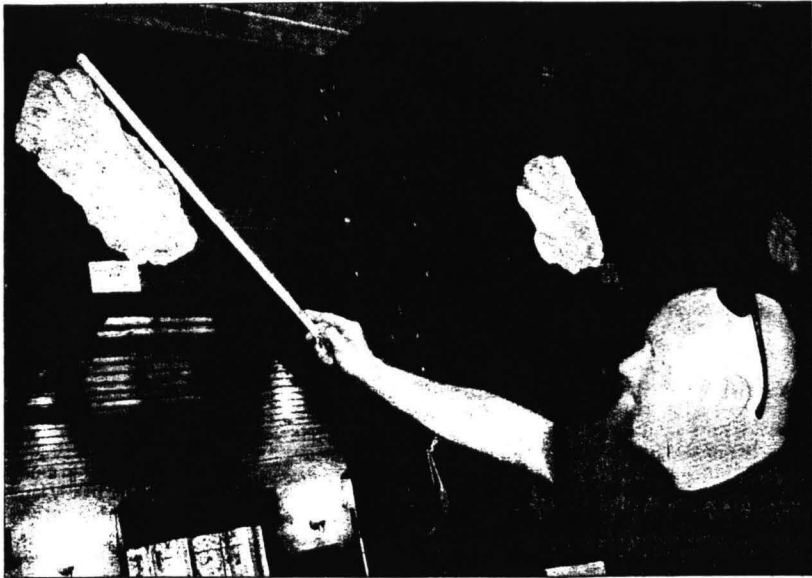
The gentleman seen within the frame is electrical technician Oscar Villavicencio, who was engaged in maneuvers above a transformer for a turbo-jet type power generating unit.

It should be mentioned that the photo was sent to me by a third party, through whom it was possible to learn of this fascinating case. He is also an engineer at CCI Vizcaino and wishes to remain anonymous.

It should also be noted that I spoke over the phone with the parties involved -- the author of the photo and Mr. Villavicencio. They were both very kind in replying to my queries and it is my opinion that these are serious individuals who are telling the truth.

UFOs have been reported over CCI Vizcaino on repeated occasions, noting that in 2005, according to the image sent to me by a CFE attorney, a reduction in energy production can be noted precisely during the month in which three objects were photographed above a chimney.

Therefore, it would be worthwhile to reconsider the hypothesis that relates unidentified flying objects with power generating sources. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid



ABOVE LEFT: Jeff Pinsker, owner of the Tollgate Resort in Tollgate, measures a reported Bigfoot print at about 16 inches long. ABOVE RIGHT: Two plaster casts of what may be footprints of Bigfoot hang on a wall at the Tollgate Resort. The cast on the left was made by the late Grover (not Groven) Krantz, a Bigfoot believer and Washington State University anthropologist.

Monster or imagination, Bigfoot still stirs mind

Jeff Pinsker is a big man, about 6-feet tall and weighing close to 250 pounds. Even so, the Tollgate Resort owner's size 12s fall far short of the plaster casts of large footprints set along the entrance into the dining area. The casts cover a wide range of years and vary in size and shape, but all are big.

Casts that may show the footprints of Bigfoot, the legendary, or purely imaginative, large, powerful bipedal ape-man creature about 8 feet tall and covered in dark hair that may or may not inhabit forests and wilderness areas across North America.

Whether or not such a thing exists, of course, is the subject of debate in some circles. But that's not something Pinsker engages in. He seems practical about the matter. He doesn't divulge if he's a believer or not, but he likes the chatter the casts often cause. Although he laments a bit that at one time

there were as many as 20 of the things on the wall, but as owners changed and moved, so, apparently, did the casts. Luckily, five remain.

"And a couple even look real," Pinsker said.

There are two that stand out and have a look of authenticity about them (of course, just what authentic means when talking about Bigfoot is unclear). The two include the one taken at Tollgate 20 years ago, and another that long-time Bigfoot proponent and Washington State University physical anthropologist Grover Krantz cast. That one particularly is intriguing. But more on it later.

A couple of old codgers sat near the casts. They said they've lived "on the mountain" for many years.

"I've seen bear tracks that wide, but not that long. So what happened was the bear slipped in the mud," one of the men said.

Oddly, even though each claimed to be a skeptic and said they had never seen anything like a Bigfoot lurking around the woods of the Blue Mountains, neither consented to have his name in the paper.

We're they hiding something? Maybe they knew more than they let on. Would it be worth sticking around at night to find out?

Pinsker's already seen the type who would do

that. He moved here in August, from Folsom, Calif., after purchasing the Tollgate Resort. He's already met two or three groups of people that have come through the region searching for Bigfoot. They carry cameras and other recording devices, some mounted on vehicles.

"They're really into it," Pinsker said. So is Matt Moneymaker, a 40-year-old

lawyer and e-commerce developer from Orange County, Calif., who's the founder and president of the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, which he set up in 1995 as

an Internet Web site.

Moneymaker said the BFRO is the "fast track to meeting people and getting close to the animals." He and other core members lead Bigfoot expeditions throughout North America. From June 14-17, the BFRO will be in central Oregon, taking about 50 people from as far away as New York, Florida and one from Great Britain in search of Bigfoot.

The expedition has been sold out for months. Several places in Oregon are supposed Bigfoot hotspots, Moneymaker claimed, including the Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon.

The BFRO just hasn't gotten over here, yet. Moneymaker said he grew interested in Bigfoot like many other people — from watching documentaries on television. Then he met someone who claimed to have seen

one of the creatures. Moneymaker visited the location of the alleged sighting.

"I was there and found a footprint. I was hooked," he said.

BFRO expeditions don't concentrate on gathering evidence, but instead seek to get people near the creatures. Moneymaker

said the idea is to observe and listen carefully to confirm if a population of the things exists.

"And we are very successful at that," he said.

Moneymaker comes off as almost desperate to dismiss Bigfoot doubters and skeptics. He got particularly perturbed when talking about those who scoff at the notorious 1967 Patterson-Gimlin film that may show one of the hairy monsters traipsing off into the forests of northern California, or it may be a big man in a fanciful ape suit.

"These people don't know what they are talking about," Moneymaker said emphatically.

He argued anyone with the "slightest education in ecology" would understand just how difficult it is to obtain proof of what he called a rare, nocturnal creature that also is very smart.

And he said nonbelievers need to understand there isn't a large, well-funded effort to find these things. Further, given Bigfoots are supposed to exist in dense forests with hard terrain, it makes sense people only see them for glimpses at a time, such as when one is crossing a mountain road.

Right now, he said the BFRO is refining its methodology to get footage of the creatures.

Often, he said people who go on a BFRO expedition expect a "glorified snipe hunt." But when they are in the woods at night and communicate with the creatures through thumping big sticks on trees — a tactic Moneymaker said Bigfoots often do — they come away with a different view.

Moneymaker said the goal of a BFRO outing is to obtain mutually collaborated evidence about Bigfoot's existence.

"After a certain number of witnesses, you realize they must be seeing something," he said. "Society values that kind of evidence. It's a clue as to what reality is."

Moneymaker also dismisses claims from people who say they faked Bigfoot prints. He said chances are they only make the claim but haven't made any fake tracks and only want publicity.

Further, Moneymaker said, BFRO investigators are not so gullible to fall for a faked footprint. Without revealing any methods, he said the organization can discern real prints from fakes.

Moneymaker also said people are more likely to hear them than see them, so he advised listening for Bigfoot vocalizations, such as howls and piercing whistles and screams. And he said Bigfoots like to throw rock rocks to warn off anyone too close and, of course, they knock on trees to communicate with other Bigfoots in the region.

Maybe that is what a small group of Pendleton men should have done one late spring day in June of 1991.

A TRUE ENCOUNTER?

An Eastern Oregon hunter — who agreed to talk as long as his identity was kept secret — revealed a tale of an encounter he and his three friends had in a canyon near the "Salmon Backs" or "breaks" of McKay Creek on the south side of Interstate 84 around the very top of Meacham.

The four men were in there early 20s. He said they all grew up around Pendleton and had been hunters and outdoorsmen since they were young. He said they went there to scout it for the upcoming deer season. He had hunted the area in the past and had always met with success.

They drove there with the plan to camp for about three days near the top of McKay Creek, but found heavy rains and runoff had eroded the road in some areas, including where they wanted to go.

So at about 9 a.m. they packed the camping gear, headed across the wash, humped it along the road for almost two miles and set up camp on a green, lush island about 30 feet by 30 feet in the middle of McKay Creek, which by now was running about knee deep.

"That way we had a good view of all the hills around us ... and we were thinking we could see some deer or elk on the sides of the hills in the early morning or late evening."

While setting up camp he scanned the surrounding canyon walls and saw a lone pine tree on the crest of a

EAST OREGONIAN, Pendleton, OR - June 3, 2007



FORTEANA NEWS

(continued on page 18)

hill. He told his buddies he would like hike there to look for any deer or elk.

About noon they finished setting up camp and headed up the steep canyon to the tree.

"As we're working our way up we saw some deer, but not very many, not as many as we had in the past," he said. "I thought it was odd — in the past it was nothing to see 10 or 12 deer jumping up out of the brush on the sides of those hills."

Near the top he saw a cave about 100 yards away. They decided to investigate and were surprised.

"Right there at the mouth of the cave were an abundance of bones," he said. "You could see big leg bones, rib cages, big pelvis bones like you would find in deer or elk."

The men settled on a bear as the cause for the assortment of death, but because they hadn't brought a flashlight no one was going in the cave.

The group arrived about 30 minutes later to the pine tree at the top of the hill. The hunter said there was nothing within 50 yards of the tree, which stood about 7 to 8 feet tall.

They looked the sight over for a bit but needed to get to camp before dark. On the way down the men talked about returning in the morning with a flashlight to venture into the cave.

"That cave seemed to capture the curiosity of all of us," he said. "My friends were all active hunters and outdoorsmen and none of us had seen a cave like this."

Then, about 9:15 p.m., he looked up at the pine tree.

"As we sat there talking ... I glanced up there and saw what appeared to be another tree next to it. I tried to register what I was seeing, because I knew there was nothing next to that pine tree."

He asked his friends how many pine trees were there and they replied there was just the one.

"Then what is that next to it?" he asked them, because he could see daylight between the tree and a new, large silhouette that was as tall or taller than the tree. Then it moved from left to right across the horizon line.

"As we watched it, it turned and started coming down the side of the canyon in our direction."

One of the men asked what it was.

"My reply to him was, 'I don't know and I'm not sticking around to find out.'"

He and the others grabbed whatever camping gear they could and started for the road.

But it was at the base of the canyon and in the same direction as whatever was coming down the hill.

Then the hunter said he

heard it.

"As I started off the island, I could hear what almost sounded like a screaming noise — a high pitched scream."

He was still 25 yards from the road, and maybe two miles from the vehicle. The scream made him pick up the pace.

"Flight or fight mode kicked in, and I took off at a dead run for the road," he said.

But his sleeping bag was unrolled. It slipped through his arms and wrapped around his feet. He fell into the creek.

"My friends didn't help," he said, "but ran right over the top of me."

He shed the sleeping bag and sprinted away.

"All that was running through my mind at this point was, 'Please, God, don't let it get me.' Oh man, I was scared to death."

He hit the road and turned left toward the vehicle and saw movement to the right. He looked, and about 20 feet away was the thing.

"It was coming down the side of the hill, and it was taking steps I can't even reach in a stride. At that point I hit overdrive. I was screaming like a school girl. ... And I go rushing past my friends. I blew right by them like they were standing still."

But forgot there was a five-foot high embankment caused from when the river ran high.

"I ran smack into the embankment."

When he hit it, he said he lost his air and that's about when he felt his friends run up his back.

"And I could hear them arguing 'Who's got the keys,' " he said. "They were two for two running me over."

The only time he chuckled telling the story.

He dug and clawed his way up the embankment and someone produced the keys. They threw themselves into the vehicle and one of them yanked on the headlights and saw nothing more than the outside.

The four decided to stay there and return to camp in the morning to retrieve items left behind.

"Well, one of my friends in the back seat, bless his heart, dumped all the beer in a sleeping bag and brought it with him."

The hunter and a buddy in the front seat stayed awake, drank beer and grew some courage while the other two slept in the back.

"We sat in the car and drank too much beer and thought about it too long," he said. "We went back up the road a way with a flashlight to check out what we might be able to see."

It was eerie as soon as they stepped out.

"One of the things I remember about that was that is was dead silent. Not a frog, not a cricket, not a coyote howl. Nothing. ... The only thing we heard was the creek running."

They walked about 200 yards and spied a band of standing timber about 50 yards wide and 200-300 yards long with windfall inside.

So, of course, they entered it. As they approached the middle they heard branches breaking and twigs snapping. The sounds moved closer.

"I said, 'We got to go.' And at that moment I heard a blood-curdling scream that sounded so loud ... I had never heard anything like it ... It wasn't a cougar scream, it was louder than a cougar or a bear or anything like that. It was the loudest thing I had ever heard."

They turned to run through the timber and he watched

his friend run into a tree and hit the ground.

"I was thinking, I wish I could help you. I just hollered at him 'get up and come on.'"

They bumbled their way out and back to the vehicle, but it seemed the chase had stopped.

"He wanted to let us know he was there, but he wasn't going to let us know what type of thing he was."

They stayed in the vehicle the rest of the night and returned to camp at daylight. On the way they found logs 12-15 feet long that in the night had been placed near the road. They also saw foot prints in the soft dirt.

"Almost two of my feet would fit it, and was wide as two of my feet. And you could make out toes ... Not real defined, but you could make them out. I was really starting to believe the concept that we had an encounter with sasquatch or Bigfoot or whatever it is."

He said the camp had been ransacked — the tent was demolished, the camp stove was bent, lanterns were busted, clothes strewn about, his sleeping bag in the creek was torn apart and the ice chest was almost torn in half.

And all around the camp was brown hair, about 5-8 inches long.

"It was really course ... like hide on deer or elk ... but it was much longer."

One friend had connections to an elder of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

"And he told us about a creature that lives in the Blue Mountains. ... It can be aggressive but usually just runs people off. The creature is really territorial of the area."

But could he corroborate the story?

"The guys I went up there with, it actually scared us so bad they won't talk about it. For quite some time I didn't either."

He returned once to the area, but was too creeped out to stay long.

"I fully believe what we experienced that night and what the Indian elder told us about the creature in the mountain there, and from what I've seen on TV ... I fully believe we had an encounter with the sasquatch. There's no other explanation for it in my opinion."

He never sold his story and he never felt the urge to track down what it was he had encountered that night.

"I don't feel I have to prove to anybody what I saw. I know what I saw. ... I've never been that scared in the mountains before from something else that was living there. Quite frankly, I don't want to encounter it again."

He said where this happened is now privately owned and access is restricted. And with no one else to back up the tale, it remains just another chapter in the Bigfoot saga.

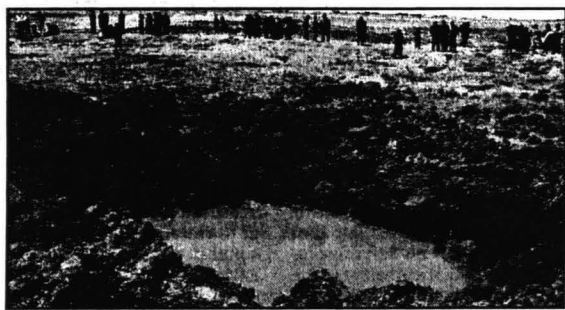
But as he told his story, he seemed so earnest. The little details — how high the creek was, how long things took, the saved beer — have the feel of truth.

And then there is that footprint back there at the Tollgate resort. The one Krantz had cast.

If you go there, ask Piskner if you can look closely at it. If you need, ask him if you can use a chair to stand on. Look around the big toe. That's where you'll see them.

Dermal ridges. The things that make for finger and toe prints.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Sept. 20, 2007



People observe a crater in Puno, Peru, that was formed after a supposed meteorite crashed Sunday.

Experts doubt meteor made Peruvians sick

BY MONTE HAYES
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LIMA, Peru — A fiery meteorite crashed into southern Peru over the weekend, experts confirmed Wednesday. But they were still puzzling over claims that it gave off fumes that sickened 200 people.

Witnesses told reporters that a fiery ball fell from the sky and smashed into the desolate Andean plain near the Bolivian border Saturday morning.

Jose Mechare, a scientist with Peru's Geological, Mining and Metallurgical Institute, said a geologist had confirmed that it was a "rocky meteorite," based on the fragments analyzed.

He said water in the meteorite's muddy crater boiled for maybe 10 minutes from the heat and could have given off a vapor that sickened people, and scientists were taking water samples.

"We are not completely certain that there was no contamination," Mechare said.

Jorge Lopez, director of the health department in the state where the meteorite crashed, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that 200 people suffered headaches, nausea and respiratory problems caused by "toxic" fumes emanating from the crater, which is some 65 feet wide and 15 feet deep.

But a team of doctors sent to the isolated site, 3 1/2 hours travel from the state capital of Puno, said they found no evidence the meteorite had sickened people, the Lima newspaper *El Comercio* reported Wednesday.

Modesto Montoya, a member of the team, was quoted as saying doctors also had found no sign of radioactive contamination among families living nearby, but had taken blood samples from 19 people to be sure.

He said fear may have provoked psychosomatic ailments.

"When a meteorite falls, it produces horrid sounds when it makes contact with the atmosphere," he told the paper. "It is as if a giant rock is being sanded. Those sounds could have frightened them."

Justina Limache, 74, told *El Comercio* that when she heard the thunderous roar from the sky, she abandoned her flock of alpacas and ran to her small home with her 8-year-old granddaughter. She said that after the meteorite struck, small rocks rained down on the roof of her house for several minutes and she feared the house was going to collapse.

Meteor expert Ursula Marvin said that if people were sickened, "it wouldn't be the meteorite itself, but the dust it raises."

A meteorite "wouldn't get much gas out of the Earth," said Marvin, who has studied the objects since 1961 at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Mass. "It's a very superficial thing."

Information for this article was contributed from Lima by Edison Lopez of The Associated Press.

LATEST MODEL IN BAMBOOZZLE

The article "Bigfoot Inc." by Stett Holbrook (July 11) has overextended its stay. The belief in Bigfoot has the same credibility as the existence of "compassionate conservatism." Both are totally unreal and, as your article explained about Bigfoot, very lucrative—the latest model in bamboozle. So why is the Bigfoot phenomenon greeted within the realm of plausibility? The answer is the mainstream media. The article's title itself is self-explanatory. There's money to be made in publishing and in films. The very idea of Tom Biscardi's organization pursuing Bigfoot is self-explanatory; it's his nationwide cottage industry.

But regardless of the players in the game and the layers of deception, one demand has not been made, a demand that true Americans make when confronting dilemmas and mysteries: "I'm from Missouri. Show me!" After thousands of years of Bigfoot sightings, not one of its toes has been found, let alone a live one captured and exhibited in public. It took six years for Americans to get over with compassionate conservatism; it's time for the rest of us to get over with Bigfoot.

ARMANDO GOMEZ
SANTA ROSA

SOME COFFEE POTS WERE DROPPED

Nothing new about Bigfoot. Not a new species, either. Nor are they animals like Biscardi claims. Nor are there only 3,500. They are highly intelligent, interdimensional people that number in the millions in the U.S. alone. Benevolent, cautious, curious, polite, easily frightened spirit people who are eager to make new friends. They were studied at UC Berkeley by Stephen Hawking and others during his sabbatical there in '74-'75. Two were held in captivity at Lawrence Livermore National Lab in the '60s. Both escaped by outwitting their captors, by changing dimensions in their holding cell, thus leaving them to believe that they had escaped. When the janitor came into clean up, the creatures glided right by him in another dimension and were then loose in the facility for several weeks. Nobody was hurt. Some coffee pots were dropped. Both eventually left the building.

GEORGE PLAUT
SAN JOSE

METEORITE HIT

Experts are puzzled by claims of illness

LIMA, Peru — A fiery meteorite crashed into southern Peru over the weekend, experts confirmed on Wednesday. But they were still puzzling over claims that it gave off fumes that sickened 200 people.

Local residents told reporters that a fiery ball fell from the sky and smashed into the desolate Andean plain near the Bolivian border Saturday morning.

Jose Mechare, a scientist with Peru's Geological, Mining and Metallurgical Institute, said a geologist had confirmed that it was a "rocky meteorite," based on the fragments analyzed.

He said water in the meteorite's muddy crater boiled for maybe 10 minutes from the heat and could have given off a vapor that sickened people, and scientists were taking samples.

Bigfoot in the backyard?

Local folks claim the creature lurks in area woodlands

By Patrick W. Connelly
Herald Staff Writer

Whether legend or hoax, a tall, dark and mysterious monster-like creature may call parts of the woodlands in the Mercer County area home.

"He's out there somewhere," said Paul Lucas of Girard, Pa., an advocate for the existence of what skeptics consider a paranormal apparition of American folklore.

Lucas said he works with the Sasquatch Research Initiative and determines whether Bigfoot sightings are legit or simply cries for attention. Over the years, he has studied sightings of the large, hairy, human-like animal in western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio.

Through his work, Lucas said he's seen enough evidence and heard from enough honest people to believe the beast exists in some form or another.

More documented sightings of Bigfoot have been compiled from Mercer County than its surrounding neighbors. A total of six sightings beginning in the 1980s have been accumulated by various research organizations.

While more than 90 sightings have been reported statewide, Lucas said many sightings go unreported by individuals who fear talking about such a myth could bring on unneeded ridicule.

"Many people think seeing Bigfoot will cause their friends to think they're out of their minds," Lucas said.

"It's best to tell your story and let us help you find if what you saw was real," he said, adding that the majority of research organizations accept anonymous accounts to protect the credibility of those who have seen a Bigfoot.

The first documented notice of a sasquatch in the

"So many sightings in one area must mean some kind of abnormal creature is out there."

Paul Lucas

county is believed to have occurred in the 1980s: A woman riding horseback near the Shenango River Lake in the Clark area heard loud roars that spooked her thoroughbred. She was too frightened and couldn't catch a glimpse of the creature but claimed the noise wasn't made by a human or animal native to local woodlands.

The most concrete evidence a Bigfoot creature may have once existed in the northern part the county are three reported sightings in the same vicinity during the mid-1980s.

"So many sightings in one area must mean some kind of abnormal creature is out there," Lucas said.

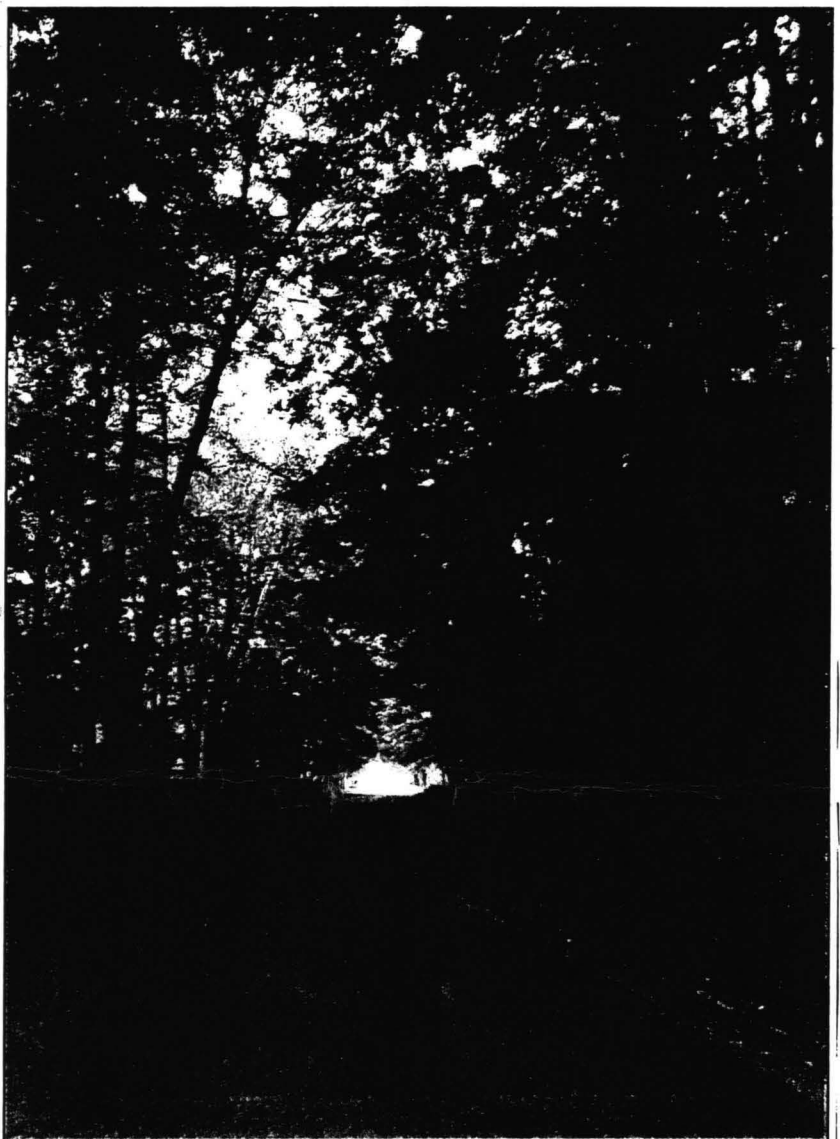
In the fall of 1984, a group of Boy Scouts was camping at the Greenville Sportsmen's Club on Vernon Road in West Salem Township. The boys walked to a nearby wooded area nicknamed "Hell's Hollow" on South Barry Road.

The hollow received its nickname because of its spooky appearance. A dense overhead of trees blocks most of the sunlight from reaching the ground. Even the sunniest days in the wooded area are dark and gloomy.

While playing "capture the flag" in the woods, two scouts hiding near a brush pile startled a huge Bigfoot-like animal.

The creature took off running and the boys couldn't catch a glimpse of its face.

About two years later, another man saw the creature in the hollow. While sitting in his parked truck with his girl-



Tom Davidson/Herald

The spooky, tree-covered "Hell's Hollow" may be the stomping grounds of the mythical monster Bigfoot. A sasquatch-like creature has been spotted three times in the area just off state Route 358 on South Barry Road in West Salem Township.

friend, the man claims to have seen "a figure of large proportion" walk past.

"I would guess about 7 to 8 feet tall and about 300 or 400 pounds," the man told the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization.

The creature ignored the truck and kept moving. The frightened man started his truck and left, later realizing his girlfriend didn't see the

sasquatch.

Two years later, the same man and a friend were hunting squirrels in the hollow during the fall of 1986. Both saw the creature running up a steep hill.

"It took me about 3 to 7 minutes to cover that hill on less sloping ground," he said. "This thing ran up it in about 15 to 20 seconds."

"The guy I was hunting

with doesn't believe in Bigfoot and says it must have been a bear," the man told researchers.

"Bears don't usually move that quick," Lucas said, adding they also are rare for this area. Another sighting in the hollow hasn't been documented since, but others claim to have spotted Bigfoot lurking elsewhere in the county.

(continued on page 20)

Mercer County Area Bigfoot Sightings

■ A woman riding a horse during the 1980s said she heard a loud scream and roar near Clark.

■ A couple living in South Shenango Township, Crawford County, had several encounters with an unseen creature they heard moving through the woods and around their house late at night between 1986 and 1994. Their dog acted strangely when the noises were heard.

■ Boy Scouts playing "cap-

ture the flag" in the fall of 1984 west of the Greenville Sportsmen's Club in West Salem Township bumped Bigfoot in some brush. The sasquatch took off running at alarming speed.

■ A man spotted a creature in the fall of 1986 that was about 7 or 8 feet tall and 350 pounds walk in front of his truck on South Barry Road in West Salem Township. The man's girlfriend didn't notice the creature. In the fall of 1988, the same man and a friend were hunting in the area and saw the creature swiftly scale the steep hills of the hollow.

■ Two men driving home from a football game in November 2001 reported seeing a large brown creature that appeared to be a person striding across Lamor Road in Jefferson Township.

■ A man driving in May 2003 noticed a dark-colored creature walk across the highway in front of several vehicles before disappearing into the woods on state Route 60 north of New Castle.

■ A group of boys reported seeing in November 2003 an 8-foot-tall creature covered in hair on two separate occasions in New Castle. The boys told researchers the creature

smelled like a "wet dog."

■ A man claimed to have hit Bigfoot with his car in November 2004 while driving home from work late at night in the Grove City area. The man told researchers he had hair samples, but never consented to an interview.

Sighting Statistics:

■ Mercer County: 6 documented; last reported sighting in November 2004

■ Crawford County: 3 documented; last heard in 1994

■ Venango County: No documented sightings

■ Lawrence County: 2 documented sightings; last seen

in November 2003

■ Mahoning County: 1 documented; last reported sighting in August 1972

■ Trumbull County: 3 documented; last reported sighting in August 2004

■ Ohio: About 190 documented sightings

■ Pennsylvania: About 80 documented sightings

Sightings documented by the Bigfoot Field Researchers Association, Pennsylvania Researchers and the Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society.

Scientists on the trail of Bigfoot

THE HUNT is on for Hollywood's favourite monster - Bigfoot.

Scientists are on the trail of the legendary half-man half-beast that has stalked the wild forests of North America for three million years.

An expedition is being mounted next week by zoologists in a mountainous area of Michigan's Upper Peninsula after growing evidence that the strange beast - called Sasquatch by native Americans - really exists.

Recent sightings of a hairy creature walking upright in this remote area have prompted researchers to begin scouring the landscape for bones, teeth and, of course, giant 2ft-long footprints.

The legend of Bigfoot has prompted excitement, hysteria and hoaxes in equal measure over the years. Grainy film footage captured by Roger Patterson and Robert Gimlin at Bluff Creek, California, in 1967 gave the world the first sight of what a Sasquatch may look like - although sceptics claim the film was a fake.

Hollywood's version of the Sasquatch story, Bigfoot and the Hendersons, became a worldwide favourite with its plot of an all-American family adopting a lumbering giant creature, with comical results. Cryptozoologists - scientists who study fabled and legendary

By Stuart Winter
ENVIRONMENT EDITOR

beasts - believe the Bigfoot may be related to a primitive homonoid known as "gigantopithecus" who evolved three million years ago.

But as the debate rages, with countless books and websites dedicated to the controversy, researchers have decided to hit the trail and try to prove that the myth is real.

Matthew Moneymaker, of the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organisation, said he hopes his team's search of the Upper Peninsula will yield

'Beast evolved 3m years ago'

results but the exact areas to be searched are being kept secret.

He said: "We hope to accomplish several things. First is a direct sighting and recording that sighting. We'll also be looking for evidence supporting a presence.

"We are going to study the environment, which is typically remote. And we hope to meet local people who might have seen a Sasquatch or heard of someone who had an encounter.

Sasquatch is an omnivore and predator. His diet consists of both meat and vegetation. One of the signs we look for is a healthy population of deer and other mammals with hooves."

Among the research team are members of the organisation who claim to have glimpsed the creature on previous expeditions.

Professor Jeff Meldrum, of Idaho State University, is convinced the Bigfoots exist. Meldrum, a professor of anthropology and anatomy, has never seen Bigfoot, but said: "I've seen fresh footprints. 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."

Legends of hairy, man-like creatures are found in many cultures. The Yeti has long terrified the inhabitants of the high Himalayas, but the story of the Abominable Snowman surfaced in Britain only in 1921.

That year, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Howard-Bury, leading an expedition to Everest, discovered huge footprints across a snowfield at 21,000ft.

He thought they had been caused by a grey wolf, but was told by his terrified Sherpa guides that they were made by the "wild man of the snows".



MONSTER OR FAKE? A shot from the Patterson-Gimlin film made in 1967

Bigfoot, Sasquatch or bear with mange?

RIDGWAY, Pa. (AP) — It's furry and walks on all fours.

Beyond that, about the only thing certain about the critter photographed by a hunter's camera is that some people have gotten the notion it could be a Sasquatch, or bigfoot. Others say it's just a bear with a bad skin infection.

Rick Jacobs says he got the pictures from a camera with an automatic trigger that

he fastened to a tree in the Allegheny National Forest, about 115 miles northeast of Pittsburgh, hoping to photograph deer.

"We couldn't figure out what they were," Jacobs said of the images captured on Sept. 16. "I've been hunting for years and I've never seen anything like this."

He contacted the Bigfoot Research Organization, which pursues reports of a legendary two-legged creature that some people believe lives in parts of the U.S. and Canada.

"It appears to be a primate-like animal. In my opinion, it

appears to be a juvenile Sasquatch," said Paul Majeta of the bigfoot group.

However, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has a more conventional opinion. Agency spokesman Jerry Feaser said conservation officers routinely trap bears to be tagged and often see animals that look like the photos.

"There is no question it is a bear with a severe case of mange," Feaser told The Bradford Era.

MINNESOTA WILDLIFE

Sightings of Bigfoot more common, say Northland searchers

■ Reports don't go away, but some skeptical

By Lee Bloomquist
Duluth News Tribune

DEER RIVER, Minn. — Robert Olson said he and others have discovered plenty of large footprints in northeastern Minnesota's forests.

Footprints of Bigfoot. "For every sighting we have heard about, there's probably 10 more that we don't hear about," said Olson, who spoke this past week about northeastern Minnesota Bigfoot sightings at Lady Ocalat's Emporium in downtown Duluth, a shop that sells "eclectic and magical" items.

"One of the ideas is that these creatures are moving east away from what could be a cataclysmic disaster," Olson said.

Signs, reports

Olson is one of a handful of northeastern Minnesota Bigfoot researchers who say they've seen signs — or received reports — of Bigfoot "beings," also known as Sasquatch, across northeastern Minnesota.

Within the past two years, there have been about 20 documented sightings across northeastern Minnesota, Olson said.

The creatures have been described as having human-like faces with cone-shaped heads, hairy, stooped, with long arms and palms that face backward.

"And they can run," said Olson. "There's probably no animal in Minnesota that could catch them."

Sites of sightings

Many of the reported sightings have been in rural areas surrounding Leech Lake, some in the day and some at night. But sightings have also been reported in other areas.

"We've had actual sightings near Bovey, Nett Lake and around here," said Donald Sherman, a facilities manager at Cass Lake Hospital and a member of the Leech Lake Ojibwe band. He documents Bigfoot sightings and stories in the region.

"They have like a human footprint, but the prints are extremely large. We have photographs where they have made shelters, where there's animal bones lying around the shelters."

Indian beliefs

Stories of Bigfoot — a large brown, hairy human-like being that roams forests — go back hundreds of years in American Indian beliefs, Sherman said.

In Ojibwe, the word for a Bigfoot-like creature is "bugwayjinini," meaning "wild man," Sherman said.

Indians believe that Bigfoot beings were sent by the creator long ago to guide and care for Indian people and give warnings, particularly of impending sickness, Sherman said.

"It's how we learn medicine," Sherman said. "Bigfoot teaches us medicine through our medicine man."

Sherman believes 300 to 400 — perhaps even 500 — Bigfoots exist in Minnesota.

"A man was hunting during the day in Nett Lake (about 20 years ago) and thought he saw a bear," Sherman said. "He put his 30.06 scope on it, but then, it stood up on two legs. It looked like a human, and he couldn't shoot it. Then, it just took off."

In 2005, a woman reported seeing a Bigfoot near Bena, Sherman said.

"She was driving her car and saw it walking near some railroad tracks," Sherman said. "She said it looked right at her and she started crying. She said it looked into her soul."

In 2006, a woman driving at night reported a sighting near Ball Club.

"She had come from the Deer River Casino and a small one came out, saw her and went back into the swamp," Sherman said. "Nobody knows if they're human or animal. Some Native Americans say they can change themselves and go into a different dimension and disappear right in front of you. ... There's a lot more people seeing them in the last two years, or else more people are starting to come out of the woods who are willing to talk about what they've seen."

No evidence

There's never been any evidence to support believers' claims, said Keith Matson of Deer River, a retired U.S. Forest Service inventory technician who worked in northeastern Minnesota forests for 28 years and knows Olson.

"I have had contact with a lot of professionals who work in the forest and they have never seen signs," Matson said. "Unfortunately, [Bigfoot] tracks are easy to fake. I'm not doubting their sincerity, but did they really see Bigfoot or did they see a bear or a moose, or is it a repressed dream?"

Footprints found

Jody Hansen of Keewatin said he's been researching the existence of Bigfoot in northeastern Minnesota since June.

This summer, Hansen said he found a footprint 17 inches long, 5 inches across the heel and 8 inches across the toes in an anthill near Carey Lake east of Hibbing. He said he's also found piles of branches and stick figures created by Bigfoot for communication. Hansen and Olson said Bigfoot also communicate by knocking on trees.

Sherman says he and other Bigfoot researchers know there will always be doubters.

"There's always skeptics," Sherman said. "But it's like bears — there are a lot of them around, but not too many people have seen them. It's like people who don't believe in God."

The News Tribune and the Herald are both Forum Communications Co. newspapers.