

# UFO

## NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

December 2007 - Number 461

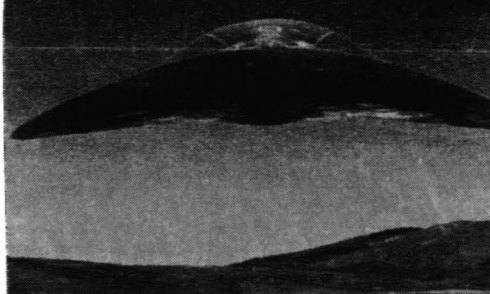
Roderick Dyke & Chuck Flood, Editors  
UFO Newsclipping Service - P.O. Box 10950 - Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110

Scientists try to find answers for the strange sightings in the sky

SUNDAY CHRONICLE  
San Francisco, California  
December 9, 2007

## Are They Out There ?

By David H. Levy



**It** MAY HAVE BEEN the most unusual question to come up at a Presidential debate. When moderator Tim Russert asked Democratic candidate Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich if he'd ever seen a UFO, the Ohio Congressman didn't hesitate. "I did," he replied. While this led to much amusement in the media, it also prompts a more serious look at the phenomenon of Unidentified Flying Objects.

Humans have long asked: Are we alone? Has our planet ever been visited by others? Among those committed to the search for evidence of

life beyond Earth are the scientists at the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Institute. Thanks to a huge donation from Paul Allen, the co-founder of Microsoft, SETI—in partnership with the University of California at Berkeley—is building a network of radio telescopes near Hat Creek in Northern California. Known as the Allen Telescope Array, its purpose is to pick up signals from space.

Currently, there are 42 telescopes in place. In 2010, when the Allen array is completed, 350 telescopes will scan the stars as far as 1000 light-years

away. (They will not be looking for visiting craft, just radio signals.) These individual telescopes will be searching different regions of the sky, but they can be combined into one giant telescope if needed to confirm someone's call from the darkness of space.

Sightings of UFOs have occurred since biblical times. Renaissance artwork includes visions of strange flying objects in the sky. Many modern-day sightings are on record, and some remain mysteries to this day.

Some sightings are not easily dismissed. Years ago, the late Clyde Tombaugh, the man who discovered Pluto, observed green fireballs in the sky. Unlike the ordinary greenish fireballs that occasionally brighten the night, these appeared as a group and seemed to speed up during their flight through the sky.

But the more he thought about it, the more skeptical Tombaugh became about his sighting. "Even if they were visiting from a planet circling the nearest star, Alpha Centauri," he once told me, "an almost infinite amount of fuel, as we understand it, would be required to accelerate them from their home to ours. There must be another explanation."

Jack "Triple" Nickel, a retired Air Force fighter pilot, also is a respected astronomer. Early in his career, in the fall of 1973, as he flew at night between clouds over Oklahoma and Texas, a bright light suddenly appeared in front of him. "It was either close by and dim or far away and bright," he recalls. "It lasted about 20 minutes before vanishing." Nickel can't rule out the possibility that the light was the bright star Sirius shining through a break in the clouds, but the sighting was never explained.

Still, most of the strange sights in the night sky are easy to explain—whether it's Venus, the northern lights or even an artificial satellite passing for a UFO. For example, pilot Tom Wideman was flying over California late one night in 1986 when he witnessed "a blazing fireball that crossed our path from right to left, trailing flaming debris before it went out of sight." The next day, Wideman learned that a Russian rocket booster had burned up on re-entry over the Mojave Desert. "It had crossed 20 miles in front of our flight path, close enough to be spectacular."

Many scientists, myself included, believe we are probably not alone in our galaxy but that most likely no one has visited us yet. Even if a UFO landed in my backyard, I'd want to have a look inside and meet the occupants before I'd be convinced.

Recently, just before dawn, 11 faint lights appeared in my telescope's field of view. They climbed the sky,

slowed, stopped, then started back toward the horizon. I thought about it for a while. Then it hit me: About 300 miles from my Arizona home is White Sands Missile Range, a facility that frequently launches rockets. I must have witnessed a missile launch.

If you hear a UFO story, be skeptical. Ask questions. If someone describes an object that hovers in the sky, motionless, then tears off at twice the speed of sound, ask how it could suddenly move that fast, breaking Newton's law of motion. It has to accelerate to that speed, and the faster it speeds up, the more force is needed.

In the meantime, keep watching. Seeing unusual things is just one reason to look up at the night sky, eagerly and passionately, and wonder.

**Many scientists believe that we are not alone in the galaxy**

CHICAGO TRIBUNE  
Chicago, Illinois  
December 10, 2007

# NASA to probe self for UFO data

A federal ruling requires the space agency to turn over any files it might have related to a 1965 incident in a small Pennsylvania town

By Sean D. Hamill  
Special to the Tribune

KECKSBURG, Pa. — The U.S. government says nothing of note happened in this small town in the hills of southwestern Pennsylvania at 4:47 p.m. on Dec. 9, 1965. A meteor may have passed by, but no alien ship or Russian space probe fell to Earth, as many here believe.

Still, Bill Bulebush, 82, says he knows what he saw, heard and smelled, despite the doubts of the government and others in this community 40 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

"I looked up and saw it flying overhead and it was sizzling," said Bulebush, a retired truck driver. "I found it in the woods down there [in a valley] and I got to it 15 to 20 minutes after it landed. I saw it 10 to 15 feet away from behind a big tree—because I was worried it might blow up—and it smelled like sulfur or rotten eggs and was shaped like a huge acorn, about the size of a VW."

Other people said that shortly afterward, dozens of Army soldiers and three members of the Air Force showed up; later that night a flatbed military truck took the object away.

Despite such accounts, the government has been "trying to make it out like we're a bunch of liars," Bulebush said. But now he and his fellow believers may have their best chance yet to prove their case.

A recent settlement in a 4-year-long Freedom of Information Act court battle requires NASA to meticulously comb its files for documents about the Kecksburg incident.

The lawsuit was filed in December 2003 in the District of Columbia by Leslie Kean, a freelance journalist, with financial support from the SciFi Channel, which ran a show that year titled "The New Roswell: Kecksburg Exposed."

## Searching for answers

Kean was asked by SciFi in 2002 to find a UFO case with credible witnesses and possible physical evidence. She created the Coalition for Freedom of Information to support the effort and to look into other "unexplained aerial phenomena."

Part of Kean's own criteria, despite SciFi's title for the Kecksburg show, was to pick a case as far removed as possible from the 1947 incident in Roswell, N.M.—thought by many to be a crashed alien spaceship but

later revealed to be a top-secret research balloon.

"The types that go to Roswell and parade in the street in costumes, we try to stay far, far away from that," she said.

Kean pressed the case after she filed a Freedom of Information Act request earlier in 2003 and NASA said it couldn't find any documents related to Kecksburg. But Kean already knew the space agency, which had a program in the 1960s to recover and analyze space debris, had some documents. Stan Gordon, a UFO and Bigfoot researcher with whom Kean was working, had information he got in response to a request he sent NASA in the 1990s.

"In the beginning, they probably saw Leslie's request and thought, 'Oh, she's after UFOs,'" said her attorney, Lee Helfrich of Washington. "Maybe they just didn't treat it seriously at first."

They do now.

## From frustration, action

After NASA turned over about 1,000 pages of documents that failed to adequately address Kean's request, the case boiled over on March 20 for federal Judge Emmet Sullivan, who had tried to move NASA along for more than three years.

According to a transcript, the judge angrily referred to NASA's search efforts as a "ball of yarn" that never fully answers the request, adding: "I can sense the plaintiff's frustration because I'm frustrated."

A settlement was reached Oct. 17 specifying how NASA will make a new records search and that both sides must report to Sullivan periodically, starting Dec. 17. NASA also agreed to pay Kean \$50,000 in attorneys' fees and costs.

In a statement, NASA would say only that it was "conducting another records search."

This past week Kean and her attorney received the first batch of documents: 689 pages of Form 135s, which are inventory sheets that indicate what is in boxes and files in NASA's archives.

Based on a first read of the documents—from which Kean will select files for NASA to review for any documents related to Kecksburg—Kean said she's "cautiously optimistic" that they'll turn up something.

"I asked my attorney if she found the 'Kecksburg UFO Explained' file," Kean said with a laugh. "She said, 'Not yet.' But I'm still hopeful."

Many people in Kecksburg believe Kean's effort is just another frivolous step down the rabbit hole of fantasy.

"I wouldn't go along with the stories because it didn't happen," said Ed Myers, 81, who was chief of the Kecksburg Volunteer Fire Department in 1965 and said he didn't see the dozens of soldiers or the blue lights some people swear they saw.

Myers no longer helps his hometown fire department, a decision that began when the department encouraged UFO speculation by displaying a mock-up of the craft that Bulebush and others said they saw.

The mock-up was created in 1990 for a documentary and now sits prominently on a hillside behind the fire hall.

After years of rejecting efforts to make money off the story, the fire department hosted a wildly popular Kecksburg UFO gather-

ing two years ago on the 40th anniversary, and began selling T-shirts, mugs, plates and hats with a picture of the flaming acorn hurtling across the sky, along with the date, Dec. 9, 1965.

Sales continue today at the Kecksburg UFO Store in the basement of the Rescue EMS

headquarters house near the fire hall.

"We've made about \$10,000, mostly from shirts, so far," said Ron Strueble, 64, a fire department volunteer. "We're at the point now where we can start buying some additional equipment for the trucks."

For Bulebush, the UFO store is good for the town, but it's the lawsuit that he hopes will be his validation.

"I don't have too much time in this world. I'd like to be here to see this through," he said. "I want to find out what they're holding back on us."



Photo for the Tribune by Annie O'Neill  
Bill Bulebush (left) and UFO expert Stan Gordon stand near where some say a UFO landed in 1965 in Kecksburg, Pa. A mock-up of the craft, which Bulebush claims to have seen, is behind them.

## Is truth out there?

■ **Iranian air force encounter, 1976:** Two Iranian F-4 fighter jets chase a UFO above Tehran. One pilot says he tried to fire at the object but his equipment was inoperable.

■ **Bentwaters landing case, England, 1980:** U.S. Air Force personnel report strange lights and a possible UFO landing near the Bentwaters air base. One theory was that the lights were part of a practical joke.

■ **Phoenix lights, 1997:** Hundreds report seeing a large UFO with strange, V-shaped lights moving above Phoenix and other Arizona towns. The Air National Guard says the lights were from jets using flares over a bombing range south of Phoenix.

■ **O'Hare sighting, Chicago, Nov. 2006:** Airline and ground personnel at O'Hare International Airport report seeing a UFO hovering over the airport and then darting up, leaving a hole in the clouds. The FAA said it was a "weather phenomenon."



Albany, OR  
(Linn Co.)  
Democrat Herald  
(Cir. D. 17,239)  
(Cir. S. 17,730)

DEC 10 2007

ALBANY DEMOCRAT-HERALD  
Albany, Oregon  
December 10, 2007

# Sighting draws UFO research

2165

BY ELLEN AST  
ALBANY DEMOCRAT-HERALD

LACOMB — One clear evening last September, Raye and Derral Laufer spotted what they thought were strange objects in the sky above their home on Moran Lane in Lacombe.

They reported the incident to the National UFO Reporting Center, and the Democrat-Herald reported on their experience in October.

Since then, Raye has heard from about 100 people who have seen strange things in the sky, and a few saw what she and her husband did: Two silver, bullet-shaped objects heading across the sky and a glowing ellipse size of a Greyhound bus that hovered for about a minute above the treetops of their forested backyard and emitted sparks.

One caller was upset that the couple didn't take any pictures. The Democrat-Herald touched base with Raye again last week.

"I'll never get to the bottom of this," she said. "I'll never get answers."

Three members of the Mutual UFO Network, known as MUFON, visited the Laufers early last month from its headquarters in Bellevue, Colo., and spent most of a Sunday afternoon scouting their backyard with equipment for remains of the craft the Laufers saw.

"They walked the property, wrote reports,



Raye Laufer

wrote down stuff, picked up stuff," Laufer said. After heading to Albany for lunch, they returned to her home and stayed there until about 10 p.m.

"We drew the pictures of what we'd seen and they took pictures," Laufer added.

The Laufers and the MUFON group talked about sightings and spirituality. Raye and her husband of 19 years were raised Baptist. Raye, 50, said she always figured the universe was large enough to support other life but wasn't concerned about proving it.

The Laufers moved two years ago to their home about five miles outside Lacombe from Lebanon, where they lived for 13 years. Both were raised in Eugene and have three grown children from prior marriages. Derral has worked for 13 years as an auto technician at a Corvallis car dealership.

Raye TiVo's programs about unidentified flying objects and researches them on the Internet. She's learned about an Oregon UFO Festival held each May at the Hotel Oregon McMenamin's in McMinnville. She said she plans to attend with her daughter and a friend.

## Lacombe sighting

## Albany Democrat-Herald

ALBANY DEMOCRAT-HERALD  
Albany, Oregon  
October 18, 2007

DAVID PATTON/DEMOCRAT-HERALD

Raye Laufer of Lacombe describes objects she saw fly over her house one night in late September.

# Mysterious objects puzzle couple

BY ELLEN AST

ALBANY DEMOCRAT-HERALD

LACOMB — Raye Laufer has a vivid recollection of what she and her husband Derral saw in the sky above their Lacombe home last month and wants to know if others saw the same thing.

On Saturday, Sept. 22, the Laufers stepped outside to smoke cigarettes in the forested back yard of their Moran Lane home, nestled in a quiet valley among hills about five miles outside from Lacombe. It was shortly after 9 p.m., a clear night.

The couple fixed their attention on two long, silver, bullet-shaped objects flying side-by-side across the sky. Neither object had lights or made a sound, Raye said, and they soon split up: One headed east, the

other toward the northeast.

As Raye scanned the horizon to see where they went, she turned and saw what Derral had just spotted floating above treetops almost directly above their home.

"There was this orb," Raye exclaimed. A large object, glowing red and orange, silent, emitting what she says looked like sparks.

"It was beautiful," she remembers. Derral and Raye watched the object float in the same spot for about a minute, move over until it was directly over their roof, pause, then slowly journey north.

The incident continued to bother her — and pique her imagination.

During the next two weeks, Raye, 50, set out to find others who may have seen the

strange objects. She asked county and state law enforcement agencies if anyone called dispatch around the same time as the sighting.

No calls.

She posted a sign on a Lacombe bulletin board outside the town store, asking anyone who witnessed something to call her.

Still no calls.

"I know someone has to have seen it," she said.

She headed to the Internet for research. After she filed a report with the National UFO Reporting Center, a representative from that organization encouraged Raye to contact media.

"I used to joke about aliens," she said. "But there is something out there."



# Spooklights' source is still unknown

ONLY IN OKLAHOMA

By GENE CURTIS



Floating lights that bounce up into the tree-tops, appear to be about the size of a basketball and frequently are seen in pairs haunting the area where Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri converge.

The lights can be seen from a country road known as Spook Light Road many times of the year — especially at this time of year.

After all, Halloween is in the air.

Sightseers in hundreds of cars will be driving two roads — E40 in Hornet, Mo., and E50 in Miami near Quapaw — trying to get a glimpse of the light that some say is rectangular and others claim is spherical.

Theories have been offered over the years to explain the strange phenomenon — some require a belief in the supernatural, some are more scientific and some claim that the lights are just plain hallucinations. Some, as the name implies, claim that they are ghosts — but the lights' source remains a mystery.

An Army Corps of Engineers unit from nearby Camp Crowder, Mo., studied the spooklight for several weeks during 1946 and concluded that the phenomenon was "a mysterious light of unknown

origin."

Similar spooklights found in many other parts of the world have baffled observers for centuries.

Glowing in the night with an eerie, soft color, they sometimes pulse, sometimes dance about, usually near the ground or horizon. Their source is a mystery.

The phenomenon known as the Tri-State Spooklight, the Quapaw Spooklight, the Joplin Spooklight or the Hornet Spooklight caused panic in the small Missouri community of Hornet when it was first noticed by settlers in the late 1800s. Many area residents packed up and moved away.

But the Quapaw Indians reported legends about their ancestors seeing the lights in the early 1800s.

Among the earliest legends was that a handsome young American Indian man fell in love with a beautiful woman and eloped after her father refused to allow them to marry.

Fearing they would be captured, the couple committed suicide by jumping from a high bluff overlooking Spring River known as the Devil's Promenade. According to the legend, the light burns as a symbol of love between the two young lovers.

At least three early legends involve people using lanterns

to search for their heads after being beheaded.

A Quapaw legend involves an old Indian looking for his head, which his wife had cut off. A similar story involves a miner who was decapitated in an accident and is using a lantern in his search.

Another early legend is about an old sergeant who was captured during a Civil War battle and was executed by using a cannon to shoot off his head, which was never found. The old sergeant's ghost somehow obtained a lantern and since then has been searching for his head.

A Joplin librarian said in 1997 said she always figured it was an accumulation of gases and you saw it when the time was right.

A Spooksville Museum was operated for several years but it has been closed for some time. It displayed photographs and a collection of stories about the light as well as a viewing platform. It also offered for sale pamphlets about the spooklight.

Some experts claimed the



Tulsa World archive

Garland "Spooky" Middleton was one of a succession of people who ran a spooklight museum near the Oklahoma-Missouri border. The museum is now closed, but the spooklight phenomenon has never been fully explained.

light is simply the glow of minerals and gases in the area. UFO experts have claimed the light is a "controlled machine from outer space — flying saucers from other worlds."

Popular Mechanics magazine sent a reporter and photographer to the area in 1965 to investigate the light and a number of theories concerning its cause.

The reporter later wrote in

an article published in the September 1965 magazine that the light was produced by automobiles traveling east on U.S. 66 about 10 miles from the point where sightings of the phenomenon had been reported. The magazine said the light's unusual shimmering effect and the golden hue were caused by layers of air with varying temperature.

But area residents pointed

out as soon as the magazine was published that the light was seen long before there were automobiles or highways in the area.

Photograph research  
by Rachele Vaughan.

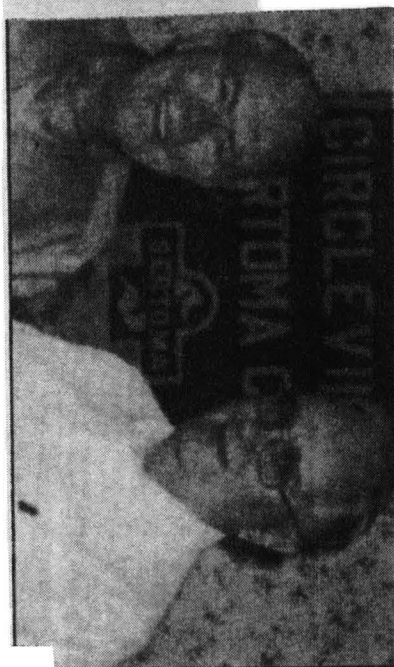
**TULSA WORLD**  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
October 30, 2007

CIRCLEVILLE HERALD  
Circleville, Ohio  
December 4, 2007

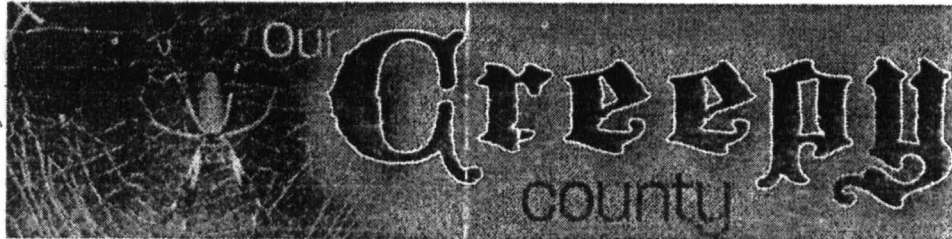
Credit: Jon Fry

## Hartinger talks about UFOs

Pete Hartinger (right) was the guest speaker at the Nov. 20 Sertoma Club meeting; he spoke of the history of Pickaway County and how it is connected to unidentified flying objects and recent updates of sightings. He is pictured with committee chairman Ron Dowden.







*a continuing series*

# Still the champ in UFO sightings

*Since 1975, North Bergen had most reports in USA*

By Jim Hague  
Reporter staff writer

*Editor's Note: This is part of Our Creepy County, a series that looks at Hudson County's mysteries, myths, macabre moments, and things that go bump in the night.*

It's probably the most unknown fact about the township of North Bergen. For some reason, this densely-populated town in northern Hudson County has had the highest number of reported sightings of aliens and unidentified flying objects (UFOs) over the last 30 years.

Most of them have been centered out of the southeastern end of North Hudson Braddock Park, a large park named after deceased boxer James "Cinderella Man" Braddock.

The North Bergen sightings have been documented and reported to several agencies, including the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle and the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago.

Since two people reported a major sighting to federal authorities back in 1975, there have been a total of 775 sightings or incidents involving North Bergen residents, easily the highest total of reported incidents in the United States, according to Marc Sodderstrom of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle.

In the last 32 years, the reports far exceeded those of the more famous location of Roswell, N.M., or other popular UFO sighting spots like Hudson Valley, N.Y. and Gulf Breeze, Fla. — places that have had at least 500 sightings over the years.

So how did all of this start in the quiet but busy town of North Bergen?

## Started with liquor store owner

The UFO craze in North Bergen began in earnest on Jan. 12, 1975, when a 72-year-old liquor store owner named George O'Barski was driving home through North Hudson Braddock Park at approximately 2:45 a.m.

He began to experience some heavy static on his car radio, then listened as the radio went dead.

O'Barski apparently heard a loud noise from above. When he glanced over his shoulder, he saw a round, flat object with glowing, rectangular windows that hovered behind his car, according to what he told authorities.

O'Barski told federal officials that the object came to a stop about 100 feet ahead of his car. It was hovering 10 feet off the ground and was about 30 feet wide, he said. It was flat at the bottom and brightly domed at the top.

O'Barski told the authorities that a ladder came from the object, and between eight and 11 identical creatures emerged. He said they were three to four feet tall and all wore dark snow-suit like uniforms with helmets. Each had a small bag and a little shovel. They quickly scooped up soil samples, poured the samples into the little bags, and then immediately got back onto the craft.

So was this a Steven Spielberg film crew, or did it really happen?

O'Barski further told officials that the episode lasted like three minutes. At sunrise, he went back to North Hudson Braddock Park to make sure he wasn't dreaming the incident. There were several holes in the soil where he witnessed the aliens allegedly digging, he said.

And O'Barski was not alone with his sighting.

A doorman who was working at the Stonehenge apartment complex across from the park on the other side of Boulevard East also noticed the glowing object hovering

100 feet over Braddock Park. The doorman, whose actual identity was never revealed, also told both local police and federal officials that when the object started its ascent, it forced windows to be shattered in the apartment complex and that a large tree adjacent to the complex was split in half.

"We might have thought he was a little crazy at first, but he was certain that he saw what he did," said O'Barski's son, George O'Barski Jr., on an A&E Network special about UFOs that aired for the first time in

see **UFO** page 13

**UFO SIGHTING SITE** — This is the area of North Hudson Braddock Park, with the Stonehenge Apartments in the foreground, where George O'Barski spotted "eight to 11 humanoid" creatures coming out of some sort of a spacecraft in 1975.



## UFO from page 7

2005. "It really bothered my father that people thought he was lying."

It was also later revealed that O'Barski and the unnamed Stonehenge doorman did not know each other, and it was impossible for the two to collaborate on their stories.

The doorman at the Stonehenge also noticed another key point to his sighting. The creature he spotted was not wearing a coat, and the temperatures were in the teens that early morning.

## Two investigators talk about it

The O'Barski case intrigued two people who are now linked in the world of UFO investigation.

Ted Bloecher, who currently lives in Secaucus, is an experienced stage actor, having performed in "Guys and Dolls," "My Fair Lady" and "Oliver" on Broadway. But as a child, Bloecher was always fascinated with the study of UFOs (called ufology)

and eventually became totally engulfed with O'Barski's tale.

Bloecher, now a regular UFO investigator, went to interview O'Barski about his story in the late 1970s.

"Since I'm an experienced stage actor, I know very well what is a staged act and what is real," Bloecher said last week. "The scene of them getting soil samples was fake. It was staged. Their real target was George O'Barski. They weren't interested in soil samples. They wanted him."

Another UFO researcher also intrigued by the O'Barski story was a writer named Budd Hopkins. In fact, both Bloecher and Hopkins were so intrigued by O'Barski's saga — a story that both experts eventually believed to be real after interviewing O'Barski — that they have since teamed forces in the pursuit of other "close encounters." The two currently conduct UFO sighting seminars throughout the country.

The reason Hopkins was so fascinated by the O'Barski sighting is that Hopkins had just visited a friend inside the Stonehenge apartments in North Bergen a week before the O'Barski sighting.

CONTINUED ON  
NEXT PAGE >>



"It was more than a bizarre coincidence," Hopkins would later say.

Newspaper reports were minimal after the O'Barski incident. Both the local dailies, the Jersey Journal and the now-defunct Hudson Dispatch, barely wrote of the incident, giving it only a few paragraphs each.

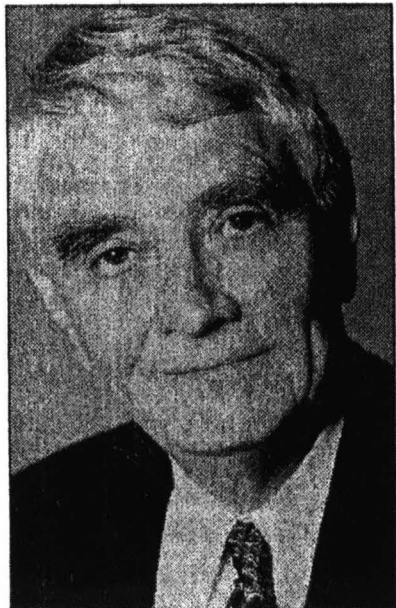
According to O'Barski's son, his father went to his grave in 1979 thoroughly believing that what he saw that fateful evening did, in fact, take place.

### Close encounter...

This incident was classified as a "close encounter of the second kind" because of physical evidence found at the scene, and also as one "of the third kind," just like in the famed 1978 movie starring Richard Dreyfuss, because witnesses describe observing UFO's.

UFO researcher Jerome Clark cites the O'Barski-North Bergen incident as one of the best-documented of its kind, because the core story was corroborated by numerous independent witnesses.

### Later sightings



**INTEREST PIQUED** - Well-known author and UFO expert Budd Hopkins, shown here, became so fascinated with the North Bergen-O'Barski sighting in 1975 that he dedicated his life to proving that the incident took place.

As it turned out, O'Barski wasn't alone.

In 1979, North Bergen resident Harold Stith was also driving through North Hudson Braddock Park in almost the same exact location that O'Barski traveled four years prior. Again, it was at night.

"My father was driving home from work, driving on Boulevard East, and he turned into the [Braddock] park," said Secaucus resident Robert Stith, the son of Harold, who is now deceased. "As soon as he turned off

see **UFO** page 15

### UFO from page 13

into the park, his car just stopped dead. Then the radio went dead. A bright light came on top of the car and then my father heard some strange things on the radio, some language that he didn't understand. He then noticed it was some sort of spaceship. The doors of the ship opened and these little grey men with big eyes came out. The next thing my father knew was that the door shut and they flew off. He thought it was like 10 minutes, but as it turned out, it was like three hours. My mother said that my father came home three hours late."

Hopkins, who also investigated the Stith case, believes that Stith was abducted.

"He believed that he was abducted," Robert Stith said. "We all thought he was crazy. He didn't want the story to come out because other people would have thought he was nuts."

Two days after Stith had his close encounter, he told his family that he had a dream about the Miss America pageant.

"My father named the winner, what she wore, what she performed, where she was from," Robert Stith said. "No one took it seriously. We didn't have an affiliation with the pageant and we had no idea why he would pick the Miss America winner."

Sure enough, Harold Stith's prediction came true. Two weeks later, it all happened just like Stith said it would. Cheryl Prewitt of Mississippi, the one Stith named after his dream, was crowned the Miss America of 1980.

"I don't think he ever had a theory as to why he could have done that," Robert Stith said.

The elder Stith never predicted the future ever again.

Again, there was a small article written in the Hudson Dispatch about several people spotting a glowing object in North Hudson Braddock Park that evening.

### 'Racing blips' in 1985

The reported sightings came to a halt for a few years, until 1985, when Ron Lee reported seeing three stationary sets of lights in the area, all oval in shape. Then, the lights took off into the sky. Ninetta Nappi reported the same lights as "racing blips."

In 1988, two different North Bergen residents reported seeing shapes that looked like "white and green diamonds" flying over Braddock Park.

In 1993, a North Bergen schoolteacher, Ann Barlovich, reported seeing a "large elliptical light with an eerie glow, a blimp-

like object."

"I know what I saw and it wasn't like anything else I'd ever seen before," Barlovich said in the 2005 A&E special.

In 1999, a resident of the Parker Imperial condominium complex said that he was standing on his balcony and was ready to take a picture of the sunset, when he noticed something peculiar. The man took the picture, then downloaded the picture to his computer and noticed three weird orbs in the photo.

"I really didn't see the orbs when I took the picture," Marc Taylor said. "Only when I reviewed it later."

Finally, on Nov. 3, 2003, the last two sightings reported to the National UFO Reporting Center, both spotted near Braddock Park.

At 5:40 p.m. that day, two North Bergen residents reported seeing something in the dusk sky. One witness saw something that looked like a star, but then it

## CONTINUED FROM < PREVIOUS PAGE

**HOBOKEN REPORTER**  
Hoboken, New Jersey  
December 2, 2007

### *His father went to his grave in 1979 believing he'd seen a UFO.*

moved in circles, then in a zig-zag motion. It moved for about five seconds, stopped for a bit, then continued the circular and zigzagging routine. Another witness saw the same exact thing.

"At first I thought that my vision was playing with me, or may be the clouds, but I tried looking at other stars, and they did not move at all," the report reads on the National UFO Reporting Center board. "After an hour, the light became steady and stopped moving. I do not know if what I saw was a UFO, but it was too high to be a plane or a helicopter."

### Peter Jennings weighs in

The late ABC News anchor Peter Jennings did a special report on UFOs in November of 2004 and he hinted at the number of sightings in North Bergen, wondering if it was just coincidence or fact-based.

The A&E special report also focused an entire hour on the North Bergen sightings, especially the famed O'Barski sighting. The A&E special aired for the first time in 2005 and has been often repeated.

In the Peter Jennings report, ABC claimed that almost 50 percent of Americans believe that UFOs are real, not to mention millions of individuals in other countries. Whether these cases happened remain between those who reported the sightings. Federal records of the reports have never been released to the public.

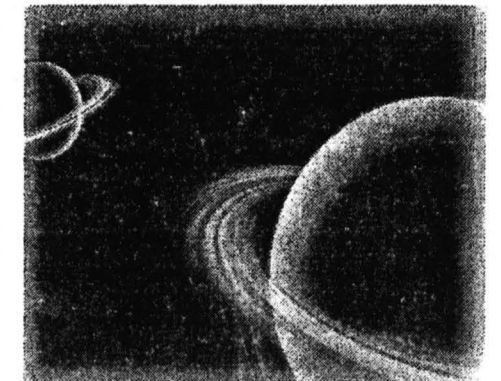
### Police chief remembers

North Bergen Police Chief William Galvin, a native of the township, remembers the craze as a 21-year-old who had yet to become a police officer.

"I just remember the hype and then I just saw the (A&E) special on TV and it reminded me," Galvin said. "We laugh about it. No one has ever received a call reporting a UFO to the Police Department. It is a mind-boggling number to think so many have been reported here. But as far as I know, I don't remember anyone calling the police with these cases. We might have got a call or two about strange objects, but no one ever made a big deal about it. I can't believe we're number 1 on that list. It amazes me."

But obviously, the cases existed and were reported and remain on file. Incredibly, since The North Bergen Reporter last wrote about the sightings in 2005, the article has been posted on several different UFO websites throughout the country. □

Jim Hague can be reached via e-mail at either [OGSMAR@aol.com](mailto:OGSMAR@aol.com) or [jhague@hudsonreporter.com](mailto:jhague@hudsonreporter.com)





**Right-Wing Paper  
 Disrespects UFOs**

EDITOR, TIMES-DISPATCH:

The Ramirez cartoon's cruel depiction of presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich as a raving idiot saying, "Of course I've seen a UFO. How do you think I got here?" is merely a disingenuous attempt to discredit Kucinich's progressive bid for the presidency and his recent motion before Congress to impeach Vice President Dick Cheney.

What Rep. Kucinich actually said at the Oct. 31 Philadelphia debate was, "It was an unidentified flying object, OK? It's, like, it's unidentified." Kucinich said also, "You have to keep in mind that . . . Jimmy Carter saw a UFO, and also that more people in this country have seen UFOs than, I think, approve of George Bush's presidency." The latter statement is certainly on target.

I find it more than coincidental that Kucinich made his UFO claim on the same day that he questioned President Bush's mental health in light of comments he made about a nuclear Iran precipitating World War III.

An "unidentified" sighting merely means the object cannot be identified, not that the object is necessarily from never-never land. Former Presidents Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter are both reported to have claimed UFO sightings. The three astronauts on *Apollo 11* in 1969 also said they saw a UFO. Fourteen percent of Americans are reported to have seen an UFO. Larry King recently hosted a UFO show.

An international panel of two dozen former pilots and government officials called on the U.S. government recently to reopen its generation-old UFO investigation as a matter of safety and security given continuing reports about flying discs, glowing spheres and other strange sightings.

Come on right-wing newspaper, give the progressives a break!

EDWARD TAYLOR.  
 MIDLOTHIAN.

# Kucinich is not the only one seeing close encounters

EDITOR'S NOTE: Starting today, Gary Lindstrom returns to the Summit Daily News as a regular Monday columnist.

**U**nidentified Flying Objects have been in the news lately.

It came up during a recent Democratic presidential debate. Apparently, Congressman Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio, had previously stated publically that he had personally seen a UFO. When he was asked about it, he admitted to making the statement and having seen a UFO.

Three cheers for the congressman for his courage and honesty. No cheers for the press who made a major joke out of his statement.

That was followed this past week by a national conference in Washington, D.C., of a group of very credible people relating their experiences having seen UFOs during their careers. The participants were from seven countries and the United States. One was a former governor of Arizona.

Another witness was a former four-star general from Belgium. A lot of airline pilots came forward to share what they had seen. Transcripts of astronauts talking about see-



## CONSIDER THIS

GARY LINDSTROM

ing UFOs in space were read.

When I was a police agent working in Lakewood, there was a report of a sighting above the power lines on South Table Top Mountain near Golden. The witnesses said that the saucer-like craft hovered above the power lines for about five minutes and then lifted straight up into the sky. In Summit County in the early 1980s, we had a report of an aircraft hovering above the Dillon Reservoir. It was black and had red, blue, yellow and green lights. It did not make any sound.

When it left it shot straight up into the sky out of sight.

A couple of days later we had the same report of something above the landfill near Keystone. Some campers were disturbed while sleeping and they woke up to see this "ship" above the landfill.

The classic local event

actually made the front page of the National Enquirer. I will not use the real names because one of the witnesses still works and lives in Summit County.

I was living on Straight Creek Drive in Dillon Valley. The sheriff at the time lived on Straight Creek Drive also, but at the other end. We always left our radios on at home just to monitor what was happening in the county.

All of a sudden, the communications center broadcast that a strange aircraft had been sighted above Silverthorne and they dispatched one of our deputies. A high-ranking elected official at the time also monitored the police radio and started in that direction, too. The sheriff and I decided not to respond.

The deputy drove north to about Ute Pass Road where they encountered the UFO hovering in the sky. They watched it for a time and it left and they went back home.

The National Enquirer picked up the story and ran it the next week with a photo of the deputy in uniform pointing to the sky. The sheriff and I to this day are thankful we did not respond. When I was in the Air Force, there was a

major government project tracking sightings of UFOs. It was tagged "Project Blue Book," and I remember reading many accounts of Air Force pilots and ground personnel seeing UFOs in the air and on the ground. It is reported that there were more than 12,618 UFO reports from 1947 to 1969.

Reports indicate that the CIA in 1987 tried to hush up the sighting of a huge lighted ball four times the size of a jumbo jet. Around the same time, the Summit County Communications Center received calls from the Frisco area about a bright object racing down Ten Mile Canyon on Interstate 70 at a high rate of speed. Witnesses in Copper Mountain had the same sighting and reported that it continued up to the top of Vail Pass. Eagle County Dispatch received many calls as the lighted object continued west. The last reports of sightings came from Glenwood Springs.

Talk about being bipartisan, it has been reported that Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter both have seen UFOs. The strangest story that I remember was when a man was kidnapped in the winter by a group of men dressed in

full white uniforms and then was tied up and hung from a tree in Monte Cristo Gulch south of Breckenridge.

That may or may not be a UFO story but it certainly happened and was strange. The victim could not have tied himself up and then hung himself from a tree.

He was not harmed and was rescued by a local resident passing by his location.

We always knew that Army Rangers sometimes did night training in the snow in Summit County, so that might account for the men in white uniforms. Of course, the Army denied having anyone in the area. Another Army tie-in. The Army High Altitude Helicopter training center is at Eagle County Airport in Gypsum. They fly over Summit County all the time. The only problem with that is I have never heard a quiet helicopter.

Maybe I witnessed some of this stuff. Maybe not. My lips are sealed. I might want to run for president someday.

Gary Lindstrom has lived in Summit County since 1974 and is a retired police officer and a recovering politician. He can be contacted at [gary@garylindstrom.com](mailto:gary@garylindstrom.com).



BALTIMORE SUN  
Baltimore, Maryland  
December 9, 2007

## Bel Air man writes of UFOs in wartime

Research of WWII events uncovers the unexplained

By Cassandra A. Fortin

The peculiar red orb hung motionless in the summer sky near Frederick.

A boy at the time, Keith Chester vividly recalls that day in 1966. It was about 6:30 p.m. and Chester was on his way to a friend's house. As he walked, he noticed a shiny red ball in the sky near the Catoclin Mountains.



Keith Chester (pictured) wrote his book after talking with Leonard Stringfield, an American flier who reported having a UFO experience in the sky near Japan.

"The hair on the back of my neck stood straight up," Chester said. "I was so scared that I ran into my neighbor's house. I still think it was a UFO." To this day, the 50-year-old Bel Air resident has not been able find an explanation for the object, but the incident sparked an interest in unidentified flying objects.

In recent years, Chester's interest has grown into a passion that led him to write *Strange Company: Military Encounters with UFOs in WWII*. The 320-page book contains

descriptions of UFO sightings by American and British service members culled from research that included documents at the National Archives.

The road to writing the book began with that boyhood sighting of the red object. Chester devoured books about UFOs and became interested in space. He wanted to be an astronaut until he realized he didn't have the necessary aptitude for math, so his interest shifted to World War II history. From 1978 to 1998, Chester portrayed an infantry soldier as a member of the Military Historical Reenactment Society, taking part in events around the region.

Over time, Chester's interest in UFOs waned. But it was reignited in 1989 when he met Leonard Stringfield, who was director of Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects, a research group during the 1950s, that produced books about UFOs.

Stringfield was a sergeant in the 5th Air Force during World War II and said he had his own UFO sighting.

Chester said Stringfield told him about how he was among the first people to fly into mainland Japan after the bombing of Nagasaki. Stringfield said that he was on a plane flying between Ie Shima and Iwo Jima, when he looked out the window and saw three luminous, disk-shaped objects flying in formation.

"He told me that the objects had no outline, no exhaust, and no wings," Chester said, who works as a freelance artist.

Stringfield heard a commotion in the cockpit - the engine was malfunctioning. But when the objects disappeared, the plane was able to land safely, Chester recalls Stringfield saying.

"To hear his story was mesmerizing," he said.

Chester wanted to learn more about UFO sightings during WWII. In 1999, he began visiting the National Archives once a week to study military records for information about UFO sightings during the war.

Throughout almost four years of research, Chester found documents detailing sightings described as objects, lights, flares, strange lights or rockets.

"The sightings that were documented were considered phenomena," he said. "The military thought that they knew what they were observing, but the objects didn't match anything that was known by military intelligence."

The sightings he found include a silver, cigar-shaped object that looked like an airship. He also found a preponderance of information about unexplained objects reported by members of the 415th Night Fighter Squadron, a former Army Air Forces fighter squadron that fought during World War II.

"Some of the soldiers thought the objects they saw were beyond the realm of conventional technology," Chester said. "But there is something extraordinary happening out there ... and there is a phenomenon that exists, and I believe that it's extraterrestrial."

At a reunion of the night fighters, Chester met Harold Augspurger, a commander of the squadron, who recounted a sighting that Chester details in his book. While flying near the border of France and Germany, Augspurger said he saw a light in the sky that he could not pick up on the radar.

"I believe that what I saw was something from some other space," Augspurger, 88, said in a telephone interview from his home in Dayton, Ohio. "I think it's real important to document it because it's a piece of history."

By 2002, Chester concluded he had enough information to write a book. He was struck by how much documentation existed and figured most people weren't aware of it. He said he has come across so much material that he has begun work on a second book.

"The phenomenon was far larger than ever expected," he said. "I found that the military applied known terminology and didn't come up with answers. They would call something a flare, but it didn't act like a flare."

Along the way, Chester has encountered plenty of skepticism, even from friends. But he said his goal is not to persuade people one way or the other.

"It's up to the people who read my book to decide what the objects truly were," he said.

CIRCLEVILLE HERALD  
Circleville, Ohio  
December 4, 2007  
Page A4

Credit: Jon Fry

## ❖ Viewpoint ❖

### Latest developments in Ufology

The UFO Phenomenon is not going away. UFOs are still being observed worldwide. Locally, more witnesses are coming forward and telling about their personal sightings that they have had from the past or present. They are feeling more comfortable in talking about it, because they know that the reality of the UFO mystery is on the rise. In many cases, they have given me permission to use their names. These are very credible people that I am referring to. Others remain anonymous if they so choose.

In the near future, Phyllis Budinger, a retired chemist from Chagrin Falls will be on the History Channel. It will show some chemical tests and results of some famous UFO cases. Phyllis is a long-time friend of mine.

I have created a binder of information about the Bruce Stevenson UFO sighting of Feb. 1, 1948. This includes old newspaper articles about this extraordinary event. These binders are located for public display at our local Historical Society, the Circleville Library, and the Welcome Center. Please feel free to look at them.

Investigation was done about orange bursts of light being observed and reported in southern Pickaway County in September. It was discovered that they were being released from F16s flying out of the

Air National Guard Base in Springfield. All the witnesses were notified of this explanation from some of the sightings. However, because of this investigation, it was discovered of a genuine UFO sighting. This occurred with a strange object following a mother and daughter home late at night in early July. It hovered outside while they went inside their home. There is no natural explanation for this report. It is on file with many other unknown sightings from Pickaway County. A full report was made to the Mutual UFO Network located in Colorado.

In September, the Stephen Greer's Disclosure Project video was shown on the local Circleville Cable CGTV5. Several ex-government and military witnesses made statements, because of their personal experiences which resulted in knowing that yes, UFOs do exist. This video was shown from efforts of the Roundtown UFO Society and permission of the Disclosure Project.

I spoke to the local Kiwanis Club in August and the Sertoma Club in November. The members of both of these fine organizations who were there found out about the unknown facts related to unidentified flying objects.

In the fall, the public was invited to the Sandy Barthelmas farm on Route 56. This was to show the site where Bruce Stevenson had his historic UFO sighting in 1948. In the spring, this invitation will be extended again. Any dates will be

again advertised through the permission of the landowner.

Congressman Dennis Kucinich of Ohio was at a recent Presidential Debate. While there he acknowledged that he had observed an unidentified flying object. His response was to a question by newsman Tim Russert. This occurred on national television. Two former Presidents, Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter, each spoke early in their political careers of seeing UFOs.

The Larry King Show on Nov. 9 was about UFOs. It was one of the most objective shows that I have ever watched on television on this subject. The presentation was a very positive view about the existence of these objects. The lone skeptic looked foolish and nervous to the evidence presented.

On Nov. 12, a news conference was held at the National Press Club in Washington, D. C. Some 14 individuals from seven different countries were there to talk about their UFO experiences and the knowledge of their existence. Many were former military pilots. Only CNN briefly covered this important event. The other major news outlets did not report on it for whatever reason.

If anyone has questions about the UFO mystery contact me at 477-6252 or at rufos@columbus.rr.com. Our website is [www.roundtownufosociety.com](http://www.roundtownufosociety.com).

Pete Hartinger



OCT 25 2007

**Allen's** P. C. B. Est. 1888  
**Aliens | For Keith**  
Rowell, tracking UFOs  
in Oregon requires both  
skepticism and belief

By **MIKE CADE**  
SPECIAL TO THE OREGONIAN

Unidentified flying objects. Little green men. Flying saucers. Would you believe all of these things have a local connection?

West Linn's Keith Rowell is the assistant state director for the Mutual UFO Network. That means he spends a lot of his free time investigating UFO claims, cattle mutilations and other bizarre phenomena dubbed "paranormal."

He can effortlessly rattle off factoids about Project Blue Book — the Air Force's official investigation of UFOs in the 1950s and '60s — and just as easily dissect the findings of John Mack, the late Harvard psychiatry professor who said he was an alien abductee.

## It came from outer space, maybe

Plus, Rowell's basement boasts shelves and shelves of books about aliens, UFOs and flying saucers. His office computer is full of images and sound files that document strange aerial activity from Vancouver to southern Oregon.

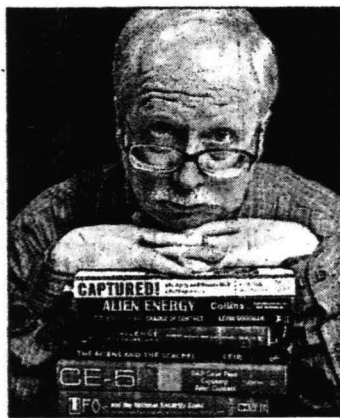
Rowell is cognizant of the fact that UFO buffs are often regarded as credulous and naive. He approaches ufology as any scholar or scientist might — through a skeptical lens.

"Being skeptical is a necessary part," he says. "But extreme skepticism, I think, is counter-productive."

Knowing that debunkers lie in wait, Rowell chooses his words carefully. But the self-described Navy brat still comes off as passionate and enthusiastic when speaking about ufology.

A technical writer — "I wrote the computer manuals that nobody likes to read," he quips — he is an engaging conversationalist who touches on topics from the consciousness-altering drug DMT to transpersonal psychology to old-fashioned, by-the-book astronomy. Rowell says potential MUFON members are required to pass a basic science test — with a score of 80 percent.

He says he's had a UFO encounter on his back deck — he describes seeing an object about 500 to 1,000 feet away that was bathed in suffused light and traveling in a rotary motion.



GREG MARSHALL

**Keith Rowell counts himself among the UFO investigators — "people who actually put the boots on the ground and talk to people who see something that they think is a UFO," he says.**

### Mutual UFO Network

The Oregon division of MUFON meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Bourne Plaza, 1441 S.E. 122nd Ave. Information: <http://oregonmufon.com>

But he admits, "The (UFOs) that I have seen, videotaped and photographed could, by some stretch of the imagination, be balloons. Party balloons."

From Rowell's point of view, though, there is one UFO case that was anything but a balloon — the alleged 1947 spaceship crash outside Roswell, N.M.

Rowell does not buy that the crash resulted from a failed Air Force project involving high-

altitude balloons. He asserts, citing the work of such UFO researchers as Stanton Friedman, that there is "no real doubt" the U.S. military captured a saucer and several aliens that day.

Rowell also opines that the military hid its discovery with maximum efficiency, "as they always do."

As for the here and now, Rowell sounds more than a little discouraged when describing the financial woes encountered by groups like MUFON.

"People who try to study (ufology) scientifically cannot get any money from the U.S. government," he says. "And it turns out philanthropic organizations and foundations won't touch you, either."

Thus, if MUFON ever gets money thrown its way, it comes from the occasional entrepreneur or celebrity. The organization does the bulk of its work on a shoestring budget; annual membership dues are essential.

Doug Hartley, 46, of Hillsboro became an official member of the group in February. He holds Rowell in high regard.

"He's got such a depth of knowledge, not just UFOs and such," says Hartley. "He's kind of taken me as an apprentice."

Rowell encourages UFO neophytes to read as much as they can on the subject.

"If you really want to understand what's going with UFOs, I tell people, 'You've got to read,'" he says. "And don't read on the Internet. Go to a large public library, not an academic library."

Mike Cade:  
[william\\_michael\\_cade@hotmail.com](mailto:william_michael_cade@hotmail.com)

Arkansas Democrat **Gazette**  
NOVEMBER 14, 2007 • •

## Clinton papers reveal science-fiction fans

### Library releases files detailing administration officials' interest in genre

BY **ANDREW DEMILLO**  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Under fire for its slow release of documents covering presidential candidate Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's time as first lady, the Clinton presidential library aims to please at least some sci-fi buffs with a batch of documents recently made public.

The library released several files in response to Freedom of Information Act requests ranging from a White House staff member's devotion to the television show *The X-Files* to the former president's push to hook up the sci-fi channel at Camp David.

The truth is out there.

None of the files released by the Clinton archives in downtown Little Rock offer definitive proof of little green men or flying saucers.

About 27 pages released are from the files of former White House Chief of Staff John Podesta, a fan of *The X-Files*, a show about FBI agents investigating extraterrestrials and other supernatural events.

Several pages of the e-mails

requested, however, were withheld because they would "constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy," according to National Archives documents.

The files also include articles forwarded to Podesta about the canceled Fox show. Peter Baker, a *Washington Post* reporter, relied on Podesta's interest in the show to persuade him to help on a book about the White House.

"Why am I skeptical that this book constitutes an opportunity for us?" Podesta wrote in a March 24, 1999, e-mail to Baker, who eventually wrote a book about the former president's impeachment and trial.

"Because any good *X-Files* fan is skeptical by nature and understandably so," Baker wrote the following day.

The documents won't appease those who have criticized Sen. Clinton over the slow pace of processing records about her time as first lady. There are a number of requests for her documents that have not yet been processed by the National Archives.

Among them is a 2006 request from Judicial Watch, a conservative public interest group, for her official calendar, schedule and day planner. Judicial Watch has filed federal lawsuits to try to speed up the release of those documents, as well as records about her tenure as head of a White House task force on health care during her husband's administration.

National Archives spokesman Susan Cooper said she didn't know when the files on the former first lady would be released, but said more documents will be released soon. Sen. Clinton has said the National Archives is moving as rapidly as possible, but she has faced criticism over the locked-up records.

"The pipeline is moving, and we're hoping to get documents out frequently," Cooper said.

Some records are being released in response to requests from UFO enthusiast Grant Cameron, who operates a Web site on presidential history with extraterrestrials. Cameron has several other requests pending, including one for "all files on the

Kennedy assassination."

The documents released last week don't provide any proof that the Clintons believed in spaceships or aliens. In 1995, a group called the Project Starlight Coalition sent President Clinton a letter asking him to declassify any documents about extraterrestrials or UFOs.

Two months later, an aide said he forwarded the request for a meeting to White House staff.

"The President appreciates your interest and long-standing involvement in this issue," James A. Dorskind, a special assistant to the president, wrote to members of the coalition.

The files also include an e-mail between then-White House spokesmen Patricia Lewis and Mary Ellen Glynn over a *Hollywood Reporter* question about Clinton's insistence on installing the sci-fi channel at the presidential retreat.

"I know we're not going to talk about it, but it's one of the better questions I've heard in a while and I wanted to share," Lewis wrote.



WASHINGTON TIMES  
Washington, D.C.  
November 13, 2007

# Panel: Reopen study of UFOs

## Unexplained encounters cited

By Sara A. Carter  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

An international panel of scientists, retired military personnel and former high-ranking officials called on the U.S. government yesterday to reopen investigations into UFO phenomena.

"Following in the footsteps of its now-defunct Project Blue Book, we propose that the United States Air Force reopen its research effort, or that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration initiate such a research effort," stated the declaration, signed by 19 panelists with the Coalition for Freedom of Information.

James Fox, director and producer of the documentary film "Out of the Blue," organized the unlikely group, including moderator and former Arizona Gov. Fife Symington. Members of the group spoke candidly of their unexplainable close encounters to a packed room at the National Press Club.

Mr. Symington, a pilot and former Air Force officer, recounted his experience near Phoenix in 1997, dubbed the "Phoenix lights." He said he "witnessed a massive delta-shaped craft" navigate over Squaw Peak, a mountain

range near the desert city.

The incident, which was witnessed by thousands of people in Arizona, was televised internationally. The Air National Guard eventually claimed responsibility, saying that their pilots were dropping flares.

"I still don't know what it was," Mr. Symington said. "I can definitively say that this craft did not resemble any man-made object I'd ever seen. And it was certainly not high-altitude flares, because flares don't fly in formation."

He added that the "U.S. can no longer shun international dialogue about this phenomena."

The former governor was not alone. Other panelists from England, Belgium, Peru, France and Iran have documented evidence of unexplainable encounters with UFOs — short for unidentified flying objects.

Nick Pope, formerly with the British Defense Ministry, said that in 1993 the agency investigated the famous Rendelsham Forest incident, east of Ipswich, in Suffolk, England. The panelists included former U.S. Air Force personnel who witnessed the unexplainable sightings. He said his agency was contacted by U.S. authorities.

James Penniston, a retired U.S. Air Force senior security analyst who held top-secret security clearances for the U.S. and NATO, said he witnessed the triangular-shaped craft with blue and yellow lights in the Rendelsham incident.

"When we arrived near the suspected crash site, it quickly became apparent that we were not dealing with a plane crash or, for that matter, anything else we'd ever responded to."

Mr. Penniston said the U.S. government needs to reopen the investigations regarding UFO sightings and should not continue to dismiss those whose expertise is valid.

In 1976, retired Gen. Parviz Jafari of the Iranian air force said he encountered a UFO over Tehran. Mr. Jafari said he was contacted by officials from the U.S. who also were investigating the incident.

Mr. Jafari said the object was flashing with intense red, green, orange and blue lights. He said that at one point he thought the object was a missile and tried to fire a heat-seeking missile at it, "but my missile panel went out."

"Later, a once-classified document was released here in America through the Freedom of Information Act," Mr. Jafari said. "The Defense Intelligence Agency documented the event in great detail. . . . The DIA assessment said 'this case is a classic that meets all necessary conditions for a legitimate study of UFO phenomenon.'"

## Tribune-Review

Saturday, October 27, 2007

GREENSBURG, PA

150,253 (22)

Newspaper (D)

Page: 1,3

UFO

Date: Location:

Circulation (DMA):

Type (Frequency):

Page:

Keyword:

TRIBUNE - REVIEW  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania  
October 27, 2007

# Kecksburg UFO incident gets another look

*A judge orders NASA to  
search through its files  
for reports on the case.*BY CHUCK BRITTAIN  
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

A Greensburg man who is a well-known UFO researcher is lauding a decision by a federal judge after he ordered NASA to search its archives once again for documents concerning an incident in Kecksburg more than 40 years ago, a step the space agency has long fought in federal court.

Stan Gordon on Friday called the judge's decision "unprecedented" and said he is thrilled.

"We're very happy with the decision," Gordon said. "We're now going to have to sit back and hope that relevant documents surface to finally give closure to this case."

U. S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan approved a settlement in a lawsuit filed against the space agency by investigative reporter Leslie Kean of New York City, who continues to seek information about an incident that occurred Dec. 9, 1965, in which witnesses claimed to have seen an unidentified

### SEE UFO • B3

metallic object streaking through the sky and crashing in a wooded area near the Mt. Pleasant Township village.

The government has refused to open its files about what, if anything, happened that night.

Traffic was tied up in the area as curiosity seekers drove to the area, only to be kept away from the crash site by soldiers.

The Air Force said residents likely saw a meteor or meteors. The government refused to release a full report concerning the incident.

"They could not find anything," one Air Force memo stated after a late-night search that conspiracy theorists insist involved a cover-up by the government. Several NASA employees were reported to have been at the scene.

Witnesses said a flatbed truck drove away with a large object shaped like an acorn and about the size of a Volkswagen bus. A mock-up based on the descriptions of local residents sits behind the Kecksburg Volunteer Fire Department.

UFO enthusiasts have refused to let the matter die, and Kean sued NASA four years ago for information.

The agency has turned over several stacks of documents that Kean says are not responsive to the request, an argument with which Sullivan agreed.

In March, Sullivan rejected NASA's request to throw the case out of court, resulting in negotiations that led to the agency promising last week that it will conduct a more comprehensive search.

Kean said Friday that she sued NASA rather than the Army because the space agency a decade ago released some relevant documents about the case.

Sullivan ordered NASA to complete a review of its files concerning the case within 45 days, then gave the agency an additional 60 days to release those documents to Kean. Sullivan additionally ordered the federal government, through NASA, to pay Kean \$50,000 in attorney's fees.

"I look forward to working with NASA on the resolution of the terms set out by the court and to providing the public with the information it has been waiting for," Kean said.

Gordon, who turns 58 on Tuesday, said he was just 16 years old when the Kecksburg incident took place, and that it "sent me on a lifetime search" of incidents involving UFOs. He said he has interviewed hundreds of people while trying to uncover the truth surrounding the case.

Of the many witnesses, which Gordon said included firefighters and reporters, few knew each other prior to that night in 1965. "Even today, a large majority of people still don't know each other," he said, "but even the most minute details of the incident are consistent."

*The Associated Press  
contributed to this report.*

*"We're very happy  
with the decision.  
We're now going to  
have to sit back and  
hope that relevant  
documents surface to  
finally give closure to  
this case."*

STAN GORDON  
UFO RESEARCHER

# OPERATING IN A GALAXY OF DOUBT DISBELIEF AND DISMISSAL, UFO BUFFS MAKE THEIR CASE THAT WE ARE NOT ALONE

By JOE HEIM  
Washington Post Staff Writer

As a meeting spot for UFO enthusiasts, Logan's Roadhouse might seem a tad unlikely. But once a month or so, the back room of the bustling, busily decorated chain restaurant in Fairfax becomes the mother ship for area ufologists (yes, that's what they prefer to be called). They gather there to snack on chicken tenders and chili, and exchange sightings and extraordinary stories in the company of like-minded people who won't think they've completely lost their marbles.

"When I first started 20 years ago, it was a bunch of old guys with their pocket protectors, but now the meetings are getting more diverse," organizer Sue Swiatek says.

Swiatek, a software analyst by day, is the state director of the Virginia chapter of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), a private organization that investigates and compiles data on reports of unidentified flying objects. She and her husband, Rob Swiatek, an oft-cited UFO expert, are, for lack of a better term, the first couple of Virginia ufologists.

On Saturday, they will be among the featured speakers at Mysteries of Space and Sky IV: Sixty Years of UFOs, a daylong conference open to the public at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold. Rob Swiatek's talk, "Sacre Bleu! UFOs Over France," alone seems well worth the conference's \$30-\$40 admission fee.

For UFO buffs, 2007 is a multiple anniversary year. It was 60 years ago that what-

ever happened in Roswell, N.M., happened. It was 60 years ago that the term "flying saucer" entered the lexicon. And it was 55 years ago that reports of UFOs flooded the Washington region. This very newspaper ran stories with such headlines as "Saucer Outran Jet, Pilot Reveals" and "D.C. Girl Sees Saucer Float Under Clouds."

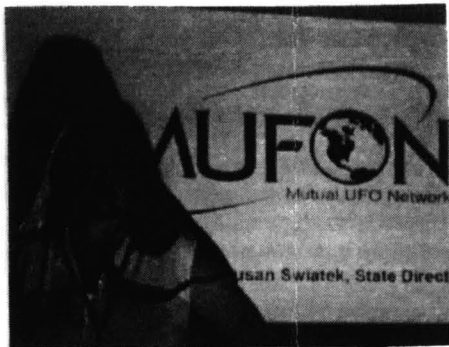
Five years ago, a new case arose when F-16 fighter jets were scrambled from Andrews Air Force Base to pursue what turned out to be — dum-de-dum-dum — an unknown craft. Spooky, huh? And because it happened exactly 50 years to the day of saucers being reported over the region, the event prompted a flurry of local ufological activity. (And, no, don't insert a "we all know how painful that can be" joke here).

Of course, UFO enthusiasts are used to having their ideas about aliens and intergalactic spacecraft ridiculed. Those who opine that there are "others" out there are bound to hear they're more than a little out there themselves. If you talk to enough of them, you realize they have heard all of the insults before: nut job, wacko, loony, space case. But perhaps the most insulting thing to call a UFO believer is, well, a believer.

To believe, they argue, is to imply that there is room for doubt. But, they tell you, if you study the cases, follow the facts, examine the evidence, there is no room for doubt. "We're not believers; we're conclusers," says Paul Nahay of Silver Spring. Meet him and find out what he and other local conclusers have to say about UFOs on Page 4.

## In the Orbit of UFO Enthusiasts

Here are excerpts from Joe Heim's interviews with area UFO experts and buffs. You can read more Q&As at [www.washingtonpost.com/source](http://www.washingtonpost.com/source).



### [PLUS]

- A glance at five reported UFO sightings in our region. Page 4
- More interviews with ufologists at [www.washingtonpost.com/source](http://www.washingtonpost.com/source)

SUE SWIATEK, head of the Virginia chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, says her experiences with local residents have convinced her that UFOs exist: "I see the fear in their eyes and how serious they are about what they've seen."

CONTINUED ON  
NEXT PAGE >>

### Don Berliner

AGE: 77  
LIVES IN: Alexandria  
JOB: Aviation and science writer, fund for UFO Research chairman

#### Ever had a UFO experience?

Probably not, which is not the answer you want. I saw something that seems to be related to UFOs. There was a great flurry back in the late '40s and early '50s of green fireballs. They looked like giant meteors, and I had a good sighting of one of those. I long ago gave up looking. Though I still always get a window seat on an airliner.

#### What is it that most convinces you that UFOs exist?

Two things. One, the consistency of sightings by expert witnesses — professional pilots, military and airline — of oddly shaped vehicles seen in the broad daylight. Vehicles whose shapes are not familiar and whose technical performances are right off the scale. . . . The other is the federal government's very suspicious behavior of putting outlandish explanations on UFO reports, explanations and interpretations that don't reflect the body of the report.

#### Why do you think UFOs are visiting Earth?

Well, if indeed they are and aren't explainable in some other way, I have absolutely no idea. It's very risky to use human reasoning when you're dealing with something you have defined as nonhuman.

#### How do you deal with skeptics?

That's a tricky word. The people who are convinced that UFOs don't exist or can't be of any consequence call themselves skeptics, but they have a carved-in-stone belief. I don't know what the right word is to describe them; we have some unkind words. [Laughs.] Hey, maybe they're right; I don't know. But if you're going to claim to be scientific in your outlook, you should be scientific in your outlook.

#### Has your involvement with the subject of UFOs hampered your relationships or career plans?

Not that I'm aware of. In the early days, when I was still in the Air Force, occasionally I would try to get people interested and people would poke fun, but nothing serious.

#### What would it take to make acceptance of UFO phenomena more widespread?

I've got a long list of things. Live video footage of a classic disc performing amazing maneuvers. Physical evidence, say, from the Roswell crash so that we could analyze the material. Something solid.

#### What about alien abductions? Do you believe in those?

Oh, is that a bag of worms. It is far beyond anything else in the UFO field for bizarreness, but the reports we get from all over the world are highly consistent. . . . It's something that deserves a lot more study. I'm certainly not going to brush it off, but it is really far out.



## When did you first get interested in UFOs?

I recall being in fifth grade and getting a book on UFOs called something like "Is Anybody Out There?" I had the usual teenage-boy interest in the subject. Living in Indiana in 1993 renewed my interest when somebody very close to me described a very close encounter. A few years later in Takoma Park, an apartment mate described a close encounter with a flying saucer, a giant machine sitting in the air. Another friend had an astounding close encounter along the Atlantic City Expressway. He and the people in the car saw beings looking out at them from a flying saucer. None of them were into UFOs. None of them pursued the issue at all.

## Ever had a UFO experience?

Mine was Nov. 10, 2002. It was a rectangular, impossibly large, dark object, with a strange texture, miles away in the sky. There was not a cloud in the sky; it was about 1:30 in afternoon on Route 295 in New Jersey. It was much larger than any man-made thing. Slightly moving. Extremely weird, and I didn't go and report it. . . . You're so confused by it that you sort of doubt yourself. But I saw it as clearly as I saw a building.

## What is it that most convinces you that UFOs exist?

I'm not interested in the unidentified objects. I'm interested in ones that are clearly identifiable and piloted by things that are not human and are clearly intelligent. The volume and quality of the evidence is what's convincing.

## Why do you think UFOs are visiting Earth?

"Why is this happening?" is a very loaded and dangerous question.

Any answer is in danger of being shot down. . . . Many people, including my wife, view the abduction phenomenon as complete fiction and as a psychological aberration. . . . The implication, and this is dangerous to extrapolate and somewhat fringe theory, is that they are in the process of integrating with us. I know it sounds crazy and like the movies, but that seems to be the case.

## How do you deal with skeptics?

I personally try not to because they [tick] me off so much. It doesn't have to be a matter of belief; there are studies that can be read. There's no end of reputable books. Most skeptics either know nothing about the field or they simply echo back the bogus reports that have been made.

## Has your involvement with the subject of UFOs hampered your relationships or career plans?

I am reluctant to talk about it. It's the one subject that you can't talk about in polite company. [Laughs.] I've been lucky because I've been a freelancer. I know people who have full-time jobs, particularly with government or military, and they have to be more careful. It has caused some rough edges in some personal areas. [Laughs.]

## Paul Nahay

AGE: 49  
LIVES IN: Silver Spring  
JOB: Computer consultant

## What would it take to make acceptance of UFO phenomena more widespread?

There are highly credible witnesses, people who we entrust, and when they say, "I saw this thing" . . . you can't just whisk this away. I mean, even Jimmy Carter saw one. [Laughs.]

## When did you first get interested in UFOs?

There was a very interesting case in Chile in 1977, and I was a reporter and I wrote it up. That was my first UFO article. I had no idea at the time that this was going to consume years of my life.

## Ever had a UFO experience?

Well, I would only say that I have had a UFO sighting, not an experience or close encounter. In the Chilean Andes, I did see some strange lights that were zigzagging in the sky and moving in unexplained fashion. This was in 1988.

## What is it that most convinces you that UFOs exist?

Well, there's just a lot of great evidence, once you filter all the noise and the wild allegations. Unfortunately, the field is contaminated by a lot of unsubstantiated rumors and sensationalism. Anybody that wants to get involved in this has to realize this and filter it and get to the good cases.

## Why do you think UFOs are visiting Earth?

We have no idea, to tell you the truth. That's why they are a mystery.

## How do you deal with skeptics?

I understand them, because I used to be skeptical. . . . A certain degree of skepticism is healthy. And that applies to the believers' side as well.

## Has your involvement with the subject of UFOs hampered your relationships or career plans?

Perhaps in the early years, I could sense that people would have kind of a funny reaction. . . . But in the last 10 to 15 years, I understand that it's still not treated seriously, but it has become part of the culture. People

think it's an exciting subject, and they want to know more. In some foreign countries, the culture is much more disposed to accepting information about UFOs. In America, it's mostly thought of as entertainment.

## What would it take to make acceptance of UFO phenomena more widespread?

It would help if we had a very dramatic, solid case with multiple witnesses. Some case that could bring the phenomenon back to the front page.

## Sue Swiatek

AGE: 49  
LIVES IN: Fairfax  
JOB: Software analyst and publishing specialist, Virginia state director of the Mutual UFO Network

## When did you first get interested in UFOs?

I was 8 years old, and I read about the Betty and Barney Hill abduction case in Look magazine. I took it very seriously; it had the ring of truth. I thought if they can pick up one couple, they can pick up more. That's what led me to have a life-long interest.

## Ever had a UFO experience?

Well, apparently. I was just driving along and saw something for five to seven seconds, and I couldn't resolve it. It was a stubby fuselage, fatter than a plane, and it wasn't tapered like a plane would be. It didn't have a tail or wings. But you know as well as I do, if a plane's at a certain angle, you can't tell. I'm very skeptical, so that's still in my gray basket. It was a big object. . . . It was weird, I will say that.

## What is it that most convinces you that UFOs exist?

When I get involved with local people in local cases and I see the fear in their eyes and how serious they are about what they've seen. When you meet real people and you know that they don't want publicity, they don't want their name in the paper, it's very powerful when you meet them. . . . People who have close encounters feel threatened. They think the UFOs might be coming back, they fear the government and they feel their friends and family are going to ridicule them.

## Why do you think UFOs are visiting Earth?

I believe they are coming here to explore and glean some kind of resources from our planet. Whether that's DNA material or something more prosaic, who can say? Maybe it's just knowledge.

## How do you deal with skeptics?

I personally don't mind skeptics. I don't get my feelings hurt. I am who I am. Some people ask me questions about the fact that I'm a Christian. A guy once said, "How can you believe in God and UFOs when there's no proof in either one?" I think he thought my brain was going to explode.

## Has your involvement with the subject of UFOs hampered your relationships or career plans?

So far, no. This article may change that. [Laughs.] A lot of my friends are in the UFO field. If people can't tolerate me believing this, then we're probably not going to be that close anyway.

## What would it take to make acceptance of UFO phenomena more widespread?

We have meetings about just this thing. The thing that would work the best we have no control over, and that would be a major sighting or a wave of sightings that involved a large geographic area. Or if there was a major disclosure by our government, that would help.

# UFOs over Yardley, Lower Makefield

YARDLEY NEWS  
YARDLEY, PA  
WEEKLY 6,000  
NOV 29 2007

NEWS ITEM - In a panel discussion this month at the National Press Club, two dozen former pilots and government officials called on the U.S. government to reopen its investigation of UFOs.

I'm in favor of getting to the bottom of all those lemon meringue pie plates indiscriminately doing loop-the-loops in the night sky with no regard for my cat Floyd, who takes unidentified flying objects as seriously as Presidential candidate Rep. Dennis Kucinich.

The Ohio Congressman, who is no relation to Floyd, announced at a recent Presidential candidates' debate that he once saw a UFO. But no eyebrows were raised when former Presidents Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter claimed to have seen UFOs. Go figure.

Do you know Yardley and Lower Makefield have been visited by unidentified flying objects? The UFO buzzed my house back in 1977. The family took the uninvited visit very seriously, as did our neighbors in other parts of Bucks County who filed reports with the U.S. government.

My UFO came at night in the late 1970's because "The Waltons" were on television. Why do UFOs always



**Easy  
does It**  
/George  
Robinson

appear at night and like to interrupt TV shows? It's never in the daylight sky during Regis and Kelly. Is it because the little green men are unable to fall asleep at night, and the only way they can get sleepy is to cruise around in Mrs. Smith's lemon meringue pie plates? Those are the real questions that need real answers in a serious government investigation.

I remember John Boy was saying "good night" to everybody when I heard an unearthly sound coming from somewhere above my house. My son Tim Boy, about eight- or nine-years-old at the time, came running out of his room and stood shaking in the doorway of the living room pointing a nervous finger toward the window. His face was

drained of all color as he bravely announced to the household a UFO was over our house.

I tore myself away from the Walton family and looked out the front window. A large round disk was just emerging over the roof of the house. It was low, barely clearing the chimney, and moved very slowly. It sounded like an old pickup truck whose motor needed a tune-up. The UFO coughed and groaned, its underbelly pock-marked and dented, silvery white glowing metallic skin.

Like the ancient truck trying to make its way up a steep hill, the spacecraft was creaking and moaning as it showed itself over the front lawn. It suddenly banked and with great effort surged upward, pausing as its grinding gears complained, then, picking up speed, lifted straight up and was gone in an instant, briefly blocking out the twinkling stars as it disappeared into the night sky.

My wife Sandy didn't want to look, but Tim and I watched for a long time trying to pick out its presence, but the object was indeed gone. The next morning, newspapers and TV reported UFO sightings all over Bucks County and the eastern seaboard.

We weren't alone in UFO sightings in the Yardley area. The official log of the National UFO Reporting Center in Washington, D.C., contains this entry submitted by another resident of the borough: "A dark, triangular low-flying object passed over my house in Yardley, PA., in the summer of 1992."

Writing in the "details" column of the sighting on June 1, 1992, my neighbor wrote: "It was a clear and dark summer night in early June 1992. I sat at my back door which was open but screened in. A loud, but not deafening roar came over the back yard, which extends for a couple hundred yards and is pitch black.

"Then a craft emerged into my view and must have been hovering at a distance of about 200 feet above my home. It was triangularly shaped with red circular lights that compromised the three corners of the object with a much smaller (circular) white light in the center. This object glided (past) my view for about 10 seconds with a relatively slow velocity."

If you read it in the National UFO Reporting Center's log, must it be true?

\*\*\*

(Retired editor George Robinson can be reached at yrdezdoesit@comcast.net)

POST - JOURNAL  
Jamestown, New York  
September 28, 2007

THE POST-JOURNAL, Jamestown, New York - Friday, September 28, 2007.

## 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 years ago

## Information Center

### IN YEARS PAST

50 years ago

• Three Chautauqua County women reported seeing an unusual object in the sky in the east as they were driving on the Westfield-Hartfield Road shortly after 7 a.m. in the morning. Mrs. Arden Brown, Pt. Chautauqua, Mrs. Marie Crandall, Dewittville, and Mrs. Confer, Hartfield, said they saw what they first thought was a vapor trail and stopped at the side of the road to watch when a large round object, silvery in color, and giving the illusion of fire around it, with a white tail, started spinning down. As they watched, it went up again and disappeared.

POST - JOURNAL  
Jamestown, New York  
October 4, 2007



# 'Ufologist' catalogs sightings of odd things in the sky

By NICHOLAS GERANIOS  
The Associated Press

HARRINGTON, Wash. — To find the new home of The National UFO Reporting Center, you must go several yards underground at a former nuclear missile site in Eastern Washington.

The National UFO Reporting Center, which moved to this sparsely populated farm country from Seattle last year, is basically a telephone, tape recorder and desktop computer run in an underground bunker by one man who collects and publishes UFO reports from across the country.

Director Peter Davenport took over the UFO center's work from founder Robert Gribble in 1994. It had been located for years in Seattle's University District, until Davenport decided he wanted a change and paid \$100,000 for the former Atlas missile site about 50 miles west of Spokane.

"There was the allure of owning my own missile site,"

Davenport said.

Missile Site No. 6 now contains a large row of file cabinets and boxes, neatly organized by date, containing thousands of reports of UFO sightings stretching back decades. A typical file reads:

"Longview, WA. February 25, 1999 1158 hrs. (Pacific) Description: Fourteen forestry workers witness a horseshoe shaped object lift an adult elk out of the forest and fly off with the apparently dead, or unconscious, animal."

The missile site covers 22 acres, and the massive concrete buildings are underground. The old Atlas E missiles rested flat, not upright in silos, in what were called "coffin launchers." In the event of war, a concrete lid would slide open, the missile would be hoisted upright and the engine fired.

The UFO files, along with some office furniture, are stacked in a dark, dank room the size of a basketball court, where the yellow missile hoist remains in place. A few bare

bulbs provide lights.

Davenport is still cleaning out the missile site, which is pretty decrepit, and is living in an apartment in nearby Harrington while he works to make it habitable.

Davenport doesn't spend much time scanning the skies or traveling to UFO locations. Most of his work is transcribing numerous calls or e-mails each day from people who think they have seen UFOs. He places those reports on the Web site.

Davenport also gives lectures and appears often on radio talk shows tied to UFOs. He considers himself among the most skeptical of ufologists, and estimates that 90 percent of the calls he receives can be quickly disproved, and many of the rest probably have a rational explanation.

But that still leaves a lot of reports for which no terrestrial explanation is available, Davenport said.

Washington has a long history of UFO reports, including the famous Mount Rainier sight-

*fr*

THE REGISTER-GUARD MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2007

CONTINUED BELOW :

ing in 1947 that led to the coining of the term "flying saucers." In that incident, pilot Kenneth Arnold reported seeing nine silver vehicles flying in formation at high speed and moving "like a saucer if you skip it across water."

Whether UFOs exist has been hotly debated for decades. Believers point to loads of evidence, including photos and eyewitness accounts. They contend that there must be other inhabited planets, and some with more advanced civilizations may be visiting us.

Like many ufologists, Davenport also believes that the world's governments and news media are hushing up the existence of UFOs to avoid panic.

"There is nothing more bizarre in the galaxy than human behavior toward UFOs," he said.

Despite decades of official denials, UFOs abound in movies, television, books and advertising, he said. They even show up in religion, where some reports of visions have all the

earmarks of a UFO sighting, Davenport said.

UFO skeptic Jim Oberg said Davenport performs a valuable service by recording all the strange things people see in the sky. The problem is that he and other ufologists are too quick to label them extraterrestrial, Oberg said.

That doesn't necessarily mean that aliens are not visiting Earth, Oberg said.

"But the evidence does not rise to the level of an unavoidable conclusion that there is no other explanation," Oberg said, acknowledging that the debate won't end any time soon.

Last March, former Arizona Gov. Fife Symington said he believes that mysterious lights widely seen over Phoenix 10 years ago were UFOs.

Also in March, France became the first country to release its extensive UFO files on the Internet. The oldest sightings date to 1937.

Earlier this month, actress Shirley MacLaine revealed that Democratic presidential can-

didate Dennis Kucinich saw a UFO at her home in Graham, Wash. Representatives of Kucinich's presidential campaign and congressional office have not responded to requests for comments on MacLaine's recollection.

Last fall, numerous employees of O'Hare Airport in Chicago reported seeing a mysterious, saucer-shaped craft hovering over the airport. The workers said the object hovered over a terminal before shooting up through the clouds, according to the Chicago Tribune.

The Federal Aviation Administration said nothing showed up on radar, and that the sighting probably was a "weather phenomenon," the newspaper reported.

Davenport graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in fisheries, and specialized in research on the genetics of steelhead trout. He was friends with Gribble, who founded the center in 1974, and agreed to continue the work when Gribble retired.

# A side trip to Roswell on the road to the White House

By ROBIN ABCARIAN  
Times Staff Writer

Presidential candidates have flip-flopped on taxes, abortion, gun control and the war. But rarely has one flip-flopped on flying saucers.

Until now.

In September, a spokeswoman for Dennis J. Kucinich dismissed a report emanating from a Washington conference about UFOs that the Ohio congressman had a close encounter with one.

"If you have a serious question, just ask me," Kucinich staffer Natalie Laber instructed a Washington Post reporter who inquired about Kucinich's knowledge of UFOs. "If not, then just keep your silly comments to

yourself."

But Tuesday night, Kucinich had no wiggle room when moderator Tim Russert posed this question:

"The godmother of your daughter, Shirley MacLaine, writes in her new book that you've sighted a UFO over her home in Washington state, that you found the encounter extremely moving, that it was a triangular craft silent and hovering, that you felt a connection to your heart and heard direction in your mind. Now, did you see a UFO?"

Replied Kucinich: "I did."

Kucinich, whom other candidates seemed to regard as a creature from outer space when he called for President Bush's impeachment during the debate, did not elaborate much. He

joked about moving his campaign headquarters to Roswell, N.M., site of the country's most famous alleged UFO crash. This, in fact, is why a second presidential candidate, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, was drawn into the fray.

When Chris Matthews, in a post-debate interview on MSNBC, asked Richardson what he thought of Kucinich's response to the UFO question, Richardson smiled, giggled a little and explained that as governor of a state that depends on the UFO-enthralled tourist dollar, he was not in a position to criticize. (Though, he hastened to add, he has never personally seen a UFO.) He also said it was time for the government to "come clean" on the Roswell matter.

Matthews began to sputter in disbelief, but as it happens, Richardson was not boldly going where no one had gone before. Richardson has said many times that the mystery surrounding the alleged 1947 crash in Roswell has never been adequately explained. "Clearly," he wrote in a forward to a 2004 book about the crash, "it would help everyone if the U.S. government disclosed everything it knows."

Kucinich is not the first presidential aspirant to report seeing a UFO.

According to numerous media accounts, when Jimmy Carter was governor of Georgia in 1973, he filed a report with the International UFO Bureau in Oklahoma City claiming that he'd seen an unidentified glowing object four years earlier in

Leary, Ga. He said later that he did not believe the object to be an alien craft, and some "ufologists," as specialists call themselves, think he saw a halo around the planet Venus.

Ronald Reagan believed he had seen UFOs at least twice — once on the coast while driving to Hollywood with his wife, Nancy, and once, as governor of California, while flying on a plane near Bakersfield. In "Landslide," their 1988 book about Reagan's second term, journalists Doyle McManus, The Times' Washington bureau chief, and Jane Mayer, now of the New Yorker, wrote that Reagan's staff worked hard to keep the UFO sighting stories under wraps.

And that's easy to understand, since, as Alejandro T. Rojas, who handles media relations

for the Mutual UFO Network, pointed out, "It's typically an issue used on politicians to make them look bad."

But, added Rojas, whose group investigates UFO sightings as well as reports of alien abductions, he was happy to see the issue raised in a presidential forum. "It's great because the debate highlighted it."

And, he said, as odd as it may seem, many presidents have dealt with the mysteries of UFOs. The website [www.presidentialufo.com](http://www.presidentialufo.com) elaborates on UFOs and how presidents have dealt with them back to Franklin D. Roosevelt.

MacLaine, whose book "Saging While Age-ing" is out Tuesday, did not return phone calls.

[robin.abcarian@latimes.com](mailto:robin.abcarian@latimes.com)

LOS ANGELES TIMES  
Los Angeles, California  
November 1, 2007

THE POST-JOURNAL, Jamestown, New York — Wednesday, November 7, 2007

## Information Center

### IN YEARS PAST

• Unidentified Flying Objects reportedly cavorted about the skies of the Jamestown area, as well as throughout scattered portions of the nation, last night, as Russia's Sputnik and Muttnik revived the skywatching tendencies of hundreds of persons. Reports received during the evening hours came from throughout the area, and most concerned strange lights, frequently lights which changed colors and which, in most cases, made no sound. Some observers reported that, after hovering over Frewsburg for a time, an object split in two sections, and the sections sped away in opposite directions.

50 years ago

POST-JOURNAL  
Jamestown, New York  
November 7, 2007

WASHINGTON — NASA has agreed to search its archives once again for documents on a 1965 UFO incident in Pennsylvania, a step the space agency fought in federal court.

The government has refused to open its files about what, if anything, moved across the sky and crashed in the woods near Kecksburg, Pa., 40 miles south-east of Pittsburgh.

Traffic was tied up in the area as curiosity seekers drove to the area, only to be kept away from the crash site by soldiers.

## NASA searching archive for details on Pa. UFO

Date: Saturday, October 27, 2007  
Location: RICHMOND, VA  
Circulation (DMA): 186,441 (61)  
Type (Frequency): Newspaper (D)  
Page: 7  
Keyword: UFO

Richmond Times-Dispatch





# BIGFOOT BIG SHOT

*He has made studying, finding creature his life's mission*

BY GREGOR MCGAVIN  
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Daniel Perez lives in a tidy, two-story home on a quiet Riverside side street, far from the deep, dark backwoods where his real interest walks.

Or doesn't, depending on what you believe.

By day, Perez toils as a licensed union electrician. But his life's work is as a degged researcher and investigator, not on the hard-to-follow trail of Bigfoot.

"It's an ongoing investigation," says Perez, 44, who has spent more than 20 years in his pursuit of the legendary

creature.

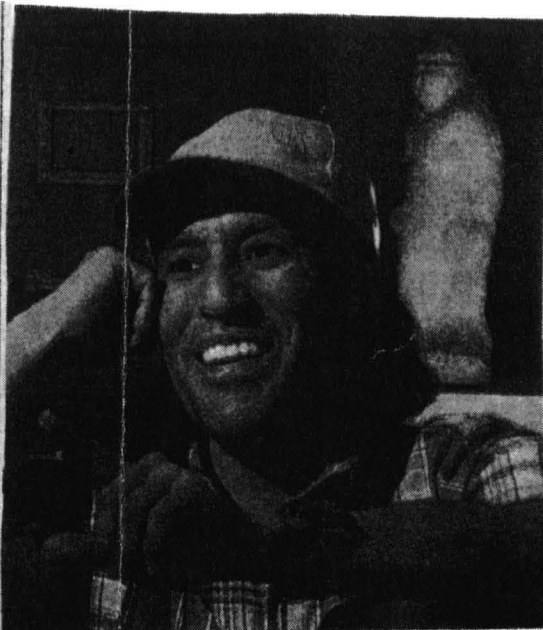
Perez is editor and publisher of the monthly print and online newsletter Bigfoot Times and co-founder of the Center for Bigfoot Studies, both of which he operates from an upstairs study at his home that is packed with files and artifacts.

He is quoted widely in articles and books on Sasquatch, as the hirsute biped is more commonly known in Canada. He even coined some of the phrases that became part of the Bigfoot lexicon, including the term "Bigfooter" to describe devotees.

But perhaps Perez's biggest claim to Bigfoot fame is as an expert on what is known in "Sasquatch circles as "the Patterson-Gimlin film."

The roughly minute-long 16-millimeter film was shot at Bluff Creek in Northern California in 1967. The film — in which a large, hairy creature turns to face the camera before striding off into the woods — is the most well-known footage and is upheld by many as proof of Bigfoot's existence.

Perez's booklet on the film, "Bigfoot at Bluff Creek," is often cited as the "Bible" See BIGFOOT/P2A



DANIEL PEREZ COMPARES HIS 10-PLUS-INCH FOOT SIZE WITH THE CAST OF WHAT IS CALLED A BIGFOOT TRACK THAT IS 16 INCHES LONG.

## BIGFOOT

CONTINUED FROM B1  
on the subject.

On Oct. 20, he served as keynote speaker at a conference in Willow Creek, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the filming by Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin.

"Daniel is a very dogged investigative researcher," said Jeffrey Meldrum, an associate professor of anatomy and anthropology at Idaho State University. Meldrum has written extensively on the evolution of primates and authored a recent book on Sasquatch.

"His forte is a penchant for detail. In his investigations he leaves very few loose ends."

So how does a well-respected Bigfoot expert come to live in the Inland area, not exactly a hotbed of Sasquatch sightings?

It started with a movie, Perez says.

He was 10 when he first watched "The Legend of Boggy Creek," a documentary-style movie about a Bigfoot-like creature.

### 'JUST BECAME HOOKED'

"I just became hooked," says Perez, a wiry fellow with long, black hair under a Bigfoot Times baseball cap. "I never grew out of it."

Perez, who dropped out after a few months at Humboldt State University, is a self-taught researcher.

He has spent more than two decades researching the crea-

ture and investigating purported sightings.

He has journeyed to sites of Bigfoot sightings throughout the Pacific Northwest, in Georgia and Ohio and as far afield as Australia.

Perez has debunked false claims and defended what he believes to be solid evidence.

But he has never seen Bigfoot himself.

The closest Perez has come to a sighting are two tracks he found — the first in Hemet in 1980 and the second near Mt. Whitney a few years later.

Perez came across the Hemet tracks after he responded to reports of Bigfoot sightings in the area. In the woods near a creek, he found a 17-inch footprint.

"That was the first track I saw, and I was like, 'It's real!'" he said.

Since then, Perez has corresponded regularly with other researchers and with Bigfoot buffs.

### BIGFOOT EXPERTISE

In his study, two metal filing cabinets are filled with newspaper clippings, photographs and artifacts. Three bookshelves brim with texts on Bigfoot, cryptozoology and other topics. Plaster casts of Sasquatch and its footprints abound, and photos of Perez with notable researchers are alongside family pictures.

Perez acknowledges that little is known about Bigfoot, despite decades of reported sightings and research.

He says he believes the crea-

tures may have come to North America via a prehistoric ice bridge. They might be descendants of a giant ape that once roamed throughout Asia.

Perez believes Bigfoot is a nocturnal creature that shuns contact with humans.

He believes there may be more than 100,000 of the creatures in North America today but concedes that any such figure is a "guesstimate" at best.

Perez takes heart, however, in the fact that skeptics have been unable, despite several attempts, to successfully duplicate the footage from the Patterson-Gimlin film using a man in a monkey suit as the subject.

He says he will continue on the trail of Bigfoot, investigating incidents such as the photographs shot in September by a hunter in the woods of Pennsylvania that some Bigfooters say could depict a young Sasquatch.

And Perez holds out hope that one day, he will have his own sighting.

"I think about it all the time," he said.

PRESS-ENTERPRISE  
Riverside, California  
November 4, 2007

SECTION  
**B**  
SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 4, 2007

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE



# Guardian of the loch

Adrian Shine came to Loch Ness in 1973 to find the monster. Today he protects the highland glen, unravels its natural mysteries and exposes the hoaxes

ALAN PARKER  
Sun Media

DRUMNADROCHIT, Scotland — The world's foremost expert on the Loch Ness Monster is sitting in a lodge overlooking the fabled highland lake, discussing plans to seek UN World Heritage Site status to protect the area.

Suddenly his eyes flash to the window and a pointing finger shoots out like the hand of God.

"Look — look out on the loch! That's amazing!" A visiting Canadian journalist jumps to the window, wildly hopeful — despite himself — that he will see Nessie cutting through the cold, dark water below.

Instead, the object of excitement is an antique coal-burning steamboat billowing clouds of black smoke as it chugs southward down Loch Ness.

"That's a Clyde Puffer," says Adrian Shine, naturalist, scientist, inventor, explorer, renaisance man and chief guard-

ian of the Loch Ness legacy. "Haven't seen one of those in years."

Shine's eyes sparkle with pleasure at the sight of the rare watercraft. Or perhaps amusement at the naive expectancy and obvious disappointment of the visitor.

Adrian Shine certainly wasn't expecting to see a long-necked water beast cruising down his beloved loch.

## Photo a fraud

Shine's Loch Ness Project group was instrumental in unmasking the most famous image of Nessie — the so-called "surgeon's photo" seen on the next page — as a fraud in 1994, 60 years after it seared the spectacle of a prehistoric water monster into the public imagination.

He has been exploring the loch's immensely deep underwater world for the past 34 years. In that time, the young zealot has become the reasoned and skeptical elder statesman, debunker of

hoaxes and false hopes, and formulator of rational explanations for the hundreds of eyewitness accounts of Nessie sightings.

But still, there is always the hope of a Nessie eureka.

As Shine says: "I do not believe in the Loch Ness Monster — yet — because there isn't enough evidence for it. But 1,000 people like you and me do believe they've seen it."

Shine first came to Loch Ness in 1973, more than a decade after organized, scientific investigation of the Nessie phenomenon had begun. His early efforts were more brave than productive. The first summer, he spent nights rowing around Loch Ness and an even deeper loch, Morar, as he dragged bait and waited to photograph whatever emerged from the black depths. Nothing did.

By the next summer, he was plunging into those murky depths in a homemade submarine built of fibreglass and plate glass in his par-

ents' backyard over the winter. With the help of an amateur crew, Shine made dozens of dives during 1974 and '75 in his one-man submersible. He came close to dying on at least one occasion, but never found the object of his hunt.

Today that submersible is on display at the Loch Ness Centre in Drumnadrochit, where the efforts of Shine and others to uncover the truth underlying the mysteries of the lochs are explained in a stunning multi-media exhibition.

While other Loch Ness investigators fell away, Shine stuck to his quest and slowly became the driving force and chief chronicler of Loch Ness research projects. In the 1980s, that quest shifted from the search for an actual creature to a comprehensive study of the loch environment in which such a creature might exist.

In 1981, Shine and a volunteer crew began sonar exploration of Loch Ness, cruising

24 hours a day in the patrol vessel *John Murray* as an operator sat glued to the echo sounder.

That culminated in Operation Deepscan in 1987, a massive operation involving dozens of sonar-equipped boats that provided the first complete mapping of the 230-metre-deep loch. Sonar images of several large, moving masses were captured but remain unexplained.

## Ice Age clay

In the 1990s, Shine again engineered new equipment to take deep core samples from the lake bottom, giving researchers a record of sedimentary deposits from Ice Age clay through to nuclear pollution from the Chernobyl disaster.

Today his focus is primarily on the search for historical artifacts on the bottom. So far he and other searchers have found the remains of the Crusader jet boat in which John Cobb died in 1952 while

trying to set a water speed record on Loch Ness, as well as a large fishing vessel that sank in the 1920s and a Wellington bomber that ditched in the loch after engine failure during World War II.

"There's all sorts of room out there for strange things," Shine says.

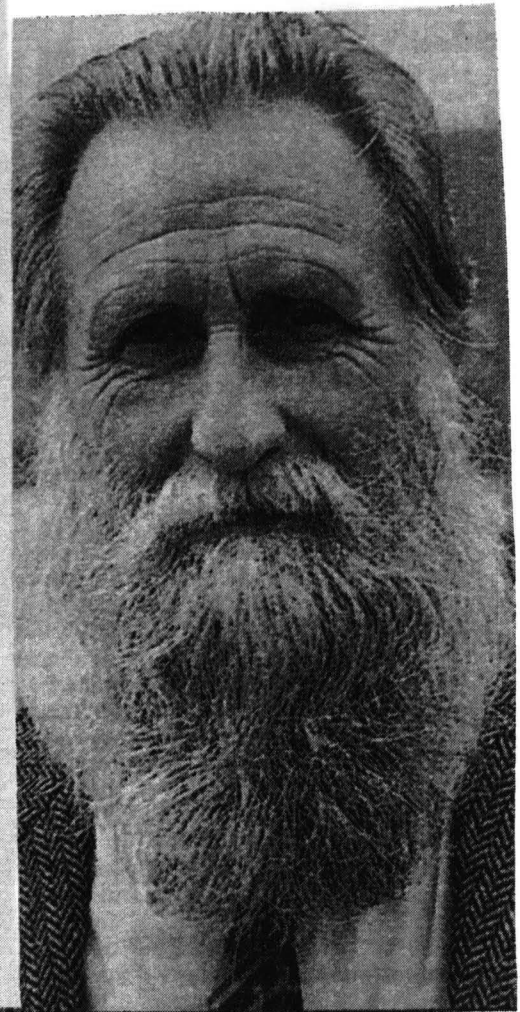
But at the end of the day, there is always Nessie.

"I could make a very good case (for the monster's existence) in court," Shine says. "Unshakable eyewitness testimony is very powerful."

Whether Shine believes or not, others certainly do.

"Absolutely there is a Nessie," local historian and storyteller Ray Owens says. "I've lived here my entire life and never seen it, but I do know two people — including a police sergeant — who have. I can't explain it."

Taxi driver Frank Davidson has lived in the area since 1964 and says he has seen two "disturbances" on the loch that he attributes to Nessie.



Adrian Shine, naturalist and world's foremost expert on the Loch Ness Monster, stands in front of the legendary Scottish highland lake.



## Utah voices

# Bigfoot and the repugnance of truth

By RYAN KENNETH PETERSON

Like everyone, I'm guilty of not wanting to accept certain possibilities.

For instance, is it possible that Oswald shot JFK from behind, despite the exit wound being on the back of our fallen president's head? Is it possible, that on 9/11, World Trade Center Building 7 could collapse like a controlled demolition despite not being hit by a plane? Is it possible that George W. Bush was legitimately elected president in 2000?

And, finally, is it possible that the legendary Bigfoot doesn't exist? I guess anything is possible, but, I'm going to fight against this last one.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the infamous 16mm footage shot by Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin in Bluff Creek, Calif., on Oct. 20, 1967.

On that fateful day the two men filmed "something" walking in a wooded clearing that could be one of two things: It either shows the most successful costume ever constructed, or an actual Bigfoot was caught on celluloid.

Somewhere on these frames lies the answer to a fairly profound question: Does

a primate exist that is genetically closer to *homo sapiens* than the chimpanzee — a missing link?

I'm not a scientist. I am an artist who has worked as a creature designer for film special effects. I've had the privilege to work for the best monster maker in Hollywood and the king of gorilla suit construction, six-time Academy Award-winner Rick Baker.

Now, I can't speak for Rick Baker, this is my own analysis of Patterson's "star." So I'll get to the point: In my opinion, the technology and artistry were not available in 1967 to create such a convincing Bigfoot costume. Even if Roger Patterson orchestrated the whole affair and was able to hire John Chambers, the one special make-up effects man on the planet at the forefront of such technology, I would argue it wasn't enough.

Take "Planet of the Apes" for example. If a major motion picture studio like Twentieth Century Fox, during the same period, with all of its money and resources, couldn't motivate the construction of a full-body, ventilated hair suit on top of a sculpted foam musculature with arm extensions aiding an overall "man/ape" design and performance of such naturalistic nuance, how

the hell could a professional rodeo rider named Roger Patterson?

Unless there was an unknown genius of such brazen pretensions, content to live in obscurity, who was willing to incorporate features into his costume design that would set itself up for potential failure — such as making it female, as well as shortening the fur where flaws would be more pronounced and allowing it to be filmed under midday sunlight in the middle of a remote wooded location with no crew or witnesses — I would say it was impossible then and I dare say even today.

Back to the big picture: Humans are a peculiar species. We demonstrate faith in technology on a daily basis — we travel by plane, go under anesthesia, genetically alter the food we eat — yet most of us don't allow technology to disrupt our illusions.

Truth, it would seem, is problematic, even repugnant, because it's perceived as scary and oh so comfortably allusive. What if it's not?

► RYAN KENNETH PETERSON is a self-employed fine artist in Salt Lake City and works part time in Los Angeles doing makeup effects for various studios.

Long Beach, CA  
(Los Angeles, Co.)  
Press Telegram  
(Cir. D. 99,372)  
(Cir. S. 120,669)

OCT 29 2007

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

## Bigfoot, or just a bad-skinned bear?

RIDGWAY, Pa. — 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 pic-

tures 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.

TRIBUNE  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
October 14, 2007

# Tour Bus Looking for BigFoot

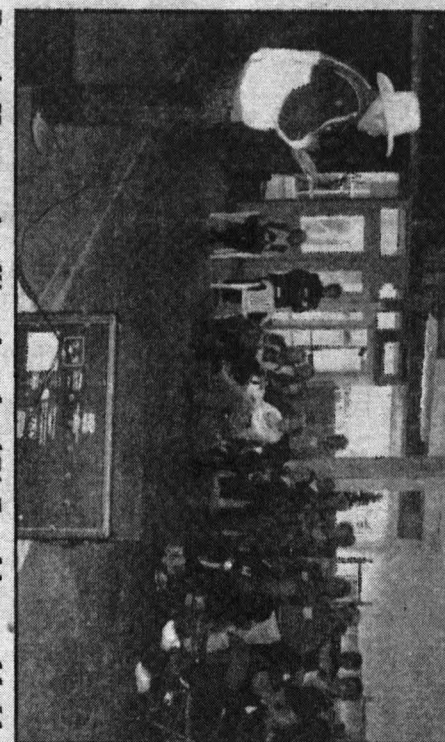
3432

TIME Lines Bus Tours of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, brought a group of travelers from Grove, Oklahoma, to experience the "Tallimena Drive." It was a beautiful, clear day and the views were as spectacular as their hopes had been.

The people who live in Grove, Oklahoma, have heard the talk about BigFoot roaming the woods in the Tallimena, Oklahoma, area and thought they may have a chance to hear or see anything to do with the phenomenon.

Ronnie Hammer, Katie Cogburn and Pat Starbuck all came down from Honobia, Oklahoma, to tell the tales of their neighborhood that is full of BigFoot stories. Ronnie

Ronnie Hammer is telling the tale of BigFoot his granddaddy told many times on the porch. The group from Grove, Oklahoma enjoyed the entertainment and BigFoot items for sale.



Hammer met the folks and on the "Tallimena Drive" to told them some tales in the the stories of BigFoot and "Pollocks Building" next then they had enough time door to the new pawn shop. The visitors stayed busy and spend some money in from the "Panoramic View" Tallimena, Oklahoma.

TALLIHINA AMERICAN  
Tallimena, Oklahoma  
November 15, 2007

Tallimena American

Weekly  
(918) 567-2390



# Bigfoot returns

## Willow Creek honors legendary Bigfoot filmmakers with 40th Anniversary Celebration

Beti Trauth

FOR THE TIMES-STANDARD

Amazing reality or cleverly manipulated fiction? That's been the paradoxical question posed over the past 40 years since a grainy, black and white 16 mm film captured the startling image of what appeared to be a towering man/ape creature lumbering through the woods of Bluff Creek in Northern California.

Christened "Bigfoot" in honor of the enormous footprints discovered in the area of the film's visual record of the extraordinary sighting, the two men on the site that historic day north of Willow Creek back in 1967 startled the world with their documented discovery.

Armed with both their film and plaster casts made from the huge footprints, Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin make global headlines and started a controversy that continues to this day: Does a species of Bigfoots actually exist in the remote, wooded and mountainous areas where the 60-second film was made? Or, as skeptics decry, has it all been an elaborate hoax?

No matter what anyone's personal opinion may be concerning the truth of the matter, the subject has spawned thousands of words of pro and con theories. There have been countless expeditions into the elusive creatures' perceived territory to try and prove they are not mythological, but flesh, fur and blood.

Other filmmakers have tried to recreate a similar "image" (using a really big man in an "ape suit" to simulate what they insist the Patterson-Gimlin Film did); but they have always failed to do so.

The way that Bigfoot moved and walked in the original — including the long strides that left those deep imprints of feet in the forest floor — has never been physically explained, much less disproved on celluloid.

As a matter of fact, similar, fleeting sightings in various places, have been going on for years. In the Asian Himalayas, he's known as Yeti; but in the mountains of Canadian British Colombia, the name is Sasquatch.

In Willow Creek at 10 a.m. Saturday, the community will

Northern Lights

## ABOUT TOWN

affectionately welcome both the essence of Bigfoot and his loyal affectionados at the 40th anniversary celebration of the Patterson-Gimlin film.

The program will feature a series of presentations and discussions by a variety of knowledgeable guest speakers, with archival displays, personal testimonials and even some Bigfoot-inspired songs — all based on what could be described as the most famous piece of wildlife footage ever taken.

According to enthusiasts, due to the improved technology now available, the film has been able to be analyzed "to show extraordinary detail and compelling features that leave little doubt regarding the authenticity of the creature in those frames."

The celebration's organizer, Bay Area resident Tom Yamarone, said it was the co-idea of himself and Joyce Kearney.

"We met at The Bigfoot Discovery Museum in Felton (near Santa Cruz) that opened about three years ago — with displays of artifacts, footprint casts, and a gigantic skull recreation by

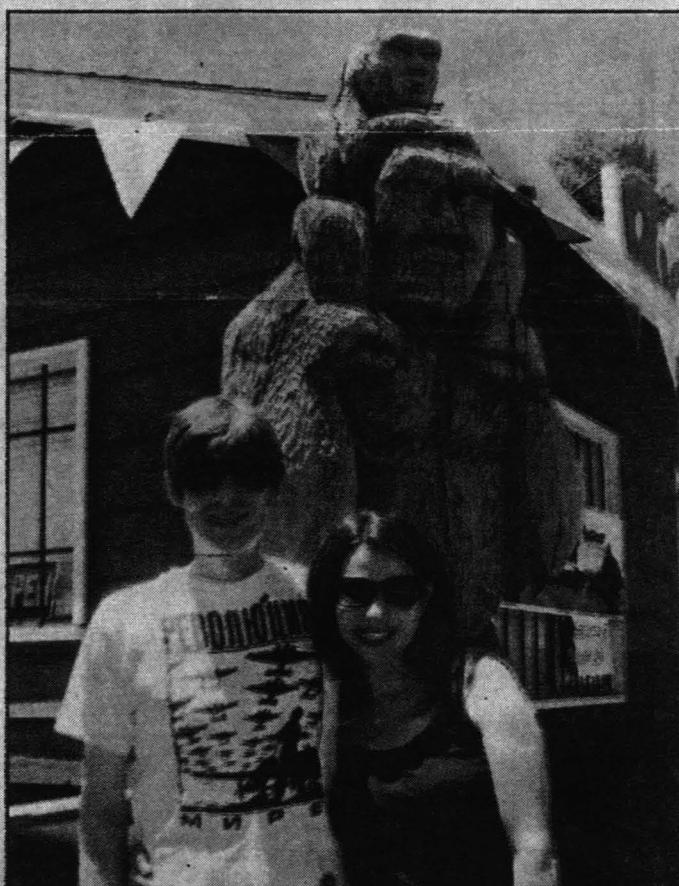
CONTINUED ON  
NEXT PAGE >>

Eureka, CA  
(Humboldt Co.)  
Times Standard  
(Cir. 5xW. 23,500)  
(Cir. Sat./Sun. 24,200)

OCT 18 2007

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Thursday, Oct. 18, 2007



**TOP:** Cliff Barackman and Tom Yamarone holding footprint casts from Bluff Creek 1964 and 1967.

**MIDDLE:** Scott McClean Scott McClean posing in front of the Bigfoot Discovery Museum in Felton with his friend, Susan.

**BOTTOM:** James "Bobo" Fay, Bob Strain, Tom Yamarone and Cliff Barackman on expedition in Bluff Creek, July 2006.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOM YAMARONE



CONTINUED FROM  
< PREVIOUS PAGE

Eureka, CA  
(Humboldt Co.)  
Times Standard  
(Cir. 5xW. 23,500)  
(Cir. Sat./Sun. 24,200)

OCT 18 2007

Dr. Grover Franz."

Yamorone and Kearney — along with most of the Californians speaking at the Willow Creek event — are members of what could be called a Bigfoot Believers Club (formed by the museum), who stay in touch with fellow believers throughout the world.

They do so, Yamarone explained, because now there's even more evidence on which to base their collective beliefs.

Within the group there are a number of people who have actually seen the creatures — or experienced and possibly recorded — the sounds of their voices (or found physical evidence of their activities)."

Others, like Yamarone, have simply become fascinated with the ongoing, unanswered mystery that is Bigfoot.

"Growing up in Los Angeles, I was always interested in the topic because my family often came up to Humboldt to camp in the redwoods."

But, it wasn't until 2000 when he was visiting Willow Creek and saw the footprint cast collection — "which I considered good, solid evidence" — that he became

## BIGFOOT

a true believer.

"Once I saw the casts — especially after having spent so much time up in these forests and experiencing things I couldn't explain — I suddenly realized that these creatures could actually exist."

He became even more certain after seeing an early thought-provoking television documentary on the famous film, as well as a more recent 20 minute segment exploring the possibility on the History Channel.

Moreover, there have been current books written by respected science-based authors that further validate Krantz's theories. One by Idaho State University's Dr. Jeff Meldrum is titled "Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science."

The book basically outlines "what we know about these creatures, and other of what we call the bipedal hominids (any of the early forms of man, whose descents may include the upright ape)." Every evolutionary possibility continues to be hotly debated within different scientific camps.

According to Yamarone, Meldrum's book "tends to conclude that the behaviors witnessed by people who have seen Sasquatch, falls within those of the great apes — although those evolutionary elements are always hotly debated."

Yet another book based on similar research findings was published by a respected wildlife biologist from British Columbia, John Bindernagel, titled "Sasquatch: America's Great Ape."

Based on thousands of documented sightings by trusted observers, he studied and carefully compared the behavior of man

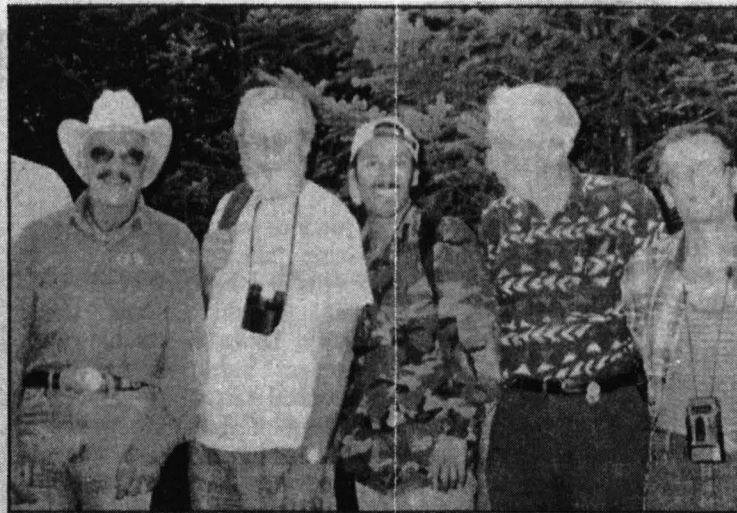


PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM YAMARONE

**Daniel Perez in Bluff Creek with bigfooters Bob Gimlin, Dr. John Bindernagel and John Green.**

and ape. The biologist then came to a similar conclusion as that reached by Meldrum.

Whenever there are new sightings reported by individuals, there are a number of separate Bigfoot-related organizations (such as The Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization of which Yamarone is a member), who follow up these reports and do their own field investigations.

So, there are hundreds of interested groups out there ready to verify these incidents as true, or not. However, someone who has encountered creatures that he believes to be a community living in the wilds of Klamath, will share first-hand accounts of those experiences at the 40th Anniversary Celebration.

He's James "Bobo" Fay, a Southern California native (now living in Arcata) who was initially intrigued by the film during his high school days, "came up to Humboldt with my buddies 20 years ago on a Bigfoot hunt," and subsequently became a field

researcher.

Often accompanied by Grizzly Creek forest ranger, Robert Leiterman, the pair have spent the past four or five years (at least twice a year) on Bigfoot scouting expeditions throughout the Klamath River area, up into the Trinity Alps, and deep into Redwood National Park.

That has included "making special calls, knocking on trees, and blasting out audios of what we believe are Bigfoot recordings to see if we can get a live response." He says he's sure "there's definitely a population of them around the Klamath River up there in those drainages."

"I've heard them when they come around, and they'll do certain things (like knock on trees, or snap them off); and they'll make a definite primate sound — kind of like a chimp or a howler monkey making a whooping sound. (We recorded some of these.)"

"I've also gotten eye-witness accounts from lots of different people — such as loggers and

hunters — but mostly from the Indians who live here with their families." He said, that tribe members know them not as imaginary spirits, but as real creatures who have co-existed there in the wilderness for years.

Interestingly enough, it was Fay himself who made the most recent 2007 Sasquatch sighting in the field. On the evening of May 22 during a camping trip with five other field researchers in Six Rivers National Park near Orleans, Fay said he was walking by the confluence of Bluff and Notice Creeks and saw the 6-foot figure of "one of the smaller ones" hurriedly cross the road, go down the steep wooded embankment and disappear into the dark below.

Although Fay wasn't able to capture visual proof of his encounter on film this time around, he feels he's previously caught enough glimpses of creatures who fit the original film demographic to believe an ever-elusive Bigfoot is exactly what he saw.

Fay said that he thinks that in the next few years, it will be "a real slap in the face of the main stream media who have just made light of it and mocked it all of this time. Because it's actual — it's a certainty — and, I've seen it. I've seen it." And, he's more than ready to tell the audience about his experiences on Saturday.

Keynote speaker, Daniel Perez (author and publisher of Bigfoot Times and "Bigfoot at Bluff Creek"), will kick off the event at 10 a.m. by tracing the effects of the honored film since it was first given coverage 40 years ago in the pages of the Eureka Times-Standard.

In a rare conversation and interview with Gimlin not long ago for his Bigfoot-oriented

paper, Perez said that the surviving, feisty 76-year-old filmmaker "couldn't believe that 40 years has gone by, and no one (else) has produced a film of similar quality — much less captured one of these things."

And, Perez said Gimlin was actually "beside himself and amazed—in the sense that nothing has ever been resolved. He said he kind of figured that after that film was shot, that sooner or later (within a couple of years) someone would 'get one'—and it just never happened." Well, not yet. But with persistent folks like Fay out there searching, who knows?

Other featured participants at the celebration include David Murphy, who is currently researching and writing a Patterson biography, and Scott McClean, who will share archival research from his book "Big New Prints."

Cliff Barackman will also display and discuss footprint casts from the film site and Bluff Creek area; and organizer, Yamarone, will add to the festivities by performing a musical tribute to Patterson and Gimlin.

So, come to Willow Creek and make your own decision about the reality of Bigfoot as you join the 40th anniversary celebration of the Bigfoot film that keeps making history. Believe it!

Reservations are required for lunch; and seating is limited. Although walk-ups are welcome, call (415) 420-7583 to ensure seats are available before making the drive.

Beti Trauth is a professional actor/director/singer who has been covering the arts in Humboldt County as a freelance photo journalist since 1986. Contact her at [northernlights@times-standard.com](mailto:northernlights@times-standard.com)

A.F.U.  
Box 11027  
600 11 NORRÖPING  
Sweden