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Roderick Dyke & Chuck Flood, Editors

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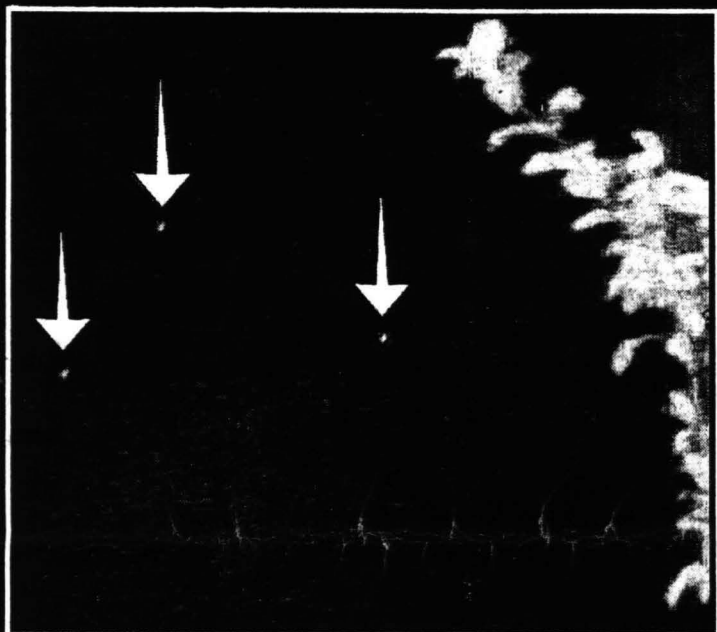
Credit: Timothy Good

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Did close encounter light up our skies?

FORGET Roswell - it seems Strines maybe the new Area 51 after claims a UFO was spotted in the sky on Sunday night.

Pub-goers at the Royal Oak on Strines Road were mystified by three red lights in a triangular formation slowly moving across the sky at around 9pm.

The lights were also spotted by residents in Romiley and Marple, who wondered whether they were having a close encounter of the third kind.

Jameson Moon, 39, landlord of the Royal Oak and an aviation enthusiast, immediately consulted his radar and discovered the 'object' was not registering.

He said: "One of the customers was outside having a cigarette when he saw the lights and we all went outside to have a look.

"The lights were moving very slowly across the sky and they were some distance apart it eventually moved behind a cloud. There is no way it was a plane and it didn't show up on my radar.

"I was amazed. I have never seen anything like this before and may never see anything like it again. I am usually a sceptic but after seeing this I am not sure."

Jameson's mum Grace added: "Everybody in the pub saw it. I think the whole village saw it and we hadn't had too much to drink."

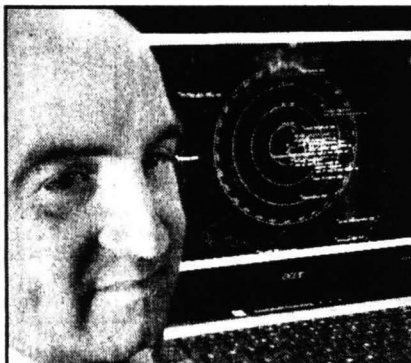
Christine Smith, 56, from Romiley, added: "My husband and I saw the lights hovering above Marple. They were there for about 15 minutes then dissa-

by Matthew Davis

peared.

"We live under the flight path and it is normally very busy but I have never seen anything like this before."

Brian Vike director of HBCC UFO Research, based in Canada, explained that recent sightings of lights either on their own or in a group have turned out to be Chinese lanterns.



Mr Vike said: "The lanterns people release are for some kind of festival, weddings or some other event. Or people just playing around maybe hoping to get some type of excitement over something strange happening, when indeed it is nothing to get excited over."

However, UFO expert Nick Pope, who used to run the British Government's UFO Project, is not convinced that the explanation lies with lanterns and believes the object could have been a large UFO.

He said: "It's an intriguing

image - something extremely interesting has been captured here. While many recent UFO sightings in the UK have been attributable to Chinese lanterns, I'm not convinced this is the explanation here.

"While it's possible that three Chinese lanterns might briefly end up in a triangular formation, it's inconceivable that they'd hold such a pattern constantly.

"It seems a very strange coincidence that three lanterns would be snapped in the shape of a perfect triangle. This raises the intriguing possibility that what we're looking at here is the underside of a triangular-shaped UFO, with lights at each corner. If this is the case, the object is massive.

"The fact that the three lights held the pattern makes it highly likely that we're dealing with lights on the underside of a single object, as opposed to three separate objects.

"That the object disappeared behind cloud suggests it was vast, as one would expect the cloudbase to be at a height of several thousand feet.

"When working at the Ministry of Defence I investigated many sightings of such triangular-shaped craft."

UFO: Three red lights were spotted travelling slowly across the sky in a triangular formation, top right.

(picture by Trevor Haywood)
Left: Jameson Moon with the laptop he uses for aeroplane tracking (sxn36261208)

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- 3 SEP 2008

UFO tracker expects contact from aliens

The Greensburg man says Pa. tops the nation in sightings this summer.

BY RICH CHOLODOFSKY
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

It's not a matter of if, but when, for UFO tracker John Ventre.

And if you believe his stats, the extraterrestrials will be here soon.

"They're going to make contact. We weren't ready in the '50s and '60s, but we're ready now," said Ventre, who serves as Pennsylvania coordinator for the Mutual UFO Network, in addition to working as director of security at the UPS depot in New Stanton.

The Colorado-based network with its 300 members, also known as MUFON, keeps track of UFO sightings. Ventre said Pennsylvanians led the way this summer in spotting unidentified flying objects.

Since June, there have been about 100 sightings of UFOs above the Keystone State. Ventre said there have been about 25 sightings over the Pittsburgh region, including eight above Westmoreland County.

Ventre's statistics show there have been twice as many sightings this summer in Pennsylvania as any other state.

On June 29, Ventre was with his dogs in the front yard of his Greensburg home when he saw what dozens of others have been talking about.

Looking south, Ventre gazed upwards and high in the sky saw a fast moving, lighted object that seemingly reflected the moonlight as it sped off into the summer night.

"It was moving really fast. It had to be like 3,000 mph," Ventre said.

Ventre keeps track of everything, from the time, date and location of a sighting to its shape and color. Those statistics appear

on MUFON's Web site.

Retired Army First Sgt. James Everett snapped three pictures of an object over his Jefferson Hills home that are being analyzed.

"I'm not sure what it is, but I know it wasn't an airplane. I spent 20 years in the military and I know the difference between stars and things that aren't supposed to be there," Everett said.

Could all this activity, which seems to follow a path from Ohio and across Pennsylvania over the turnpike corridor, be a precursor to some "X-Files" encounter somewhere close to home?

Ventre and Everett think so.

"There would be a lot of things in our region they would be interested in, power plants and steel plants. If I was from another world coming to our planet, I'd look at our production of things," Everett said.

The Air Force, which once tracked UFO sightings, does so no more.

It's the Air Force that debunked the region's biggest suspected alien encounter, the 1965 incident in Kecksburg.

Locals to this day insist a spaceship crashed in the rural Westmoreland County hamlet. The government said it was a meteor, while others have theorized the object that flamed across the sky and plunged to the earth in Kecksburg was a secret Soviet satellite.

Ventre said the mystery might someday be revealed, and history will show that Kecksburg was the appetizer for a full course of alien activity.

"I think people can handle the truth, as long as they're not hostile," Ventre said.

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PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
September 1, 2008

KDBC 4 NEWS
EL PASO - LAS CRUCES - JUAREZ

KDBC-4 NEWS (Online)
El Paso, Texas
October 10, 2008

Newsman reported on flying saucer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) - Frank Joyce, a New Mexico newsman who reported on the Roswell Incident as it unfolded and later did an outdoor report on Albuquerque's KOB-TV, has died. He was 85.

Joyce was in his 20s when he worked at Roswell radio station KGFL in 1947, said his son, Ron Joyce.

"He was the first reporter at the scene," of the supposed UFO crash, Ron Joyce said.

Frank Joyce was interviewed about the event over the years and depicted in documentaries and movies. The military said debris recovered at the site came from a weather balloon.

Born in Alabama and raised in Roswell, Joyce played college football at the University of Alabama. He served in the Army during World War II and was awarded the Bronze Star.

Services are 2 p.m. Friday at Ballard Funeral Home in Roswell.

Texas Press Clipping Bureau
Dallas TX 214-960-5570

HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Granbury, Texas
August 27, 2008

WHAT ARE these odd markings in The Peninsula? See photos PAGE 5A.

were showing up with cameras and snapping pictures of the oddity.

"They think we had a party with aliens," Lynette Peel laughed.

The sheriff's department came out and took samples, but they're not thinking the substance or its configuration was alien-created. Sheriff's captain Clint Pullin said it is most likely a fungus. The perfect circle can be explained by a sprinkler, he said.

Could be. But Peel said her boss did some research on various fungi on the Internet, then called her the next day.

"He told me, you've got a problem," she said. He told her that what was on her property matched the description, not of a particular fungus, but of an

PLEASE SEE CIRCLE 12A

E.T. may not have phoned home, but it could be that he left his calling card.

An oddity that some say strongly resembles a crop circle appeared last week in a yard in The Peninsula north-east of Granbury.

Bruce and Lynette Peel, who have lived for six years on West Baja Court, woke on a foggy morning last week to find a perfectly shaped, 14-foot circle in their yard. The grass was covered, Lynette Peel said, with a strange, oily substance.

When Bruce Peel told his wife last Thursday to come look at the alien crop circle that had popped up in their yard, his wife did what any loving, supportive spouse would do: She told him he was full of it.

Soon, though, neighbors

"I just know I didn't put it there," she said. "And my husband didn't put it there, either."

Stephenville area.

She's making no particular judgment about the strange circle on her grass, but would like to know what the heck it is.

FROM PAGE ONE

alien cropping.

Peel said she has never given much thought to things extraterrestrial, and paid no heed to stories in recent months of alleged UFO sightings in the

CIRCLE: Homeowner baffled by marking

kwindle@knews.com | 817-573-7066, ext. 258

Unidentified Frakkin' Objects

BY MICHAEL VENTURA

Saw one once. Summer of 1981. It was unidentified, flying, and definitely an object. My brother David and I were visiting friends who lived in an adobe home without plumbing in the mountains 50 miles northwest of Santa Fe, N.M. True I'd had a beer, maybe two. I was a little buzzed, but far from drunk; nor had I imbibed hallucinogens, pot, etc. (I never do). Having to pee, I stepped out into a very black night brilliantly canopied by what seemed like the entire universe. The adobe was in a small, deep valley, flanked on the east and west by steep, high ridges. I was facing east, contentedly relieving myself under the stars. My gaze panned from north to south – and there it was.

Very close. Maybe a half-mile – I gauged that by its relation to the road. Straight up the hillside, near the top. Round – perfectly round, it seemed to me. Rotating slowly like a flat metallic wheel, with small red and white lights near its circumference, it radiated a vague glow of its own. Noiseless. I saw it full for a moment, then, in less time than it takes to tell, it sank below the ridgeline – down into the next valley, I presumed.

Zipped myself, ran inside, told my dear ones I'd seen something and I was going to look for it, and – having seen way too many movies – added that if I didn't come back in a couple of hours they should call ... somebody. Alas, I drove up and down that road and found only a deep-rutted truck path over the ridge that my low-slung '69 Chevy couldn't manage. As for hiking up in the dark – being a city-bred tenderfoot, that seemed a bad idea, UFO or no UFO. We all hiked up in the morning but found nothing that looked unusual to our untrained eyes.

The Los Alamos National Laboratory perched in higher mountains about 50 miles south as the crow flies. Maybe it was some-

thing from the lab, we figured – or something interested in the lab. I gave it no more thought than that. I saw what I saw.

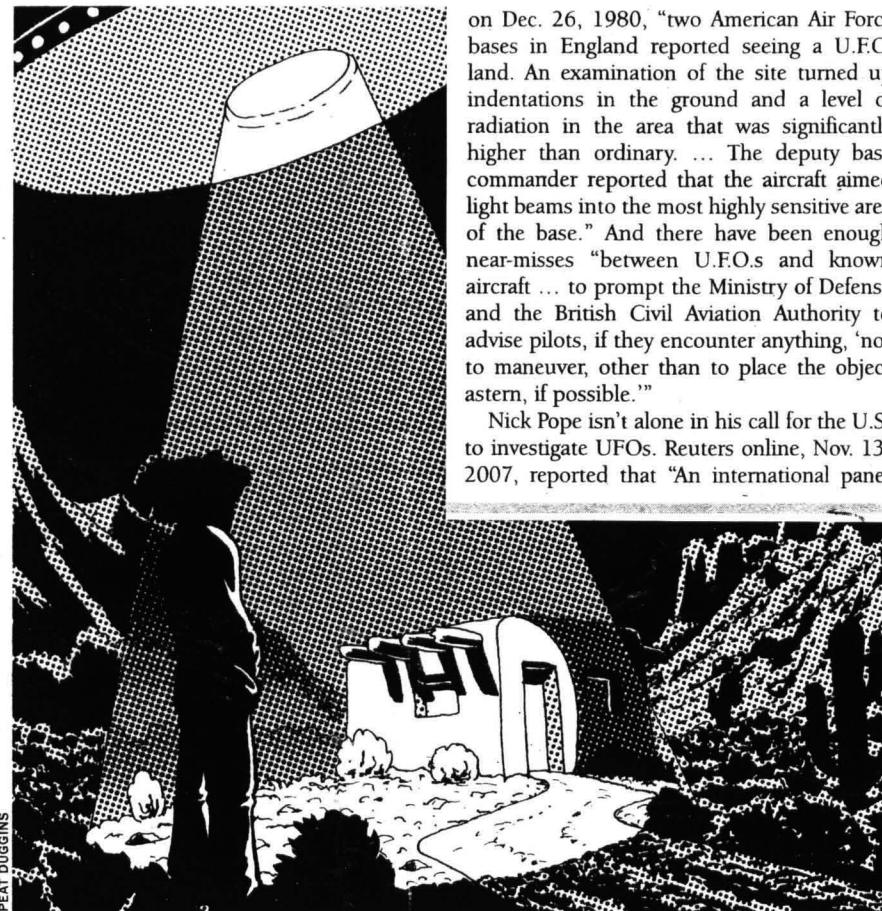
That same year, my friend Richard saw what he saw: a long, wide, gray-glowing oblong passing low and humming over a ranch house in which he was a guest, some miles south of Austin. And dear Dixie – who died this year not long before her 91st birthday, and who in our long friendship never told a fib – saw what she saw when, driving a two-lane one night in the Panhandle between Matador and Clarendon, she was accompanied (followed?) for miles by a large glowing disc above and to her left.

I mention these sightings now because, however unusual they may be, they were, in a way, not as unusual as finding an op-ed article in *The New York Times* headlined "Unidentified Flying Threats," highlighted in bold with the words "Why we should be more curious about U.F.O.s" (July 29, p.19). The newswires and some good newspapers are not above reporting UFO sightings when witnesses are many and reputable. But a serious UFO article on the editorial pages of the "paper of record"? Was it a joke?

Nope. The article was by one Nick Pope, identified as the author of *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, a man who "was in charge of U.F.O. investigations for the British Ministry of Defense from 1991 to 1994."

Well, that made things slightly more explainable. Americans won't do, but the *Times* will print it if a well-credentialed Brit writes it.

Pope cites several instances. On Nov. 7, 2006, in broad daylight, "pilots and airport employees at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago saw a disc-like object hovering over the tarmac for several minutes." Radar didn't pick it up, but Pope's point is, "Stealth planes are designed to be invisible to radar, and many



radar systems filter out signals not matching the normal characteristics of aircraft." He sees UFOs as a national security issue, questioning whether our government can afford to ignore the phenomenon. (Why presume our government ignores it? Official U.S. investigations ceased in 1969; secret investigations may well continue. Richard told me that the military was all over the county the day after his sighting, and certain areas were, for a short time, closed to public access.)

Pope writes that "Britain and France ... continue to investigate U.F.O. sightings, because of concerns that some sightings might be attributable to foreign military aircraft breaching their airspace, or to foreign [read: U.S. and Russian] space-based systems of interest to the intelligence community." For instance,

on Dec. 26, 1980, "two American Air Force bases in England reported seeing a U.F.O. land. An examination of the site turned up indentations in the ground and a level of radiation in the area that was significantly higher than ordinary. ... The deputy base commander reported that the aircraft aimed light beams into the most highly sensitive area of the base." And there have been enough near-misses "between U.F.O.s and known aircraft ... to prompt the Ministry of Defense and the British Civil Aviation Authority to advise pilots, if they encounter anything, 'not to maneuver, other than to place the object astern, if possible.'"

Nick Pope isn't alone in his call for the U.S. to investigate UFOs. Reuters online, Nov. 13, 2007, reported that "An international panel

of two dozen former pilots and government officials" agree. "It would certainly, I think, take a lot of angst out of this issue," said former Arizona Gov. Fife Symington, who said he was among hundreds who saw a delta-shaped craft with enormous lights silently traverse the sky near Phoenix in 1997."

Lessen the angst? I wonder. At the O'Hare sighting "mechanics, maintenance workers, and a pilot all saw the craft, which made no sound as it sat motionless in the sky for minutes, and then shot up out of sight, leaving a perfectly circular opening in the cloud cover" (*The Week*, Jan. 19, 2007, p.3, citing *The Chicago Tribune*). "[One] employee was so shaken by his otherworldly vision ... that he's experienced 'some religious issues.'"

Believers the world over would experience "some religious issues" if ever an official, public consensus was reached that UFOs exist and that they ain't from around here. Just for starters, whether you believe the Quran, the Tanakh, or the Bible, your creation stories would be pretty well shot to hell in terms of anything but metaphor – and no one should be flip about the undermining of faith on such a mass scale, not even the world's urbane intelligentsia. Our universal use of the term "aliens" for interstellar life-forms is a giveaway that we too believe we are the center of creation. However much we may cherish *Star Trek*, *The X-Files*, *Babylon 5*, *Dr. Who*, or *Battlestar Galactica* (whose writers coined the useful usages "frak" and "frakkin'"), proof that there are technologically advanced species who can fly rings around us might be unsettling, since they've probably not read Proust and care nothing for the application of semiotics to feminism, queer theory, and the cinema. As a concept, officially confirmed "alien" activity would be as sobering as it is intoxicating.

Given the variety of unidentified flying objects seen by reliable witnesses, one may justifiably speculate that a variety of Other Folk are interested in us. Why? Astronomer Carl Sagan gave a cogent reason in his book *Intelligent Life in the Universe*: Since the commercialization of radio in the 1920s, our planet has emitted an increasing intensity of electronic signals. To electronic telescopes elsewhere, it might be as though a blank space in the galaxy suddenly became incredibly bright and keeps getting brighter. That would be worth investigating. Thus, 20 years after the advent of radio, UFO sightings began to be reported worldwide. Makes sense. Somebody – "aliens" – might want to know who's new in the neighborhood.

I'll vote for Barack Obama, but I'm not a fan. Still, I liked him best the other day on MSNBC (Aug. 4, *Hardball With Chris Matthews*). A nervous local newsmen – from, I believe, the Midwest – asked if, as president, Obama would reveal the existence of "aliens" if he had "positive proof." Said the presumptive nominee, "It depends on what these aliens were like – and whether they were Democrats or Republicans." ■

Mysterious 'Black Mailbox' lures UFO fans to desert

BY ASHLEY POWERS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

TIKABOO VALLEY, Nev. — The only landmark for about 40 miles on a barren stretch of highway is a mailbox battered by time and desert gusts. It's known as the Black Mailbox, although it's actually dingy white.

Over the years, hundreds of people have converged in south-central Nevada to photograph the box — the size of a small television — held up by a chipped metal pole. They camp next to it. They try to break into it. They debate its significance or simply huddle by it for hours, staring into the night.

Some think the mailbox is linked to nearby Area 51, a military installation and purported hotbed of extraterrestrial activity. At the very least, they consider the box a prime magnet for flying saucers.

A few visitors have claimed to have encountered celestial oddities. But most enjoy uneventful nights at the mailbox, situated between the towns of Alamo and Rachel.

Alien hunters in Tikaboo Valley are surrounded by like-minded company. Few people around these parts roll their eyes at tales of spaceships, military conspiracies and extraterrestrials that abduct and impregnate tourists.

This night, Lester Arnold, a 59-year-old industrial mechanic, is in Rachel offering to show visitors Mailbox Road. He has traveled from Declo, Idaho, for the annual UFO Friendship Conference Camp Out. A few years ago at the mailbox, Arnold says, he saw a fireball-like object shoot over the mountains, stop and shrink until it vanished.

He meets Steve Crosby at a doublewide mobile home called

the Little ALeInn, a Rachel restaurant, bar and tourist stop. Crosby, 57, is debating whether the "Earthlings Always Welcome" T-shirt looks better in purple or black. He lives in Bedford, Texas, and hopes to have a second spacecraft sighting (his first was a bluish oval that zipped over Atlanta, he says).

The guys and three others caravan to the mailbox on the state-christened Extraterrestrial Highway, a two-lane road that tumbleweeds cross more frequently than cars. The cows grazing alongside it, conspiracy theorists whisper, are mounted with spy cameras. The men park near the mailbox and a bullet-dinged stop sign, and they open their doors to silence.

The box is made of quarter-inch-thick bullet-resistant metal, and its door is clamped shut with a Master Lock. Its owner, say the black letters printed on its side, is Steve Medlin, HC 61, Box 80. Visitors have added bumper stickers and their own musings: "Trust no one" and "I am the last alien" among them.

"It's become this mecca," says a Las Vegas man who is admiring the weathered box. He wears a Johnnie Walker RVs ball cap and refuses to give his name.

"That's probably the most photographed mailbox in the world," Arnold says, his gruff voice tinged with awe.

'SO ASININE'

The owners of the mailbox, Steve and Glenda Medlin, moved in 1973 to a cattle ranch in Tikaboo Valley, about 80 miles north of Las Vegas. There was no talk of aliens and no home mail delivery.

A few years later, a local tungsten quarry reopened. Some miners moved to a trailer park near

the Medlins; it grew into the town of Rachel. Postal carriers began delivery, and the couple put up a common black rural mailbox about six miles from their home, near Nevada 375.

In 1989, according to a history of Rachel, a man named Bob Lazar told a Las Vegas television station that he had worked with alien spacecraft at nearby Nellis Air Force Base. He and his buddies, Lazar claimed, also watched saucer test flights in Tikaboo Valley.

So many tourists soon descended on Rachel — on the edge of the valley — that the Rachel Bar & Grill was renamed the Little ALeInn. People downed Alien Burgers and quaffed beer before visiting the mailbox, the only landmark in Tikaboo Valley. The mailbox acquired a cultlike following.

"For some reason, Tuesday nights was when they thought the aliens came out. Then it was Wednesdays," Glenda Medlin says with notable disdain. UFO tourists left messages in the mailbox for the aliens — on business cards, napkins, notebook scraps. "They were waiting for the aliens to abduct them, and they were anxious to meet them.... We'd just shake our heads," says Glenda Medlin, who long ago stopped reading the notes. "It was so asinine."

Some people opened the couple's mail, hoping to intercept classified correspondence. Some camped at the mailbox — for weeks, in some cases. A few shot the mailbox, leaving holes in the Medlins' bills and junk mail. That was too much for the ranchers.

Glenda Medlin doesn't remember when her husband swapped out the black mailbox for the larger white bullet-resistant one, but an online posting pegs the date as

March 27, 1996. The next month, the state named Nevada 375 the Extraterrestrial Highway, making headlines internationally.

Steve Medlin attached a second box solely for the alien-seekers: It has a mail slot and is labeled "alien" on one side and "drop box" on another; some people slide in dollar bills.

THE NIGHT WATCH

The sun disappears, and the surrounding Groom, Timpahute and Pahrangat mountains blacken. Stars peek through clouds. The sky watchers pace near the mailbox, one of the few things visible.

They clutch digital cameras and night-vision binoculars that tint everything green. They tilt back their heads, training their lenses on the sky. Someone clicks on a scanner, but it broadcasts only silence. Becky Spidell, 60, and her husband join the group, which passes time trading stories.

"My mother was a UFO person. We had a big telescope in the living room," says Spidell, who runs a mobile-home park in Phoenix. "I was so embarrassed — I wouldn't bring friends over."

Three years ago, after seeing the Little ALeInn on television, Spidell and her husband headed to Tikaboo Valley in early summer. She recalled peering out her car window on that trip and glimpsing three orange UFOs, followed by a giant saucer.

"We watched it for a little bit," she says, "and then it went over the mountain, and it glowed for two or three minutes. It landed at Area 51."

The Spidells have returned every year since.

"My youngest daughter thinks I'm nuts," Becky Spidell says. "I think this is the mother's curse."

Minutes pass; the sky watchers never lower their gaze.

They continue the UFO chatter.

"After I see one, I always check my clock," Spidell says. "In case I've been abducted."

The others nod in understanding.

The silences lengthen. Two hours crawl by. It's so dark now that the mailbox seems a mirage. There's a glow emanating from behind the mountains, but the group decides it's the Las Vegas Strip.

Crosby clutches a half-full Coors, quietly surveying the night.

"We're not counting on seeing anything," he says finally.

Wait.

There's a light in the sky. A fast-moving light.

The group debates in hushed

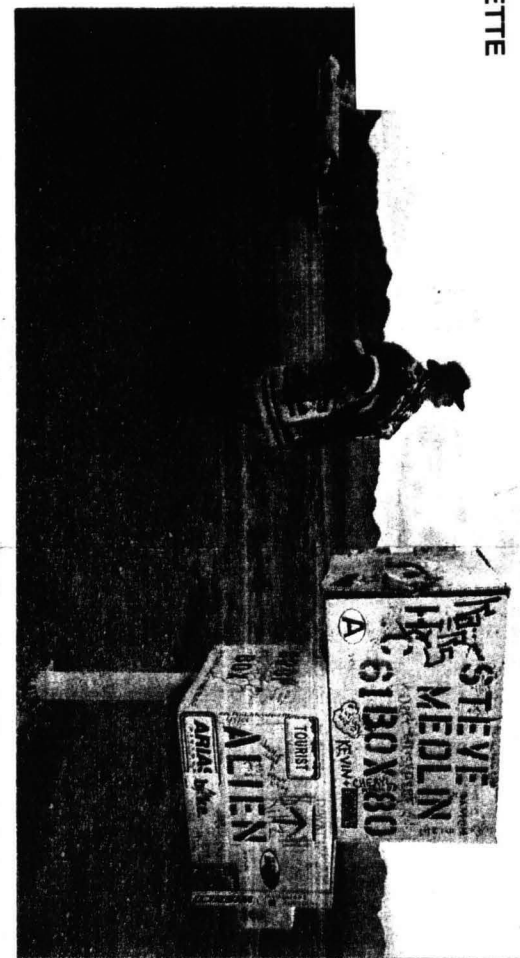
tones: Is it a shooting star? A spaceship?

They train their binoculars on it, hoping.

"Probably a commercial jet," someone concludes.

Crosby slumps.

"Well," he says, "I can say I was here."



Lester Arnold of Declo, Idaho, awaits a night of UFO hunting beside the mailbox on a lonely stretch of highway in the Nevada desert.
Laura Rauch
Los Angeles Times photo

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
Little Rock, Arkansas
September 28, 2008
Credit: Lou Farish

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

FROM THE ARCHIVES

2008 marks the centennial of an unprecedented world-wide wave of reports of mystery airships, aeroplanes, "lights in the sky" and balloons.

Starting in Alaska and Texas in January 1908, the wave passed over Washington State in February, with scattered reports from England and Scandinavia that Summer and New England in October. 1909 saw significant numbers of reports from England (March-May), New Zealand (July-August), the southwestern US during the Summer, and New England again in December, with reports from many places in the central US continuing into August of 1910.

These 1908-1910 events was a major event in proto-UFOlogy (i.e. pre-1947), equaling in duration the great 1896-1898 Canada/US/Siberia wave and exceeding that wave in geographic scope.

To recognize the importance of this event, and hopefully to stimulate research, we'll be presenting clips -- many not previously published -- from this era over the next issues.

DAILY NEWS
Tacoma, WA
February 4, 1908

MORNING OLYMPIAN
Olympia, WA
February 5, 1908

Strange Lights Seen At High Altitude

AIRSHIP SEEN ALSO, IT IS DECLARED

Crew and Passengers of N. P.
Train View It.

Story of Japanese Spies at
Work Along the Coast Is Re-
vived—Kent and Other Towns
Report Sighting Lights.

Dark red, pale green, yellow and a brilliant white are the colors of a strange light that appeared in the western horizon Saturday and Sunday nights, seen by residents of Kent and Tacoma, who firmly believe it to be a passing airship belonging to the Japanese.

A large object was seen sailing through

the air at a high elevation, moving from north to south. It was first sighted by an engineer on a Northern Pacific train on the tide flats waiting for the Fifteenth street bridge to close. He pointed out the object to the conductor and passengers alighted from the train. Some examined it with field glasses. So interested did the passengers and trainmen become that the train was delayed several minutes.

Those who saw it told of a large cigar-shaped object flying a foreign flag, which some maintained was French, while others declared it to be Japanese. During the same week, on clear nights, colored lights were seen displayed at high altitudes and on one occasion a rocket was discharged high in the air, it is asserted.

Since that time the light has appeared at various points along the coast, usually between the hours of 7 and 9 o'clock, as at Kent, Sunday night. In many of the smaller towns along the Grays Harbor, Tacoma Eastern and Northern Pacific near Tacoma, residents have watched the light. It is the firm belief of many that the light is attached to an airship employed by the Japanese spies, who are studying the topography of the coast.

SEEING THINGS AROUND KENT

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DAILY OLYMPIAN
Olympia, WA
February 4, 1908

STRANGE LIGHT SEEN WEST OF KENT.

Some Believe It to Be the Eye of an
Airship.

KENT, Wash., Feb. 3.—For two nights past much curiosity has been aroused by the appearance of a large bright light apparently low in the western sky, two or three times as

bright as Jupiter. It was observed both Saturday and Sunday nights between the hours of 7 and 9 o'clock, moving slowly from north to south. Suggestions were made that it might be an airship, and telephone inquiries were made covering a distance of two or three miles from this place, but no satisfactory answers were received. At times the strange light did not appear to be more than 10 or 12 miles distant. All sorts of conjectures are ventured as to the mysterious illumination.

NOW ADMITS SEEING THINGS

John E. Curtis Says He Saw Strange
Lights in the Sky.

From Tacoma comes reports of a cigar-shaped something of night habits which wears many colored lights and haunts the upper hemisphere. Little is known about the creature or thing, but the journalistic war dogs bark at it and bristle as though they smelled Japs. But Tacoma is none ahead of Centralia in seeing the light. John Curtis, a barber saw the strange lights moving about in the sky east of Centralia three weeks ago. Mr. Curtis, however, was wise and at the time said nothing of what he had seen. But now having the Tacoma papers to bark him up he feels safe in relating his experience without danger of being churched.

WHITE RIVER JOURNAL
Kent, WA
January 24, 1908

What Was It?

Were Kent people treated to the sight of an air ship last night? Was somebody going up in a balloon? Or were the inhabitants of Mars taking soundings of the earth? About 7:30 a bright light was seen high in the air over toward the Western hills and many people gazed in wonder. None could tell what it was. It sailed about for a half an hour apparently in a current of air. What was it.

Mars People
Signaling

A Kent correspondent who recently reported a great white light visible in the heavens from the neighborhood of Kent is being gradually relieved from a charge of untruthfulness by the testimony of the valley people, who come to Seattle indorsing the story. Nearly everyone in the valley as far as Auburn has seen the light, and many have examined it through field glasses and telescopes. It is visible, according to the general testimony, on all clear nights, coming up from the southwest and passing north and then back again to a point west of Kent. There it remains, flickering and changing its position from time to time until early morning, and then disappearing over the tree toward the Sound.

"I have been making fun of these stories," said William Watson, who is employed in the county auditor's office, "but a few nights ago they showed me the light, and I can swear it was there. I examined it with a field glass and had a close at hand view of the mysterious light. It appeared to me about the size of a loaf of bread and about the same shape. In the center was a gleaming white brightness like an arc light, while around the edges appeared to be small, flickering lights, like incandescents. While I watched, it slowly turned until the narrow side only was exposed to view, and then a tremendous flickering began, as of some one signaling. For many minutes the light remained stationary, then it dipped slowly down and rose again."—P.I.

FRIENDS COME TO THE RESCUE

Others Besides Curtis Saw Strange
Lights Moving in the Sky.

Since John E. Curtis, the barber, has had the temerity to tell of having seen strange lights in the sky, which he believes were attached to an airship, others have come to his rescue and are offering corroborative evidence. Frank Payette, Frank Fitzgerald, Russell Clark, and Edward Pero all say they saw the strange lights at the same time that Curtis did. Mr. Curtis now feels that he has been vindicated in the eyes of his friends.

DAILY NEWS
Tacoma, WA
February 3, 1908

STRANGE LIGHT SEEN
WEST OF KENT

Some Believe It to Be the Eye of an
Airship.

KENT, Wn., Feb. 3.—(Special.)—For two nights past much curiosity has been aroused by the appearance of a large bright light apparently low in the western sky, two or three times as bright as Jupiter. It was observed both Saturday and Sunday nights between the hours of 7 and 9 o'clock, moving slowly from north to south. Suggestions were made that it might be an airship, and telephone inquiries were made covering a distance of two or three miles from this place, but no satisfactory answers were received. At times the strange light did not appear to be more than 10 or 12 miles distant. All sorts of conjectures are ventured as to the mysterious illumination.

THE POST-INTELLIGENCER
Seattle, WA
February 29, 1908

STRANGE LIGHTS IN NORTH
MAY BE SIGNALS TO EARTH

Nome Residents Witness an
Inexplicable Phenomenon
January 3

NOME, Jan. 4.—(Special.)—A strange light at sea, far out over the vast expanse of frozen ice, was visible to the residents of Nome January 3. The officers at Fort Davis, who had a clear view out over the ice, report that the light was visible for intervals of fifteen minutes, and that it changed color constantly from red to white and green. Viewed through marine glasses the light

appeared too high to belong to a ship, and it was stated from the wireless station at Port Safety that from its position on the horizon, it might, possibly, "be some signal from nearby planets through interstellar space, to the inhabitants of the earth."

Olympia Seeing Lights, Too

OLYMPIA, Feb. 23.—(Special.)—Farmers in the vicinity of Mud Bay, a few miles west of Olympia, report the seeing of a large light in the western skies in the evening, supposed to be an airship. Those who have seen the light say that it is not a star as it is too near the earth, and that it is too large to be a lantern hanging from the tail of a kite.

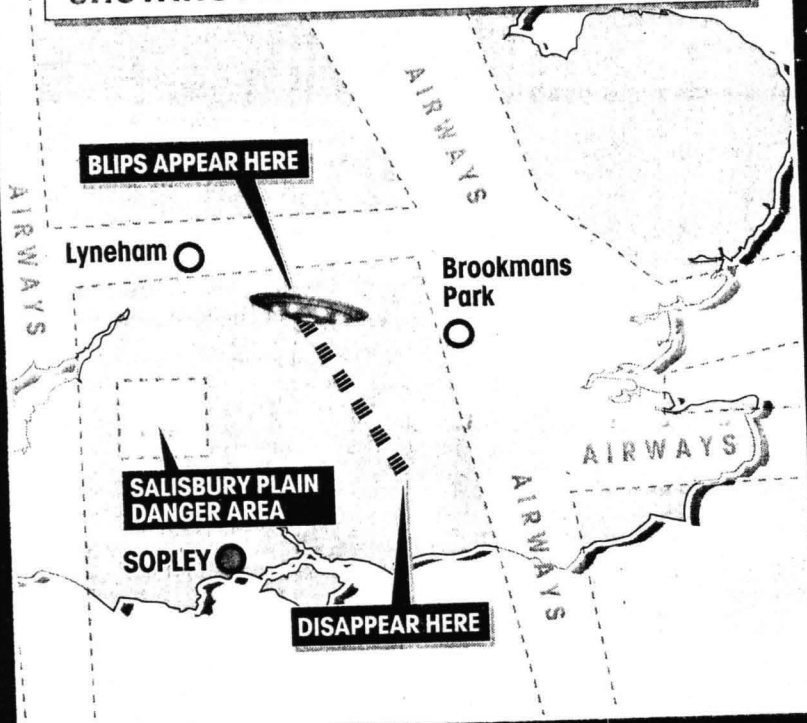
FROM THE ARCHIVES



Note: Most British Clippings are courtesy of TIMOTHY GOOD
Spanish Translations courtesy of JANE THOMAS GUMA

RAF RADAR CHIEF: I SAW FLEET OF UFOS

RADAR VIDEO MAP RAF SOPLEY 1971
SHOWING AIRWAYS AND DANGER AREA



Extraordinary... map shows the UFOs' path across southern England

MoD said keep schtum

AN RAF expert yesterday revealed how he tracked a whole fleet of "spaceships" on military radar — but the Ministry of Defence told him to keep quiet.

Wing Commander Alan Turner, 64, said colleagues sat stunned when 35 super-fast vessels appeared on their screens.

Wing Cmdr Turner, who was a chief operator of the RAF's radar system for 29 years, said the craft were equally spaced and shot from 3,000ft to 60,000ft at almost 300mph.

Incredibly, every few seconds one of the UFOs would suddenly vanish from radar and be replaced by an identical vessel moments later. No aircraft at the time were able to maintain that rate of climb or hold such a formation.

Wing Cmdr Turner — awarded an MBE in 1984 — said six military radars, plus operators at Heathrow, filed reports on the unexplained phenomenon in 1971.

Three days later, a representative for the Ministry of Defence visited the RAF base to instruct them to "never speak about the incident again". Wing Cmdr Turner, right, who retired

EXCLUSIVE by VIRGINIA WHEELER

from the RAF in 1995, said: "UFOs are a fact and I don't care who knows because I tracked them on military radar units.

"What I saw defied all logic and was, quite frankly, extraordinary.

"It wasn't just me. More than 30 pairs of eyes of RAF staff and radar operators at Heathrow Airport witnessed the same thing.

"It's arrogant to believe that we're the only ones in this universe."

The dad of three, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire, was a radar supervisor at the now disused RAF Sopley base, Dorset, in 1971. Wing Cmdr Turner said: "I instantly knew this wasn't a convoy of military planes.

"The only craft we knew that had that rate of climb were supersonic lightning aircraft but they wouldn't have been able to hold such a perfect formation and they also make a lot of noise. No one heard a thing on the night in question."

Wing Cmdr Turner is guest speaker at the Close Encounters conference in Pontefract, West Yorks, next month. Philip Mantle, of UFO Data magazine, said yesterday: "His testimony is remarkable."

v.wheeler@the-sun.co.uk



THE Sun

THE SUN
London, England
September 13, 2008

Shropshire
STAR

SHROPSHIRE STAR
Telford, Shropshire, England
September 16, 2008

EX-RAF man breaks his UFO silence

A retired RAF officer from Shropshire who claims he was silenced by military top brass after tracking six UFOs on a radar is to speak for the first time on the matter.

Former Wing Commander Alan Turner MBE says he was warned not to speak to anyone following an incident witnessed by four civil and six military controllers. He will be the keynote speaker at the International UFO Conference at Pontefract, West Yorkshire, next month.

Mr Turner was 25 when he joined the RAF as an Air Traffic Controller in 1966 and he finished his career in 1995 with the rank of Wing Commander. He was awarded the MBE in 1984 and now lives in retirement in Shrewsbury. "UFOs are a fact and I don't care who knows because I tracked six of them on several military units during my time in the Royal Air Force," he said. Mr Turner said of his experience: "Within a couple of days I was interviewed in the squadron leader's office by two men who were not identified to me. I, along with all the others in the operations room on the day in question, were told in no uncertain terms not to talk about this incident until cleared to do so.

"I am at a loss to explain what I, and many other people saw that day on radar."

Mr Turner has never spoken publicly about the events before.

- 5 SEP 2008

CROYDON ADVERTISER
Croydon (Greater London), England
September 5, 2008

Strange encounter – of a Tesco kind

MAYBE they were looking to make their weekly shop or perhaps they just ran out of milk?

Whatever their reason, the extra terrestrial presence above Purley Cross Tesco prompted a call by UFO experts for a public inquiry.

Sid O'Driscoll spotted the supposed spacecraft on August 28 at 2am.

He said: "It was very weird. It was the most beautiful green and white light, moving quite fast, then stopping.

"It had to be mechanical, like a spaceship, because it slowed down and stopped.

"It wasn't making any noise. It disappeared in a flash.

"I went home and told my girlfriend. She didn't believe me, but the pictures speak for themselves."

The 35-year-old former non-believer swore he did not dabble in drugs and had no idea what the aircraft could have been.

UFO expert Nick Pope, who worked for the Ministry of Defence, examined the pictures.

He said: "Green lights are unusual.

"It rules out the so-called Chinese lanterns that accounted for some recent UFO sightings in the UK.

"The images and description of the movement don't fit a list of things frequently reported as UFOs – aircraft lights, meteors, satellites.

"This is a genuine mystery."

He added: "Given the sheer

number of sightings we've seen this summer and the unprecedented number of photos and videos, it's time for a full public inquiry."

The last reported sighting in Croydon was in April, when a foreign student snapped a mysterious object speeding through the sky.

MYSTERIOUS LIGHTS: The 'UFO' above Tesco at Purley Cross

19 AUG 2008

LINCOLNSHIRE FREE PRESS
Spalding, Lincolnshire, England
August 19, 2008

Couple puzzled by mystery white lights



Puzzled – Paul Marriott and Karen Dawson were intrigued by the mystery lights they spotted in the sky.

Photo: 120808w119

by **ANDREW BROOKES**
andrew.brookes@jpress.co.uk

MYSTERY lights in the sky left a Spalding man and his partner perplexed.

Paul Marriott and Karen Dawson travelled from Spalding to Donington at around 11pm on Monday last week and spotted two bright white lights in the night sky somewhere between Surfleet and Sutterton.

Mr Marriott works at Tulipland Butchers, Donington, and after a 15-minute visit the pair returned to Spalding and saw the unexplained phenomenon again.

They stopped on the A16/A152 link road by Link Road Farm Shop to try and make sense of the strange sight.

Mr Marriott said there were two flashing lights hovering and described them as like the lights on a police car but white.

He said: "I don't really know what it was. We were just surprised and I

can't really offer an explanation for it.

"When we saw it on the way I thought it was two RAF planes doing some navigation practice but when we came back they were there again.

"They weren't moving, just hovering.

"One was quite high and one was lower."

Reports of Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) sightings across the country have been on the increase recently and the national press reported that more than 100 people saw a series of lights in the sky in Stratford-Upon-Avon.

Mr Marriott said: "With everything that has been in the papers recently you get a bit paranoid.

"There wasn't much traffic around that night so I wonder if anyone else saw something?"

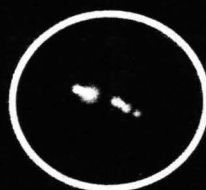
● **Did you spot the lights?**

Or perhaps you know what they are? Contact the newsroom on 01775 765420 or e-mail andrew.brookes@jpress.co.uk

UFO SNAPPED OVER



EVERY LITTLE GREEN MAN HELPS



We're not aisle-lone
... lights above store

EXCLUSIVE by VIKKI THOMAS

UFO experts yesterday called for a probe into this summer's Little Green Man sightings — as one was spotted above a TESCO.

The white and green lights were snapped hovering over the supermarket — which has the slogan "Every Little Helps".

Sid O'Driscoll took our exclusive pictures at the 24-hour store in Croydon, South London, at 2am.

Musician Sid, 35, said: "It was very weird. It was the most beautiful green and white light, moving quite fast, then stopping."

"It had to be mechanical, like a spaceship, because it slowed down and stopped. It wasn't making any

TALES OF UNEXPECTED

SOME 150 UFO have been spotted in the UK so far this year — up from 135 in 2007.

In July, writer Pat Regan, 51, snapped a greenish disc on a fishing trip in Lancashire.

And Royal Navy air-

craft engineer Michael Madden, 25, spotted a flying craft above the M5 near Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

An "alien fleet" of 12 objects buzzed Bas-lingstoke for half an hour in June — the

glowing orange objects captured on film by David Osborne, 47.

And a police helicopter took evasive action after a mystery craft zoomed straight at it over Cardiff. Cops gave chase but it escaped.

noise. It disappeared in a flash. I went home and told my girlfriend. She didn't believe me, but the pictures speak for themselves."

Sid added: "I don't touch drugs. I'm not a believer in UFOs but I've got no idea what this was."

UFO expert Nick Pope, who

worked for the Ministry of Defence, examined the pictures.

He said: "Green lights are unusual — it rules out the so-called Chinese lanterns that accounted for some recent UFO sightings in the UK."

"The images and description of the movement don't fit a list of

things frequently reported as UFOs — aircraft lights, meteors, satellites.

"This is a genuine mystery." Mr Pope demanded further attention be paid to UFO sightings.

He said: "Given the sheer number of sightings we've seen this summer and the unprecedented number of photos and videos, it's time for a full public inquiry."

World-renowned UFO researcher Timothy Good said the Tesco sighting could not be explained.

He said: "The pictures are interesting. It is a mystery. Someone should look into these pictures further."

A Tesco spokesman said no sightings had been reported.

The Sun reported a sighting in Croydon in April, when a foreign student snapped a mysterious object speeding through the sky.

See more UFO pics and videos at thesun.co.uk/britishxfiles

Mystery of UFO spotted over town

South Wirral NEWS

SOUTH WIRRAL NEWS
Wirral, England
September 5, 2005

A RIVACRE man has captured this image of what he believes was a UFO hovering in the sky.

Hamo Rigsby, of Carlton Crescent, claims he spotted the object every night at 8pm over a two-week period last month.

When he took the photograph he says flashing lights came out from the sides of the UFO before it suddenly vanished.

Mr Rigsby said: "I've never seen anything like this before."

"It seemed strange that it kept coming to the same place every night for a couple of weeks and



UNEXPLAINED: A photograph taken by Rivacre resident Hamo Rigsby of what he believes is a UFO.

getting closer.

"It moved very slowly. When I went to take a photograph bright lights came out of it from each

side and it was gone within seconds.

"It hasn't been back since."

He added: "I've got no real interest in UFOs, it was just one of those things where you see it and take a photograph. You just don't know what's up there."

"None of the neighbours saw anything. It would be nice to hear from someone who did."

■ Have you spotted a UFO? Let us know by writing to: *Pioneer*, 66 Whitby Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0AA, call 0151 356 2345, or e-mail pioneer@cheshirenews.co.uk.

18 AUG 2008

Midnight mystery as woman spots UFO

By Simon Hardy

A woman has reported seeing strange lights in the skies above Shropshire in the latest of a string of UFO incidents in the county.

Shropshire is rapidly becoming UFO capital of Britain and further evidence for a claim to the title has come from 49-year-old Julie Cooper, of Church Street, Broseley, Telford. Miss Cooper had just finished visiting her mother in Jackson Avenue, Broseley, last Thursday night when she saw mysterious lights in the sky.

She spotted them as she was getting into her car to return home at about midnight.

She said: "I saw these two weird lights, shaped like little boomerangs.

"They kept fading in and out, circling around and then one would shoot off, only to return a little later.

"I drove home and they were still visible from my house when I got back. They were still in the sky when I went to bed that night.

Encounter

"I know the V Festival was on and I initially thought

they could have been from laser lights but they moved far too strangely for them to be that. I also know some people have been mistaking Chinese lanterns for UFOs but they didn't move steadily and smoothly like they would either. It was really quite scary."

Miss Cooper's close encounter was just the latest UFO sighting over Shropshire this year and tops a list stretching back more than a decade.

The Shropshire Star reported last month how Candice Taylor, 23, of Burford, Brookside, Telford, spotted a shape resembling a basket in the night sky and how, on the same night, pilot David Bemand saw strange orange lights over Ludlow.

Miss Taylor, who captured footage of the lights on her mobile phone, believes she saw the same thing as Mr Bemand and the strange objects resembled Chinese lanterns, which have been mistaken for UFOs over the county at least twice.

As far back as February 1994 the Shropshire Star reported another UFO sighting over Broseley.

Telford police had received reports of a saucer-shaped object with flashing lights over the area but they were quick to identify the "alien" as an advertising airship based at Halfpenny Green, near Bridgnorth.

20 AUG 2008

Tanya Levy, right, points to the skies outside her home where her family saw a 'UFO'; main picture, an alien mothership from the film ET

The truth is out there...

Greenwich

Mercury

GREENWICH BOROUGH MERCURY
Greenwich (Greater London), England
August 20, 2008



By LAWRENCE CONWAY

MYSTERIOUS lights above a family's home seemed to be out of this world.

The Levys, of Drake Road, Brockley, can't explain the five unidentified craft that several members of the family saw flying above their roof just before midnight. They contacted London City Airport and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to see if either had spotted the UFOs on their radars, but drew a blank.

Mum Valerie told the *Mercury* how she and husband Ronald and daughter Tanya, 33, were inside when the first one flew over on Thursday, August 7.

Mrs Levy, 71, said: "My husband was at the back door and I was at the sink next to him when the first one came over. He thought he saw a triangle at first. It looked huge and was glowing yellow. When it passed out of sight another came into view from behind the same tree.

"When the third one came over, my daughter called the police, but I was too glued to watching. She was also trying to take pictures on her phone but she didn't manage to get any good shots."

Having got nowhere with the airport or the CAA, the family contacted the London UFO Studies Group.

Chairman Roy Lake said: "At first I thought it might have been Chinese lanterns, which are quite large and glow when they rise up into the air.

"But in this case there is no doubt in my mind that they have seen something that is going on in our skies.

"It's obviously a UFO, which could be anything - a Government black-ops project, a Chinese lantern or something else."

The sighting is not the first in the area, according to Ministry of Defence (MoD) documents released this year.

The files contain reports of a green light ring travelling "in an arc very fast" above Brockley station in May, 1986.

13 AUG 2008

'UFO' seen above Leek

by PHILIP JENKINS

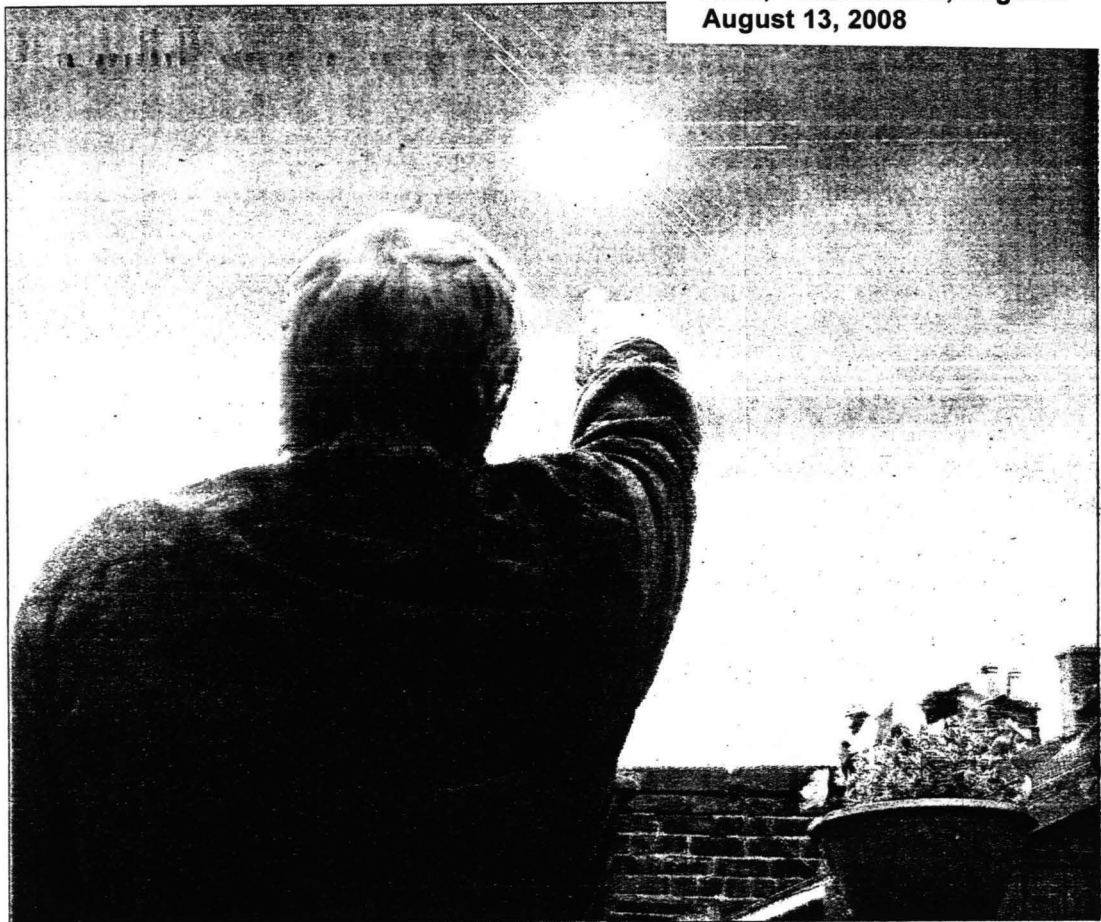
AS THE new X-Files film hits cinema screens, there could be a case for Mulder and Scully to investigate after a reported sighting of a UFO over Leek.

An Osbourne Street resident, who asked not to be named, told Your Leek Paper that he saw an "orange spherical-shaped object" appear behind his house on Thursday evening.

The 50-year-old claims he saw the object in the sky at 10.23pm as he was closing his bedroom curtains.

He said: "I was drawing my curtain when I saw this bright orange and yellow ball of light in the sky, so I rushed downstairs and got my mother to come into the back yard.

"The spherical shaped object, which was emitting this light, made no noise at all. It came towards the house and hovered still in the sky for a few seconds.



THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE: an artist's impression of the mysterious object seen by a Leek man

"It then made a right angle turn then disappeared to the south."

The man is used to seeing planes and helicopters fly over his house but is convinced that this particular sighting was out of this world.

He said: "I know it wasn't a plane or a helicopter because they go over the house all the time from Manchester Airport.

"It didn't make any noise and was emitting light from all over the

object."

The man's mother, who is 90, said she was a sceptic before the seeing the alleged UFO.

She said: "I've never seen anything like it, I was a bit sceptical before but not now.

"This bright orange ball hovered in the sky, there was no noise at all. We thought it was going to drop."

Her son said he was excited rather than frightened by the

unusual sighting.

Staffordshire Police said no one had reported a UFO in Leek on Thursday evening.

A spokesman said: "The only call we received was from someone who was locked out of their house."

● **Did you see a UFO over Leek on Thursday evening? If so, Your Leek Paper would like to hear from you?**

Mystery object may have been UFO

IS it a bird? Is it a plane? No, but it just might be a UFO, after a mysterious object that was seen floating in the skies over Hexham last week baffled the experts.

The object was spotted by Hexham resident Joan Wilson at around 7pm on Monday, August 4, but even radar specialists have no explanations to offer.

Joan described the moment she spotted the strange object: "It was a long, black, disc-shaped object that was rising and falling in the sky and the metallic exterior was shining when it caught the light."

At first Joan assumed the object was debris falling from a satellite or aircraft but the longer she watched, she realised that could not be the explanation.

After 15 minutes of watching the object, Joan said it got higher and higher and seemed to be

heading off in the direction of Corbridge.

Joan said: "Maybe I should have called the local police but I didn't think about it at the time and I didn't even have a camera to take a photo."

Often suspected UFO sightings have turned out to be hot air balloons or other aircraft.

Recently, photos were taken of several floating lights spotted in the skies above Morpeth, but these turned out to be Chinese lanterns released from Tynemouth Priory.

In this case a spokesman for Newcastle International Airport said: "We can see something on our radar but we have no explanation for it."

Air traffic controllers can get similar blips on their radars caused by weather conditions such as heavy patches of cloud, but as the skies were clear over Hexham on the evening in question, this seems an unlikely explanation.

The airport spokesman added: "The object appears to have been drifting back and

forth between Hexham and Corbridge very, very slowly."

The airspace above Hexham and Corbridge is just outside the area controlled by the airport but it does fall within the area where control must be given if requested.

Often hot air balloons will request air space control or notifications will be given to the tower of any balloons or lanterns to be released. But the spokesman confirmed: "We have no record of any requests or notifications for that time and balloons or lanterns are usually too small to register on our screens anyway."

The Ministry of Defence said that it had received no reports of any UFO sightings that night and could offer no further explanations for the sighting.

HEXHAM COURANT
Hexham, Northumberland, England
August 15, 2008

By Joel Elgueta

Vecinos del sector El Centro no descartan la acción del "Chupacabras"

Misteriosa muerte de 20 pollos

Las aves aparecieron con orificios en su cuerpo y casi disecadas. Dos familias de esta localidad de la comuna de Ránquil sufrieron la extraña muerte de sus animales. En tanto, los habitantes temen por futuras agresiones.



JOEL ELGUETA
crónica@concepcion.cl

El misterio ronda por el sector El Centro de la comuna de Ránquil en la provincia de Ñuble. En los últimos días de la semana se reportaron dos extraños ataques a gallinas pertenecientes a vecinos del mismo lugar, ubicado a unos 55 kilómetros de Concepción. Un total de 19 aves murieron y los habitantes del pueblo aún desconocen el responsable del acto. Temen que sea el mítico "Chupacabras".

Anita Aguilera Hernández fue a comprar maíz la mañana del viernes a un negocio de la esquina. Luego regresó a su casa para alimentar a las 12 aves que, supuestamente, se encontraban en el gallinero.

Sin embargo, cuando llegó a

la comuna de Lota y Coronel, en 1997 murieron varias aves prácticamente disecadas. En tanto, en 2004 un grupo de perros fue atacado al interior de un corral en la comuna Lota. Los ataques presumiblemente fueron por la acción del llamado "Chupacabras". El omilogo Leonardo Torres explicó que en los sucesos del '97, los animales estaban en fluidos orgánicos. Aunque prefirió no aventurarse sobre la identidad en Ránquil, el joven estudiante de los perros reconoció que las características del ataque son similares a las otras episodios en que habría aparecido el misterioso animal.

Las gallinas presentaban orificios a la altura del espinazo y algunas en el sector del pescadero y el estómago. Además, para sorpresa de la atacada, no habían rastro del atacante y los animales estaban prácticamente secos.

La dueña de casa relató que el episodio ocurrió en la ma-

ñana del lunes, otra ha-

bitante de El Centro sufrió la

perdida de 10 gallinas. Según

dijo Anita Aguilera, el hecho

ocurrió en las mismas circuns-

tancias en que murieron sus

aves. "Lo raro es que ella tiene

dragón del mismo viernes. No

obstante, contó que no escu-

chó nada en la noche.

"Lo raro es que mi perro que

duerme afuera del gallinero no

ladró. Y las otras aves que dor-

man en el árbol ni siquiera le

temieron", comentó la mujer.

"¿Qué cosa que les pasó?"

"Un perro no fue, un gato

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MÁS VÍCTIMAS

La noche del lunes, otra ha-

bitante de El Centro sufrió la

perdida de 10 gallinas. Según

dijo Anita Aguilera, el hecho

ocurrió en las mismas circuns-

tancias en que murieron sus

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dragón del mismo viernes. No

obstante, contó que no escu-

chó nada en la noche.

"Lo raro es que mi perro que

duerme afuera del gallinero no

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temieron", comentó la mujer.

"¿Qué cosa que les pasó?"

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The StarPhoenix

THE STAR-PHOENIX
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
September 20, 2008

By Darren Bernhardt

'They're out there:' Farmer remembers his close encounter

It was 34 years ago this month when Edwin Fuhr encountered five dome-shaped objects hovering about a half-metre above his canola field.

The passage of time has done nothing to quell the 70-year-old Langenburg man's conviction that we are not alone in the universe. In fact, Fuhr believes his visitors are still keeping watch -- from a distance.

"They're out there, there's no question," he said in an interview.

About five or six years ago, in the northeast part of the sky, four or five lights did something strange.

"They followed you," Fuhr said, saying they looked like stars but "a star doesn't move or change colours."

In 1988, he moved from the farm, about 10 kilometres north of Langenburg, into town. The urban lights tend to wash out the night sky, but every so often in the northeast, the lights show up and follow along, Fuhr said.

"I'm pretty sure they're the same ones (that were in the field in 1974). That's the direction they took off in '74," he said.

Many UFO sightings on the Prairies occur in fall, when farmers are harvesting before the frost hits. That's when reports of crop circles tend to . . . er, crop up.

Going to inspect the landing area the day following his encounter, Fuhr found five rings of depressed canola swirled in a clockwise direction. More circles were found in the area later that month, according to media and police reports from the time.

Over the next while, the site was visited by the RCMP, scientists, UFO researchers from across North America and even the FBI. Sniffer dogs used by the police refused to enter the circles, according to Fuhr.

"Something was there and I doubt it was a hoax. There's no indication anything had been wheeled in or out and Mr. Fuhr seemed genuinely scared," RCMP Const. Ron Morier was quoted in a StarPhoenix story of Sept. 19, 1974.

On Sept. 27, 1974, another newspaper article referred to a Martensville police constable and his wife witnessing a UFO over Saskatoon. It hung above the Nutana

neighbourhood briefly before taking off. The officer, Albert Goddue, described it as being dome-shaped.

"No one will ever convince me it was any type of conventional aircraft. It was like nothing I have ever seen in the sky before," Goddue was quoted as saying.

Not everyone remains a believer after a close encounter. On Sept. 19, 1963, an 11-year-old boy and three friends were playing in a Saskatoon schoolyard when they saw a bright oval object hover and drop something. They claim a figure stood up three metres tall, made a moaning sound, held out his hands, and floated towards them.

The 11-year-old told investigators the figure was a man dressed in clothes "like a monk's" which were "white like a crayon."

The accounts are recorded in two books, *Passport to Magonia*: on UFOs, folklore, and parallel worlds, by Jacques Vallee, and *The Complete Guide to Mysterious Beings*, by John Keel.

The children ran off and one girl became so hysterical that she had to be hospitalized.

"Sometimes I could see right through him," the 11-year-old said.

Now 56, he refuses to believe it ever happened.

"It was just overzealous kids with good imaginations," he said in an interview Friday, the 45th anniversary of the event. "I don't want to discuss it."

The man said he went through a "tough time" in school after the supposed sighting was made public. Since then, he has moved from Saskatoon and no longer associates with the other three children who were with him that day. He has been married 35 years and neither his wife nor any of his immediate family members know anything of the incident, he said, asking his name be kept out of the newspaper.

"It's in the past and that's where it should stay," he said. "I don't need the headache."

Fuhr was 36 when he saw the saucers around 10 a.m. Initially, he noticed one metallic object in a depression on the land. He walked to within 15 feet of the object.

"I saw the grass was moving and I looked up and saw this thing spinning at one hell of a speed," he said on Thursday.

There was no sound, no smell, no windows to peer into, said Fuhr, whose joints ached as he walked backwards to the swather, keeping his eye on the saucer.

Then he noticed four more off to the side, arranged in a "half-moon" formation. He estimates the two largest ones were 30 feet in diameter with the rest slightly smaller. They hovered about 15 minutes before taking off, one-by-one, with a gust of vapour.

A few weeks after the incident, a scientist from the National Research Council (NRC) in Ottawa suggested the rings were caused by mushrooms. Allen McNamara, head of the NRC's upper atmosphere research section, also theorized the glow from the saucers may have been caused by the fungi.

The crop circles were exactly the same as "fairy rings" produced by underground mushroom filaments, he was quoted as saying. When asked by reporters about the canola pressed in a circular motion, McNamara guessed it was caused by wind.

Fuhr has never been provided an explanation that would convince him he was imagining things.

"Imagination doesn't leave marks in the ground, does it?" he said, noting the landing site was tested as recently as four years ago and is still emitting radioactive waves.

For the first year, nothing would grow where the circles were and "the ground was hard, like cement."

Though he no longer works the land, it remains in the family, farmed by a nephew. Fuhr has never asked him whether he's encountered anything strange.

Did mum see a UFO in the sky?

I AM contacting you about a sighting my mother had on August 31, 2008. She was in her bedroom in Ravens Avenue at about 8.50pm and heard this humming noise. She looked out of the window and saw a stationary, white light in the western sky.

It was very bright, she said. After a short period (under a minute) it suddenly shot off at high speed to the east. When it had gone, the humming stopped.

I suggested Chinese lanterns, police helicopters and even the International Space Station, but it displayed none of the characteristics of those things. Lanterns don't hum or shoot off at high speed. It had no aircraft lights flashing. The ISS does not hover.

I would be interested to know if any *Reporter* readers also saw this object.

I am a writer for Leeds-based *UFO DATA* magazine and it's typical that I have never seen a UFO, but my mum has -- never having had an interest in the subject!

STEVE JOHNSON

Ravens Avenue
DEWSBURY

DEWSBURY REPORTER
Dewsbury West, Yorkshire, England
September 5, 2008

Dewsbury Reporter

WAToday.com.au (Online)
Western Australia
October 12, 2008

By Mark Russell

30 years on: UFO mystery still vivid

It was Victoria's very own X-File: a world-famous mystery that remains unsolved 30 years after a young pilot disappeared over Bass Strait.

Steve Robey remembers it like it was yesterday. The now-retired air traffic controller was working the night shift at the Melbourne Flight Service Unit on Saturday, October 21, 1978, when the call came in at 7.06pm.

Pilot Frederick Valentich, flying from Moorabbin Airport to King Island to pick up some crayfish, reported that a strange aircraft was "playing a game with him" and he wanted to know if any military planes were in the area.

Both men were puzzled as there was no known air traffic in the vicinity apart from the 20-year-old RAAF air training corp instructor's plane.

Mr Valentich reported that the unknown aircraft had four bright lights and had buzzed him a number of times at great speed.

He told Mr Robey the object was orbiting on top of him and "it's got a green light and is sort of metallic, like it's all shiny on the outside".

Then it vanished.

Mr Valentich, who had had his pilot's licence for two years, said his plane's engines began rough idling and coughing when the object reappeared. He told Mr Robey he planned to continue flying to King Island.

Then came the message that the object had suddenly reappeared above him. "That strange aircraft is hovering on top of me again ... it is hovering and it's not an aircraft."

They were Mr Valentich's last words. A still unidentified metallic noise came over the radio during the next 17 seconds, then the transmission ended abruptly.

Mr Valentich and his single-engine Cessna 182L were never seen again, despite an exhaustive seven-day land and sea search. A Department of Transport investigation concluded that the disappearance could not be explained.

Mr Robey, now 61, told The Sunday Age that Mr Valentich was obviously distressed. While not prepared to say he believed Mr Valentich had been abducted by aliens, Mr Robey said he still could not explain the incident.

Asked if he believed in UFOs, Mr Robey said: "Yes, I suppose I do, but not in the definition of spaceships

and little green men. I mean, you've got to have an open mind about these things."

On the night Mr Valentich disappeared, there were hundreds of UFO sightings reported from Geelong, Frankston, Cape Otway and Brighton. Some people described the object as brilliantly lit, oblong in shape, and moving quickly.

A woman at Queenscliff said she saw what appeared to be a ferris wheel spinning in the sky less than two hours after Mr Valentich's plane disappeared.

The Valentich case became world news and the pilot's family - father Guido, mother Alberta, brother Richard (12 at the time) and twin sisters Olivia and Lara (aged 4) - were thrust into a media frenzy.

Mr Robey, who befriended Guido, said the incident devastated the family.

"Losing your son in such strange, controversial circumstances was just unbelievable. Alberta pined for the loss of her son but Guido was the

one who really wanted to find out what had happened to him," Mr Robey said.

Mr Valentich snr, who died in 2000, joined the Victorian UFO Research Centre and never gave up hope that his son was alive and had been abducted by aliens. He conducted a vigil at Cape Otway every year on the anniversary of his disappearance and erected a memorial plaque there in 1998.

Ric Wilson, an aviation consultant with the Australian UFO Research Network, urged the State Government to conduct a new search for the Valentich plane off Cape Otway to try to solve the mystery.

Daily Telegraph

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
Sydney, Australia
September 24, 2008

UFO sighting in Australia

THREE station workers and three backpackers have been left stunned after witnessing strange lights flying over a remote Australian station.

Ray Aylett, Normie Hooker and Alan "Doc" McIntosh were sitting on their pergola at Muckaty Station with three European backpackers when a bright light appeared.

Mr Aylett, 58, said they were all stunned by the bizarre sighting.

"This strange light was coming straight for us, over the house," he said.

"We all walked outside and were watching it come towards us, then it went straight east and faded out."

This latest sighting comes after another in NSW earlier this year.

Mr Aylett, who has lived at the station north of Tennant Creek for eight years, said he couldn't believe his eyes as the bright light approached on a Thursday night two weeks ago.

"This thing was strange," he said.

"I have never seen anything like it."

"Normie and Doc had never seen anything like it either, and those backpackers, they were in shock."

"I was sitting there watching for a couple of minutes."

"You could see it coming towards us but it wasn't a plane."

"It made no noise - you couldn't hear anything."

Mr Aylett said there was no way their judgement could have been affected by alcohol.

"Me and Doc had had a couple of beers, but Normie doesn't drink," he said.

He said the light returned the next night, this time coming from the other direction.

"One bloke went out with a pair of binoculars and said it just turned and went east," he said.

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS
Darwin, NT, Australia
October 7, 2008

By Matt Cunningham

Outback station stalked by UFOs... again

THEY'RE back! Cattlemen at a remote Northern Territory station say strange lights have reappeared in the night sky.

As reported on the Northern Territory News website, Ray Aylett first saw the weird flashing lights zipping above the farmhouse at Muckaty Station early last month.

Mr Aylett, the station's manager, said the lights returned on Friday night, stranger than ever.

"I went down the front to close the gate and you could see this light coming," he said.

"It was flashing from bright orange to red."

"It came at me and stopped, moved off to one side and then moved back."

"Then it went around in a circle and came straight towards me, this bright light."

"There was no noise at all."



Summer's Bumper Crop Of Monsters

WASHINGTON POST
Washington, D.C.
August 19, 2008

It's the Season for Monster Sightings

MONSTERS, From C1

From one perspective, this can all be taken as a good sign: When people come forth with fresh evidence of cryptids (the sorta scientific term for any creature whose existence cannot be proved), it usually means they don't have anything better to do, which in turn means there's an absence of the very kinds of calamity that would keep people otherwise preoccupied — such as war, economic collapse or the death of a major figurehead or world leader. The monsters come in summer, when the nights are long and we are camping and telling stories around the fire. The monsters show up when we are most bored. (But, you say, we do have a war! We do have economic collapse! We even have Russia again — so why all the hokey claims of real monsters?)

From another perspective, when people see monsters it can portend a heightened sense of paranoia and abstract worry — the spooky vibes that come before the real panic. The monster sightings could be omens, indicating something really bad is about to happen. Among the very last things we were transfixed by before Sept. 11, 2001, were random shark attacks and the eerie disappearance of a Washington intern who went jogging in the woods of Rock Creek Park — both excellent campfire stories, and both forgotten after the terrorist attacks that soon came.

From still another perspective, it's depressing, isn't it? For all our advancement in civilizing and wiring and figuring out the world, we discover a culture that is still so ready, at a moment's notice, to become villagers with torches.

Some people
in Texas say
this defunct
creature is a
chupacabra
of legend.



BY ERIC GAY — ASSOCIATED PRESS



EVOLUTION MEDIA GROUP

Washed-up credibility: Long Island's "Montauk Monster" was debunked as publicity for a movie being filmed nearby.

Once confined to Time-Life books and late-night TV shows, today's cryptids avail themselves of all the latest kookanalalia. In the era of Photoshop, it's easier than ever to make up a monster, and it's easier than ever to expose him as a joke. It's no longer enough to come running out of the woods with your stories and your blurry Instamatic proof. You need to upload your video. You need to send a link. You need a press conference and a spokesman. But the story always ends up the same, with the entire world tauntingly responding, *nunh-unh*:

The Montauk Monster was debunked as a ploy to get buzz for a movie being shot nearby — which, thanks to the evolving art of gossip blogging, it got. But the filmmakers deny any involvement. The monster now has an L.A.-based publicist, who swears his client is real — not a turtle, not a movie prop.

The Texas video has enjoyed a nice ride on YouTube and all the tabloid-video TV shows, and the DeWitt County sheriff told CNN he loves the publicity it brings his

otherwise overlooked town. (The alleged chupacabra is thought to be some kind of hairless coyote-wolf hybrid, or one ugly dog. Scientific American says it's a pit bull; others say it's a coyote that lost its hair to mange. An examination of a similar creature found dead in Texas last year turned out to be a coyote, according to CNN.)

And poor, dead Bigfoot — so ignominiously slumped in an ice chest meant for a lot of cheap beer — seems to be making his way toward Fakesville, while his minders run out the clock on their claims. (Bigfoot hasn't had such a rough go of it since he was teamed up with the Bionic Woman and the Six Million Dollar Man in the late 1970s.)

As adequate heebie-jeebie material, none of these monsters lived longer than a week or two. What seems like a great summer for monsters is also a bad summer for monsters, because everyone's so smart. It used to be hard to find people who believed. Now you go to a science-fiction convention and there are tens of thousands of people who are simultaneously ready to

By HANK STUEVER
Washington Post Staff Writer

America's seeing monsters again, so Mommy needs to open the door a crack and leave the hallway light on:

1. Some sheriff's deputies in Cuero, Tex., released footage captured by one of their dash-cams on Aug. 8 of a . . . *something* (the legendary Mexican goat-sucker, *el chupacabra*?) running along a dirt road in broad daylight. This went along with reports (and pix!) of bodies of long-fanged, doglike creatures found in Texas. *Weird!*

2. A news cycle or two after the Texas chupacabra came the dead . . . *something*, allegedly a Bigfoot, discovered in the (cue banjo) backwoods of Georgia. Two men have pictures of it and say they've got the body, too. They held a news conference (cue flat trumpet bleat) last Friday, which CNN showed live. *Bizarre!*

3. Meanwhile, for days, Gawker and other Web sites busied themselves with discussion of the so-called "Montauk Monster," brought to us via photos of the bloated corpse of . . . *something* (a de-shelled tortoise? a skinned bulldog?) that allegedly washed up on the Long Island shore sometime in July. *Yucko!*

See MONSTERS, C7, Col. 1

believe and then disbelieve and they are all typing typing typing. The latest "X-Files" tanked at the box office, tanked before it even opened; this was because (everyone typed) it didn't have any unexplained phenomena, no cryptids, no monsters.

Bigfoot, Montauk, Chupie: You have our sympathies. You guys keep it real, and we'll keep it fake.



Bigfoot searchers carry on

Believers say recent hoax a frustration

By Troy Anderson
Staff Writer

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Palmdale resident Richard Hucklebridge, like many Bigfoot enthusiasts, was frustrated when news of a Sasquatch discovery earlier this month turned out to be another trick.

"These people who conspired to make this hoax brought all the research down in my opinion," said Hucklebridge, an investigator with the Orange County-based Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization.

"It kind of upset me. We've been at this for years now and we're trying to prove these things are real."

In addition to two men in Georgia who tried to pass off a frozen rubber gorilla suit as a Sasquatch corpse, there were highly publicized photos of a "Montauk Monster," a strange, demonic-looking corpse that washed up on an East Coast beach. Some said it was a turtle that lost its shell or even a ploy to get publicity for a movie being shot nearby. No one has confirmed its origin.

That monster story was preceded by Apollo 14 astronaut Edgar Mitchell's claim that extraterrestrials are visiting Earth, a top-secret federal agency has covered it up since UFOs crashed in 1947 in New Mexico and several bodies were recovered.

While NASA denies aliens are visiting Earth — and most of the scientific community is highly skeptical of Bigfoot's existence — the first national survey of paranormal beliefs by Baylor University in Waco, Texas, found the public is far more receptive.

Nearly 20 percent of Americans said they believe Bigfoot one day will be discovered and 25 percent said UFOs probably are spaceships from other worlds.

For thousands of years,



ANDY HOLZMAN / STAFF

STILL SEARCHING: Richard Hucklebridge is an investigator with the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization. Like many other Bigfoot enthusiasts, he is frustrated by the recent Sasquatch hoax.

humanity has told tales of trolls, giants and aliens to the abominable snowman and sea monsters.

"We have these urban legends and we are kind of raised thinking these things might exist," said Brian Cronk, a professor of psychology at Missouri Western State University in St. Louis.

"So much of what we believe is developed by what scientists call the method of authority. You have questions as a child. You ask an authority figure who ought to know the answer and you believe what they say."

Despite a series of hoaxes over the years, Bigfoot and UFO enthusiasts maintain there is growing evidence.

Hucklebridge, who spent two decades as a tracker for the sheriff's search and rescue team, investigates about 100 Bigfoot "sightings" every year in Southern California.

Hucklebridge, a 71-year-old retired General Electric jet engine mechanic and supervisor who also worked on the B-2 Bomber for Northrop Grumman, said he believes about a half-dozen Bigfoot are living in Southern California mountains.

"Those (reports that are credible) suggest there are pockets of Sasquatch families living in and around dense tree cover, usually in higher elevations," said Bobbie Short, a Bigfoot researcher in San Diego County who operates www.bigfootencounters.com

Since the early 1970s, Los Angeles County has had 18 Bigfoot sightings, the eighth-highest total in the state, according to BRFO's database.

That compares to a high of 42 in Humboldt County, the Bigfoot capital of the world where the mystery first captured public imagination 50 years ago this month.

In the past few years on the Bigfoot front a growing number of scientists and primate researchers, including Jane Goodall — famous for her studies of chimpanzees in Tanzania — have called for a scientific study to determine if Bigfoot exists.

Jeff Meldrum, an associate professor of anatomy and anthropology at Idaho State University and author of "Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science," recently received a private \$130,000 grant to conduct a scientific investigation into Sasquatch's existence.

Meldrum hopes to obtain photographs and audio recordings of a Sasquatch. He also wants to obtain evidence to conduct a DNA analysis.

Vaughn M. Bryant, a professor of anthropology at Texas A & M University, said he supports a scientific study, but is skeptical.

"The bottom line is nobody has come up with smoking gun evidence that is really good enough," Bryant said. "Nobody has come up with a skeleton yet."

Russell L. Ciochon, a pale-

oanthropologist at the University of Iowa, said the modern legend is based on a hoax.

"First of all, there is no evidence of Bigfoot," Ciochon said. "They have not found a single bone. When the hair samples are analyzed, it's always some unknown animal or another species. The hair samples never turn out to be an unknown ape."

"I don't care how many expeditions they go on. They won't find this creature."

But Hucklebridge isn't deterred. He's investigated too many reports — some that seem highly credible to him — not to believe something is out there in the mountains.

"We aren't doing this for (money)," Hucklebridge said. "We are doing it because we love it. We want to find out. The scientists won't believe until somebody comes up with a body."

"But we don't want to capture or harm them. We have people who come out here and shoot at them. I know they have been shot at and hit."

"And I know it's something that gives them a bad attitude."

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Pasadena, California
August 23, 2008

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(Los Angeles Co.)
Star News
(Cir. D. 99,201)

AUG 23 2008

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

USA TODAY
Washington, D.C.
August 25, 2008

21111111 P. C. B. Est. 1888

Bigfoot worth studying

Much hype followed the claim by Rick Dyer and Matt Whitton about finding a Bigfoot carcass in an undisclosed part of Georgia. Unfortunately, the ultimate evidence — a body — was not presented at their California news conference. Later, the discovery turned out to be a rubber gorilla outfit ("Researcher says bigfoot just a rubber gorilla suit," [USATODAY.com](http://usatoday.com), Tuesday).

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Indeed, the discovery of a Bigfoot-like creature would be spectacular, forcing us to redefine both what it is to be human and our place in the world.

This month, it was reported that a new population of 125,000 Western lowland gorillas was found in the Republic of Congo. As such, it is not hard to envision a population of a few thousand Bigfoot spread across the USA and Canada going virtually unnoticed.

There is, however, the video evidence taken in 1967 by Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin, and footprints with dermal ridges, not to mention numerous accounts by witnesses, that indicate that Bigfoot might exist and is a valid subject for scientific inquiry.

Scientists, such as W. Henner Fahrenbach and the late Grover Krantz, systematically applied the scientific method to seek the truth about this elusive creature.

While the aggregate of evidence is compelling, it is also not unequivocal. So investigation continues. What is needed is a dead body or even a live specimen.

It's too bad that Dyer and Whitton did not deliver what they promised.

William S. Pietrzak
Warsaw, Ind.



Victoria Advocate
VICTORIA, TX
Circ. D. 35196

August 31 2008

Texas Press Clipping Bureau
Dallas TX 214-969-5570

Chupacabra?

A Victoria mechanic and his friends shot and killed two animals they think could be the legendary chupacabra on some private land. The man says he doesn't really believe in the local legend, but the pictures he's seen are almost identical to the animals he and his friends shot. **B2**

CONTRIBUTED
PHOTO

Hunters shot this animal - a possible chupacabra - Saturday afternoon on private land near Terryville in DeWitt County.



Two "chupacabras" shot, killed in DeWitt County

ADVOCATE STAFF REPORT

TERRYVILLE - A group of friends spotted two possible chupacabras Saturday morning in Terryville in DeWitt County.

Paul Jones' grandfather detected the creature on the family land a couple weeks ago. When his grandson and friends came to mow in preparation for deer season, Brian Wilborn, an equipment operator from Victoria, saw it again.

Jones, a mechanic from Victoria, shot the first animal at 3:45 p.m. after Victorians Wilborn, Jason Marburger and Cannon Simons, a mechanic, searched for hours.

"It kind of looks like a mangy coyote to me," Jones said. "It might be a chupacabra, I don't know."

About four hours later, they shot and killed a second one, about 10 yards from where the first one was shot, Simons said.

Jones doesn't really believe in the legend, but the two look like the rest of the chupacabra pictures he's seen.

Marburger, an oilfield

Jason Marburger
helped search for shot "chupacabras"

"I've seen pictures of coyotes. It doesn't look like any coyote or mixed breed I have ever seen. It looks like it ain't from around here"

pipeline worker, doesn't think the animals match anything native from the area.

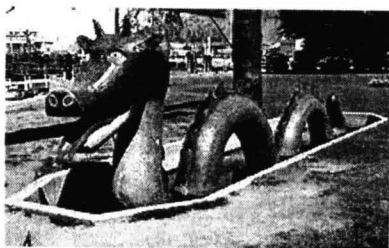
"I've seen pictures of coyotes. It doesn't look like any coyote or mixed breed I have ever seen," he said. "It looks like it ain't from around here."

Who knows what's next for the chupacabras. The friends joked about stuffing them and selling them on eBay.com.



CNEWS (Online)
July 22, 2008

Woman claims B.C. lake monster sighting



A statue of the elusive lake monster Ogoopogo has a place of honour in Kelowna, B.C. (SUN MEDIA FILE PHOTO)

KELOWNA, B.C. - Don't tell Robyn Holman that the mythical lake monster called the Ogoopogo doesn't exist.

Because Holman says the elusive beast made an appearance as she and a friend were travelling along the highway near Peachland, B.C., on Sunday afternoon. Holman says she noticed a wave in the water on Okanagan Lake and couldn't believe her eyes when she turned to look.

Holman says she took a picture and is now waiting to get the photo developed. Whether it turns out or not, the Kelowna, B.C., woman is now convinced that the legendary Ogoopogo does exist.

Texas Press Clipping Bureau
Dallas TX 214-969-5570

THE TEXAN EXPRESS
Goliad, Texas
August 27, 2008

Chupacabras in Goliad



Trevor Parr looks at the animal his father killed on their property that looks just like the chupacabras celebrated in DeWitt County last summer.

Even before, the animals became famous in Cuero, they had been spotted in the northwestern part of Goliad County for some time.

Estella Zermeno called last week to say she had seen one in the LaBahia area. Her dogs were barking and she got up to see what was going on. She spotted a red-eyed animal that looked like a dog or coyote; however when it began to bark it sounded like a woman crying, then laughing and back and forth. She called for husband, William to bring a flashlight, but by the time he arrived at the door, the animal had gone. She has heard the noise since then and says she knows what a coyote sounds like and this is in no way the same. We have heard others talk about this animal.

ST. TAMMANY NEWS

ST. TAMMANY NEWS
St. Tammany Parish, LA
August 13, 2008

By Chad Ruiz

Swamp 'thang' alive?

Documentary released on legendary
Honey Island swamp monster



Dana Holyfield and husband Terral Evans continue their quest for the truth about the Honey Island Swamp Monster. They're seen here standing before the Honey Island Swamp holding the most recent track casting of the legendary beast. (Staff Photo by Chad Ruiz)

Never mind the 15-foot gators, the menacing, poisonous snakes or the elusive black panthers, there's a creature in the Honey Island Swamp that elicits far more fear in people than all the other animals combined.

Longtime area residents call it the Honey Island Swamp Monster.

The Legend

The legend of the now infamous creature began when Harlan Ford sighted the monster back in 1963 while on a hunting trip with longtime friend Billy Mills.

While pilots in the Federal Aviation Administration during the early 1960s, Mills and Ford spotted an abandoned camp deep in the heart of the swamp near Pearl River during a flight over the swamp. The avid hunters decided the camp would make a perfect lodge while on hunting expeditions.

In 1963, when the two gear-laden men traipsed through the thick swamp toward the empty campsite, they came upon a dark figure crouching low to the ground on all fours.

"When the creature heard their voices, it stood up on two feet and faced them," Dana Holyfield said, recalling her grandfather's story. "And then it ran into the brush," but not before Ford got a long glimpse of its piercing eyes.

"That's the one thing he always talked about were those amber-colored eyes."

He also said it was covered in dingy, dark hair and possessed a smooth, hairless face that resembled a man.

Although the creature was several feet away, Ford, who stood 6-foot-4, pegged it to be almost 7 feet tall.

After the being took off, the two men followed it into the brush, where they inexplicably lost sight of it. But it wouldn't be Ford's last encounter with the unusual beast.

On another hunting excursion in 1974, Ford, alone in the damp swamp, was strolling along the bank of a slough when he noticed some commotion originating from the opposite bank. Upon investigation, he found a boar, quivering but dead, with its throat ripped out. Nearby the deceased animal he found fresh tracks left by a different animal he didn't recognize. He likened it to the mysterious swamp creature and made plaster castings of the tracks and presented them to cryptozoologists at Louisiana State University.

The Honey Island Swamp Monster was born.

The Monster

Holyfield still has the cast Ford made, which partly resembles a human's foot except the cast contains four toes with three dominant digits in the front of the foot and a fourth, smaller toe recessed further back on the foot. The heel and insole are strikingly similar to human feet.

Scientists at LSU and other universities were dumbfounded by the castings and offered Ford no explanation for what type of animal left the track.

The Discovery Channel soon learned of Ford's encounter and featured his story on its "Monster Mania" program.

Afterwards, news crews and people from all professions visited the swamp looking for more evidence of the creature, but none was found and the hysteria quickly fizzled.

Ford died in 1980, but his legacy lives on through his granddaughter, who recently produced the first documentary on the fabled beast.

The Evidence

The "Legend of the Honey Island Swamp Monster" was released earlier this year and features a dozen interviews with sportsmen who've had personal encounters with the creature.

Accounts from locals includes Holyfield's father and an eyewitness who was reluctant to speak on camera because of the possible media attention the monster would attract.

During the making of the documentary, Holyfield and husband Terral Evans, a 50-plus-year swamp resident, discovered more tracks of the monster, only these — about 16 inches long — were larger than the original tracks cast by Ford nearly 30 years ago.

They also made castings of the track and presented it to cryptozoologists, who said the foot design is similar to other tracks found of alleged swamp Bigfoots with the three toes appearing almost webbed.

Another, more chilling, encounter Evans and Holyfield experienced while making the video came one night during a campfire with friends inside the swamp. Again, fresh tracks were found in the mud, but this time Evans released his bloodhounds in an effort to track the elusive creature. Soon after, shrill, shrieking screams emanated throughout the swamp closely followed by the howling of the hounds.

After several minutes, the dogs appeared to have treed the beast, but when Evans located his canines, the creature was nowhere to be seen and the harsh, echoing cries of the monster continued in the distance.

The most compelling evidence in the documentary comes at the end of the film when Holyfield presents the uncut, original super 8 mm video Ford made of the swamp monster while camouflaged in a tree blind.

"Instead of hunting animals, he started filming the wildlife," Holyfield said, adding her mother found the antique film reel while searching through Ford's belongings during the making of the documentary.

Plainly labeled "Honey Island Swamp Monster," the footage begins with Ford filming the scenery of the swamp from his boat. The next scene begins with Ford filming the tree blind he built for hunting or capturing footage of wildlife, and it finally ends with the camera filming a thicket of trees when a stout figure appears, walking upright behind the trees. It appears to be a man-like creature but covered in long hair with abnormally long arms.

The documentary is earning the monster more publicity with Holyfield's phone ringing off the hook from local and national media.

The latest news station to contact Holyfield was Fox News, which ran a 30-minute special on the elusive creature.

Evans said he's been trying to track the monster most of his life, even coming as close as hearing the deep, grunting breath of the being, but his attempts to catch a glimpse of the swamp-thing have never materialized.

"I've collected hair that we sent off to have the DNA analyzed, but they always call and say they have no idea what species of animal the DNA belongs to," Evans said.

"I've even been so closed to it I could smell it," he said, adding the scent was extremely musky and strong, like that of a skunk.

He also admitted to hearing its shrill cries occasionally and frequently stumbling upon tracks left by the monster.

"I think there's more than one, maybe a family, because I've come across multiple tracks that were different sizes," he said.

Evans also believes the monster to be a vegetarian because he has yet to find an abandoned animal carcass.

But if you're seeking a glimpse of the beast yourself, you'll have to go at night, according to Evans, who said the only occasions he's encountered the animal were during the late evening and night.

For more information on the documentary or monster, visit www.honeyislandswampmonster.com.

In the Wilds of New Jersey, a Legend Inspires a Hunt

SMITHVILLE, N.J.

Late summer is not optimum devil-hunting time. For one thing, the creature tends to reveal itself more often in winter, when the somewhat suffocating Pine Barrens of South Jersey carry an extra sense of dread. For another, the ticks are murder this time of year.

DAN BARRY

THIS LAND

A few dedicated hunters gather instead at JD's Pub, in a strip mall near the epicenter of the Jersey Devil phenomenon. On the surrounding walls hang old illustrations of that which they seek: cloven hooves, a horselike face, a wing span perhaps too wide for browsing the aisles at the Super Foodtown a few doors down.

These college-educated people, who call themselves the Devil Hunters, order a round of soft drinks that includes two Shirley Temples. They say they are the "official researchers" of the Jersey Devil, a shy specimen of cryptozoology that has haunted these parts long enough to have sent tricornered hats spinning from the mops of frightened colonists.

Laura Leuter, 30, the group's president, already knows what you're thinking: Why don't these "devil hunters" wake up, walk down to that Super Foodtown and buy some coffee to smell?

"I'm the first one to say, 'Yeah, I search for the Jersey Devil, ha-ha,'" says Ms. Leuter, who supervises a call center when not searching for devil spoor. "But why, to this day, do people still report sightings?"

ONLINE: MORE OF 'THIS LAND'

An archive of Dan Barry's columns can be found at

nytimes.com/danbarry

Here's another question: Why do we wish for such things?

Why do we root for the discovery of beings that would subvert our understanding of the natural order? Why, oh why, would a group of people actually hope that somewhere in the dark expanse, beyond the fluorescent lights of a New Jersey strip mall, there frolics — a devil?

This curious desire was in full evidence recently when two men announced their discovery of a half-ape, half-human carcass in the backwoods of Georgia: an ex-Bigfoot that had ceased to be. They placed the remains in a freezer and promised that DNA analysis would conclusively prove the existence of this legendary creature.

NEW JERSEY

Smithville ★

That the supposed Bigfoot carcass turned out to be a defrosting rubber costume stuffed with animal entrails is less instructive than the way news outlets reported the matter — first with a kind of hopeful skepticism, then, once the hoax was exposed, with a dismissive, we-knew-it-all-along harrumph.

"Hoaxes," an annoyed Ms. Leuter says. "A complete waste of everybody's time."

In this sense, these soda-sipping devil hunters, sitting here discussing their hobby the way others might discuss a shared interest in model trains, or Cabbage Patch dolls, search on our behalf. They explore that dark piney chasm between fact and legend, acting upon what most of us, at one time or another, have thought: Something's out there.

The beautiful and mysterious Pine Barrens can encourage such thoughts. A largely undeveloped swath of pines and oaks, swamps and bogs, it covers

more than a million acres at the bottom of the country's most densely populated state and has produced scores of legends and stories, though none as famous as that of the Jersey Devil.

The most common version, dating to 1735, concerns a local woman named Mother Leeds. Married to a drunken in-grate and pregnant with her 13th child, she had what today might be called a "moment." She expressed weariness with children and a wish that her unborn baby be a devil.

Have you ever wished you could take back something you've said?

Instead of greeting the world with coos, the story goes, the newborn mutated into a serpentine-tailed devil and introduced himself to family members by eating a few of them. He then flew up the chimney and out into the Jersey wilderness to begin centuries of shrieking, lurking and occasional mauling.

Maybe the birth of a deformed child led to the story's creation; maybe parents concocted the tale to keep children from straying into the enveloping woods. Whatever the origin, the place of the devil in lore was secured in January 1909, when strange footprints, attacks on livestock and reported encounters with the devil over several days created panic in parts of New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Posses conducted searches, police officers fired guns, and schoolchildren and mill workers found reason to stay home.

Occasional sightings since then have provided fiery breath for the legend. And despite the demonic naming of a professional hockey team, the crush of television programs desperate for Halloween footage and a movie that was scary for all the wrong reasons — "13th Child: Legend of the Jersey Devil," starring Cliff Robertson (!), Lesley-Anne Down (!!) and Robert Guillaume (!!!)



Hunters of the Jersey Devil, from left, Belinda Connolly, Ms. Leuter, Charley Lolio and Katie Brown.

— the creature remains real enough for some people to warrant pursuit.

Ms. Leuter, for one, became so frightened by stories of the Jersey Devil when she was a child that she decided to conquer her fear by reading everything she could about the creature. Several years ago, she helped to create the Devil Hunters, a group that today has a dozen active members, a very active Web site, www.njdevilhunters.com, and a somewhat rigorous application process.

Prospective members fill out a questionnaire and are interviewed at JD's Pub, where they are judged on their knowledge of devil lore, friendliness and likely dependability during nighttime tramps through brush and swamp. Those who express a desire to kill the Jersey Devil are rejected.

The hunters spend some of their time investigating sightings reported to the Web site: conducting interviews, visiting scenes, the usual shoe-leather stuff.

Although they try not to appear too skeptical, for fear it might discourage candor, they know instantly when a report strays too far from the creature's known habits.

"The devil at a busy intersection in Philadelphia, getting out of a cab?" Ms. Leuter says. "No way."

The rest of the time they are visiting traditional devil haunts: deserted, historic Batsto Village, perhaps, or the remnants of what is said to be Mother Leeds's home. So far, they have encountered little more than creepy noises, but they adhere to the credo embraced by all seekers of Bigfoot, the Loch Ness monster and Great Caesar's ghost.

As Ms. Leuter has written: "Until someone proves that there isn't something out there, I will continue to believe that there is, and I will also continue my efforts to find proof that the Jersey Devil does in fact exist. So there."

The group routinely receives calls, including more than a few from people wanting to report something seen decades ago. A woman named Gretchen, for example, reported seeing a devil-like creature while driving with her family through the Pine Barrens in 1966. It was the size of a man, she said, with small horns, a long tail and wings that were "not leathery bat wings but not big fluffy angel wings" either.

This year alone, there have been at least 10 possible encounters, including a horselike creature flying over Jackson and a shrieking, winged animal perched on a chicken coop in Eldora. Not long ago a woman reported seeing "a very large creature with red-orange eyes" flying out of the woods along the Garden State Parkway in Seaville.

So vivid. So real. So wishing it were true.

The New York Times

NEW YORK TIMES
New York, New York
September 8, 2008

The Border Watch

THE BORDER WATCH A. F. U.
Mount Gambier, South Australia
Australia
August 27, 2008 600 11 NORRKÖPING
Sweden

High-tech search for Tasmanian tiger

Australia's most prominent Tasmanian tiger and puma photographic hunter will visit Mount Gambier to set up high-tech infrared camera equipment, following a spate of recent large cat sightings and unexplained attacks on sheep in the region.

Glenburnie resident Russell Smith told The Border Watch yesterday that sheep in the Glenburnie area had been "torn to pieces by animals more powerful than foxes".

"There is something prowling around the area and I am worried about my dogs," Mr Smith said.



He believed sheep were being attacked by large unexplained animals, not foxes or domestic dogs.

"Foxes just usually tear out the neck - these sheep are being mauled," Mr Smith said.

Meanwhile, Victorian searcher Michael Moss - who has launched the most extensive hunt for pumas and Tasmania's tigers in mainland Australia's history - said yesterday there was growing evidence of thylacines and large cats living in the South East of South Australia.

"They are definitely out there," said Mr Moss, who had spent more than 10 years searching bushland for the elusive animals, particularly the highly sought after Tasmanian tiger.

He believed the numbers of large cats - most likely pumas - were increasing in Victoria and spilling into the South East of South Australia, particularly around bushland near the Glenelg River.

His comments follow a string of big cat sightings from the Victorian border to Penola earlier this month, which made news headlines across Australia.

Despite some sceptics in the community, Mr Moss argued documents released under the Freedom of Information Act showed the South Australian Government had never undertaken an extensive survey of these animals in the South East.

"These pumas can be very large and are a threat to people walking in the

bush. If people come across one they should never turn their back and run, but they should stand their ground and shout," Mr Moss said.

He believed these pumas had been responsible for the disappearance of lone bush walkers in Victoria.

Witness reports

The Border Watch this week spoke to a number of residents in the region, who believe they have seen a Tasmanian tiger over the past 20 years.

Mumbanna farmer Yvonne Hines said her sighting 16 years ago was still vivid in her mind.

"I know what I saw - I am absolutely convinced it was a Tasmanian tiger," Mrs Hines said.

"What really struck me was the animal's hindquarters - they were so different."

She recalled the night when she was driving along the Princes Highway between Mumbanna and Mount Gambier, about 7.30pm.

"I saw something up ahead. At first I thought it was a kangaroo, but when I got closer I thought it was a fox, then I thought that's not a fox - there's no bushy tail," Mrs Hines said.

"I saw the back hindquarters - they really struck me, along with the striped markings on the animal.

"I have been travelling on country roads for a long time - I know what I saw."

She said when she told her family of her unusual sighting "they just laughed" at her.

Meanwhile, Glenburnie resident Joan Smith said she saw a Tasmanian tiger near the Mount Gambier Racecourse about five years ago.

"It was crossing the road. It had a long tail, stripes and a puggy face - it was too big to be a fox," Mrs Smith said.

Mumbanna resident - who did not wish to be named - also told of a similar tale.

He said he saw the side profile of the animal on the side of the road for about "10 to 15 seconds".

"At first I thought it was a kangaroo, then I saw these bright blue eyes reflecting," the eyewitness said.

"I then thought it was a fox, but when I got closer it was too big to be a fox. It was shaped a bit like a greyhound and it had a very large chest."

He said he was fascinated by local sightings after his eye-witness account.

"I feel very fortunate to have made a sighting," the resident said.

Meanwhile, he said he had also seen "big dog-like prints" in the soil around the Victorian Border several years ago.

SANDRA MORELLO

Nanaimo Daily News.

NANAIMO DAILY NEWS
Nanaimo, BC
September 25, 2008

By Cheryl Chan, Vancouver Province

Sasquatch sightings run wild in B.C.

Three reports of ape-like creature in a month

VANCOUVER - Tales of a giant, hairy, ape-like creature tramping through the woods are running wild in a northern interior B.C. town after a rash of sasquatch sightings.

There have been three reported sightings in the area within a month, said Brian Vike, the Houston, B.C.-based director of HBCC UFO Research.

"To be honest with you, I don't know what to make of all this," said Vike. "I know with UFOs we're doing well in B.C., but I don't know with the sasquatch. I'm just trying to figure it out."

One of the sightings was reported by Houston resident Delores Harrie, who was at home on July 28 just after 6 p.m., when her two dogs began barking furiously. She saw the doorknob rattle, and when she went outside to investigate, she saw a shaggy creature running across the treeline into the bushes.

"It was huge -- about seven to eight feet tall -- and hairy," said Harrie, 45. "He had long hair, shaggy ... in a pine-beetle colour, totally covered."

"I couldn't believe how fast he moved," she added. "I can't see it being a grizzly. They run but they don't run on two legs. I know it's not a moose, either."

Harrie reported the incident to Vike, who investigated and recorded some strange markings on the ground.

"Definitely something had been there," said Vike. "There are some cow tracks, but this was something else -- someone with a good-sized foot."

The other sightings were on Morgan Road in Houston in July and on Telkwa Highway Road in Moricetown, also in northern B.C., on Aug. 27.

There was also a reported sasquatch encounter in Campbell River on Aug. 31.

Harrie, who was "freaked out" about the encounter, said she's trying to be open-minded about what she saw.

"There are so many things out there. I think it would be a little crazy to think we're the only ones here."

