

He stumbled through the darkness and suddenly was . . .

# Face-to-face with a space beast!

## The unworldly monster turned his hands green

Arlin Gilpin was a curious young man when he grabbed his pistol and went to investigate the mysterious orange light near his home.

Minutes later the 19-year-old youth was babbling insanely — and his hands had turned green.

By RAFE KLINGER

Arlin and three other witnesses told The NEWS of one of the most chilling UFO encounters ever — the night they met a huge space alien with red-orange eyes like burning coals.

"There was a form there, but I can't describe it," said Arlin's mother, Cathy, of Casey County, Ky., who also saw the unworldly creature.

"It didn't seem to want to hurt anyone — but I would never try to follow one again."

Arlin's nerve-shattering encounter left him with green hands and a purple-colored burn mark under his right eye. Incredibly, the marks vanished by the next morning.

"I haven't any idea what I saw," Arlin told The NEWS. "It wasn't anything of human form."

The nightmare encounter occurred the night of March 11, outside the homes of the Gilpin and Wethington families in a sparsely-populated area.

Arlin and his mother were

watching TV when they heard a strange sound like an electrical pump or drill outside their house.

Looking out the window, they saw a glowing orange ball of light setting over the woods near their acreage. Thinking it was a car that had run off the road, Mrs. Gilpin got in her car and drove out after it.

As she approached, she could see a large glowing ball of light which kept dancing away from her as she approached.

Mrs. Gilpin was frightened and wanted to turn around.

"But I got this weird feeling that it was pulling me to it," she said.

Terrified, she forced herself to turn the car around and drove away.

Meanwhile, Arlin had telephoned his nearby aunt and uncle, Candy and Carroll Wethington. Then he grabbed his pistol and went out to investigate.

As Arlin walked toward the woods, two orange dots "like eyes" suddenly appeared just a few feet in front of him.

"It was like there wasn't anything there, but there was. The eyes were above me and it wasn't a human figure. It seemed like a great big giant ape, but I couldn't tell.

"I'm 6-foot-1, and it was much bigger, more than seven feet."

Shocked by the sudden appearance, Arlin called out and then fired.

"I shot at it and it just disappeared," he said. "I'd say it was something from outer space. I don't know of anything on earth that I could shoot at from that close and it could just disappear."

Arlin started walking back toward the Wethingtons' house. When he turned, the orange eyes appeared behind him again. He turned and went up to them and raised his pistol.

"I kept trying and trying to pull the trigger — but I couldn't pull the trigger. It seemed like it wouldn't let me."

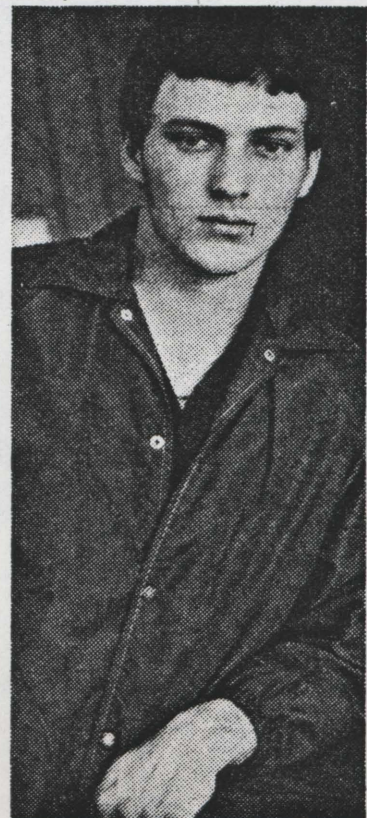
Arlin was terrified. He rushed into his aunt's house totally panic-stricken.

His aunt, uncle and two other relatives there were consoling his mother who had driven to their home.

When they saw him, they were stunned. His hands had turned green!

"It looked like a powder was covering them," said Candy Wethington. "But it wasn't a powder. It wouldn't rub or wash off."

Arlin was terrified and babbling wildly. His relatives calmed him and took away his gun. Then, they all gathered



Arlin Gilpin says bullets didn't harm the space alien.

around a table to sip coffee and discuss the strange things they had seen.

Suddenly without a word, Arlin stood up and walked out the door. Candy and the others looked out the window and saw him standing at the end of the walkway talking to something with glowing orange eyes.

"I got this feeling while I was in the house that I had to go outside," Arlin recalls. "It was waiting for me."

"It seemed like it was trying to talk to me, but I couldn't understand it. It was making electronic sounds.

"I still couldn't make out its shape in the dark. Then, it just touched me — on the cheek.

"It was like a shock — like when you bump into an electrified fence — only it went from my cheek down through my whole body.

"I wasn't afraid. It seemed like when it touched me, it was letting me know that it could do whatever it wanted to — and I couldn't stop it."

Arlin walked back into the house. On his cheek was the burn mark. Candy said the glowing dots stayed for a moment and then just vanished.

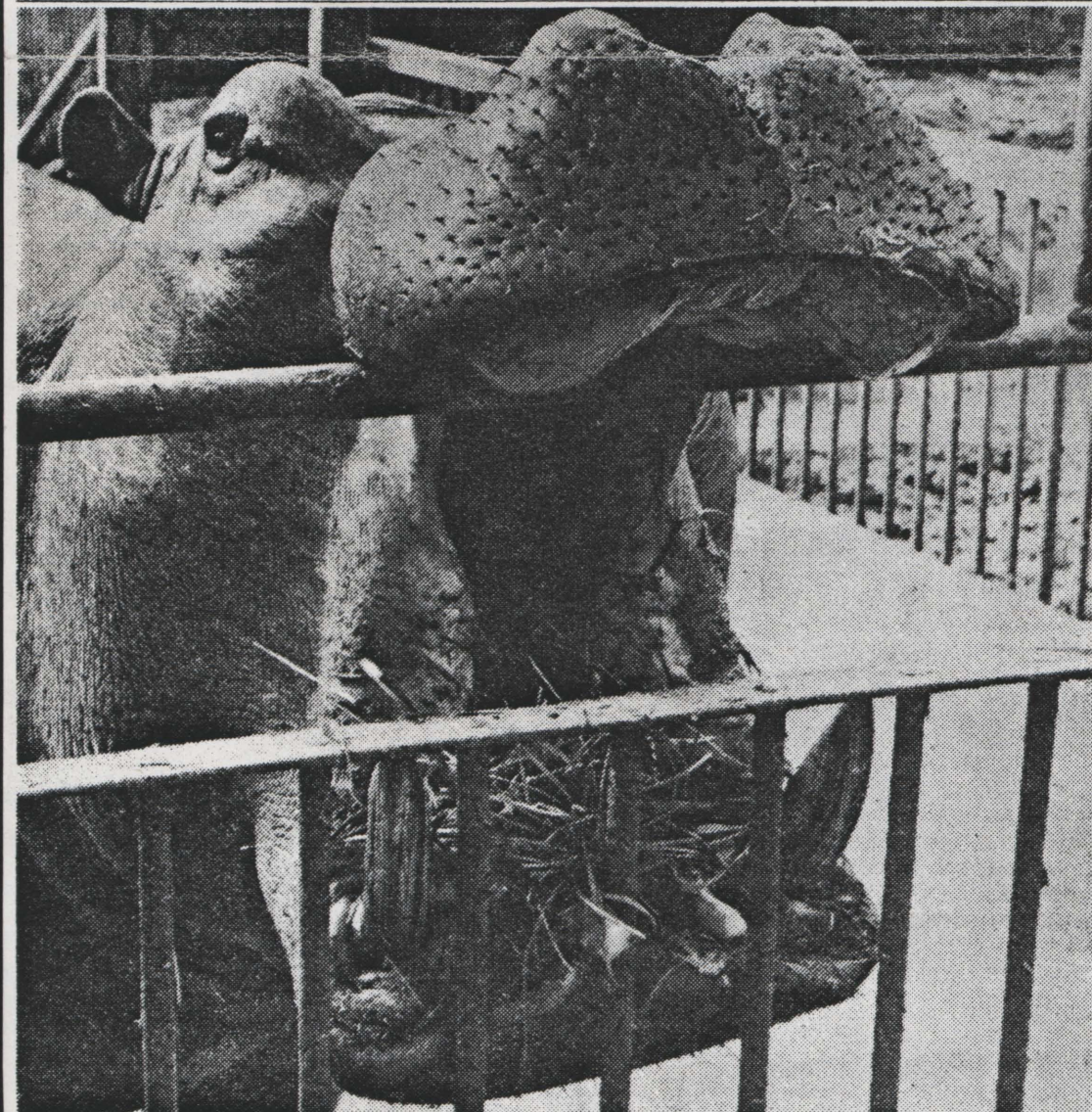
Arlin says that he hasn't suffered any ill effects from his encounter with the being.

"I don't know what it was," he said. "I just think it must be from another planet.

"I have this feeling that it's going to come back. It may not come back here, but it'll come somewhere."



Esker and Cathy Gilpin and Candy Wethington visit the spot where the beast from outer space terrified the Gilpins' son.



## Snap, crackle, pop!

It looks like this hungry hippo is about to munch the steel bars at a London zoo — but even his big teeth aren't up to the job. Attendants say the hippo, Ben, is really resting his upper jaw on the bar while waiting for the pile of hay in his mouth to get big enough to be worth swallowing.