

Agoura man probes extraterrestrials

By KAREN LARGE

John Tricas doesn't want to be contacted by extraterrestrials or have a close encounter.

He's talked to too many people who have and he knows it's a debilitating, deflating experience. No one believes them and it shatters their whole perception about reality.

He also knows from first-hand experience. Tricas is first a film maker and second a UFO investigator.

The Agoura resident has been making films since he was 12. He started working as a grip in Hollywood at 16 when he was a student at Newbury Park High School.

It was through his filming that he became entranced with extraterrestrials.

A free-lance field producer, Tricas was researching a story on UFOs and the government's alleged cover-up of the subject for television's "In Search of . . ." with Leonard Nimoy when his interest was whetted.

At the same time as the "In Search of . . ." staff was preparing its segment, Channel 7 did a story on a man in Wyoming who claimed to have been taken on board a spaceship. Several aspects about his story made it plausible, said Tricas, who asked Channel 7 to see the story.

"I knew there was credence to the story," said Tricas. "It wasn't just lights in the sky stuff." The sightings recurred during the late 1970s, according to Tricas.

The producers not only agreed to let Tricas see the tape but to do a follow-up on the man for Channel 7's "Eye on L.A."

"When I went up there, it was a job and I was being paid. I didn't really think anything would happen but it was an interesting story," Tricas said. What he saw changed his mind.

During the summer of 1980 the young film maker and cameraman camped out in Wyoming for five weeks near where Pat McGuire, married and the father of eight, claimed the discs had been sighted.

The first week, Tricas interviewed neighbors who corroborated McGuire's story. The second week he and the cameraman took turns standing watch. It was very boring, Tricas recalled. They were looking forward to going home and were beginning to wonder if the story was real.

Three weeks into the trip, he and the cameraman were sitting on a knoll when a green globe of electricity came at them. It did a 90-degree turn, shot up and disappeared. The experience lasted about 10 seconds.

The cameraman was shaken.

"I was intrigued, but I didn't want to go for a ride or anything," said Tricas.

They saw the globe twice more and were able to take photos. But when they took the film for developing it had blistered in several places. Holes were burned through the film, which the lab technicians said could be caused only by an intense energy source such as the sun. The sightings occurred at night.

Although it was alarming, Tricas' and the cameraman's experience was not as dramatic as McGuire's, who had brought them out to the remote Wyoming pastureland in the first place.

Here is McGuire's story:

It begins in 1974 when strange lights appeared at night. Shortly after, cattle were mutilated on his property. Cattle mutilation is an unexplained phenomenon throughout the farms and ranches of the West and Midwest. Often the skin is cauterized as though by a laser and sexual organs appear to be surgically removed, according to Tricas.

A relationship seemed to exist between the occurrence of the lights in the sky and the cattle mutilations. McGuire and his cousin suspected cattle rustlers with



A sketch of an impression that is said to have been received by Pat McGuire, as drawn by Eric Sprinkle, Dr. Leo Sprinkle's son.

helicopters. They staked out the area and one night spotted the lights.

They hopped in their truck, careful not to turn on the lights. The brake lights had already been disconnected so as not to alert the rustlers.

The cousins drove to within 1,000 feet of a hovering object which was giving off tremendous light when they realized it was not emitting a sound. This was no helicopter.

The cattle were gathered below the disc, bawling. The men watched in amazement as the object shot down beams of light and picked up a cow. The cow disappeared.

McGuire's story was revealed under hypnosis by Dr. Leo Sprinkle of the University of Wyoming, who was researching contactees — those who have been contacted by beings from outer space.

Sprinkle asked McGuire whether he had suffered from any time lapses, a classic symptom of contactees. He said he had. He had no conscious memory of the experience, but under hypnosis, he said he had been picked up 12 times.

McGuire has since been divorced. The unexplained experience shook his personal life, which is typical of contactees, according to Tricas.

Tricas watched the hypnosis and was able to ask McGuire questions which were used for his show. Questioning McGuire was an eerie experience.

"It was as though he was a channel for them. They answered through him," said Tricas.

One thing which made McGuire's story credible to Tricas was a well he had drilled on his property which pumped in excess of 8,000 gallons a minute. It was the largest well in the arid state. The second largest pumped 3,000 gallons a minute. Experts said it was a miracle he could have drilled such a well.

McGuire said he was guided by the Star People, his name for the beings who visited him because of the star on their belts.

Through McGuire, the Star People said they had directed him to drill the well to prove that they were here. It was a calling card, it would bring in other contactees, they told McGuire.

Why are they contacting certain people?

These people are being guided because of their talents, Tricas said. "The beings said, 'It's according to the plan.' When I asked what plan, they said, 'It's not for you to know,'" reported Tricas.

"It's a misnomer that they're in nuts and bolts space ships from other galaxies," said Tricas.

The beings are interdimensional, he said. They're not physical in their true form, not flesh and blood but electricity. They can manifest their appearance in different forms. Experts think there are 70 different groups of beings, said Tricas. He said these could be what the Bible calls angels or some call the devil.

There are many early references to beings visiting the earth, according to Tricas.

He has a photo of a 15th century painting of the Madonna and baby Jesus with a shepherd in the background gazing at what appears to be a space ship. He also has copies of documents signed by J. Edgar Hoover, former head of the FBI, and the Army acknowledging the government's retrieval of crashed or incapacitated "discs" or "saucers."

Tricas said the government's withholding of this information could be the next Watergate, and that the information will eventually come out. Until then, he is working to inform the public about his findings through his films.

"I think it's important people begin to take this seriously. I'm here for information. I'm not just somebody off the streets" Tricas said.

"My purpose as a film maker is to entertain. If I can also send out new information and concepts, that's great."

He did research for a show on Travis Walton whose abduction by a "disc" was witnessed by six people. The show is scheduled to air Nov. 4 on "2 on the Town."

Tricas is also working on a docudrama he calls "Stellar Quest."

The title, explained Tricas, is "because a lot of our questions can be answered through the stars."

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