

Close encounter in Sonora



'E. T.' is star exhibit

By FRED SCHWARTZ
Bee staff writer

SONORA — At last there's a museum that seeks to explain the strange and spellbinding phenomenon known as unidentified flying objects.

The museum, billed as the world's largest "authentic" UFO exhibit and library, is the brainchild of Marvin Taylor, a Sonora realtor, who has studied and collected information on the controversial subject since 1947 when he was 11 years old.

It's located upstairs from Taylor's real estate office, 115 S. Washington St., and has been part of the downtown Sonora scene for about the past six months.

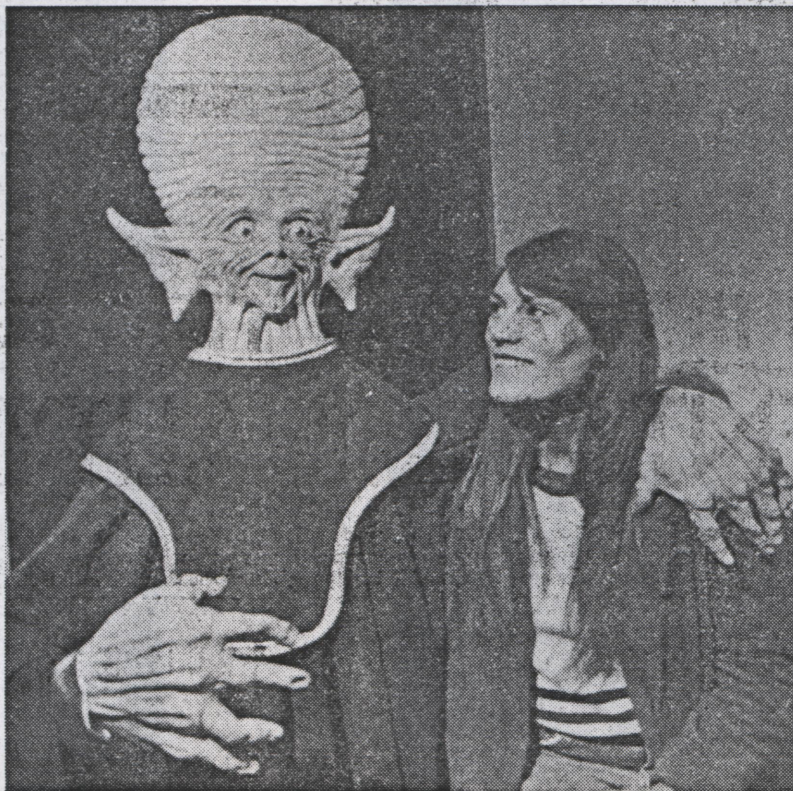
The three-room exhibit consists of 26 display boards with photos and case histories; tape recordings by persons who claim eye-witness encounters or close encounters with UFOs and aliens; 3-D papier mache replicas of aliens; floor-to-ceiling space paintings; a well-stocked UFO library; and an hour-long documentary film on the subject.

The front window features a "life-size" replica of E.T., the star of Steven Spielberg's hit movie, "E.T. The Extraterrestrial". The graphic rendition, created by Robert Anthony of Daly City, is made of foam rubber and latex with teeth, eyes, a long neck and elongated fingers.

Taylor admits he is "a believer" in UFOs but "I've never seen one." He claims that on a world-wide average there are four sightings recorded every hour, most by multiple witnesses.

The Sonora resident, who grew up in Oakland, says he is

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Marvin Taylor, with "E.T." on his knee, poses in front of a floor-to-ceiling space painting at the Sonora UFO museum. At far left, Megan Valencia admires a replica of a smiling alien, while another space creature, left, casts an ominous look at visitors.

Photography
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