

John will listen to UFO tales

If you see a UFO, get in touch with John Musgrave.

Even if you tell him it was a gigantic saucer-shaped craft with flashing orange lights that swooped down and then went straight up without making a sound, he won't treat you like some kind of nut.

He will be interested to know exactly what you saw, where and when.

President of the UFO Society of Edmonton, which met Sunday, Musgrave is superintendent of the Alberta National Resources Science Centre.

He believes UFOs exist.

Some of those which have been spotted could

have been aircraft prototypes being tested by earth nations, he said in an interview with The Journal.

Others, he said, may have come from outer space; "I do believe that there is life elsewhere, and I think the possibility that it has visited here is very high."

However, Musgrave is convinced most of the strange things honestly reported as UFOs actually were due to natural phenomena such as meteors.

At the meeting, attended by 13 members, he reported that in 1982 more UFOs than usual were reported to have been seen in Australia, Britain, Germany and South America — and fewer in Canada and the U.S.

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'Magical' solar carvings found by astronomers

PASADENA, Calif. (UPI) — Early North American Indians left a "magical" legacy of solar observatories in the Arizona desert — a series of precise rock carvings that mark the sun's movement, a husband-and-wife research team says.

Dr. Robert Preston, an astronomer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and his wife, Ann, studied 19 carvings — some nearly 1,300 years-old — and found that all marked the summer and winter solstices and the equinoxes.

The summer and winter solstices are the longest and shortest days of the year. The equinoxes mark the days at the beginning of spring and autumn when the day and night are of equal length.

Preston said the carvings —

called petroglyphs — served as a form of yearly calendar that recognized the importance of the sun to societies where subsistence farming and hunting were keys to survival.

In many cases, a dagger of sunlight runs precisely on the edge of a single carved circle at both winter and summer solstice, or a shadow bisects a spiral at dawn on the summer solstice, Preston said.

"It must have been very magical to them. It's still magical to me," he said. "Every society tries to put order in their universe. We do it with science and this was their form of order."

There are 18 observatories created by the Anasazi Indians and another by the Hohokam.