

Keeping eye on sky

Mena resident seeks UFO sighting reports

By Lamar James
GAZETTE STAFF

It has been 40 years since Kenneth Arnold, a private airplane pilot, saw an unknown object and coined the phrase "flying saucer," and it's been even longer since the prophet Ezekiel saw a "wheel within a wheel."

Since the Arnold sighting, there have been numerous sightings of those strange, pesky and sometimes playful objects that reportedly snatch up people from time to time, whiz around scaring the day-lights out of pilots, light up the night sky and radars and suck power from power plants and cars alike.

Needs volunteers

The sightings have caught the interest of Edward F. Mazur, 65, a semiretired aerospace engineer who lives at Mena. Mazur joined the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) several years ago, and now he is Arkansas director. He said in a recent interview that he needs volunteers to investigate sightings or unusual occurrences that may be related.

MUFON is an international organization of researchers who track and research UFO sightings. Mazur said a "great many PhDs and highly qualified physicists and university professors who are extremely interested" in UFO phenomena are members.

'Sole interest'

"Our sole interest is in trying to get enough scientific talent on these things to collate [information] and *** get a better handle on it. Keep an open mind and keep searching seems to be the name of the game."

Mazur, an Ohio native, moved to Arkansas several years ago from Florida, where he worked for a defense firm. He was intrigued by Arkansas because another engineer, whose hobby was geology, told him Arkansas was a unique place "with strange geological formations and plant life. I always wanted a place in the country. I made one trip to Arkansas, and I said 'This is it.'"

Mena 'fits us to a tee'

He said Mena "just fits us to a tee." His children were educated at the University of Arkansas — one is now an electronics engineer and the other raises horses.

Mazur said he does consulting work for electronics and lighting

systems, has written for technical publications and sells wood-burning stoves. He also is a ham radio operator.

Suspects unreported sightings

He suspects there may be more UFO sightings in Arkansas than are being reported, and he encouraged persons to report incidents to authorities or his organization.

Mazur said he and his wife sighted a UFO in 1981 as they were driving near Hector (Pope County) north of Russellville. They saw a bright blue circular object about 12 feet in diameter flying less than 100 feet off the ground near the road. He said when he stopped, it veered off and wobbled as it sped away.

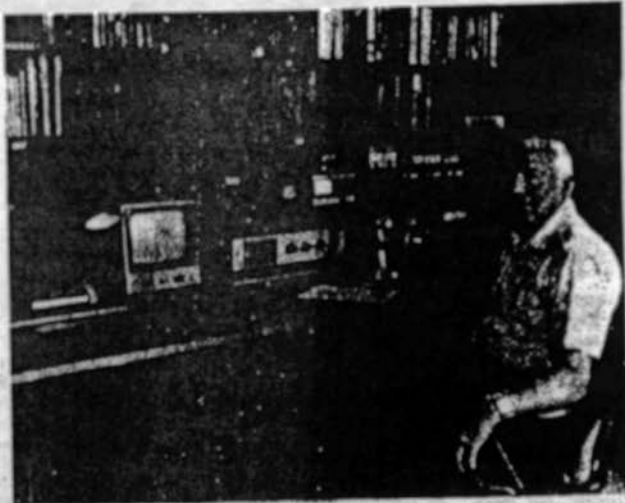
That wobble was a "giveaway," he said, adding that UFOs often wobble or sway because they are not on "a stable flight pattern."

UFOs are "not making the news as frequently and the sightings, particularly in this part of the world, have tapered off some" in recent years, Mazur said.

The UFO field has more theories than hard facts, but getting Mazur to venture a personal theory or opinion about UFOs is difficult.

Mazur is willing to go on the record about one thing, however.

"I've been an aerospace engineer in mainstream weapons systems,



Edward F. Mazur and his ham radio equipment.

and I can say categorically we don't have anything approaching the capability of the performance of some of these objects. Even the stealth bomber is a kiddie car compared to what these objects are reported to do."

He said encounters with UFOs — such as reports of abductions by aliens — are "good entertainment" and may "serve to cushion any future revelation that these things are genuine."

He said alien visitors, if that is what they are, are pretty unassuming and seem content to make

themselves known to the average guy who is not high enough up "in the social structure to carry any influence."

"If these things are not earthly, they have shown no sign of being hostile," he said.

"When you contemplate the universe, it's kind of mind boggling to begin with," he said. "Maybe we're not alone in this huge universe."

More information is available from Mazur at Route 3, Postoffice Box 302, Mena 71953, or by calling 394-5724.