

# CHARLIE'S CORNER

BY CHARLIE SOMERBY

"I don't want to talk about it!"

With that gruff statement, the police chief at Fyffe, AL ignored our request to chat with him about the unidentified flying objects some of the area residents have been spotting in past weeks.

But he mellowed somewhat when he added that he had school bus duties to perform.

Fyffe is a one blinking-light town where people are friendly but not too anxious to talk about strange objects in the sky.

There is no weekly newspaper located right in the town, *The Weekly Post* published at nearby Rainsville serves both communities.

Perhaps the reluctance of townspeople to say too much to strangers stems from an article written by a student at Jacksonville State University and published in that college's newspaper.

There had been reference to the "crude and cruel" article in an Associated Press story published in the Pensacola newspaper, but *The Weekly Post* had the complete story with adjacent comments by State Senator Lowell Barron and residents.

Senator Barron called for an open apology from JSU president "To the people of Fyffe from everyone at your school that was involved in this crude put-down of my community."

As wife Dori and I prowled around town stopping at various points and chatting with residents, we found that most of them had never heard of Gulf Breeze, FL and visits by flying objects. Or perhaps they wouldn't admit it!

And when we mentioned that we had connections with a newspaper, some really clammed up.

But we liked the town which reminded us of a somewhat similar community at Kimball, Oklahoma, where several years ago we had spent several hours.

The friendliest spot visited was a general store where the clerks were willing to chat a bit and admitted they knew folks who had seen UFOs in the neighborhood.

Fyffe was one of two spots in the general area that we went out of our way to visit. The other was nearby Boaz and its huge factory outlet center. But we got there before the stores had opened for the day and were unable to say hello to the gentleman who used to operate the cut-rate bookstore in downtown Gulf Breeze and with a falloff in business after the bridge crash moved his business to Boaz.

But we'll get up that way again especially for another stay at Lake Guntersville State Park.

## Mufon chapter is largest in nation

BY

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For the past 2 years, the Santa Rosa—Escambia County chapter of MUFON, Mutual UFO Network International, has been the primary investigative organization of the Gulf Breeze happenings.

Mr. Charles Flannigan, State Section Director for MUFON, recently announced that because of the interest generated in the numerous sightings in and around Gulf Breeze, the Santa Rosa-Escambia MUFON chapter has grown to be the largest in the nation with over 25 active members, which includes local scientists and psychologists who are actively working as consultants and investigators on recent cases.

MUFON is currently investigating several UFO sightings in the area which include a sighting in Pace on April 4; a sighting in Cantonment on April 5; Midway on April 11; and Gulf Breeze, April 17-18.

For anyone desiring to report a UFO sighting or related experience, MUFON can be contacted by calling 477-7777 twenty-four hours a day. Area investigations have been conducted professionally with the well-being and anonymity of the witnesses of primary concern. The local MUFON membership also provides speakers or discussion group leaders for local schools and organizations.