

Chillicothe Gazette, USA weekend section August 12, 1989

Lorain, Ohio:

Kids 7 and under, \$1;
kids 8-17, \$2;
18 and up, \$3

kids 3-15, 75¢,
adults, \$1.50

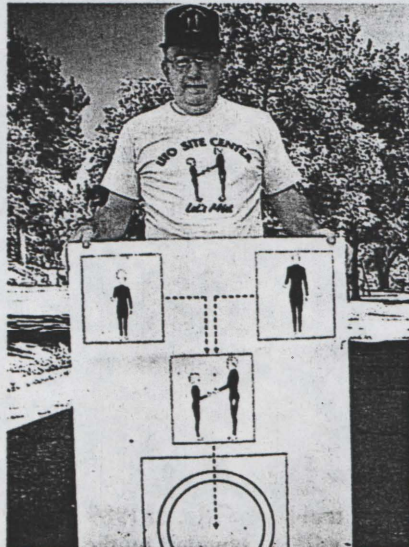
Chicago: free

\$1; \$1.50 --
lap-swimming

An open invitation for touring extraterrestrials

If your eyes light up at the mention of flying saucers, meet Thomas Weber of Chippewa Falls, Wis.

The owner of a machine-finishing firm, Weber wants to build a UFO



E.T., COME VISIT: Thomas Weber gives a friendly sign to the universal cause.

landing strip and research center in nearby Elmwood, with a football field-sized painting/invitation that shows a human and an extraterrestrial.

Alas, aliens won't have the green light anytime soon. Weber has raised thousands, but needs \$7 million.

He's an example of the booming grass-roots interest in otherworldly pursuits. Support groups even exist for people who've had close encounters.

"A fair amount of people who contact us are really pretty terrified," says Raven Dana of Cleveland, who meets with 20 people. "Most think they're the only one" who's had an encounter. "It's just not true."

Two new books that likely will win more converts:

■ *Encounters* (Doubleday, \$17.95). Psychologist Edith Fiore details studies of people who claim they've been abducted by aliens.

■ *Majestic* (Putnam, \$18.95). Whitley Strieber, who's had a few strange encounters, novelizes the 1947 crash of a mysterious aircraft near Roswell, N.M., which started a UFO craze. Trying to find and understand the truth, he says, "has got to be the most maddening thing in the world."

Write us about your Family Spirit

USA WEEKEND is gearing up for its second Family Spirit issue. We're after the best, most original family tales in the USA. It could be a wild legend about Great-uncle Joe, a unique tradition with Grandma's wedding gown, or last week's hilarious episode with the baby.

Select stories and families will be featured in a November issue of USA WEEKEND. Send your 200-word tale and a family picture (sorry, we can't return it) by Aug. 20 to: USA WEEKEND, Family Spirit, P.O. Box 500W, Washington, D.C. 20044.