



RONALD M. OVERDAHL / Sentinel photographer

Duane Schmid (from left), Bob Kuehn, Judy Green and Diane Schmid walk on Dundee Mountain, a UFO-watching spot near Campbellsport.

**RICHARD HEIDEN via COUD—1**

Milwaukee (Wis.) SENTINEL, Tuesday, September 5, 1989  
(The Town of Osceola is in southeastern Fond du Lac County, with Long Lake near its eastern border. Not to be confused with the Village of Osceola, which is in Polk County, on the opposite side of the state.)

OVER

# Long Lake area spawns tales of UFO sightings

By **BETSY THATCHER**  
Washington County Bureau

**Town of Osceola** — For the price of a can of Point, a customer can hear some pretty good tales of UFOs at Benson's Hide-A-Way on the north end of Long Lake.

Owner Bill Benson, 47, has been pouring beers and serving up stories of strange sightings for nine years.

Eerie airborne lights and large spaceship-like objects are as common as dairy cows and whippoorwills around Long Lake and the Kettle Moraine State Forest's northern unit, Benson said.

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out-of-state campers, and most have added something to the local lore.

Even Benson says he has seen an unidentified flying object.

It happened on a summer night in 1983 outside his mother's Long Lake home. As he puffed on a pipe and enjoyed the lake view, something he described as the size of four Goodyear blimps appeared over the 3-mile-long lake.

The object, which Benson said was darker than the night sky and rimmed with orange lights, hovered silently for several minutes.

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object that drifted silently over his silo.

Dins had just finished milking the cows about 11:15 p.m. and was herding them out of the barn when the animals suddenly bolted back in.

The cows' behavior was unusual, he said, especially since they had "a whole load of feed out there waiting for them. I thought, 'What the heck happened to them?'"

When Dins discovered what had spooked them, he ran for the house to wake his wife and three daughters.

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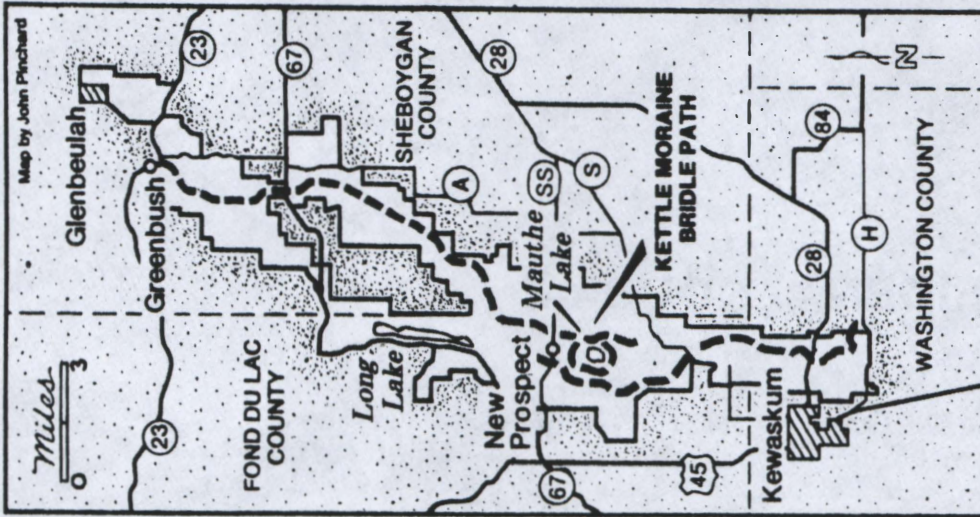
Kewaskum, Duane Schmid, of Campbellsport, was working the evening shift. He and some co-workers were eating lunch outdoors when six orange lights appeared above them. The lights went off one by one, in perfect sequence, he said.

"You can't explain it away. It was there," said Schmid, 49, who estimates he has seen 15 UFOs.

Probably the best-known local UFO-watcher is Schmid's friend Bob Kuehn, of Campbellsport.

Kuehn, 58, figures he has seen hundreds of unexplained lights but puts the number of "definite" close encounters at 40.

**Kettle Moraine State Forest**  
NORTHERN UNIT



Duane Schmid (from left), Bob Kuehn, Judy Green and Diane Schmid walk on Dundee Mountain, a UFO-watching spot near Campbellsport. RONALD M. OVERDAHL / Sentinel photographer

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Benson acts as the unofficial keeper of the stories his customers spill over the bar.

The tavern became so popular for such conversations that he added "Martian Melody" and "The Flying Saucer" to his jukebox selection.

The clientele ranges from local farmers to

out-of-state campers, and most have added something to the local lore.

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Local dairy farmer John Dins, 42, said he saw something similar in August 1988. Several others reported seeing the same thing that night.

"It was a UFO or whatever you want to call it," Dins said of the 100-foot circular

object that drifted silently over his silo.

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When Dins returned to the silo, the object had left, but was visible on the eastern horizon.

"When you see something like that, you get the chills," he said. "I still get the chills thinking about it."

That same night, at Regal Ware Inc. in

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Kuehn, who rebuilds and sells racing bicycles, says he's observed disk-shaped objects with orange lights at close range and has seen several teardrop-shaped versions with tails.

SEE PAGE 9 / UFO

# Sightings of UFOs recounted

UFO / FROM PAGE 5

He believes he has seen so many because he faithfully watches for them nightly and knows what to look for.

"A lot of people will feel they are seeing space debris," the former pilot said. "But a lot of these are UFOs that people are seeing. They think it's just a meteorite."

UFOs often will "perform" if they know someone is watching, Kuehn said.

"They do know I'm watching them," he said. "One I saw, it was really cute. It was just like a kid with a hot rod. And I'm telling you the truth: He backed the thing up."

"They don't have a heck of a time confounding people or hiding, because people aren't looking for them."

On a recent evening, Kuehn, his friend Judy Green, 47, and Schmid and his wife, Diane, 35, took a reporter on a hike up Dundee Mountain, a large hill that juts out of the state forest and overlooks Long Lake. The hill, accessible by trail off State Highway 67, is the best place in the area to watch for UFOs, Kuehn said.

The group climbed the hill at sunset. As stars began to dot the sky, several airplanes appeared and crisscrossed the horizon.

Kuehn pointed out several glowing orange lights that evening. Many stood still in the sky and alternated between dim and bright. Because the lights, on average, were at least 10 miles away, it was difficult to determine what they were.

After about an hour and a half, a faint glow appeared over the forest about 4 miles southeast of the hill.

The motionless light hung low in the sky and appeared similar to the half-dozen lights spotted earlier. Unlike the others, the light gradually increased in size. It began moving slowly to the west, picked up speed and brightened to a flaming gold. It transformed into a diamond shape and shimmered brilliantly.

The diamond suddenly jerked in a 90-degree turn and headed south, appearing to accelerate until it disappeared from sight.

Kuehn was overjoyed at the night's finale.

Karen Kerans, a naturalist at the Wehr Nature Center in Franklin and program director for the Wehr Astronomical Society, said she never had encountered a UFO.

"There are a lot of things that people are not accustomed to seeing in the night sky," Kerans said. "Airplanes and helicopters can be foolers. They can appear to make sudden turns."

Some people, she said, actually may be seeing the aurora borealis, or northern lights, which have been quite visible this summer.

But Kuehn maintains the sights cannot be explained by known phenomena. Life forms from other planets or solar systems regularly monitor activity on Earth, he believes.

And then there is the Long Lake Monster. Benson can tell you about the two fishermen who saw it. It was 25 feet long with a head like a football, and black and yellow . . .

But that's another story.