



Massachusetts

MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, INC.

NEWSLETTER

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Hotline - (617) 944-0686

UFO PROGRAMS

We have no specifics but have learned that "60 Minutes" will carry a segment on the UFO phenomena sometime in mid-May. A strong rumor is circulating that the program will deal with the government cover-up. Also "20/20" will air a program on the UFO subject on May 14. (10:00pm). If anybody knows of specific dates and times when these programs will be aired, please call the hotline (944-0686). As this newsletter is being written, "People Are Talking" on WBZ-TV contacted me regarding a segment on government involvement to be tentatively aired May 14.

VIDEO AVAILABLE

The Man Alive show, carried a segment titled, "The E.T. Hypothesis" on April 1, 1987. Budd Hopkins was a guest on this show. To obtain a copy of the video, write to CBC Enterprises Department at P.O. Box 500, Station "A", Toronto, Ontario M5W 1E6, or phone (513) 361-5154. The price is \$29.95.

PENS DONATED

Eastern regional director, Joe Santangelo has donated over 100 red, blue and white pens with the Mass. MUFON P.O. Box number and hotline number. The pens will be a form of advertisement along with the library exhibits. Thanks Joe!!!

RADIO-TV LOG

Budd Hopkins was a guest on WBCN-radio on April 26, at 11:00a.m.

Budd also appeared on the "Good Day" show, WCVB-TV on April 27.

Whitley Streiber was a guest on Lifetime network, May 1, 9:00 p.m.

P.M. Magazine carried a UFO segment on Gary Kinder's "Light Years", May 1, 7:30 p.m., WBZ-TV.

UFO REPORTS

A call came in on the hotline from Andy D., a reporter with the Stanford Advocate in CT. He was inquiring about a sighting that took place on Sunday, April 19, at 10:00 p.m. in Norwalk, CT. There were approximately eight witnesses including a police officer who reported an egg-shaped object surrounded by blue and green lights on the outside and red and orange lights inside its center. The sighting was 1 hour in duration. The witnesses reported they lost sight of the object when it shot up and away.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Due to the July 4 holiday and my vacation in July, the next MUFON meeting will be held on the last Saturday in July, on the 25th.

Wasps, bees, hornets and other winged insects cause more fatalities in the United States than any other wild creatures, including rattlesnakes.

The Irish consume 317 pounds of potatoes each annually, more than any other people in the world.

ARTICLES INVITED

I would like to invite MUFON members and other readers of this newsletter to submit written articles, newsclippings, reports, etc. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the following people who have been instrumental in contributing and supporting the Mass. MUFON newsletter: Steve Firmani, Rick Giordano, Jules Vallaincourt, Marge Christensen and Barry Greenwood.

CLASSIFIEDS

Still searching for the "UFO Controversy in America" authored by Dr. David Jacobs. If you know where a hardcover copy of this book can be obtained, please call 617-944-0686.

THE UFO INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY - This is a monthly publication with monthly updates on UFO activity in the United States for previous 18 months. Simple code sheet included. The annual subscription rate is \$6.00 which includes postage and handling. Order from: UFO Filter Center, 618 Davis Drive, Mt. Vernon, IN 47620.

TIME-LIFE UFO SEGMENT UNDERWAY

A number of persons in our organization have been contact by a representative of Time-Life in conjunction with a new article being written for the Time-Life series on the UFO subject. Both Barry Greenwood and Dr. Richard Haines have been contacted for information and for interviews. MUFON's Western Regional Director Paul Cerny, has been contacted for materials for the Time-Life series.

SYMPOSIUM UPDATE

The upcoming International Symposium on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, to be held at American University, in Washington, D.C., on June 26, 27 28 is already getting an excellent reception from the UFO community. According to Richard Hall, of MUFON and of the Fund for UFO Research, registrations are being received steadily, and a large attendance is anticipated. Foreign speakers will represent the following countries: Australia, England, Sweden, Canada, Zimbabwe, India, Spain, France, Argentina, Italy, Japan, as well as some of South America. In addition, featured speakers will present papers on various aspects of the UFO subject, including U.S. Government involvement and documents released under the F.O.I.A., as well as research into abduction cases.

TIME CAPSULE

Five years ago

In 1982 the movie, E.T. was released.

A rumor circulating that Gen Westmoreland was "whisked away" by aliens, prompted bulletins in the N.Y. Times, The Boston Globe and Boston Herald. He was found a few hours later.

Ten years ago

January, 1977 - Report on a Survey of the Membership of the American Astronomical Society Concerning the UFO Problem, by Peter Sturrock, Institute for Plasma Research, Stanford Univ., 1,356 respondents, 62 UFO observations, 53 percent favoring more scientific study of UFOs.

Thirteen years ago

Following the late 1973 sighting wave, a new round of UFO books appeared: Blum, Ralph, with Judy Blum, Beyond Earth: Man's Contact with UFOs (New York; Bantam Books)

Emenegger, Robert UFOs, Past, Present and Future (New York, Ballantine Books)

Books cont'd

Fowler, Raymond UFOs: Interplanetary Visitors (New York, Exposition)

Salisbury, Frank, The Utah UFO Display (Old Greenwich, Conn.: Devin-Adair)

Webb, David, 1973-Year of the Humanoids (Waltham, MA, privately published)

Twenty years ago

November 11 - Russian UFO Commission with 200-member observer network announced. to be headed by Major General Anatoly Stolyerov with eighteen scientists and military officers.

Thirty years ago

November, 15, 1957- After two weeks of highly publicized UFO sightings, the USAF issued news release No. 1108-57 debunking hundreds of cases. NICAP noted- "The time factor alone casts doubt on the thoroughness of investigation and validity of the explanations."

JUMPING ON THE MEDIA BANDWAGON

By James Melesciuc, Mass. MUFON State Director

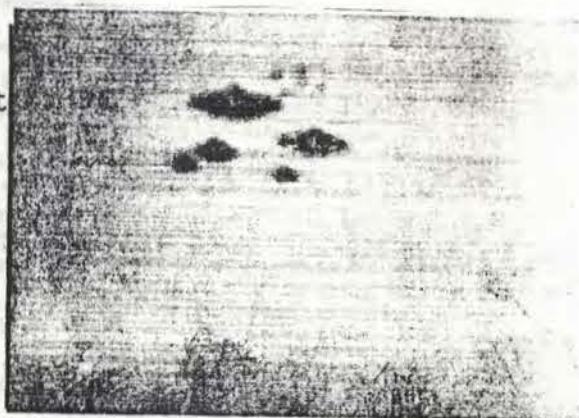
Since the historic Kenneth Arnold sighting over Mt. Rainier in 1947, hundreds of pranksters have engaged in such hoaxes as filling up plastic bags with hot air from candles or photographing tossed hubcaps to create excitement for those who were anxious to see a UFO. Most of the objects were quickly identified.

In April, 1971, several high school students in a sociology class in Westgate, Iowa burned a circular area in a field and added four small depressions to create a UFO landing site. They then notified a local radio program that they had witnessed a UFO land in that area. It only took 1 day for news of this alleged CE II to gain nationwide publicity. A photograph of the burned area was circulated and one news article stated that the students had "proof" that a UFO "really did touch down". Several other people in the eastern part of the state claimed they had a UFO sighting on the very same night. Another one claimed to have observed an "unknown" object for over two weeks and could tell it was going to land. Seeing that this hoax was getting out of hand, the students admitted it was a class experiment on mass psychology. One of several conclusions reached regarding this hoax was that the news media cannot only be misled but it can mislead. Many people believed the case simply because it was covered by the news media. It also demonstrated how excited people became. Five hundred people visited the alleged landing site.

In Feb. 1962, a fourteen year-old school boy, Alec Birch, was taking pictures of his dog near his home in Masborough, England when, he said, "I suddenly noticed 5 objects in the sky about 500 ft. up. They were not moving and they made no sound. Although the possibility that they might have been flying saucers did not cross my mind at the time, I took a photograph of them". Two of Alec's friends were present with him at the time the picture was taken. All three were interviewed by the school science staff and members of the school English department.

The Alec Birch photo was carried by numerous UFO publications as a bona fide flying saucer photograph for over ten years. Flying Saucer Review (Sept.-Oct. 1962) even went as far as to say that the photograph is another genuine picture of saucers in flight.

In June, 1973 Alec Birch disclosed how he deceived the world of Ufology. He had painted the flying saucers onto a window pane himself and then took a picture of them. Alec said "After the photo had gone out of my hands, the whole thing was over my head. It became more and more difficult to own up to the hoax. But the truth had to come out sooner or later."

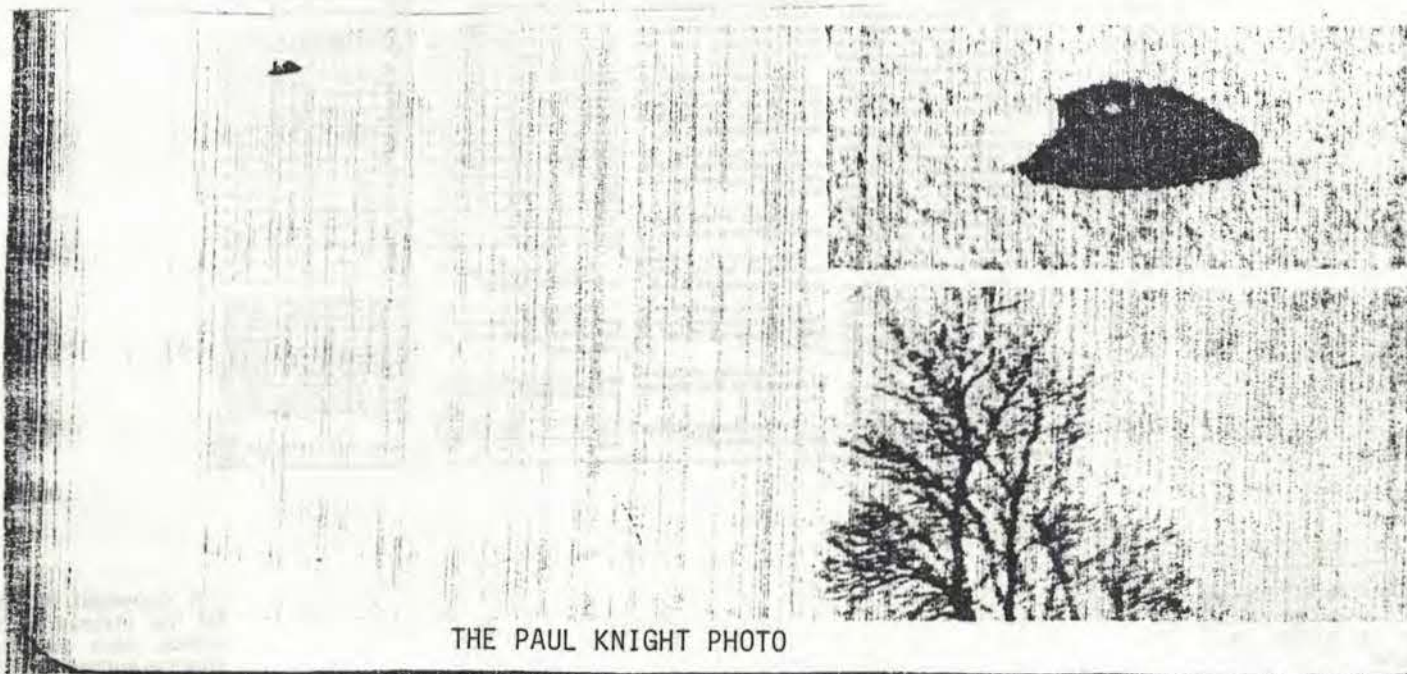


The Alec Birch photo

Another infamous photo hoax on which investigators jumped on the bandwagon is the Paul Knight photo at St. Catherines, Ontario, Canada in April 1976. The Canadian investigators with Project SUM (Solving UFO Mysteries) after studying the photo, released the photograph to several magazines.

One year later in April 1977, Paul Knight's photo was being discussed on CJRN radio of Niagara Falls, a call-in talk show. Knight called the station and to approximately 300,000 listeners, admitted that he had faked the photograph by using a Volkswagen hubcap. Despite this some Canadian Ufologists considered the photo genuine since Knight could not successfully prove it a hoax.

CONT'D



THE PAUL KNIGHT PHOTO

On April 13 and 14 1987, the national wire services carried a news report of yet another hoax, a CE II (see newsclipping) that was researched by members of CUFOS. This prankster confessed to the hoax nearly 8 years later. Again, it was meant to be a practical joke. As in the Iowa CE II case, the media misled the public. The story of the alleged landing quickly developed. People became intense; their emotions clouded their reasoning and they were unable to think critically.

We as UFO investigators are not professionally paid or trained. The expertise of field investigation is only acquired from experience gained in actual investigation of casework. Only through those investigations can one develop and broaden his/her skills to effectively separate the signal from the noise. We must always keep in mind that there are crackpots, fanatics and debunkers and plain kooks who will take pride in publicly embarrassing an investigator or organization. Remember that a photograph of a UFO is the weakest type of independent evidence because it is so easily hoaxed. Therefore we must work slowly and calmly and leave no stone unturned in our investigations.

Forrester Telegram 4/14/87
Uncle Confesses To UFO Prank

LAKE CITY, Minn. (AP) — Nearly eight years after a man found two scorched, flattened circles in his cornfield that he claimed were evidence of a UFO landing, his uncle has confessed to rigging it as a practical joke.

David Olson, a 44-year-old chemist, said he got the idea for the prank when the topic of unidentified flying objects arose at a family gathering in the summer of 1979.

That September, he says, he lugged a butane torch and a posthole tamper into the field. "I brought the tamper to simulate what would have been landing gear setting down," Olson recalled Monday.

He said he took care to tamp about seven areas to make the landing gear impressions appear symmetrical. Then he used the butane torch to singe the corn on the ground and surrounding the site.

He would have confessed immediately after his handiwork was discovered, but the site was investigated immediately by the Wabasha County Sheriff, a county extension agent and the Center for UFO Studies of Evanston, Ill.

"The first I heard of it was on television and then it was too late," Olson said. "It developed so fast and people were so intense about it, I thought I'd better shut up. I thought they might be so angry around there, they'd string me up."

His nephew, Curtis Olson, said he doesn't believe his uncle's confession. "Listen, I know he is capable of pranks."

"But we had experts out there who said it couldn't have been a prank," he said. "They concluded that something came down with tremendous force. He could have been out there a week and not do what they found."

Below is a copy of the latest results of a new Gallup Poll dealing with the subject of UFOs and also of extraterrestrial life. You may find this information helpful to refer to during any lectures or presentations you may be making on the UFO phenomenon.

San Francisco Chronicle

Thursday, March 12, 1987

GALLUP POLL

Westerners Lead the Believers

Many Think There's an E.T. Out There

By George Gallup Jr.

Princeton, N.J.

For millions of American adults a "Close Encounter of the Third Kind" is a distinct possibility, with only about one in three flatly denying the existence of either unidentified flying objects, popularly known as UFOs, or extraterrestrial life.

In a new Gallup survey, 50 percent express the belief that there are "people somewhat like ourselves living on other planets in the universe," while 34 percent are skeptical and 16 percent are unsure. The current figures are virtually unchanged from those recorded in a 1978 survey. But considerably more now than in either 1973 or 1968 believe in extraterrestrial life.

Similarly, 49 percent of those who have heard or read about UFOs think they are real, while 30 percent are doubtful and 21 percent uncertain. Belief in UFOs is down slightly from its peak in 1978, when 57 percent thought they were real.

In the new survey, one person in 11 (9 percent) reports actually having seen something he or she thought was a UFO, statistically similar to the findings of earlier polls.

Belief in the existence of life on other planets and in UFOs is substantially higher among those who attended college than among those whose formal education ended at or before graduation from high school.

Men are more likely than women to believe in extraterrestrial life, 62 percent and 40 percent respectively, but men and women share the same opinions about UFOs.

As a rule, people 35 and older are less convinced than their juniors that either phenomenon has a basis in fact.

Westerners are most apt to be believers; Southerners, least so.

Following are the questions, the trends and the latest findings among key demographic groups:

Respondents were first asked: "Have you heard or read about UFOs (unidentified flying objects)?"

Those answering affirmatively 80 percent of the total were then asked:

"Have you ever seen anything you thought was a UFO?"

EXISTENCE OF UFOs

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Believe	50	49	48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41
Skeptical	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
Unsure	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16

EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Believe	49	48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	40
Doubtful	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
Uncertain	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21

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Ground level above the center of an earthquake is called the epicenter.

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METEORITE

Jeanne Sicard's close encounter with the universe not all charming

By Mark Muro
Globe Staff

BARTON, Vt. — The other day, Jeanne Sicard was out on High Street, pointing.

Next to her lawn, she pointed at the sky. Down at the corner, she showed how she drove up the hill, then made a left. A little farther on, by a house marked "KAMBOUR," she pointed again, this time at the telephone wires.

"See, it came in real low, slanting, like right below the wires there," she was saying, telling a visitor how it was that purplish February twilight. One couldn't miss how sober, how factual, even how concise was her tone.

Speaking there in the breezy noon sun, Sicard was like hundreds of other American visionaries, miscellaneous school teachers and heavy equipment operators who, out of the blue, see a light, a cometary flash, a UFO and — dammit! — know what they've seen.

There she was, that cold-snap evening of Feb. 19, when suddenly — "like a sparkler" — this mild mother of two thinks she sees the crash of what would be the first meteor ever recovered in the Green Mountain State. "I could see it was angling in and not going to take off and head over the mountain, so I just pulled my car over and got out to go looking," she says.

And, to her mind at least, she *did* find something. That evening, as Sicard has documented with fastidious notes, snapshots and plastic cases filled with dusty powder, she and her 7½-year-old daughter Laurel went digging in the snow. There, on Sicard's mother-in-law's lawn, they retrieved a softball-sized mass of frozen matter: "a ball of ash," she calls it.

And that was the beginning. "My husband told me not to touch it, so I put it in a shovel," Sicard remembers, relating her excitement at taking a "meteorite" home to her basement.

Yet what's followed these two months has been decidedly less pleasant. As in many stories of the cosmic intruding into the ordinary, Sicard quickly found herself humbled. But then it got ridiculous. From garbled news reports to preoccupied experts, she's been frustrated by rumors, poo-pooed by professors, confused at every turn. Reporters misspelled her name; investigators from the Smithsonian patronized her.

Increasingly, she says, she's found her close encounter with the mysterious universe a real drag. Now, she says, she almost wishes it never happened.

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METEORITE, Page 24

Globe photo/Toby Talbot
Laurel Sicard holds part of an object she and her mother saw fall to earth.



Jeanne Sicard's encounter with the cosmos hasn't all been pleasant

■ METEORITE

Continued from Page 23

It all began that cold evening in February.

Then, as always up here when the weather's frigid and crystalline, the west was beginning to go plum-colored, and so, after feeding the family horse at its barn across town, Jeanne Sicard started toward her husband's mother's house. It had been cold all week, she remembers; the streets were banked wholesale with frozen snow. But mainly it was just a regular day, she and Laurel driving, a routine family supper planned after a routine day at her part-time job in the state attorney's office. Nor was crossing town any big deal, either. There isn't much

to Barton but a couple of New England churches off the common, a bright-red-trimmed "BARTON FIRE DEPT.," some lovely old houses in disrepair, the Blue Seal feed store by the railroad crossing.

So there they were, Jeanne and Laurel — driving across the tracks, up the hill to High Street, then left.

Then it happened.

They'd just turned, just begun grinding up the icy High Street in their Dodge, when Laurel shouted "Mom! Look!"

Recalls Sicard, "It was out of nowhere: a ball of light with sparkles coming off, like a sparkler." "And no way was it miles away," she goes on, walking there on High Street past elaborate old houses and mailboxes. "No, it was right there, right between the windshield and the house, and it was beautiful, white, not even going that fast." What's more, she adds, it was low. "You could just see it was going to hit right near us," says Sicard, remembering how the bright light passed behind the high snowbank of her mother-in-law's raised lawn. "At first I thought it was the local teen-agers with firecrackers," she adds.

Then Sicard decided otherwise. Pulling into the driveway, she started looking around in the snow while Laurel ran inside to tell her grandmother. "Grammy: We saw a falling star!" After a while, Sicard found something: "a hole with something in it."

That something — a brownish mass like mud on snow — would become the cause of all her trouble.

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At first, of course, it was fun.

The next day, a Friday, Sicard's husband Rick took the snowball to the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium in St. Johnsbury. There staff members confirmed it was "probably" a meteorite, though they suggested further consultation. Meanwhile, at her job, Jeanne was shocked.

"I'd kind of forgotten about it," she says now, "and then this girl at work says 'Guess what I saw?' I was flabbergasted. She'd been driving toward Irasburg and seen something, too." After that, the attorneys at her office suggested she call Stuart Hall, the popular weather man at WCAX-TV in Burlington. She did, and by noon

Friday her name was winging out on TV. Suddenly, New Englanders knew Jeanne Sicard as the finder of the first meteorite ever retrieved in Vermont. Right away reporters started calling: from AP, from UPI, from the Burlington Free Press. "I got a little tired telling the story," Sicard says, but at that point her excitement charmed her.

It turned out that others had also seen something.

Over in Glover, Dorothy Perron had been driving home that Thursday on Route 122 when she and her former husband and two cousins saw "this flying object." "It was just a big ball of fire, bright and glowy," Perron would relate later. A few days later Rick Sicard — a TV repairman — was working on a neighbor's satellite dish when the owner said he'd seen something land close. After that, a Digital Equipment engineer from Lunenburg, Mass., wrote. He said he'd been driving Route 190 home that Thursday night when he saw something: "something real ... bright, with pieces falling off." Jeanne Sicard wrote back, touched.

So far she'd "pretty much" enjoyed her brush with the universe.

But then it soured.

Many of the news reports contained inaccuracies. Not only did Sicard not relish finding her name spelled "Jean" and "Sicord" in various places, other reports were just plain wrong. One stated the "object" had fallen in January. Another said for certain it was a "meteorite," which had yet to be proved.

Then it got worse.

The Smithsonian called from Washington but the investigator struck Sicard as so "superior" she decided not to send samples. The Fairbanks Museum spoke of a meeting of experts who could inspect the material, but they never got around to it. Then, more erroneous news stories appeared. Finally, the Sicards decided to send their "meteorite" — now melted, reduced and dried to a grainy powder — to a relative in Boston, who could take it to the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory at Harvard. He did and what followed was weeks of silence. Finally, a few weeks ago, her brother called to say the Harvard investigators had determined her "meteorite" was likely no such thing, that it was "ordinary sand," that, as Jeanne Sicard says, "I'd probably seen it from 12 miles away."

"My husband and I were very disappointed," she says.

Eventually, Sicard adds, her husband called the observatory to ask what tests had been run and was told none, because they weren't necessary. On April 3, Jeanne also called — "I just had to talk to them," she says — and found that a test for nickel could be performed, but would be expensive. Two days later, on Sunday, a UPI dispatch carried in the Globe and elsewhere made the whole af-

fair seem ridiculous. That report suggested — wrongly — that Harvard scientists had confirmed that Sicard's object was a meteorite.

In fact, the pleasantly authoritative Ursula Marvin — the scientist who examined the Vermont material — stands by her original verdict.

"All I can say," she concluded Wednesday, "is it was not a meteorite, it was not comet dust, not anything extraterrestrial. Rather, it was ordinary sand and gravel, just quartz, feldspar, other familiar minerals."

She sounded almost apologetic. "All I can surmise," she said, "is perhaps a fireball did occur but that people were deceived, as they often are, that it was near them when really it was miles away."

And that, sadly, is the unfortunate pass to which Jeanne Sicard's meteorite has come.

But the finder cannot, will not, accept that.

"All I know is what I saw," she said.

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Now, Jeanne Sicard waits and wonders.

Evenings, the stars press down close, hundreds and hundreds of them, while days, Sicard said, she's been reading the National Geographic for stories about falling rocks. Then, too, there's a book her brother sent her from the Smithsonian. "What I'm really interested in is the stony meteorites," she says, happily.

Beyond that, this quiet housewife remains tirelessly insistent. Recently she made a visitor a grilled cheese sandwich, pointed out the window some, then spread out a green folder on the kitchen table with a passel of clippings, miscellaneous snapshots, a Polaroid. "Object from 'Space' Examined," "A Star Falls in Barton: Smithsonian Interested," "Fireballs Light Up Vt. Sky," read the clippings; other papers noted phone numbers, addresses. From over on top of the refrigerator she proffered the plastic box of dust. She said she'd lent out a few of her articles to a neighborhood 8th-grader for his school report on her experience.

"You can't but get interested," she exclaimed. "It's fascinating."

And yet, Jeanne Sicard mostly seems frustrated.

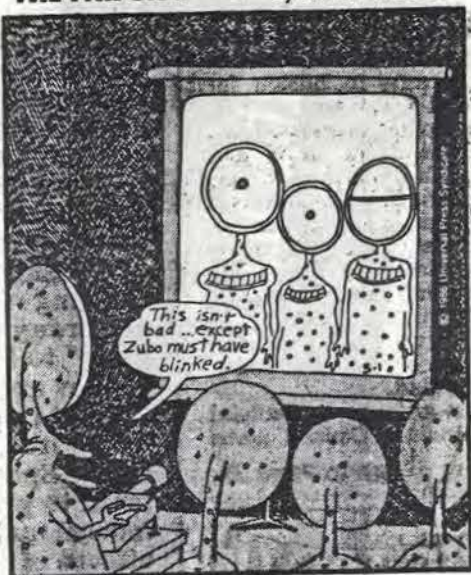
At the end of the month she's going to retrieve her samples from Boston and maybe send them somewhere else, she says. Right now she's just plain miffed. "See, it would have been easier if they'd just do a real test and say 'yes' or 'no,'" she says, "but the way it is now I kind of feel like 'Why me?'"

"I mean," she says, "those are educated people who don't think much of this and I respect that, but maybe there's something else up there they don't know about."

"Sometimes," she murmurs, "I wish it'd never happened."

Time

Twenty-four hour time is widely used in scientific work throughout the world. In the United States it is also used in operations of the Armed Forces. In Europe, it is used in preference to the 12-hour a.m. and p.m. system.



Alien slide-shows

Now you know...

By United Press International

The most heavily bombed country has been Laos. An estimated 2.5 million tons of bombs of all kinds were dropped in Laos along the Ho Chi Minh Trail supply route leading to South Vietnam between May 1964 and February 1973.

Alaska UFO sparks hunt in space

WASHINGTON — Reports of a huge flying saucer over Alaska have pointed up a space-age paradox within the scientific community.

Many scientists are very sceptical about supposed sightings of unidentified flying objects, but many of these same scholars believe the galaxy is teeming with intelligent life and support projects for the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, dubbed SETI.

Scientists with the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration have embarked on an official mission to expand vastly the scope of the search.

The Alaska incident was reported last November by Japan Air Lines pilot Kenji Terauchi, who said his plane was trailed for an hour by a walnut-shaped craft twice as big as an aircraft carrier, with a broad brim at its centre and bright running lights.

He said the UFO stayed with him as he descended 4000 feet and circled, and that his plane's weather radar picked it up.

The Federal Aviation Administration initially reported that it, too, had detected a craft on radar, but later said a malfunction may have created a duplicate radar image of the cargo plane itself.

The Alaska incident was widely dismissed by space experts as just another inconclusive episode.

Thousands of people including former President Jimmy Carter have reported seeing UFOs.

That has not shaken the scepticism among scientists like University of Virginia physicist James Trefil, who says "There has never been an unambiguous case" in all these sightings.

Even so, Trefil told a conference at Washington's Smithsonian Institution, the conventional wisdom among scientists also

held that "we are not alone."

Given the millions of stars in the Milky Way, the probability that many of them have planets with environments suitable to life, and the billions of years in which civilisations could have evolved, these scientists say it is likely the galaxy has many advanced civilisations.

Their estimates of how many range from one million to fewer than 100.

The operating theory behind SETI is that if advanced alien civilisations exist, they may be trying to communicate with other worlds by beaming radio signals into space — and radiotelescopes on Earth could pick up such signals.

US scientists pioneered SETI starting in 1960 with physicist Frank Drake's "Ozma" project, named for a Wizard of Oz character and using a radiotelescope in West Virginia.

Now the Soviet Union, France, West Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, and Canada are funding SETI radiotelescope projects.

No alien signals have yet been detected, scientists say.

But NASA, with an annual SETI budget of some \$2 million is developing the technology for a vast ex-



UFO over Hamburg in Germany

pansion in the number of frequencies that could be scanned for messages — a jump from thousands of frequencies to many millions.

NASA plans to scan the entire sky and conduct closer probes of 800 stars which are similar to the sun, beginning in the 1990s.

"In one minute with the new technology we will accomplish more than has been carried out in the past 25 years with all previous programs," NASA scientist Peter Backus said.

NASA's search would be "tens of billions" of times more thorough than today's most advanced SETI probes.

Earthlings have sent out relatively few messages to possible aliens, although scientists say advanced civilisations could tell Earth was inhabited from military radar and television rays leaking into space.

Scientists beamed an electronic greeting into space using a radiotelescope in Puerto Rico in 1974.

NASA's unmanned Pioneer 10 spacecraft carried a plaque with drawings of a nude man and woman and a space map showing earth's location.

Voyager 1 carried a disc with rock music including a Chuck Berry song, a message of friendship from then-UN Sec-

retary General Kurt Waldheim, and samples of 60 languages.

Some scientists say receipt of an alien message would be the most important event in human history and could result in mankind learning vast amounts from a more advanced culture.

But University of Virginia physicist Robert Rood sounded a note of warning in his book, *Are We Alone?*

"The civilisation that blirts out its existence on interstellar beacons at the first opportunity may be like some early hominoid descending from the trees and calling, 'here, kitty' to a sabretoothed tiger," Rood wrote.

Some scientists, including Trefil, are sceptical about the possibility of intelligent alien civilisations.

"Where are they?" he asked. "If a single civilisation could colonise the galaxy in millions of years and if billions of years have elapsed since the first such civilisation was supposed to arise, how can we explain the total lack of evidence for extraterrestrials on Earth?"

One theory is that the alien civilisations chose to put our solar system off limits as a kind of galactic zoo or nature reserve.

But Trefil discounts this: "What is the proba-

bility... that of all the billions of individuals in each of the millions of galactic races, there is not a single poacher?" Some say it is possible an alien civilisation is only now expanding into the galaxy and had not reached Earth.

But Trefil says that would be remarkable given that the history of man was "a blink of the eye on any galactic time scale."

But Trefil supports SETI research, which could lead scientists to conclude that man is alone in the universe after all.

He said such a conclusion would be highly significant. It would mean that "we are special."

NZPA—Reuter.

A 2 - Auckland Star, Wednesday, March 11, 1987

New Zealand

Jupiter's mass is more than twice the mass of all the other planets in our solar system put together.

cautionary note about INTRUDERS

—JUST PUBLISHED BY RANDOM HOUSE

Dear reader of the New York Times Book Review:

"The last thing the world needs is yet another kook-book about UFOs and extraterrestrial visitations. And the last thing a quality-minded publisher needs is to put its name on such a book."

Those were my thoughts as I began reading INTRUDERS for the first time.

Four hundred and fifty manuscript pages later, I knew we had to publish this book. And, as the manuscript made its way through Random House, I began to hear my judgment echoed by some of the most brilliant, least gullible, and most savvily skeptical people I've had the pleasure to work with.

Put simply, we had to publish INTRUDERS because it made all of us think about extraterrestrial phenomena in a completely new way.

None of us who read the manuscript wanted to believe in UFOs; many of us still don't...totally. Yet the events described in Budd Hopkins' manuscript--and frankly, many of them will strain your credulity almost to the breaking point--are so objectively and convincingly set down, and so compelling in themselves that, in the end, I found myself actually considering the impossible...that extraterrestrial visitations might, in fact, be occurring now.

At this point you may think that both the author and his publisher are kooks. But it is Hopkins' calmness, objectivity and cogency--as well as the mass of medical, physical, and psychiatric evidence he presents--that make INTRUDERS so un-kooky. He is as intelligent and thoughtful as anyone I know, and questions his own evidence as severely as any skeptic would.

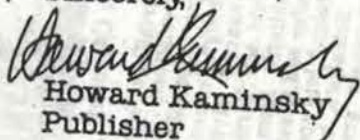
He sympathizes with the doubter--but answers that the true skeptic is one who cannot deny the possibility of anything.

Bettyann Kevles, in a recent N.Y. Times Book Review piece on INTRUDERS, said "All Mr. Hopkins is asking for in these pages is a hearing, and he deserves that. His book is much too interesting to put down."

There were moments, as I read the manuscript, when I actually got chills down the back of my neck. And so I pass this warning on to you: once you read INTRUDERS you might, even if just for a few moments, consider the unthinkable.

Now that is all Budd Hopkins and I could really ask for.

Sincerely,


Howard Kaminsky
Publisher



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