

MUTUAL UFO NETWORK

CASE BRIEFS: EXPLORATIONS & REVIEW

Issue #2

Northern California Affiliate

September / October 1994

It is my pleasure to announce that our premier issue of *Case Briefs* was a big hit at MUFON's 25th Annual Symposium in Austin, Texas last July. Northern California's attempt at a bi-monthly publication for local MUFON members started off with a bang thanks to Kathi Hennesey's two excellent issues of No. California MUFON Newsletters. *Case Briefs* will continue the good work with additional emphasis on local investigations. While our main focus is on northern California cases, we have started a newsletter exchange program with several MUFON chapters and other UFO groups. We anticipate being able to bring our readers fascinating articles, good interviews and information from around the globe. State Section Directors who have already presented cases to the State Director are invited to submit the most interesting of those cases to the *Case Briefs* Editor for possible publication in future issues. Please feel free call me at (415) 775-4579 for more information.

We welcome subscriptions to *Case Briefs*. Issues are \$2.00 each and will usually be available at the bi-monthly Bay Area MUFON meetings. For those who are not able to attend, the price for six issues is \$16.00 which includes the cost of mailing. Please forward your check or money order to: *Case Briefs* Editor, Mutual U.F.O. Network, P. O. Box 26585, San Francisco, CA 94126. No. California State Director, Virgil Staff, Assistant Editor, Kathi Hennesey, and I hope you will enjoy *Case Briefs* and we encourage your comments and suggestions.

Laura Steiger, *Case Briefs* Editor

THE MYSTERY IN MODOC

Part II: The 1970's, 1980's and 1990's

By Tim Landrith, State Section Director,
Lassen, Modoc and Siskiyou Counties

May 1974

In late May of 1974 two married couples in their early twenties were camped at Reservoir C in the Devil's Garden. This is a vast wilderness area situated in the western portion of Modoc County, California. It consists of many square miles of juniper, sage, Ponderosa pines, lava flows and very few people. The two couples had the reservoir to themselves and planned on doing a lot of fishing. Both men had recently been honorably discharged from the Marines and their camping trip was a celebration of the occasion. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate. It was very windy and cold, but the sky was clear. They attempted a campfire, however, the wind was too strong so they went to bed early, hoping for fair weather the next morning.

Around 1:30 a.m. one of the men crawled out of bed, determined to catch some fish for breakfast and surprise the others. He cast his fishing line, propped up his pole and added more wood to the campfire, planning to ignite it for breakfast cooking. Just before 2:00 a.m. he could see a glow near the dam. He knew it was far too early for sunrise, so he walked around the small peninsula where they all were camped, to get a better look. To his amazement there was a large, illuminated sphere hovering above the dam.

He described the sphere as being as large as a two-story house and that it changed hues from orange

INSIDE:

The Mystery In Modoc, Part II	1
Case Briefs	4
Coast Weekly Article, Part IV	7
On the UFO Trail	8
Interview with Paul Norman	10
Tidbits	12
Media Corner	13

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to blue to green and then back to red-orange. The sphere sat motionless about ten feet above the dam for several minutes and then rose to 30 feet and started moving outward (east) across the lake. While doing this, it began broadcasting beams of white light to the surface, illuminating the entire reservoir in an eerie blue fog.

The man became very uneasy and while moving slowly back to his camp he observed the object descend to only a foot above the water. He stood by the

campfire and could see that the sphere was moving closer - about 60 yards away.

He began to fear for the safety of his wife and friends so he threw some lighter fluid on the campfire and lit it with his Zippo. Immediately after the fire flared to about three feet, the sphere flew straight upward at extreme velocity and was gone. The man began to think that he had frightened it away and regretted doing so. He stayed up all night, hoping the object would return. It never did. He stated that he had never seen anything like this in the military and that the object made no noise, but he could feel a tingling sensation on his skin. He also stated that he never believed in flying saucers, but now he most certainly does! He also didn't catch any fish for three days.

Summer 1975

Three men in their twenties were heading to work very early one morning in the Devil's Garden area of Modoc County in the summer of 1975. They were traveling west out of Davis Creek on a one lane dirt road when they noticed a rather large light following them. The object made no sound and changed directions with the pickup as they drove along. Soon they decided to stop and look at it. Every time the men stopped, the object would also stop, then resume following them when they continued on. The timber was illuminated in a roughly 400 square yard area underneath the object. Finally, after being followed for about an hour, the men decided that going to work early wasn't that important and turned back towards Davis Creek. When they got close to town the object stopped and went straight up at an incredible speed. The men waited in town until after daylight to go to work.

December 1987

On Christmas Eve of 1987, several friends were gathered at a ranch home on the west side of Goose Lake in Modoc County. The weather was clear and cold; about 10 degrees below zero. Goose Lake was frozen solid with about two feet of snow on top of two feet of ice. Goose Lake is quite large: 37 miles long, 9 miles wide, with the northern third in Oregon. From the front porch, the ranch home has a spectacular view of the entire lake.

Just before midnight, despite the sub-zero temperatures, one of the guests stepped outside on the porch to smoke a cigarette. As usual, the lake was veiled in dense ground fog that rises to 30 feet and more. The man was enjoying this beautiful view when he spotted four deep red lights at the southern end of the lake. His first thought was that some drunken idiot was driving on the lake, but then he noticed that the lights were approximately 15 feet above the surface. In that instant, the lights zoomed the whole length of the lake, clear to Lakeview, Oregon, then back to the middle of the lake, then back to Lakeview and then back to the southern end. This object had traveled over a hundred miles in a matter of seconds and at the same elevation of about 15 feet.

The man yelled for his friends to come out and see this strange phenomenon. They all observed it for approximately ten minutes and all tell the same story. During this time the object "cruised" along the eastern shore, emitting a light beam that clearly lit up the shore line. It then came down the western shore and when it was even with the ranch house the beam was so bright that the six people had to avert their eyes. The object began to rise above the lake, then disappeared into the upper atmosphere at a fantastic speed.

The six people admitted to doing some light drinking, but were in no way inebriated.

The Late 1980's

In the late 1980's a group of people were driving home from a high school basketball game. The game had taken place in Cedarville, Modoc County, California. The people involved in this sighting were driving home to a small town 25 miles to the north. There were several cars in the group and they noticed upon leaving town an unusually bright light over a mountain to the north. They watched what appeared to be a helicopter as it traveled a distance of approximately ten miles. The object seemed to be moving down the mountain.

The group lost sight of the object when they entered a forested area. Then, all at once, they were directly underneath it. All the cars pulled over to watch the object as it hovered about thirty feet above them. It was about fifty feet across, with a bunch of regularly colored lights roughly in a circle configuration. It had two blue lights towards what they thought was the back.

There was something that looked like a fan cover on the underside, with a dim light emanating

downward. There was a slight humming noise. One viewer said he wanted to get out and get a better look, but his wife had already activated the automatic locks. When the dim light hit this particular car, the object flew off quickly to the southeast and disappeared. They all stated it wasn't one of the little jets that fly in the area. After the object had disappeared, the cars continued on their way.

The next night was a ball game and one man from one car approached a woman driver from another car and whispered in her ear, "Did you see what we saw last night?" The woman whispered back, "Yes, we saw what you saw last night."

August 1992

The following account is presented, as accurately as possible, in the exact words of the person involved:

"My boss sent me into the Warner Mountains to check on his range cows and put out salt. This was the first weekend of August 1992 and he said I could take a couple of days off, so I brought my tent and bedroll and my friend's nine year old son. We set up camp and went to bed early. It was a very warm, clear night so we decided to leave the rain fly off my dome tent and watch the stars through the mosquito netting. This is a large tent and it affords a wide view of the spectacular stars.

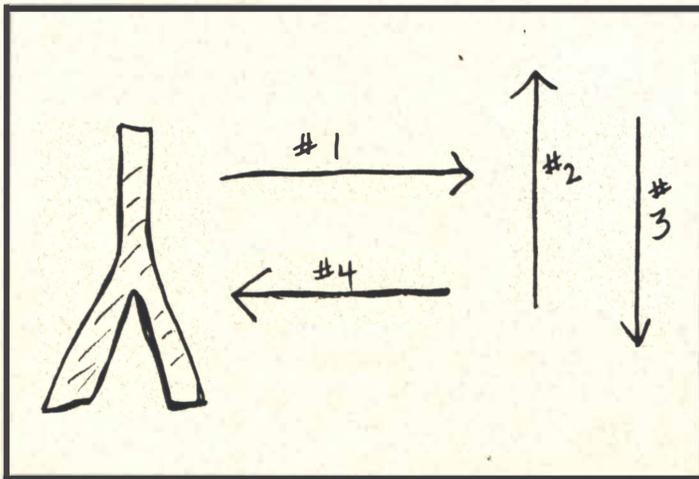
"At about 1:10 a.m. I was awakened by the unmistakable bellowing of a bull - right outside the tent. I was worried that the bull might trample the tent, so I woke up the boy and told him to get ready to make a run for my pickup. I walked out and the bull was only ten yards away. He was extremely agitated; bellowing and pawing the dirt. I knew this bull, a brindle colored Short Horn. He was usually always gentle. I figured that he was looking for his girlfriends, so I picked up a pine limb and came at him, hollering. It worked, he moved on to the south, far enough to be of no threat. So I went back to bed.

I was lying on my back watching the stars and trying to fall to sleep, when directly above me, about 70 feet I saw a huge circular craft drifting very slowly above the pine trees. It was perfectly round and I was looking straight up at the bottom. It was very dark in color, black or charcoal gray and I could see appendages very similar to antennae. I would estimate the diameter to be at least 90 feet and the craft made absolutely no sound. I stood outside my tent and

watched it slowly move to the north, casting a shadow in the mountain meadow until it went out of view. I still have no idea of what it was, but do not feel it was of this world. Consequently, I later learned that the bull was missing, no sign of him anywhere."

October 6, 1993

On Wednesday evening, October 6, 1993, between 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., a middle-aged woman observed a star colored object flying above the mountains, in a remote area in northeastern Modoc County, California. The object resembled an inverted "Y." The woman stopped and watched it for approximately 45 minutes. During this time the object was observed "dancing" in an unusual pattern, (see below). The person did not feel threatened or afraid.



The preceding accounts are a small representation of the many unexplained phenomena occurring in Modoc County. In the future we would like to examine in further detail other incidents that have happened here, including cattle mutilations and abductions.

CASE BRIEFS

After this year's MUFON Symposium, No. California State Director, Virgil Staff, visited New Mexico. During his stay he investigated a series of strange events that happened to a family in Belen. This case is particularly interesting as it focuses on the experiences of young children. Since the word "being" can have

several different meanings, to ease the burden on our readers it will be spelled with a capital B in the following cases.

**CASE 1: THE NIGHT WATCHMAN
COMETH**

In the spring of 1993 at approximately 12:30 a.m., Aaron lay on his bed at his home in Belen, New Mexico. There was a small light behind the bed and another in the hall. In addition, "the girls have a light right on the side and it shines through the door onto the washing machine doors." Aaron was born in February, 1985 so that in the spring of 1993 he was nine years old. Also residing in this home are his mother and father, two sisters and a brother. Aaron has reported: "I was laying in bed and I couldn't go to sleep. Mom and everyone was in bed. I was just staring at the door and I saw him go by. The door was all the way open - the time I saw him he was starting to pass and then he just disappeared."

Aaron calculates that his view of the Being in the hallway was two to two and one half seconds in duration. The Being was barefoot and was walking on it's "tippietoes." The Being never looked at Aaron, and Aaron figures that "he was trying to sneak by." Aaron is four and one half feet tall and he believes the figure was maybe six inches taller. This would bring the Being to five feet in stature. Aaron weighs 70 pounds and he reports the Being was somewhat lighter. What Aaron viewed that early morning was bi-pedal, slightly bent and was viewed only in profile.

The head was small and "oval shape." There was a nose and chin and the eyes were small: "I couldn't tell the color." The hands were curled up under the chin, as in the drawing (Figure 1), although Aaron did not actually see the hands. There was no hair and he said the ear was not like ours, but was smaller and rounder. The neck was short, maybe five inches long and the tight suit was approximately one-quarter inch thick. When Aaron was asked how he knew the Being was wearing a suit, he remarked that "it stopped right here on his wrist - that's how I could tell." The suit also came up to the neck and stopped. Aaron could see the toes and noted clearly that the figure bent at the knees. General coloration was light "pinkish-bluish."

Aaron's attention was initially drawn to the hallway where he first heard footsteps. "He was just walking by real slowly and I was looking through the door and I saw this glow coming...I was just looking and

it kept on going. And right when he passed the door that's when I got up." Aaron found it easy to see the figure in the darkness because "he was glowing and I could tell he was there." The entire body glowed and it was blinking "like a machine gun." The glow extended some two inches out from the body. There was "this little glow against the wall...Five feet away from the wall you could see it against the wall...After he passed, I got up real fast and I saw the corner of his foot."

Aaron had been lying on his side facing the open door. When he sat up suddenly, he immediately thought that what he believed he had seen was all his imagination. But when he closed and opened his eyes and was unable to bring back the apparition, he presumed that what he had seen was real. It is of interest that when Aaron initially saw the figure on one side of the doorway, he could not view the entire body. What he watched developed into an entire body, but he doesn't believe it was yet a figure just the other side of the door. In other words, when it first appeared on one side of the door it "faded in," as Aaron remarked, and then when about to leave on the other side of the doorway, it "faded out." Initially it began "as a blur in the shape of a person and then the glow kept getting smaller and smaller."

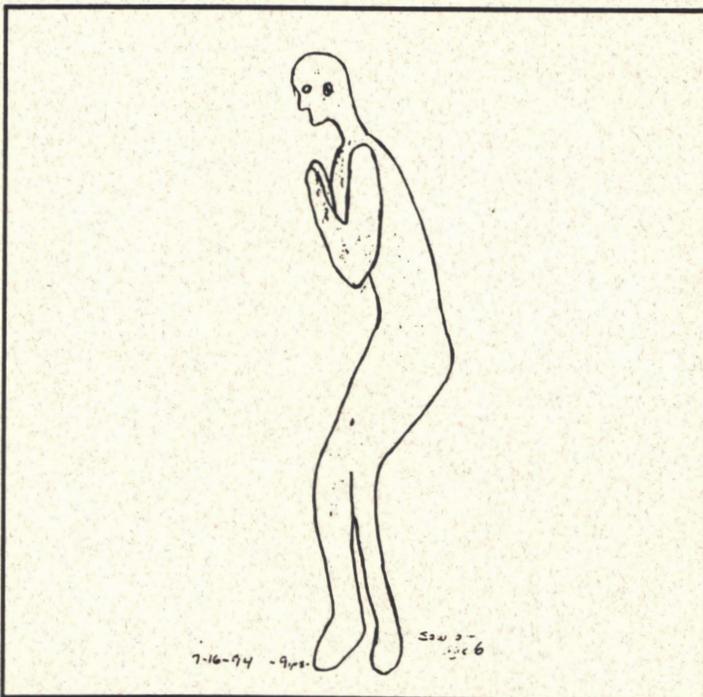


Figure 1.

At all times during the viewing interval, the Being appeared in a state of change. Aaron watched the figure walk in the door and out again, but at all

times there was the aura, in addition to the body that appeared to become more material and then less material. It is hoped that further details will be forthcoming. Aaron is adamant concerning the details and one cannot help but wonder if the time interval of the sighting might not have been greater than he believes. Since Aaron believes the figure materialized, and mostly dematerialized, in the doorway, but was not of material substance prior to entering the doorway, one might ponder the likelihood that the Being intended to be seen. The sound of the footsteps might suggest the Being wished an audience. The puzzle only grows with Aaron's statement that he did not believe that the figure was actually walking on the floor - that he believed it to be floating. At least two others in the family are having experiences and the children believe these apparitions are their guardian angels. The parents are understanding and supportive and their appears to be no fear involved.

CASE 2: THE SLEEP WATCHER

A month or so following the passage of the figure past Aaron's doorway, he experienced another anomalous event that has become a morsel of folklore in the family archives. The time was approximately 1:00 a.m. when Aaron ambled into the room of one of his sisters, Chris (a pseudonym), for reasons unknown. "One night I went to Chris's room because I was going to ask her something, but then I saw this sort of purplish glowing one."

At another juncture in the interview Aaron remarked: "I was going to see if she was up and right when I was about to walk (into the room), I saw him there and I stepped back into the hall - and I got back to the doorway and was peeking." Aaron figures that he watched the figure by her bed for maybe a minute. In comparison with what he had seen the month before, Aaron remarked that the general features were similar to the figure seen in the spring of 1993, but this one was a darker purple and was two or three feet taller. His estimate, when comparing this figure with his dad, was six feet and three inches.

Chris was asleep and the Being just stood there stolidly and never moved. Aaron's remembrance of the Being is from the knees up, since it was standing on the other side of the bed. Then it began to disappear. "From the feet I saw the glow just start disappearing - coming up from the feet." Then "I didn't see the glow or him." As Aaron remarked: "The glow is just

gradually going and as it goes he goes." Aaron's distance from the figure was approximately ten feet and he remarks that it had on a suit that was "a little thinner on it's wrists and arms."

CASE 3: GUARDIAN OF THE NIGHT

Chris was born in the summer of 1982. In the autumn of 1989, at about 21:00 hours, she appears to have become the first of the siblings to knowingly experience an anomalous event. Chris explains: "After the shower I went to the top bunk of my bed." There is a closet in the room with approximately one foot distance between the top of the closet and the ceiling. According to Chris: "I looked over there and I saw the shadow." Her drawing, Figure 2, indicates what she was able to see between the top of the closet and the ceiling. The case is very complex, but every attempt will be made here to simplify the complexities. On the first night she only saw the part she has drawn.

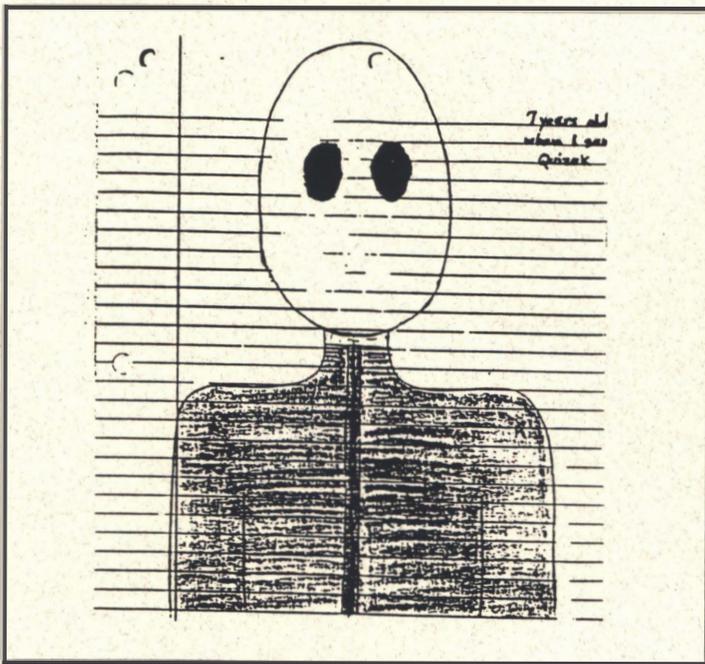


Figure 2.

Chris remarks: "At first I was scared and I said, 'Don't get scared' because I had no reason to get scared. And then I said, 'Good Night.'" Chris says that he was there all night. When she awakened in the morning she could not see him, but she knew he was there. On the following evening, the shadow figure had returned to the same location. Chris says she made friends with him. "He became my friend." On this night "I told him

I loved him. When I looked at him, I think I saw everything." That is, she saw his entire body. He was in precisely the same location as the first night, but she could see his entire body. She believes his stature was about five feet, or perhaps five foot one inch. His eyes were vertically placed and oval, and his complexion was said to be "like when people are dead." That is, he was pale and ashen. He had no nose, mouth or hair, and was wearing a silver suit with what appeared to be a zipper. At no time did she ever see him move.

Chris "felt protected. I thought nothing could hurt me or anything." When she lay there, "he was a shadow, but I could see him," and she remarks that she could see his entire body all the time when she looked at the shadow." At first, she would see just a portion of him in the shadow, but when she peered at him for about five seconds, he would shortly appear. Since the apparition's head was only about one inch from the ceiling, and being only about five feet in stature, his feet never touched the floor. "But he didn't touch the floor - he was like floating." So that on the second night, "when I saw the shadow, I saw his whole body. I saw the shadow and five seconds later his whole body appeared." The third night was similar to the second night. "He just stays there and stares at you." His eyes were larger than ours and there was "no color in his eyes. They were all black."

Initially, during the first night, Chris reports, "I was scared." In fact, she says she thought she "was looking at an alien." But after a short period of time she wasn't frightened anymore. He never glowed and, according to Chris, did not breathe. His silver suit had transverse, horizontal wrinkles. She saw this figure for three consecutive nights and then never again. It should be noted that Chris saw her anomalous Being prior to Aaron's experiences. She never saw the figure standing by her bed that was watched by Aaron. But she feels very peaceful about the presence of her friends and considers each to be her "guardian angel."

CASE 4: PLEASE DON'T LET THEM TAKE MY BABY

Dana (a pseudonym), who lives with her husband and four children in Belen, New Mexico, was born in September of 1964. LaVada Staff interviewed Dana in July of 1994 and some of this report is based on the material from that interview. Chris, her daughter, was born in June of 1982, and her son, Aaron, in February of 1985. During November of

1984, Dana appeared to be going into labor, so she was hospitalized. She was in the hospital in the third week in November because her physician believed she was having premature labor. Dana remarks that "to me it was only real hard Braxton Hicks contractions." But the monitor indicated very husky contractions and she was placed on some medication "because I was already over 50 percent effaced in my seventh month and he was a little afraid of that."

One night, after she had returned home from the hospital, "I was sound asleep and I just woke up. And it was just fear in the room. And as my eyes caught the doorway, I saw a figure standing there...He looked like a man. I could not see the face clearly, and he had something, a hat or hood, over his face and he had an implement in his hand. I could not see it clearly." He stood about six and one half feet tall. "I closed my eyes and started praying: 'Please don't let them take away my baby.' About two seconds later I opened my eyes...When I opened my eyes there was nothing there." The feeling was gone and "I was at peace."

Since that time, Dana has experienced the same "dream" at least twice. "I'm just in a normal setting and he just is there. I don't see him enter the doorway or come from anywhere. He's just there." The feeling she has is "nice and peaceful - like he really likes me - he really would like to get to know, or be with me." On this appearance in her room, Dana told the figure that she is married. "He reminds me of a cowboy kind of. That's the feeling I get from him. He's tall: about six foot six inches. He's slender and just looks normal: nothing peculiar." He has brown hair, but she has no feeling for the color of his eyes.

More recently, in the last year and a half, there have been skipped menses, a bloated feeling and some breast tenderness, but it was in this last December that she "felt everything the most." Question: How long did you go without a period? "Well, my last period was October 15th - then the end of November I had a little bloody mucus - the end of December I had a little bloody mucus. And then the 28th of January I finally had a period."

When asked about when she last dreamed about the brown haired fellow, Dana answered, "I can't even remember...Now Chris has, ah, Lacey, our little Chihuahua. Two times during the week after you left it woke us up at 2:30 a.m. barking. Everyone was asleep. Everything was locked up and Chris - when Chris woke up she saw someone peeking at the door - rather tall -

and it was gone just like that. Lacey took out after it, ran down the hall and then came back and went to sleep by Chris's side. Chris said she had the feeling that it was her friend - or what Aaron was seeing. But she said: 'they don't want me to see them because it left. It didn't want me to see him.'

"Then two nights later she (Lacey) woke me up barking. And I got up and she was running down the hall. She was running real fast, so I went after her to see what was wrong and I saw nothing. I went into the kitchen - saw nothing...I don't know, maybe she saw the Being again and it left before I could see anything. But she doesn't ever bark unless she hears something or sees something."

Annette, the youngest daughter, born in June, 1986, "told me she wishes she could see her angel, but she hasn't seen anything yet. She told me when she did that she would let me know." Lowell, the youngest son, born in November, 1988, seems to take it all in stride. According to Dana: "I guess it's kind of funny, when Chris was telling us the next day what happened that night, and what she saw, Lowell looked at her and he says: 'That was what Aaron saw wasn't it?' She says, 'Well, I'm not sure Lowell.' And Lowell says: 'Yes it is Chris - you're seeing the one that Aaron saw watching you.' And she said: 'Well, we don't know for sure Lowell.'"

ARTICLES

THE COAST WEEKLY Part IV

This is the fourth in a series of installments we've taken from a feature article originally published in the November 4 - 11, 1993 issue of the Coast Weekly, Monterey County's largest circulation newspaper (based in Seaside, California). Because the Coast Weekly is a regional publication and the article focused specifically on local UFO activity, we asked for and received permission to reproduce it in its entirety. Many thanks to Chuck Thurman for sharing this interesting information with our *Case Briefs* readers.

In the face of government denial and a lack of research done by major universities or research facilities it has been left to independent researchers and grassroots groups like MUFON to take on the task of

gathering information to support the theory of extraterrestrial visitors.

"We get information fed to us via a UFO hotline in Washington State with somebody on the line 24 hours a day," Velez says, describing the MUFON research process. "The information is then disseminated to state directors who screen it to see if it's something he knows about." Providing there is no known prosaic explanation for the sighting, sighting information is then passed on to a state section director with a county-wide jurisdiction.

"Once it gets down to that level, it's given to a field investigator who makes inquiries, by phone, usually. If it sounds like there's more to the story - like traces, contact, marks - then people will go out and look at the area with camera, Geiger counter, compasses in hand to try to investigate all the physical aspects."

These grassroots efforts have yielded enough circumstantial information to provide scientists like Friedman with enough evidence to believe that something is going on.

"The case for flying saucer reality is far better than the case against most convicted criminals," Friedman says in *UFOs and the Alien Presence*. "People say there is no physical evidence. Well, if a footprint and a fingerprint are physical evidence, then the physical trace cases are certainly physical evidence. And the same things keep happening all over the world."

What it all means, nobody seems quite certain. The most frequent three words heard in researching this story were 'I don't know.' All of the people we spoke with were extremely sincere and even though, quite frankly, we expected to find a high 'flake' factor, everyone seemed as rational as might be expected in these closing, confusing years of the 20th century.

MUFON's Velez thinks perhaps the answer lies beyond the reach of Western logic. "I don't ever think we're ever going to solve this thing through Western scientific means. I think it's more a spiritualistic thing."

Meanwhile, research into UFOs and aliens continues, mostly by earnest amateurs and a brave handful of scientists who are willing to put their reputations on the line by even touching the subject. Will we ever find the answer? Maybe. Maybe not. At the very least, the subject offers up a helluva good mystery, and one that has yet to be explained.

* * * * *

ON THE UFO TRAIL

By Paul Norman

Reprinted by permission of the author. This article originally appeared in the Australian U.F.O. Bulletin, March 1994 issue, which is published by the Victorian U.F.O. Research Society, P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Vic. 3189, Australia. The article appears in its entirety, without editing. An interview with the author, Paul Norman, can be found in the Interview section of this issue of *Case Briefs*.

There were events occurring during the year 1973 which I will bring to the attention of VUFORS members, subscribers and readers. These events are already known to our 'long-time' members, but not to people who have more recently become interested in the subject. In 1973 Dr. J. Allen Hynek came to Australia to attend an Astronomical Conference. Before returning to the United States, he took advantage of the trip, to visit with UFO researchers who were personally acquainted with the main witnesses of UFO encounters in this part of the world.

One of the most outstanding cases was that of Tom Drury, Deputy Director of Civil Aviation in New Guinea. Back in August 23, 1953, Tom Drury, with his wife and two children, observed an elongated object emerge from a cloud and fly away much faster than an aircraft. This may have been a similar type of object and incident as photographed by Roy Manifold, only 21 minutes before Frederick Valentich flew over Cape Otway and reported an object just before he disappeared, never to be heard of again. The difference from the Drury Case was, the object Roy Manifold photographed was still partially camouflaged within the cloud or vapour mist surrounding the object.

Never-the-less, the Drury film, according to official investigators, shows the object flying out of the cloud at fast speed. The Drury film was sent to the U.S. Air Force after nearly a year of pussy-footing about the bush and was finally classified as unknown and returned to Australia, with frames missing.

Roy Russell, former President of the Queensland UFO Research Group in Brisbane, had been personally acquainted with Tom Drury for many years. It was Roy and his wife, Pearl, who arranged a meeting in their home for Dr. Hynek to meet Drury for an interview and details.

No acknowledgment has ever been made of Australian UFO researchers, Mr. and Mrs. Russell for

their hospitality in arranging this important contact concerning this outstanding Australian case.

In September of 1973, VUFORS arranged a meeting for Dr. Hynek at his request, with the Rev. William Gill, a key witness to the series of sightings which occurred in New Guinea in June 1959, where humanoids were seen standing on the "deck" of an Unidentified Hovering Object. A well-known case familiar to researchers throughout the world. (Rev. Gill's lecture to VUFORS is on sale by this Society.)

With the generous consent of Mr. Norris senior and Mrs. Norris, to lend their office space and lounge at 100 Collins Street, Melbourne, for the weekend, the President, Mr. Peter Norris LLB and Vice President, Mrs. Judith Magee, set to work to arrange for witnesses to be present, recorders for taping interviews in quiet areas, and refreshments and meals for those staying, were also organized by VUFORS ladies. This combination reception was successful in setting up a situation in which Dr. Hynek could meet and in comfort discuss with witnesses of close encounters and cases in which he was personally interested. VUFORS also provided Dr. Hynek with a prestigious venue, The Dallas Brooks Hall, in Melbourne, for his lecture to the general public, and even though there was an ushers' strike that evening, the attendance was the largest audience of his Australian tour. Prior to Hynek's visit to Australia, VUFORS was instrumental in promoting a meeting with another key witness of an outstanding Australian case.

This was the encounter which had occurred on 15th December, 1954, when Shamus O'Farrell, who at that time was a Lieutenant, flying a Naval Sea Fury fighter aircraft to Nowra Airbase in New South Wales, when two circular objects took up formation either side of the Sea Fury. The pilot called Nowra Control, where radar showed three objects flying together. O'Farrell identified his aircraft by flying an instructed flight pattern. The two objects were much faster than the Navy fighter and disappeared to the north east.

The O'Farrell encounter was one of the cases Hynek wanted to check and to interview the pilot. Peter Norris, who was VUFORS President at the time, contacted O'Farrell through his contacts to secure the pilot's cooperation. Not only was the pilot willing to meet with Hynek, but was encouraged to do so, by Sir Arthur Tange, then Secretary of the Australian Department of Defence.

At the time of his encounter, Shamus O'Farrell was a Royal Australian Navy Pilot, but had been

promoted prior to Hynek's visit. Before his retirement he served as Naval Attaché to Washington with the rank of Commodore. He was certainly an outstanding credible witness.

In 1975, the book entitled *The Edge of Reality* was published by the Henry Regnery Company, of 180 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60601, USA. The Authors of the book are Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Jacques Vallee. On page 58 of the book, a gross misstatement concerning the O'Farrell Case was attributed to Hynek, but since Vallee did most of Yeoman effort, part of the statement may have been 'edited.'

The misstatement gives the impression to be conveyed: Hynek wrote

"When I was in Canberra I talked to the chief of the Royal Australian Air Force Intelligence and his Chief Lieutenant or Aide got me aside and said that he was flying a Sea Fury one night and gave me the details."

The fact is, the meeting was ARRANGED and was the main reason for Hynek's visit to Canberra.

The statement illustrates the attitude of some individuals in the scientific community to avoid, where possible, giving credit to humble ufologists from whom a vast amount of assistance, contacts and information originates. Many examples of this attitude are reflected in *Forbidden Science* published by North Atlantic Books, 2800 Woolsey Street, Berkeley, California, 94705, USA.

Page 156 of *Forbidden Science*, Vallee states that

"during his trip to England, Hynek met the major British ufologists, men like Gordon Creighton, Charles Bowen and Le Poer Trench, most of them, he says, are literary minds who 'seem ready to believe anything.'

All this remains at the level of general discussion around the table. There was no genuine scientist in the whole bunch, he told me. This makes our own role and responsibility here all the more significant."

That statement would be justified if either Hynek or Vallee had solved the problem of the whither, whence and why of the UFO. THEY HAVE NOT and they have been in a far better situation than the majority of ufologists, to have solved the UFO enigma and produce evidence of having done so!

However, their efforts have been more active than the vast majority of the scientific community, who are at about the same state of ufology as their

forerunners were during the 1800's, when ridiculing Louis Pasteur about his invisible zoo of bacteria and germs. They could not see the germs therefore they didn't exist. (A Carl Sagan and Philip Klass type concept with reference to UFO's.)

I have just completed reading *Forbidden Science* and note that Vallee considers many of his acquaintances as 'inferior,' including those who have given valuable assistance and information. Perhaps someone should write a book on forbidden credits!

Fortunately, this attitude does not apply to all scientists in the field, some of whom do appreciate cooperation from ufologists and in this edition, we reprint a recent letter to Gordon Creighton from a scientist who expresses his appreciation for the work of the Flying Saucer Review and gives an outline of research now in progress in the Ukraine.

INTERVIEWS

A CONVERSATION WITH PAUL NORMAN

by Laura Steiger, *Case Briefs* Editor

It was July 9th, just before midnight - after a great but exhausting day of speakers and networking at the MUFON Symposium - when I was finally able to catch up with Paul Norman, Australia's long-time UFO researcher. Though the hour was late, Mr. Norman, a self-described 'nuts and bolts' man, was kind enough to grant me an interview.

Paul Norman was born and raised in Tennessee. After six years in the U.S. Navy he began a career in the power industry. He has held various positions which included Superintendent in a hydroelectric power station and Engineer in Charge in a steam electric power plant. One of the first professional organizations he joined was NICAP. He is currently Vice President of the Victorian UFO Research Society (VUFORS) and has been a member of MUFON since 1979. Mr. Norman has been a dedicated investigator of the UFO phenomena for over 41 years.

LS: When did you first become interested in the UFO phenomena?

PN: I first became interested when I saw one of the unknowns. I was in a power station in Tennessee. One came in over the power station, hovered for a half a minute, then sped away as fast as a jet - but it had approached at the speed of a helicopter.

LS: What year was that?

PN: 1953.

LS: Do you have the impression that it was just looking the power station over or perhaps trying to drain energy from it?

PN: Well, if I knew then what I know now, I would have gone down and checked the instruments. I was on call every other day and at the time I was at home reading a book and somebody yelled for me to come out. I went out and saw what I thought was a by-flying helicopter, went back to my book then realized there had been no sound. So I went back to the door and I watched it for a couple of minutes. So naturally I started paying attention to reports from there on out. It happened during a period of activity. There were other people around who saw it too.

LS: If you could choose only one sighting that you feel was the most interesting, mysterious or challenging case you have ever investigated, what would it be?

PN: Well, it would be the greatest mystery in all Australian aviation history: the disappearance of Frederick Valentich during a UFO encounter on October 21, 1978. It occurred during the biggest flap in Australian UFO history.

LS: Did you feel that the *Unsolved Mysteries* program that aired here in America last September accurately reflected the mysteries of the Valentich case?

PN: Yes, partially so. They left part of it out actually. We wanted them to picture the object as Valentich saw it. Yes, in substance what they showed was accurate, but they did not show all the details they should have, not even the complete conversation between the pilot and the flight service.

There were more reported sightings - even daytime sightings - during that day and night than any period that I have ever investigated. Valentich disappeared about 7:12 p.m., but during the day there

had been two cigar shaped craft lashed together with two silver beams flying around the area. It had been seen by 35 witnesses that we know of. We had about 300 reports that day and night, but only about 50 of them would be the real thing. When the news broke a lot of people were watching the sky and were reporting everything they saw in the way of a light. So there were at least 50 good sightings that occurred that day.

LS: Were most of the sightings within a certain distance or range of miles from the area where Valentich disappeared?

PN: They were around the Victoria, Melbourne, and Bass Strait areas, along the great Ocean Road. Some of the sightings were 100-150 miles apart. It was a pretty large area.

LS: You have worked on several world famous cases. I assume that you have had to interact with the media to some degree. What changes since 1953 have you noticed in the media? Do you find that getting an accurate report out nowadays is a little easier?

PN: There's less ridicule now than back then. The Gallop Poll in the '50's showed that only 15% of the public realized that there was anything to it (the UFO phenomena). But now its around 50% or more.

LS: Where do you feel that today's investigators should be concentrating most of their efforts or where do you think they make the biggest mistakes?

PN: I investigate the cases where you, hopefully, get tangible evidence. I'm a nuts and bolts man, however, I listen to the other stories. Actually, this hypnosis is out of my field, but I do know there is some deceptive hypnosis going on. I have encountered that; where it didn't tie in with the facts.

LS: So you would advise today's investigators to be as scrupulously scientific as they can be?

PN: You want to try and get the facts as best you can. It might not tie in with what science knows about them today.

LS: Has anyone ever directly or intentionally gone out of their way to hamper one of your investigations?

PN: No, not really. Not in my case, I've never run into that. Nobody's ever tried to prevent me from

investigating a case. 'Course they have tried to ridicule cases.

A witness, when he encounters a UFO and its a real close encounter, at least its real to him, he thinks everybody is supposed to believe it. So he goes out and starts telling his story and he starts receiving ridicule, but he doesn't know enough about the subject to defend himself. Whereas the investigators, if we get ridiculed, we just dish it right back in their lap. One of our favorite lines to use when debunkers start talking about little green men is "well the only little green men we know of are humans who are so green that they don't know what's going on." That works well with newsmen. That usually stops them.

LS: In America we have Native American tribes that have a long mythology about sky spirits. During your years in Australia have you heard anything similar about the belief systems of the native peoples? Do the Aboriginal people have mythology like that?

PN: Yes, the Aboriginals have been seeing them for hundreds of years and they consider them to be spirit lights, which are almost the same words and descriptions used in the African tribes. Actually, I have never investigated any American Indian cases back in the states.

LS: It seems there is a similarity, a belief in sky spirit mythology that many indigenous people around the world have.

PN: It could be, yes.

LS: Finally, is there any area or any issue that you would like talk about or share with our readers in northern California?

PN: Just recently I have been following up on some cases as a result of the Unsolved Mysteries program. We got a good case in northern California. One reply came from a fellow who was on an Air Force flight in Australia at about the same time as Valentich. He called into the program and said he would be willing to talk to an investigator. I believe Virgil Staff followed up on this and has spoken to him on the phone. An investigation is currently going on.

LS: You might be interested to know that on my flight out here I spoke at length with one of the flight attendants. I told her the reason I was going to Austin

was to attend the MUFON Symposium and she was very interested in learning more about our activities.

After we had landed, as I was on my way out the door, she pulled me aside and told me that she had mentioned me and my organization to the captain. She was surprised to hear that he knew about MUFON and was even more surprised when he told her that he had seen a UFO 16-18 years ago during one of his flights. He had made a report directly to J. Allen Hynek and even knew about the Symposium. I was very surprised to hear that he had talked about his sighting to his crew, as I have heard that airlines will suspend or even fire pilots who do.

PN: Many of the pilots have had sightings. On most of these flights - since 1976 I have been flying out of Australia nearly every year - I wind up on the flight deck talking to the pilots. Not so much now because of the terrorist activity, but I had a little button that I used to wear that said VUFORS and people would see it and want to talk. I would ask the pilots if they ever saw anything and I would get to hear some very interesting stories.

LS: Thank you very much for allowing me this interview. I know our readers in northern California will enjoy learning more about you and your investigations.

ROSWELL INVESTIGATION UPDATE

Last January, at the urging of Congressman Steven Schiff, the General Accounting Office began an audit of a number of government agencies, in hopes of turning up information that would end the controversy surrounding the alleged cover-up of a UFO crash in Roswell, New Mexico in July of 1947. To assist the GAO, the Air Force conducted a search into their own records dealing with the "Roswell Incident." The USAF investigation officially ended on September 8th, with the publication of their findings. At a press conference at the Pentagon, Major Dave Thurston announced that their "research did not locate or develop any information that the 'Roswell Incident' was a UFO event, nor was there any indication of a 'cover-up' by the Air Force." Instead, their findings pointed to a crashed balloon device that was used in their then-classified "Project Mogul." The announcement was no surprise to many UFO researchers, who had long ago suggested that the Air Force would point to Project Mogul as a source of the cover-up.

Congressman Schiff's response to the announcement included praise that the Air Force is supporting the GAO's ongoing investigation, but voiced concern that the Air Force, in their own search for records, seemed to focus on UFOs and extraterrestrial beings, and not the request that the GAO has been acting on. "My question about the Air Force report is whether it provides a complete accounting of all records dealing with the Roswell Incident, regardless of their content. That was my specific request," Schiff said. "At no time did I or the GAO state that my intent was to search for UFOs. I am hopeful that the Air Force's report will assist the GAO as they continue to work on their comprehensive audit. Similarly, I am confident that the professionals at GAO will do their best to provide the American people with a timely and well-documented review of their findings."

The GAO's investigation, entitled "Records Management Procedures Dealing With Weather Balloon, Unknown Aircraft, and Similar Crash Incidents" is currently ongoing.

TIDBITS

INTERNATIONAL UFO MUSEUM IN ROSWELL, NM

by Laura Steiger, *Case Briefs* Editor

After a wonderful weekend at the MUFON Symposium in Austin, an exciting star party at the world famous McDonald Observatory and two unsuccessful attempts to sight the mysterious Marfa lights in west Texas, it was my good fortune to pass through Roswell, New Mexico on my way back to the Bay Area. I had wanted to visit the *International UFO Museum and Research Center* for some time and to my delight, it was everything I had hoped for and more. Having been prepared for a real 'mom and pop' enterprise, I was pleasantly surprised by the serious presentation of information and the amount of research materials available for review. I highly recommend a visit to Roswell's International UFO Museum.

The highlight of my visit was meeting the illustrious and very personable Walter G. Haut, one of the RAAF participants in the 1947 Roswell incident. He was kind enough to share some of the museum's history with me. The museum was founded two years ago by its Board of Directors: Walter G. Haut, President; Glenn Dennis, Vice President; and Max

Littell, Secretary and Treasurer. Currently the museum is staffed by twenty dedicated volunteers.

As of mid-July over 30,200 people had visited the museum and enjoyed the various facilities. There are two research rooms, two video viewing rooms (one accommodates 12 people, the other up to 50), an art gallery and a gift store. In addition, there is a large hall with over 80 feet of free standing panels of UFO photographs and news articles. The panels have been displayed in many cities throughout the U.S. and have received tremendous acclaim. In the Video Rooms visitors may watch any of a large number of UFO related videos, including the excellent documentary of the Roswell incident, or avail themselves of the large collection of books, periodicals, audio tapes and a wide array of other research materials.

One of the nicest things about the museum is that the admission is free. Donations, however, are gratefully accepted and after you see the effort that these dedicated people have gone to you will certainly want to contribute a few bills to their glass jar. Funding this kind of enterprise is not easy, but donations, memberships in the museum and sales from the small gift shop keep the museum floating along. The overhead is costly, but at this point they are holding their own. If you would like more information about the museum or how to become a member, please call (505) 625-9495.

The *International UFO Museum and Research Center* is located at 400 North Main Street in Roswell, New Mexico and is open from 1:00 to 5:00 everyday except Christmas. If your plans will take you anywhere into the state of New Mexico, I highly recommend a visit to the museum. It is well worth the long drive and extra effort. I only wish I could have stayed longer.

OPUS GROUP FORMING

By Kathi Hennesey, *Cast Briefs* Assistant Editor

The Organization for Paranormal Understanding and Support (OPUS) will be opening its doors in the East Bay later this year. OPUS will be a non-profit organization that is dedicated to assisting experiencers of unusual phenomena and enhancing the exchange of information between experiencers, researchers, help-providers and the general public. The two primary functions of OPUS will be to operate a referral support network and a database. Several local MUFON members have assisted in the development of OPUS, along with other respected members of the northern

California UFO and parapsychological communities. OPUS has been granted it's not-for-profit approval from the California Franchise Tax Board, but they are currently waiting on approval from the IRS. They will open for business as soon as it is received. More information about OPUS will appear in the next issue of *Case Briefs*.

OPERATION RIGHT TO KNOW LOCAL UPDATE

Operation Right to Know (ORTK) will soon be selling pins and armbands to gear up for next July's week long Right to Know Campaign. Please contact Mike Jamieson at (707) 257-2102 for more information. While no major local activities are planned for the rest of 1994, our next issue will have an update on ORTK's plans to cultivate congressional interest and journalistic awareness in 1995.

MEDIA CORNER

TELEVISION & RADIO

KTVU, our Oakland Fox affiliate, reports that "Encounters" is on hiatus. However, the Fox network show "Sightings" which was canceled last year, will be returning this fall on CBS stations. In the Bay Area, it will be aired on KPIX Channel 5. In it's new hour-long format, "Sightings" debuts on Saturday, September 17th at 3:30 p.m., before moving to it's regular time slot at 3:00 p.m. every Sunday afternoon (beginning 9/25).

A new syndicated show called "The Extraordinary" will be airing in the Bay Area on KTVU Channel 2, Saturdays at midnight - after "Tales from the Darkside."

"Forces Beyond" is the name of a new show that will air on The Learning Channel this fall. Check your local listings.

"Larry King Live" is planning a 2 hour special on UFOs. Currently this show is set to air on October 1st on TNT. Check your local listings for times.

"Unsolved Mysteries" presents "Mysteries of Alien Beings" on Sunday, September 18th on your local NBC station. Ray Fowler's Allagash Abduction case will be featured, along with an interview of Harvard psychiatrist, Dr. John Mack. In the Bay Area, KRON Channel 4 will air it at 8:00 p.m.

Art Bell's "Dreamland" is still airing Sunday evenings 7 - 10 and has grown to 75 stations nationwide! New California stations recently added are: Pasa Robles, KPRL/1230 and Yucca Valley, KNWZ/106. (The July/August issue of Case Briefs printed a list of all the California stations.) No strong Bay Area stations yet...

Ralph Steiner of KPFA in Berkeley reports that the UFO show during the pledge drive last June was a phenomenal success, resulting in the more new members and the highest revenue of any other show. A 12 hour "UFO Marathon" is planned for the pledge drive next February.

FALL EVENTS

Benjamin Dean Astronomy Lectures

October 18th, 7:30 p.m., "The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence"

November 15th, 7:30 p.m., "The Big Splash: Impacts of Comets with Jupiter and Earth"

Morrison Planetarium, Golden Gate Park, SF
For more information call (415) 750-7141

MUFON Bi-Monthly Bay Area Meeting

Usually held on the third Sunday of odd numbered months.
Next meeting tentatively set for November 20th at 1:00 p.m.
Church of Divine Science, 1540 Hicks, San Jose

UFO Expo West

November 5th and 6th

The Dunfey Hotel, San Mateo, CA

For more information see the advertisement below.

4th Annual International UFO Congress Convention

November 27th through December 4th

The Peppermill Oasis Resort, Mesquite, Nevada

For more information call Bob Brown at (510) 428-0202.

The Northern California *Case Briefs: Explorations and Review* was established as a forum for the open exchange of ideas and information. The opinions and observations expressed by contributing writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern California Chapter of MUFON, MUFON International, Inc., nor the editorial staff of *Case Briefs*. Articles, news items, reviews and event information for possible publication may be submitted to: Case Briefs Editor, MUFON Northern California, P. O. Box 26585, San Francisco, CA 94126. Please include your name, mailing address and phone number on any submitted items. Those who wish to submit their articles on diskette (Microsoft Word for Windows or compatible) instead of typed pages, may do so. Upon prior request, diskettes will be returned to the authors, in the packaging in which they are received.

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November 5th & 6th, 1994

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Colin Andrews
Chuck deCaro
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Bob Dean



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