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In search of visitors from other worlds

By RAY WEISS
News-Press Staff Writer

Unidentified Flying Objects just don't make the headlines as they once did. Back in the early and mid '70s, the topic of UFOs was a popular one for TV talk shows and cocktail parties. Films such as "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" seemed to fuel everyone's curiosity about the origins of those reported saucer and cigar-shaped spaceships.

In 1973, more sightings were reported in this country than at any time before or since.

But public interest has waned in the last decade.

Fewer dedicated followers of UFOs remain, dedicated followers such as Everett Walter and Shirley Fox of Fort Myers who stick with the cause.

Both stay active in the world of UFO investigations and research, belonging to several organizations, including the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), a non-profit organization trying to resolve the mystery.

"There are an average of three sightings a day around the world," said Fox, a Fort Myers artist and MUFON area director. "There would be many more except most people are hesitant to report them because they usually have to deal with a lot of ridicule."

Southwest Florida isn't a hotbed of UFO activity, however. Over the years, sightings in this area have been made mainly in the Everglades and along U.S. 27. Possibly the most interesting case was that of Jimmy Flynn, a cattle rancher in Felda.

Back in 1965, he was hunting in the Everglades, chasing deer through the wilderness aboard his swamp buggy, when he spotted a UFO. An eerie yellow light beamed straight ahead from the huge cone. He moved toward the object to investigate, but a beam of light shot from the object's midsection and struck Flynn between the eyes, dropping him to the ground.

When he woke the next day, the object was gone. Nearby cypress trees were scorched. Flynn entered Lee Memorial Hospital, nearly blinded by the light and suffering from a deep bruise on his forehead.

The Air Force and FBI investigated but told Flynn nothing. Ten years ago, he reported in a newspaper article he was partially blind in his right eye from the encounter. Since then, Flynn no longer talks publicly about the experience, hoping to forget.

Fox and Everett can understand. Both say they have seen UFOs and have received public lampooning because of it.

"The press usually takes a sarcastic attitude toward UFOs. They think people who report them are kooks," Fox said. "But it's serious scientific work. People who don't believe in them are crazy."

On an average just 1 in 10 reported sightings end up being labeled UFOs. The rest usually turn out to be something quite explainable, such as a rocket launching or rescue at sea.

But still, there are those unexplainable objects.

Two years ago, something with a big orange light appeared in the night sky near Lehigh Acres. It appeared to have molten metal dripping from it. No one has been able to explain what it was.

Last year, two fishermen in the Everglades encountered something one still refuses to discuss.

And last week, Fox and Walter interviewed a woman in Naples who has seen UFOs on several occasions since she was 7 years old.

"We don't know why some people have repeated sightings in their life, and others have none," Walter, a retired career Navy man, said. "I'm interested in those people."

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IN SEARCH OF VISITORS CAN'T

Walter and Fox can only guess as to what UFOs are and from where they come. Maybe they visit from a different world or just a different time dimension.

"People who study this long ago gave up working on if they exist. Today, they're looking into what they are. That will answer where they're from," Walter said.

Walter would enjoy nothing better than having a close encounter with a UFO. Unlike Fox, he doesn't watch the night sky. Lights don't concern him. He's interested in studying areas where UFOs were spotted and talking with people who reported to have seen them, such as Jimmy Flynn.

"In my opinion, you won't find anything chasing lights in the sky," he said. "You reach a point where all this collecting of data gets boring. You have to have close encounters. That's where the study should be."

Fox became interested in UFOs in 1953, when she had her first of three UFO sightings. She was living in Concord, Mass., when her neighbor called her outside to look at three hazy green lights.

She called a nearby Air Force base and inquired about her sighting. Officials had no answers. A year later, Fox said she saw a football shaped object with a brilliant orange light hovering over a field near her house. A few years later, she again saw the same type of object hovering over some hills as she was driving.

Walter had just one sighting. In 1966, he was involved in a Navy training exercise on an island near San Diego. He and about 100 other men saw nine, orange sphere-shaped objects flying in a cluster at about 20,000 feet.

"It was just beautiful. They were steady, moving across the sky. They looked like a bunch of oranges," he recalled. "My whole group saw it. The whole city of San Diego saw it, and started calling radio and TV stations. No one knew what they were. It's still classified as unidentified."

A skeptic until then, Walter since has committed himself to studying UFOs. He even holds a doctorate in education in the field from Nova University in Fort Lauderdale.

"I would just like to know what they are. I think it will take a face-to-face confrontation to clarify everything, though."

Walter is now a consulting electrical engineer and researcher for MUFON.

"We don't have that many sightings reported here. Maybe not that many things are happening here. Or maybe, with the age of people being 50 and 60, they're going to bed early," he said with a smile. "If people are seeing something, they're keeping it to themselves."

Walter and Fox say UFOs are not a dead issue. Walter is in the process of plotting all sightings past and present, mainly in the Everglades area, hoping to find some pattern.

The two UFO researchers urge anyone who spots, or ever has spotted an unexplainable object in the area to write them at: MUFON, P.O. Box 164, Fort Myers, Fl. 33902. They recommend that a detailed description of where the sighting occurred, and what the object looked like be included.

The two UFO researchers will take it from there.

"For all I know there might have been a ton of sightings in the area. But people might not have known who to contact. No one should be afraid. We won't reveal their names. I don't know why all of this is made fun of. It's a serious subject," Fox said.

"People think if they haven't seen them, they don't exist. I can understand that. If I hadn't seen one, I'd have been the same way. But it's just not true. They do exist."

SAN FRANCISCO CA CHRONICLE
SEP 6 1984

Astronomer to Upgrade UFO Research

Phoenix, Ariz.

An expert on unidentified flying objects is moving his research headquarters to Phoenix, where he hopes to shift the study of UFOs "from the crackpot era to respectable science."

Astronomer J. Allen Hynek, who spent 20 years working with the Air Force on UFO research and heads the Center for UFO Studies, plans to spend \$2 million a year studying the best reported sightings

of the mysterious objects.

With the backing of a sponsor he declined to identify, the former Northwestern University astronomy department chairman and director of the Lunar Surveillance Project — part of the Apollo pro-

gram — said he will move the center's research operations to Phoenix from the Chicago suburb of Evanston, Ill. Its publicity operations will remain in Evanston.

Hynek, 74, said he chose Arizona because it is a center for astronomical research, has a burgeoning

high-technology industry, and "people in general have a more open attitude — they seem to be much more willing to explore possibilities."

"I think the time is ripe for massive research into the UFO phenomenon," said Hynek, whose book "The UFO Experience" was the basis for the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

"The job has to be taken from the crackpot era to respectable science," he said in a recent interview. "That's going to be my contribution.

I don't expect to solve the problem.

"I don't know that the solution will come within the next century, but a start must be made in making the subject respectable," he said.

Hynek, who also is a former associate director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, said that part of the problem in explaining UFOs is that to arrive here from the nearest star is beyond the capabilities of Earth's current technology.

"I think we're much in the position George Washington would have been if a helicopter had hovered over Valley Forge, landed and two men got out and began talking to other helicopters overhead," he said. "No one today would question the technology of helicopters and walkie-talkies. But how could Washington have comprehended them?"

UFOs: 11 years later, he awaits their return

By JOAN TREADWAY
Staff writer

PASCAGOULA, Miss. — A faint chill hangs in the air over the East Pascagoula River, still lit by a sinking sun. Three shrimp boats move soundlessly toward the Gulf of Mexico. Sea gulls make their last dives of the day.

On the bank, close to Highway 90, Charles Hickson stands smoking, silently watching the scene and searching the sky.

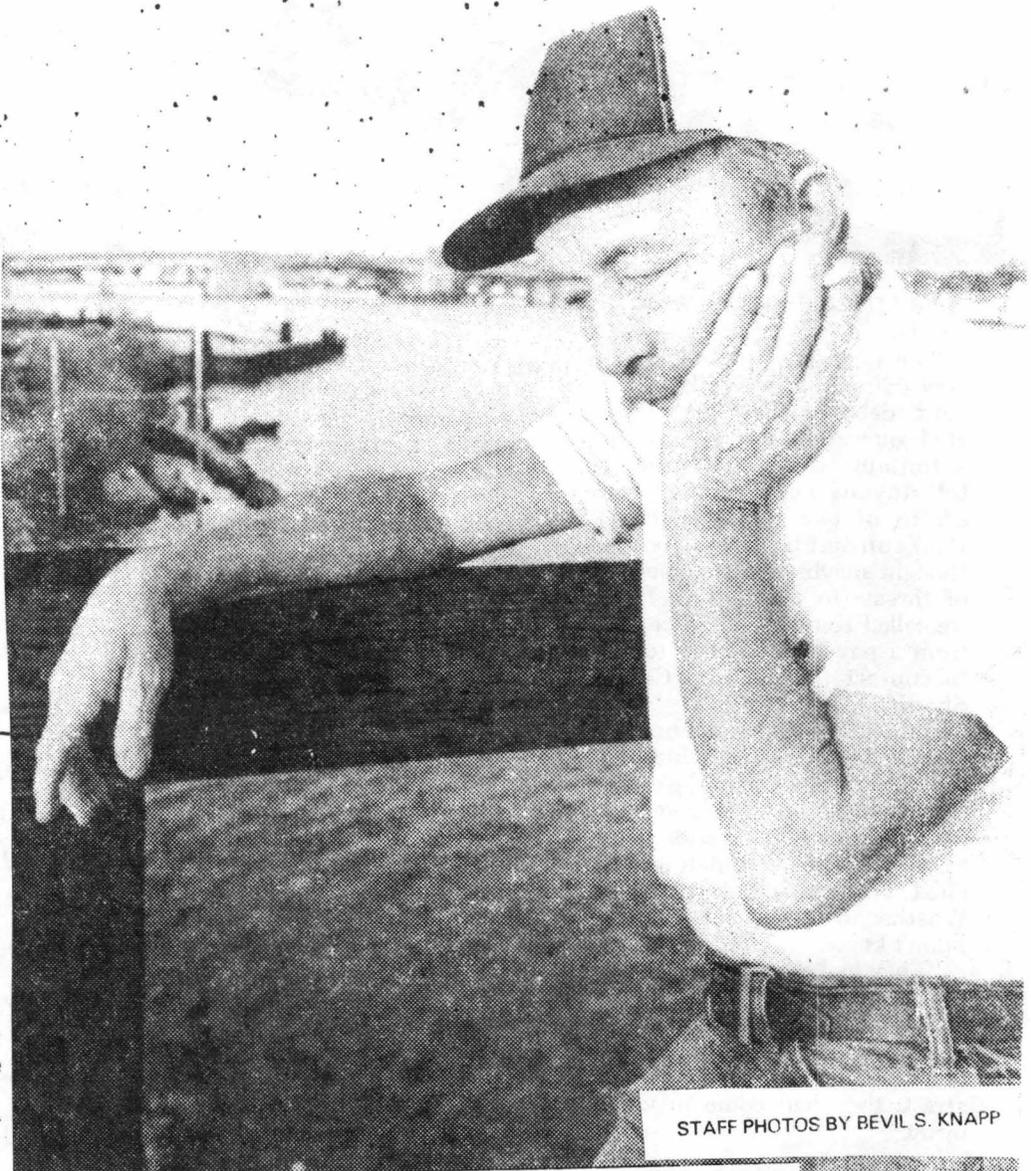
It's Thursday, Oct. 11, 1984, and Hickson has been drawn there to observe the anniversary of an event he says occurred there 11 years ago, at the same time and in the same spot, an event that catapulted him to international fame.

Hickson's story, then and now, is the same: He and a friend, Calvin Parker, were fishing off an abandoned wharf when an illuminated spaceship appeared behind them.

He stood rooted to the ground as three humanoid creatures disembarked and approached. Two carried him aboard, while the third grabbed Parker. Hickson was examined by something he said resembled a big eye, then released. He didn't see Parker inside the aircraft.

Parker also claimed, at the time, to have been temporarily abducted by aliens, but has since shied away from publicity.

The two agreed on the description of their alleged kidnapers.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BEVIL S. KNAPP

Charles Hickson recalls the night he encountered 'aliens' in Pascagoula, Miss.

Wrinkled gray skin

"They were over 5 feet tall, had very wrinkled gray skin and long arms and legs," Hickson recalled. "They had no necks or eyes, and short points stuck out from where our noses and ears would be. They had slits for mouths."

Hickson concluded they were not living beings, but robots, because they moved as if they were programmed.

Afterward, the men were left side by side near the wharf. Hickson said he was OK, except that his legs were too weak to support him. He noticed Parker appeared to be in shock, and crawled over to him.

"I was in the Army and I had seen combat in Korea — I knew Calvin was in shock," Hickson said. "At first, he couldn't talk. I shouted at him and slapped him. Finally, he screamed, 'What are they going to do to us?' but I tried to tell him that they had gone."



The spaceship appeared in the sky

the aliens had antennae

The two, who worked for the now defunct F.B. Walker Shipyard, debated their next move. Hickson was 42, Parker only 19.

Initially, they didn't want to tell anyone because they were afraid of being labeled crazy, Hickson said. "But then we thought maybe it was some kind of threat (to other people), and we called Keesler Air Force Base from a pay phone. They told us to contact the Jackson County Sheriff's Office."

Barney Mathis remembers the case well. He was the chief deputy sheriff then. Now he's chief of investigations. "I have gone over it from A to Z and, in my mind, they are definitely certain that something happened. Whether they were hallucinating, I don't know.

"They looked worried and confused," Mathis said. "They didn't appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. We didn't test for this — they weren't under arrest; they had come in voluntarily."

Passed lie detector test

Mathis also was present about two weeks later when Hickson took a lie detector test. It concluded that Hickson believed he was telling the truth. "Strange things have happened; I won't say this incident did or didn't happen," Mathis said recently.

J. Allen Hynek of Chicago, then chairman of Northwestern University's astronomy department, arrived in Pascagoula within 48 hours after the incident.

"I interviewed them and, to Hickson and Parker, it was a very real experience — they weren't faking," Hynek said. He now is a professor emeritus at Northwestern and the founder of the private, nonprofit Center for UFO Studies, which has offices in Chicago and Phoenix, Ariz.

"They were very shaken; something had happened to them," Hynek said. "I went to the site and looked for physical evidence. There was none, but it was very hard ground."

In all, there have been about 200 reports of such abductions, Hynek said. In one experiment

during the past year, a psychologist tested nine people, not knowing each claimed to have been kidnapped by aliens, he said. "She said none of them was psychotic and was flabbergasted to learn they say they were abducted."

But UFO debunker Philip Klass of Washington, D.C., who investigated the Pascagoula inci-

dent for a book called "UFOs Explained," calls it a hoax.

An electrical engineer and a technical journalist, Klass leads a group of scientists working to counteract what they believe to be growing public acceptance of pseudoscientific claims they say are not substantiated. The organization is named the Scientific

'They had no necks or eyes, and short points stuck out from where our noses and ears would be.'

Charles Hickson

Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

After checking UFO claims for nearly 20 years, Klass said he has concluded "there is not a shred of physical evidence to indicate an extraterrestrial presence in our skies.

Can be explained away

"Ninety-eight percent of the

people who say they have seen something mysterious have seen something that can be explained in prosaic terms," Klass said. The other 2 percent are hoaxes, he said.

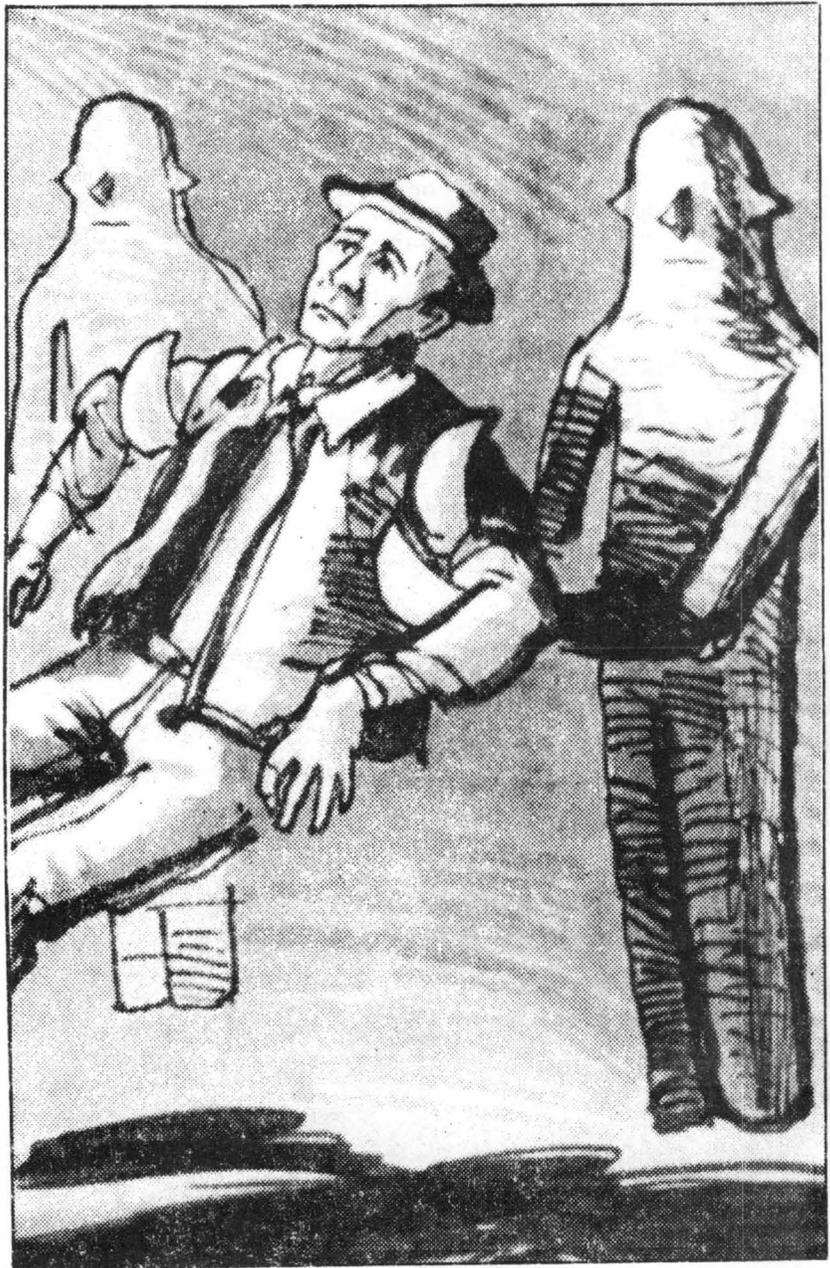
In the Pascagoula case, the polygraph examiner who tested Hickson was young and inexperienced and had not completed his training, Klass said.

The examiner, Scott Glasgow, was employed, at the time, by Pendleton Detectives Inc. of New Orleans. The company's president, Raymond Pendleton, said Glasgow, who has moved out of town, was new on the job when he tested Hickson but was fully qualified.

Klass has offered to pay for a new lie detector test for Hickson. Hickson said he would take it, provided it's done by an examiner chosen by a neutral third party, such as a law enforcement agency.

None of the hundreds of people who have asked Hickson about the incident or who have written to him have ridiculed him, he said. Nor has his fantastic claim hurt him on the job, he said. He is a pipe and steel fitter for M&M Pipe and Pressure Vessel Fabricators.

His wife and five children all support him, he said. His oldest son, Eddie, 29, said, "I believe him, about the incident, and not just 'cause he's my father — there's so much space out there, I believe God has people in other worlds."



Artist's renderings show Hickson being taken aboard ship, left, and 'aliens' abducting Hickson and Parker

Klass, though, says that if alien beings exist, as he hopes, and they manage to cross the great distances separating them from Earth, "they will have more interesting things to do than kidnap Charley Hickson and examine his navel."

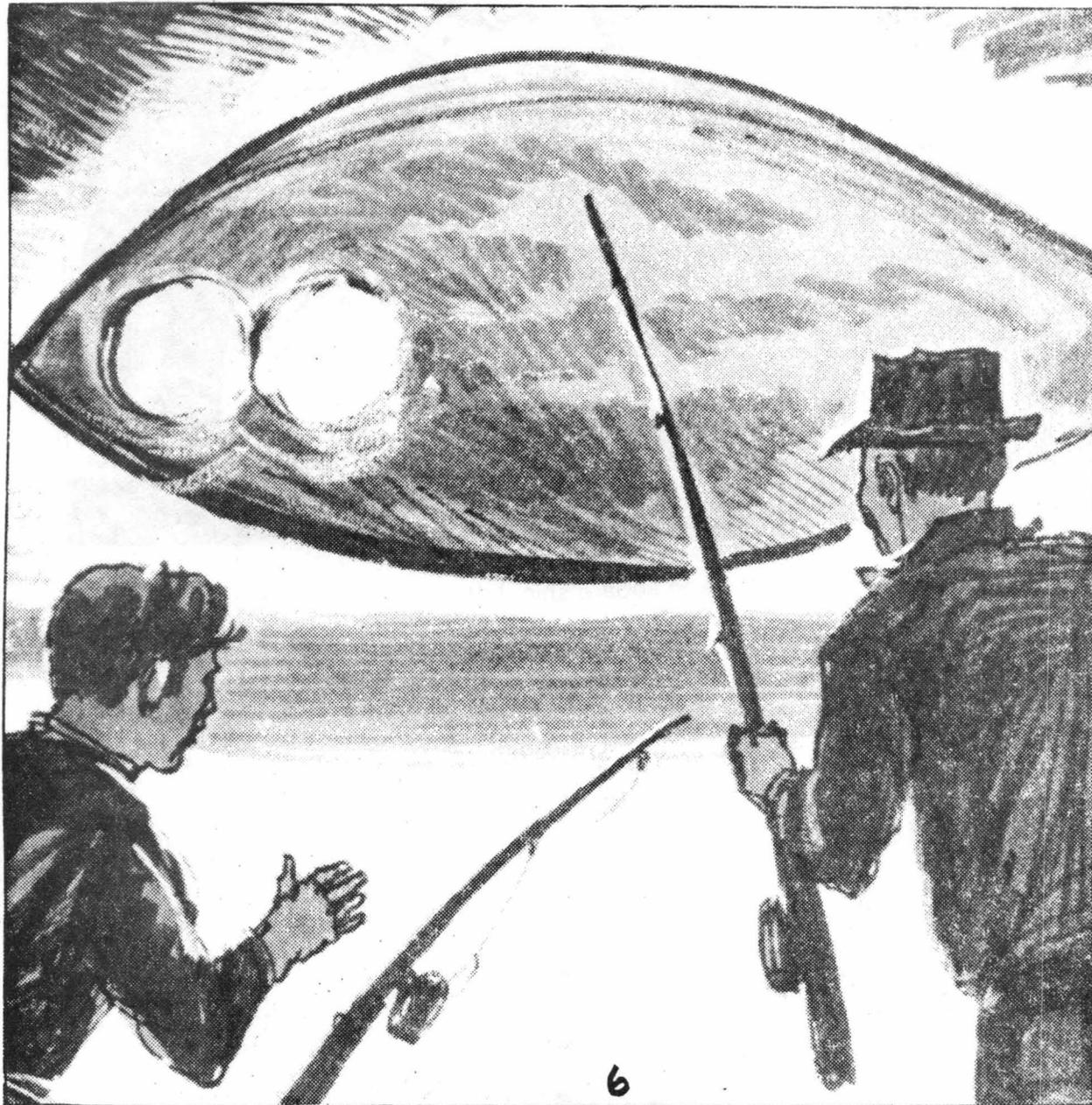
Hickson says the aliens are still in touch with him and will one day appear to him in their true form. He has written a book about his experience called "The UFO Contact in Pascagoula." A privately published edition of 2,000 copies was "gobbled up," Hickson said, and he is trying to produce a paperback edition.

Unnerved by incident.

He has spoken about his experience on college campuses and national television programs. On the Dick Cavett Show, an artist sketched drawings illustrating Hickson's story.

Parker, who could not be located, apparently has not fared as well. "He comes to see me, from time to time," Hickson said. "I don't know where he's living, but he's working in an offshore oil field somewhere."

The UFO experience has unnerved Parker, Hickson said. "I've accepted that they want to stay in contact with us," he said. "Calvin can't."



Truck-driving pair brakes for UFOs

By Katherine Lanpher
Staff Writer

The most exciting thing that was scheduled to happen this week at the Truckers Inn in Sauk Centre was the switch to new owners.

And then the truck-driving team of Robert and Jackie Bair showed up.

They had parked their tanker truck of vegetable fat and weren't going to drive anymore, they told truck stop attendants Monday, because they had been attacked on the road from Montana to Minnesota by bird-like creatures from a spaceship.

The creatures — about 8 inches high, with V-shaped heads and human legs — had followed them to the truck stop and now were surrounding it, the couple said. Then they asked to use the telephone.

"They came into the station all upset and excited and said they weren't going any further because the UFO was shooting at them," said Dorothy Sills, the office manager for Truckers Inn.

"It was strange," she said. "We couldn't see what they were seeing, let's put it that way."

The Bairs, who are from Selah, Wash., repeated their story to Sauk Centre Police Chief George Trierweiler.

Trierweiler said he received a call that morning from Jim Ketchum, general manager of Davis Transport Inc., the Yakima, Wash., firm that employs the Bairs.

"He asked me to go check on a pair of drivers of his at the Getty station and I asked him what for and he said, 'I can't say over the telephone,'" Trierweiler recalled, "but I want you to go over and see if they're OK."

The Bairs — he's 45, she's 21 — told the chief that somewhere around Billings, Mont., a bubble-shaped space ship emerged from a dark cloud and crashed into the road beside them.

"A peanut-shaped cylinder fell out of the ship and these creatures came out of the peanut-shaped cylinder," Trierweiler said the couple told him. "These creatures followed them from Billings to Sauk Centre and there were metal filings shot at their vehicle."

Trierweiler inspected the truck windshield for the filings they said were embedded in it.

"I didn't see anything in the windshield," he said, "and there were some metal filings in the truck, but maybe they had some work done in the truck."

Trierweiler later returned with State Patrol Sgt. Fred Korte, who also inspected the truck. They both strained to see the creatures that the Bairs complained were standing guard atop the telephone poles.

"I know there are certain things you can't see that you're supposed to believe — like the Lord," Trierweiler said.

"But when someone starts telling me there are bird creatures on top of the lamp posts at the Getty station and I can't see it, in my mind, it's not there."

"As far as I'm concerned, there's nothing to it," Korte said.

Sills described the Bairs as clean, neatly dressed and quiet.

At one point, she said, Robert Bair gestured at the utility poles where he said the creatures were roosting and firing shavings. He yelled, "Here comes another one now!" and ducked.

NM ST. PAUL
DISPATCH

OCT 10 1984

"They seemed to believe what they were saying," she said.

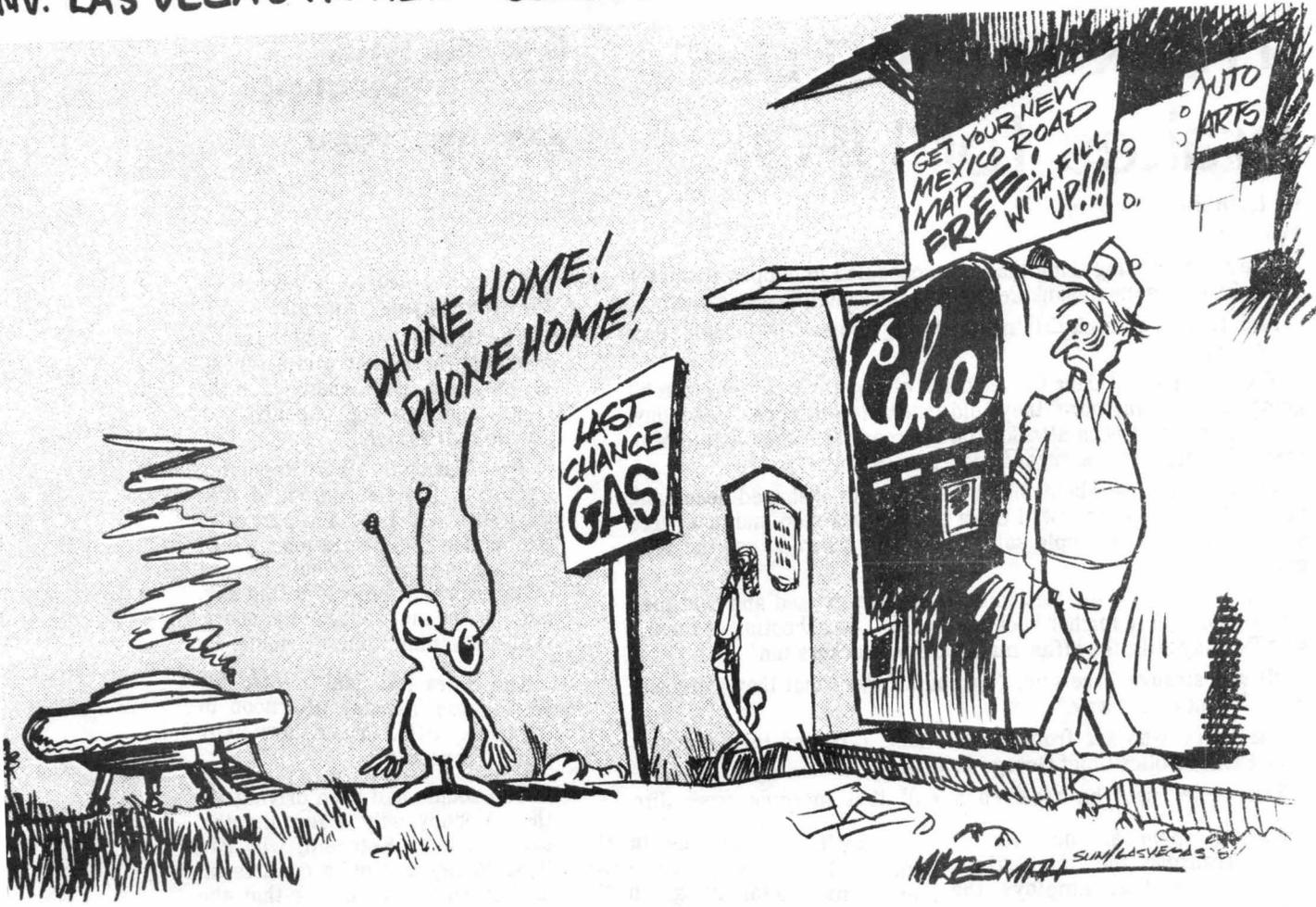
The Bairs spent Monday night at a motel where, they told a reporter, they saw metal shavings in the room and writing appeared on Jackie Bair's thigh.

The National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle confirmed that the Bairs had filed a report with the private organization. There also was a report in South Dakota of large bright objects in the sky, but no peanut-shaped cylinders, said spokesman Robert Gribble.

The Bairs left Sauk Centre for Washington Tuesday afternoon in the truck, with a driver flown in by Davis Transport.

The couple had been driving for the company only a few months, said manager Ketchum, who had little to say except to confirm an earlier statement of his that the pair are "plain-old everyday folks."

"They're not crazies," he said.



Alien saucers crashed in NM, say '77 reports

By LISA GODWIN
SUN Staff Writer

Nine aliens aboard three flying saucers that crashed in the mountains of New Mexico 25 years ago were recovered by the U.S. government and kept secret until 1977, according to a UFO investigator.

The aliens weren't green, although they were little. Evidence doesn't indicate whether they were men or women. Each alien was about three feet tall, and was dressed in soft metallic cloth, and was wrapped in bandages.

Their aircraft was circular with raised centers and was 50 feet in diameter, according to the Air Force personnel who found and documented the evidence.

There are two pieces of declassified documentation so far that indicate the Los Alamos, New Mexico, crash and subsequent nine unusual deaths actually did occur. One of those documents is a letter from an FBI agent assigned to the Strategic Air Command to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, in which the aircraft and aliens are acknowledged and described.

Those two documents are a only a part of the growing evidence that indicates the United States government knows a great deal more about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO's) than it likes to admit publicly, said Robert Hastings, an independent UFO researcher and lecturer.

"All this may sound like science fiction, an illusion, or an elaborate practical joke," Hastings told a small audience in Las Vegas Tuesday. "This is no laughing matter."

After watching the half-hour film with slides of UFO sightings, reading copies of previously classified government documents, and listening to Hastings lecture "UFO's: The Hidden History," a skeptic could be swayed.

Hastings and other UFO researchers have since the mid-1970s, with the beginning of the Freedom of Information Act, laboriously filed lawsuits against the federal government to change classified documents to declassified documents.

So far they've gotten about 400 documents that prove the government

has since the late 1940s conducted in-depth studies into aerial phenomena. There is evidence that the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, and branches of the military have all conducted massive investigations.

These are the same agencies that scoff at private citizen sightings of possible UFO sightings, Hastings said, and publicly dismiss the sightings as solar reflections on clouds, as hailstones, and as small meteors. There is also the unspoken explanation that imagination can do strange things.

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The vast majority of the sightings, which began in the 1940s, occur in strategic places in the United States, Hastings said. The crafts, usually described as saucer- or disc-shaped, usually are sighted near important military bases and atomic weapons research centers.

According to a memo from the Office of Scientific Intelligence dated Aug. 23, 1950 to J. Edgar Hoover, "since 1948, approximately 150 observations of aerial phenomena have been recorded in the vicinity of installations in New Mexico." The memo concluded by saying that "a number of

observations have been reported by different reliable individuals at approximately the same time."

In a Dec. 2, 1952 CIA interdepartmental memo, a CIA official wrote that "the reports of incidents convince us that there is something going on that must have immediate attention... Sightings of unexplained objects at great altitudes and travelling at high speeds in the vicinity of major U.S. defense installations are of such nature that they are not attributable to natural phenomena or known types of aerial vehicles."

Reports of sightings occurred in November, 1975, at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana. There were reports from military personnel of an object with red, orange, and yellow lights and with a black, tubular object emitting from it.

There was an "aerial dogfight" between two F-4s and a UFO in Tehran, Iran on Sept. 19, 1976, reports of which were sent to all major military and political personnel in both countries, according to documents.

There have been even more disturbing reports of UFO, Hastings said, in

the form of human contact with aliens. He, like movie directors, call this a "close encounter of the third kind."

He called 1973 the "year of the humanoid," in which there were more than 50 reports of humans being approached by aliens. Many of those were hoaxes brought on by publicity from genuine incidents, he said.

One of the most publicized accounts came in 1973 from two Alabama men who were fishing and said they were abducted by aliens in a flying saucer.

In the fall of 1961 a New Hampshire couple was driving at night and saw a UFO approaching their car. As the object drew nearer, the couple lost all memory until two hours later when they were miles from their original location. Under hypnosis, the couple drew and described bizarre accounts of the people and events they encountered on their two-hour sojourn.

Although scientists and researchers have managed to declassify 400 previously classified documents, Hastings said that's only the beginning. Even though many of the documents indicate certain sightings and events, absolute proof will not be available until all documents are available.

TORONTO ONT CANADA
ON-THE GLOBE & MAIL
SEP. 29 1984

Globe criticized for story on UFOs

A nuclear physicist who lectures on unidentified flying objects told an Ontario Press Council inquiry committee yesterday that UFOs are the "story of the millennium," a story being suppressed by the Canadian and U. S. governments.

Stanton Friedman spoke of the "Cosmic Watergate" during a hearing into his complaint against The Globe and Mail, which published a story on Jan. 21 headed: Rage in 1960s, UFO 'sightings' just fade away.

The story was based on information gleaned

from documents declassified by the Department of National Defence in 1982. Mr. Friedman said information was selected from the documents in a misleading fashion.

Mr. Friedman wrote a letter to the editor pointing out what he considered to be inaccuracies or false impressions in the story, but The Globe replied that it did not print the letter because of space considerations and volume of correspondence.

The newspaper subsequently published an editorial on the subject

of UFOs, which was intended to be humorous.

Mr. Friedman told the panel yesterday that The Globe's story "misrepresented the situation entirely," and said the newspaper's refusal to correct the information and impressions in the story was reprehensible.

He also said he objected to the tone of the editorial, and said it was misleading and inaccurate.

He said the original UFO story left the impression that "there is no cover-up of the Cosmic Watergate."

The U.S. and Canadian governments "contain small numbers of people who know UFOs exist. They haven't been releasing the truth because the nation that controls the (extraterrestrial) technology will rule the planet," he said.

"If the planet is being visited by people from another planet, this is the story of the millennium. It's frustrating to be sitting on the biggest story there is, and they're (the news media) not doing anything about it."

Globe editor-in-chief Norman Webster told the committee that the reporter who wrote the UFO story was not told how to approach or

write it. But Mr. Webster said that, "editorially, we take a skeptical view" of the subject.

He said The Globe is not suppressing information about UFOs. "I don't think it is our responsibility to break open the Cosmic Watergate."

Laszlo Buhasz, The Globe's assistant editor, told the committee that the subject of UFOs is "no more immune to tongue-in-cheek editorials than any other subject."

The committee is to make its recommenda-

tions on Mr. Friedman's complaint to the press council next month.

George Plagenz

Passages from the Bible intrigue UFO believers

LET THE FAA and the Air Force hoot. They need to get religion.

Haven't they ever read Genesis or Ezekiel in the Old Testament?

While thousands of people in New York's Westchester County and parts of Connecticut were seeing UFOs this summer, the Federal Aviation Administration dismissed their cries for an investigation.

The FAA said, "Why would we care about a UFO?"

The Air Force long ago — dealing with reports that aliens were invading our airspace — adopted the stand, "There's nothing to it."

WELL, MAYBE SO. But some believers in UFOs say it's happened before, and what's to say it can't happen again — and is?

The author of *The Intelligent Man's Guide to Flying Saucers*, T. M. Wright, says that when "Ezekiel saw the wheel," it wasn't his imagination or a hallucination (as most Bible commentators believe). Wright says Ezekiel was witnessing an invasion from outer space.

Erich von Daniken, who wrote *Chariots of the Gods?* is another who considers Ezekiel's visionary account to be a description of the actual landing of an interstellar spaceship.

VON DANIKEN claims, "He described (in the first chapter) a craft that comes from the north. It gleams, emits rays and raises a gigantic cloud of desert sand. To our present way of thinking, what he saw was one of those multipurpose vehicles we use in the desert and swam-



py terrain. To Ezekiel it looked as if each wheel was in the middle of another one."

Another Bible passage that has intrigued UFO believers occurs in Genesis (6:4): "There were giants in the earth in those days." In von Daniken's view, those giants must have been creatures from outer space who are referred to in other verses as "sons of God." ("And it came to pass ... that the sons of God saw the daughters of man that they were fair and they took them wives of all which they chose.")

The primitive Earth people, having observed that these people came out of the sky, quite naturally regarded them as "sons of God," says von Daniken.

The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (told of in Genesis 19) was carried out, von Daniken believes, by invaders from another planet who decided to "wipe out a human brood they found unpleasant."

THE "ANGELS" who came to Lot, offering him and his family a chance to escape the imminent annihilation of their cities, were not angels, but spacemen, von Daniken says. He notes that the Bible story reports they ate and slept that night at Lot's house — strange pastime for angels.

Von Daniken feels it was a nuclear explosion that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.

"Since the dropping of the atomic bomb on Japan," he writes, "we know the kind of damage such bombs cause and that living creatures exposed to direct radiation die or become incurably ill."

For that reason, says von Daniken, the "angels" directed Lot and his family not to look around as they fled the city.

"We all know the story," he says.

"Lot's wife turned around and looked straight at the atomic sun. Nowadays no one would be surprised that she fell dead on the spot."

Fascinating as von Daniken's arguments are, many people dismiss them as utterly implausible.

There are, on the other hand, many respected scientists who concede the strong likelihood of intelligent life on other planets.

THIS HAS CAUSED theologians to conjecture about the spiritual development of the inhabitants of other worlds. Do they believe in God? Are they "saved"? Is Jesus their redeemer from sin, or did God send somebody else to "save" them?

Laugh if you want to at the people in Westchester County who think they may have seen something from outer space. I'm maintaining a holding pattern.

ENGLAND

BOLTON EVENING NEWS OCT 11 1984

I'm convinced they exist, says Steve

The UFO 3/28 hunter

By NIALL DONNELLY

MAN'S continuing bid to crack the baffling mystery of UFOs is being spearheaded from a terraced house in Leigh.

For that is the home of UFO expert Steve Balon, a man who has dedicated much of his spare time to collecting and studying evidence of extra-terrestrials.

He is local sightings co-ordinator for the Manchester-based Direct Investigation Group of Aerial Phenomena, and his home in Knowsley Street, Leigh, contains a catalogue of photographs, files and tape recordings of people who claim to have seen UFOs.

And while sceptics might dismiss such sightings as rubbish, 32-year-old Steve, who works at a local cable manufacturers, is one man who is convinced there must be substance in them.

He said: "After 20 years of investigating UFOs I am left in no doubt that there is definitely something going on. It is easy for people who don't know what they are talking about to ridicule us, but we have heard of sightings that defy explanation."

UNEXPLAINED

Only two weeks ago two of his friends in Leigh spotted a brilliant white oval object flying low and fast through the sky late at night. So far Steve and his colleagues have been unable to come up with a logical explanation for it.

It simply becomes yet another unexplained

sighting to be added to his ever-growing list, and yet he estimates he only hears of less than 30 per cent of all UFO sightings in North-west Manchester.

Steve believes one of the reasons for this is people's reluctance to come forward. He said: "When they see something strange, people don't tell anyone about it because they are frightened of being ridiculed."

Such is the interest in the subject, that he and several other "ufologists" mounted a UFO watch on Winter Hill every Saturday night for three years.

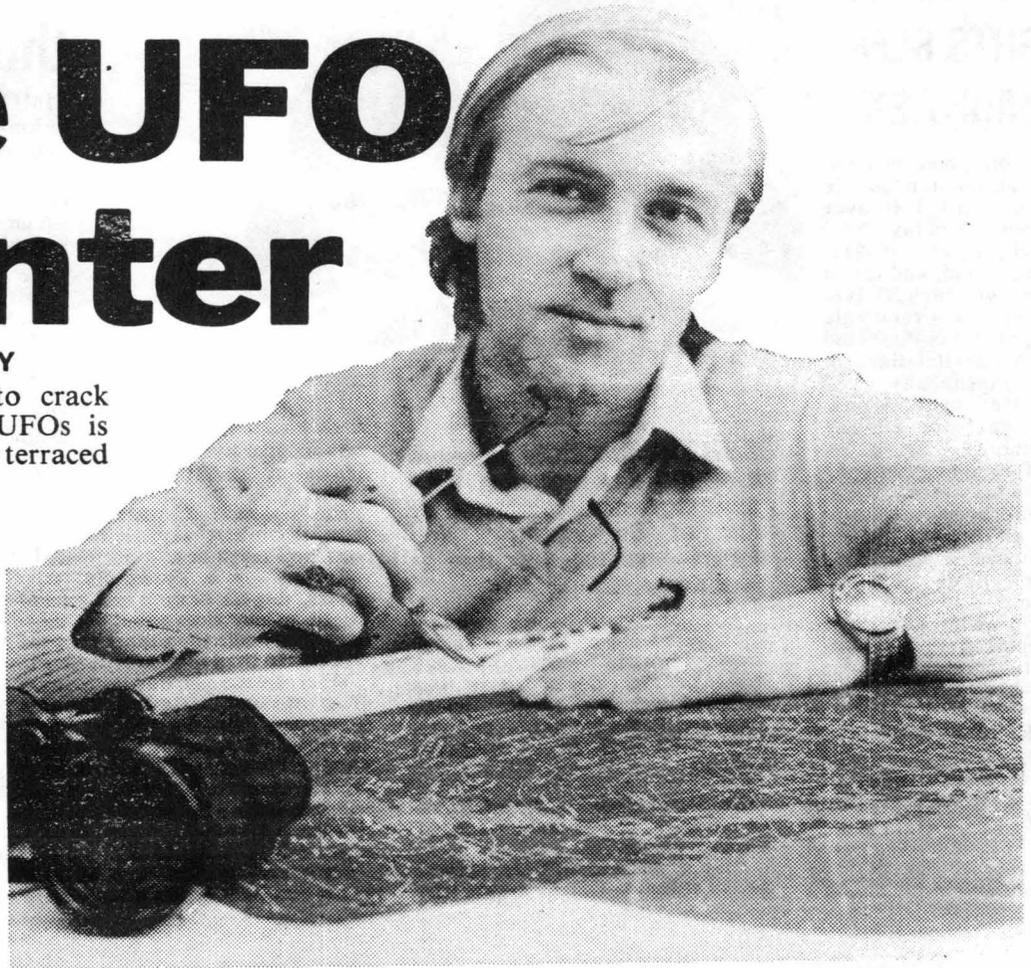
They recorded strange movements in the sky

and investigated them. While some of the movements could be easily explained, others still remain a mystery.

Bolton and its surrounding areas have a long history of unexplained UFO sightings, and Steve is familiar with many of them. He says the reports of flying objects tend to come in waves.

A couple of UFO sightings can lead people to be more vigilant and he will then be flooded with cases.

After many years as a keen ufologist, Steve is still as enthusiastic as ever. The search continues for conclusive proof of objects from outer space.



Steve Balon checks his charts (above) and then goes UFO spotting (below).
Pictures by TOM ARMSTRONG.



Teenagers spot a UFO

MYSTERIOUS LIGHTS SEEN IN NIGHT SKY

TWO Sittingbourne teenagers claimed a double sighting of a U.F.O. over the town on Sunday.

Kevin Pook, of Staplehurst Road, and Linda Stump, of Park Drive, say they saw a rectangle of bright lights dissected by two parallel lines of lights in the sky over Shell Research, Woodstock, early on Sunday morning.

Half an hour later they saw the mysterious lights descending while they were at the junction of Homewood Avenue and Borden Lane, Sittingbourne.

Kevin and Linda, both 19, reported their sightings to the police and have been questioned about them by an official from R.A.F. Manston.

They cannot explain what they saw, but say they have never seen anything like it before.

The first sighting came as the couple were returning from a visit to friends



U.F.O. spotters Kevin Pook and Linda Stump. EK1801/6

just after 2 a.m. As Kevin was driving towards Woodstock from Lynsted Linda spotted the lights in the sky.

They watched the lights for a few minutes as they slowly moved towards and beyond Shell Research. They then drove to Shell Research to ask if the security guard had seen anything. He said he had been watching his monitor and had not seen anything.

As they approached Sittingbourne they saw the lights again. They were the same shape and seemed to be descending. Keith and Linda got out of

their car to watch. They flagged down another car and the driver and passengers saw the lights as well.

The Sittingbourne couple were able to take two photographs of the lights before they disappeared from view. The photographs have not been developed.

Kevin says he does not believe in U.F.O.'s but can come up with no explanation for what he saw. He said if someone else told him they had seen a U.F.O. he would probably not believe them.

SEP. 27 1984

Mystery burn from the sky

TIMOTHY Fender wants to know if a UFO burnt a hole in his suit.

A sizzling hot piece of metal fell from the sky and left an inch wide gash on his best blue suit.

He was walking in Courtrai Road, Lewisham, when he saw a bright object in the sky.

"It was so high up — way above all the houses," said 60-year-old Timothy, of Morley Road, Lewisham.

As he crossed the road, part of it fell on him. "I heard a splash before me but I didn't see anything," he said.

Later, at home, he discovered some shrapnel pieces of silver metal, and when he went back he found another piece.

Timothy has been trying to find out who or what is responsible since the sky-fi burn happened on September 4.

"My wife is really scared. She thinks the bits of metal might be radioactive. She wants me to keep them outside the house but I have been telling her it is all right," said the Greenwich Hospital porter.

His wife Myrtle, 54, thinks it could have come from a faulty spaceship.

WILMSLOW EXPRESS
ADVERTISER, CHESHIRE

OCT 4 1984

UFOs not ours say MIA and BAe

SIGHTS of aircraft over Nether Alderley recently have brought 'not guilty' responses from both Manchester International Airport and British Aerospace, Woodford.

The Unidentified Flying Objects have been a regular feature of life in Nether Alderley over the past two weeks according to a local resident, but both International Airport and British Aerospace have denied responsibility for them.

The resident claimed that the air-

craft had been passing over Nether Alderley "every day, all day, for about a fortnight" — and even as she spoke yet another one buzzed over her home!

Telephone calls to both parties failed to shed light on the matter, and so, baffled, she turned to the Express Advertiser for help.

Similar telephone calls from the Express Advertiser office have met with a similar 'not us' response and the aircraft remain unidentified. Perhaps we should contact Jodrell Bank!

UFO TAPE 'IS NOT A HOAX'

IPSWICH EVENING STAR, SUFFOLK
OCT 25 1984

EVENING STAR, Thursday, October 25, 1984 7

A HOAX'



Two of the authors, Brenda Butler, left, and Dot Street, on the site of the alleged landing of the spaceship in Rendlesham Forest.

A DRAMATIC tape recording, allegedly made by panic-stricken American servicemen during a close encounter with an alien space craft in a Suffolk forest, is authentic, their former base commander has exclusively told the Evening Star.

The chilling 20-minute recording, a major new part of the evidence gathered by UFO investigators probing a claimed double landing in Rendlesham Forest, near Woodbridge Airbase, was given to the researchers by former base commander Col. Sam Morgan.

The Star has traced Col. Morgan to the space command headquarters linked to the Peterson Airbase, Colorado, and in a frank transatlantic telephone conversation he said, "I do not think it is a hoax."

★★★★

The tape recording is due to be played at a London Press conference today to launch "Sky Crash — A Cosmic Conspiracy," a book on the alleged incidents which took place on the nights of December 27 and 29/30, 1980.

The incidents were first reported in the Star and the book's authors, Dot Street, of Blackberry Way, Oulton Broad; Brenda Butler, of Mafeking Place, Leiston, and national UFO investiga-

tor Jenny Rendles, claim there has been a conspiracy to cover up the truth about what happened.

Col. Morgan told the Star, "I think the men really were out there that night and they saw something which frightened them."

★★★★

"You can hear their excited conversations and references to frightening strange lights. The only opinion I have is

**Reports by
JOHN GRANT**

that, based on the evidence available, those guys definitely saw something which cannot be explained.

"As for them fabricating it all and putting on an act, I do not think they could have pulled it off."

He gave the tape, part of which had since been inadvertently erased, to researchers because "there was no reason not to," added Col. Morgan.

★★★★

The recording was made during the second alleged close encounter by the then deputy base commander Lt. Col. Charles Halt. His report to the Ministry of Defence on both incidents gave the book's authors a major breakthrough when it was leaked.

As previously reported by the Star, it was the first time there had been official confirmation that unusual lights and objects had been seen, and traces of radiation had been found in imprints on the ground and on a tree at the site.

In subsequent evidence given to the investigators, witnesses claimed that in the first encounter three silver-suited "entities" were seen repairing their stricken space craft and some witnesses claimed that contact was established with them.

★★★★

When his base in Oklahoma was contacted by the Star, Col. Halt was said to be on duty at a "classified location" and was unavailable for comment.

The book was written before the investigators heard the Halt tape but they had heard from witnesses about passages in it. They claim it tells of a "red, sun-like light" which flies through the forest and silently explodes into multiple coloured lights.

A small craft, similar to the one in the first alleged encounter, was seen on or close to the ground.

★★★★

Col. Halt and a small number of men with him

quickly retreated amid panic and shouting.

The book concludes that incidents undoubtedly did take place and puts forward several possible explanations if the UFO landing claims are untrue.

★★★★

Included among the authors' suggestions is the alleged possibility that the UFO story might be a blind to cover-up tests on weaponry which went wrong.

Or, they say, the Americans might even have recovered by helicopter part of the Russian satellite Cos-

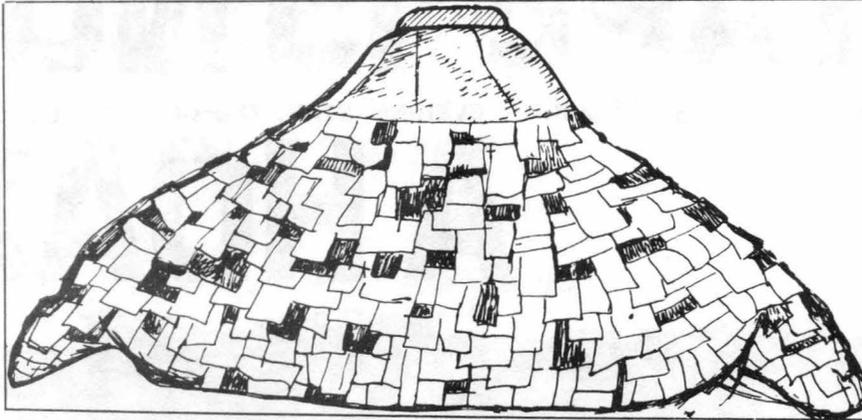
CON'T

mos 749 under cover of darkness when it was accidentally dropped into the forest.

In any event, they are call-

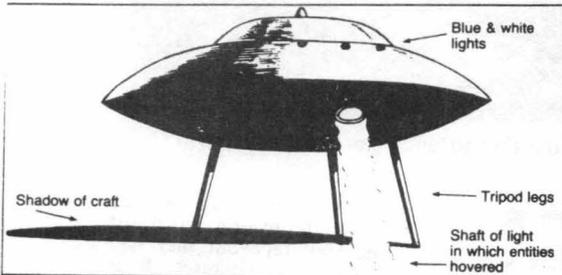
ing for a full public inquiry and say they are fully prepared to make all their evidence available to one.

The book is published by Neville Spearman Ltd, of Friars Street, Sudbury, and costs £7.50.



The craft which appeared after the alleged light explosion on December 30, 1980, as described by an American airman.

Officially unexplained



The December 27, 1980, UFO on the ground based on a sketch by an American serviceman.

THE Rendlesham Forest "Sky Crash" incident has been entered in the files of officialdom as "unexplained."

USAF and Ministry of Defence officials accept that something took place . . . but both say they have no interest in the matter.

The "Sky Crash" story is like the fisherman's tale of the one that got away . . . it gets bigger each time it is told.

That is the view of Capt. Victor Warzinski, in command of the USAF public affairs department on the Bentwaters/Woodbridge twin airbase.

'CANNOT EXPLAIN'

He told the Star, "I do not think there was ever any doubt that something happened which we cannot explain."

But, he said, there was "not the slightest shred of documentation" beyond the report by Col. Halt which is headed "unexplained lights."

Any incident which took place off-base did not come under the jurisdiction of the USAF. The Halt report was therefore sent to the Ministry of Defence and the matter was left to them to handle "as they felt most appropriate."

The USAF had no other course of action open to it beyond making the report available "as a matter of courtesy." Any other action would have been "like sending out our cops to enforce British law," he said.

BACKGROUND COUNTS

Asked specifically about the traces of radiation allegedly found at the site, he said that these were "only normal background counts — the sort you or I would get if we went out anywhere and took readings."

The readings were not officially taken. They were obtained by off-duty personnel. Asked why they went to the site unofficially and at night he said, "Your guess is as good as mine."

NO COVER-UP

The USAF would not comment on any of the speculation in the "Sky Crash" book. But of the incidents in general, he said, "I do not get the feeling that there has been any cover-up in any sense of the words."

He added, "It is like the old fisherman's tale of the one that got away . . . it gets bigger each time it is told. The fish in reality does not get any bigger but the story sure as hell does."

CASE REMEMBERED

The case was instantly remembered by both Ministry of Defence officials contacted by the Star yesterday.

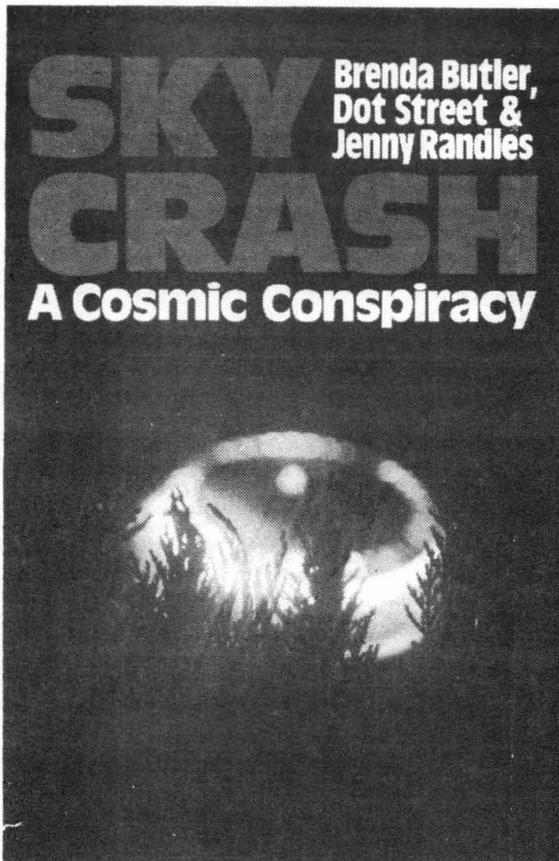
Spokesman Mr. Dermot Hill said the Ministry's DS8 department had investigated the incidents and had found no defence or military significance or implication and had therefore taken no further action.

"It was looked into and there being no military explanation we lost interest in it."

MoD SATISFIED

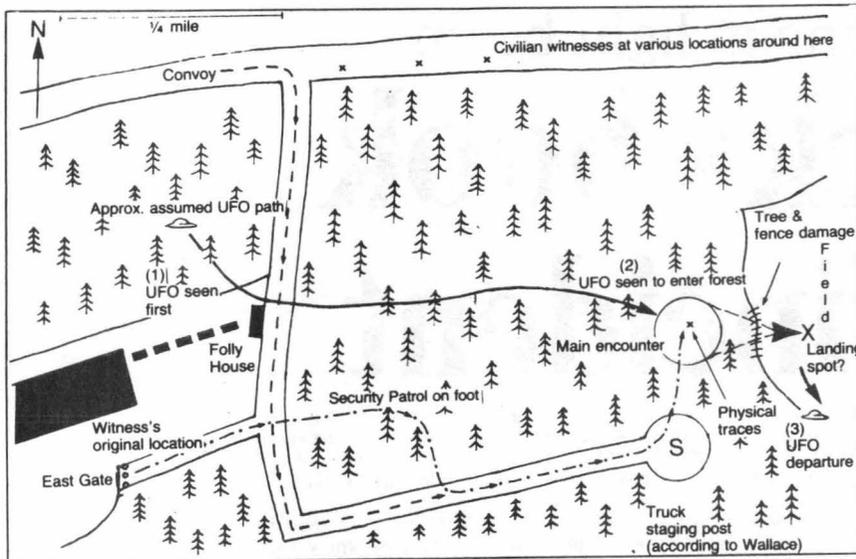
"I can see perfectly well that reasonable people who are interested in such things would find it very interesting. I am not in any way saying that these people must be crankish or anything of that sort . . . I am simply saying that the MoD was satisfied there was no military significance."

Col. Halt's report was "thorough" and it was "basically all we have on our files about it."

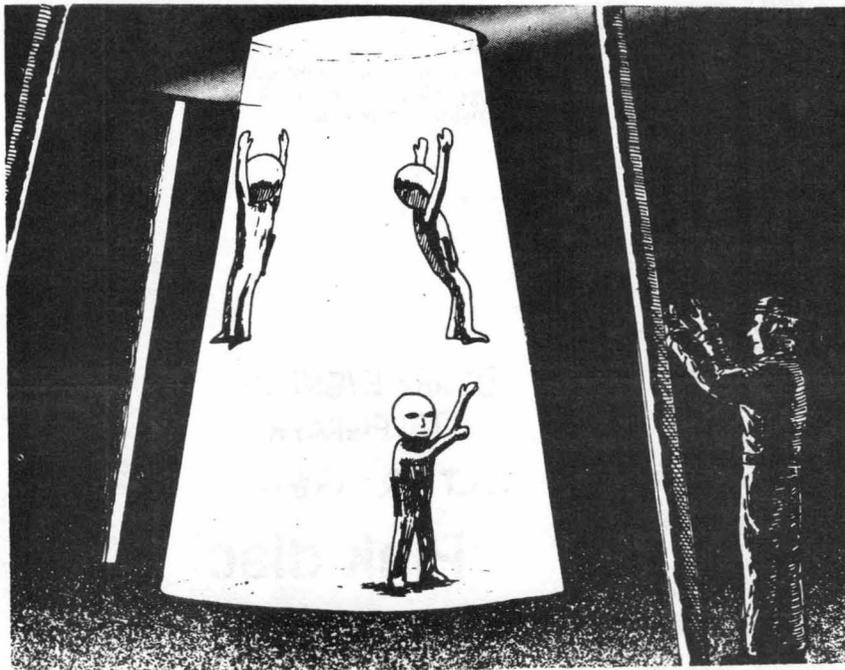


The cover of the new book which claims UFOs landed in Suffolk.

CON'T



Map of the path taken from RAF Woodbridge to the site of the alleged encounter with the space craft.



The American serviceman's view of the alien contact with the base commander.

SOUTHERN
REPORTER
SELKIRK

OCT 18 1984

Border 'UFO' explanation?

Sir, -- John Ross Scott's article, "Strange tales coming to light . . ." in your issue of August 30, has only recently been brought to my attention.

Your reporter asked if anyone has any logical explanation. Certainly I do. At the time, the planets Saturn, Mars and Jupiter, together with the bright star Antares, were all visible low down in the south or south-west sky. When such celestial objects are observed at low altitude there is often much distortion of their image and differential refraction of their light.

The latter can cause the light to separate into different colours. Consequently, it would not be surprising if there were reports of blue and red lights, besides white. I doubt that the sounds reported were associated with the visible objects; there may indeed have been an aircraft in the area.

For the benefit of your readers who are tempted to make UFO reports, if the light is stationary, or moves only very slowly (i.e. as slow as the Moon), then they are looking at a star or a planet. -- Yours, etc.,

STEUART CAMPBELL,
B.A.

Scottish Area Investigator,
British UFO Research
Association.

4 Dovecot Loan,
Edinburgh.

Drivers report UFO sittings

Reports of UFO sittings across Staffordshire and Derbyshire have been coming in to the offices of NUFOIS — the Nottingham Unidentified Flying Objects Information Society.

ASHBOURNE NEWS TELEGRAPH

DERBYSHIRE
OCT 18 1984

Co-ordinator Mr P. T. Ann revealed last week that sittings had been made by a driver at Swinscoe Hill and by other witnesses in the Derby and Burton areas.

It appears that an object was visible in the sky at dusk on Saturday — or Sunday — or both days during the weekend of October 6 and 7.

Mr Ann said: "We are appealing for further information about the siting and would be most grateful if anyone who saw anything unusual in the sky then or at any other time to contact us." Mr Ann can be contacted on Derby 559293 in the evenings.

It is four years this autumn since the numerous local sittings of a UFO which later came to be known as the "Ashbourne Event".

'Silver suit entities hung in light beam'

Tape backs book on UFO incident

SPELLBOUND American servicemen watched a spectacular display by an alleged alien space craft and an amazing array of accompanying lights in the night skies . . . according to their taped commentary during Suffolk's "Sky Crash" incident near Woodbridge airbase.

As they stood in bewilderment between 200 and 300 yards from what is alleged to be a space craft on its second visit to Rendlesham Forest in three days at the end of December, 1980, commentator Lt. Col. Charles Halt gasps, "It is like an eye winking at you."

The men watch the object with night-sight devices called starscopes and one says, "As you look at it through the starscope it appears to have a dark centre to it."

They refer to several lights in the sky and are heard to remark "There is no doubt about it, this is weird," and "This is unreal."

The object was hovering about four feet off the ground and the drama intensifies as, with a faltering voice, Halt says, "It is coming towards us . . . there appears to be a beam of light coming down to the ground."

Halt and his men decide to return to the airbase and the tape ends.

New evidence

The recording has emerged as a new and important part of the evidence in the investigations into the alleged double sighting which forms the basis of the book "Sky Crash — A Cosmic Conspiracy" which was published yesterday.

The tape has been said to be authentic by former Woodbridge airbase commander Col. Sam Morgan, who released it to UFO investigators

Dot Street, Brenda Butler and Jenny Randles.

It was played at a London Press conference yesterday, when a strong demand for a full public inquiry into the incidents was made by the book's authors.

The men in the forest at the time of the alleged second sighting had been taking radiation readings and measurements in the wake of the first claimed sighting . . . when contact was allegedly

made following the receipt of the report from the acting U.S. commander, endorsed by the British base commander, involving all these trained witnesses and the alleged interception into British airspace of a craft, leaving damage and radiation right outside two NATO bases — they do absolutely nothing about it.

"There is sufficient evidence to give the lie to this," she claimed.

make a strong case that an incident happened, the events have been withheld and that the public has a right to know.

"Either the authorities should say they know what happened and they have it under control or they should say they do not know and let it all be openly investigated," she said.

"We cannot keep being fobbed off, the truth will come out because we know we are right," Jenny added.

John Grant

made with three silver-suited "entities" who hovered in a beam of light from their stricken craft as they repaired it.

The tape records the men's discovery of damage to trees and imprints on the ground where the craft is alleged to have landed.

Halt, who was acting base commander at the time and has since become a colonel and returned to America where he is said to be at a classified location and unavailable for comment, later made a report on both alleged sightings which was sent to the Ministry of Defence.

Major boost

When it was later leaked it gave the investigation a major boost.

Jenny Randles told the Press conference, "The MoD seriously ask us to believe

"Twelve days before the Halt report the only thing the MoD admit to having was even written, two officials interviewed civilians around the forest.

"Plaster casts were seen to be taken of the traces by Col. Halt on base, although he was not approached by the British people who took them, and radar tapes were taken from RAF Watton, Norfolk, by USAF intelligence officers which could only have happened, as the MoD admit, with MoD permission."

Strong case

The investigators had no vested interest in proving that an alien space craft was involved, but, Jenny said, they were concerned that authorities had lied, and deceived the British public.

"We are positive we have sufficient evidence here to

DERBY EVENING TELEGRAPH

OCT 22 1984

'Pink disc' puzzles UFO group

IF you saw anything unusual in the sky over Derby during the weekend of October 6 and 7, a group of UFO hunters would like to hear from you.

The Nottingham UFO Investigation Society has already received reports of a low-flying pink disc from about ten witnesses in Spondon, Alvaston, Borrowash and Allestree.

They said the object came from the south/south-east and moved towards the Ashbourne area.

Anyone who thinks they may have seen something can contact the society's group leader Mr Peter Ann on Derby 559293.

YOUR TURN

SUNDAY EXPRESS-NEWS

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, JULY 8, 1984

UFO PHENOMENON MUST BE EXPLORED

By DENNIS STACY

In December 1969, the U.S. Air Force officially closed the pages of its Project Blue Book, the intelligence-gathering agency first formed in 1947 to collect and supposedly investigate public sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) or, as they were more popularly known at the time, "flying saucers."

More often than not, however, Blue Book served as little more than a propaganda machine designed to calm post-World War II, nuclear-age anxieties. Those were anxious times, make no mistake, and the term flying saucer was every bit as important an addition to the new lexicon as atomic bomb and cold war. To some it conjured up fears of another foreign invasion, to others a host of tension-releasing jokes about little green men.

The only ones not laughing were the Air Force. Here was an unknown aerial phenomenon apparently capable of penetrating our air space at will, eluding detection by radar and flying circles around our new, high-speed jet technology, the world's most advanced. Cold war fears would hardly be eased if the Air Force was forced to admit, publicly, that it was helpless in the face of these new space-age phantoms.

So a logical step for the times was taken. In 1953, as a result of the CIA-sponsored Robertson Panel, the Air Force was secretly advised to adopt a public policy of debunking UFOs and, by extension, people who reported UFOs.

Another view

We encourage our readers to express opinions on issues of their choice in "Another View." Send contributions to "Another View," Virginia Messec, Express-News, Box 2171, San Antonio 78297. Articles should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number and a brief occupational identification of the author. Articles are subject to editing for clarity and length.

If you detect a government policy that would also result in Army chemical and drug experiments on hapless citizens, a disregard for the public's safety in terms of nuclear test-bomb explosions and, later, germ-warfare boondoggles and the campaign indiscretions of the Nixon administration, give yourself five points for perspicacity.

In short, a cover-up was begun, a cover-up of which perhaps only the iceberg's tip has been revealed by subsequent suits brought under the Freedom of Information Act against civilian and military intelligence agencies, both by private individuals and public organizations like Citizens Against UFO Secrecy. One UFO researcher has even referred to the cover-up as a "cosmic Watergate."

Thus far, some 4,000 previously classified and unreleased UFO-related documents have been obtained from sources such as the Department of Defense, the FBI and the

CIA, 900 from the latter agency alone. To date, the National Security Agency (NSA) has remained immune to both freedom-of-information suits and federal court actions seeking the release of 279 documents in the agency's closed files. NSA has successfully defended its position on grounds of "national security."

In 1969, in the official Air Force press release announcing the demise of Project Blue Book, it was expressly stated that there was no evidence to indicate that UFOs were of an extraterrestrial origin or that they posed any threat to national security. It also concluded that any further study would not advance the interests of science, surely an unusual, if not ludicrously blinkered approach to take toward a phenomenon the first name of which is "unidentified"! How could the interests of science (and the American public) *not* be served by the further study of a pervasive, persistent, as-yet-unexplained aerial phenomenon?

In fact, what the release of the 4,000-plus UFO documents — many of them them dating from within the past 15 years — reveals is that the Air Force and intelligence agencies have not gotten out of the UFO business at all. What they have gotten out of is the routine public release of UFO reports received through channels and personnel to which we have no ready access.

No serious investigator of the UFO phenomenon wants those re-

CONT NEXT
PAGE

CON'T



AP LASERPHOTO

BETTY ANN LUCA POSES WITH TWO EXTRATERRESTRIAL CREATURES SHE MET
... Connecticut woman claims to have been abducted aboard a UFO in 1967

ports released that truly do compromise our national security and/or militarily defensive integrity. They do feel, however, and you should, too, that the time has come for a serious and straightforward, i.e., realistic, confrontation with this mysterious phenomenon that shows no sign of voluntarily abating.

In an era of nuclear warhead-armed superpowers, it is no longer feasible for us, or the governments of either side, to bury our heads, ostrichlike, in the sands of ignorance. If UFOs, or some UFOs, are physical objects, then they likely display physical configurations that could inadvertently lead to nuclear alert of mil-

itary forces — ours, theirs or both. Recognizing these possible configurations is surely in the interests of both science and East and West.

Photojournalist Dennis Stacy, of San Antonio, is a correspondent and contributing editor for several science magazines.

MOUNT SHASTA, CA. HERALD

JULY 25 1984

Skywatchers
baffled by
silver streak

7165
A mysterious silver streak kept official phones ringing all afternoon Friday, as people over an area of hundreds of miles reported seeing a metallic-looking object leave a trail of smoke in the sky.

The cause of all the commotion was later reported to be a meteorite, which became visible at about 2:50 p.m. Friday.

Tom Bagwell, fire captain for the Siskiyou County Interagency Fire Dispatch Center in Yreka, reported the center received "massive" telephone calls from fire lookouts and residents.

"Everybody who could possibly see it in Northern California called about it," he said. Klamath National Forest and California Department of Forestry lookouts called in, as well as reports from residents as far away as Medford, Prairie Creek State Park, and Butte Valley. Even a glider pilot soaring at about 10,000 feet above Mt.

Eddy spotted the trail of smoke left by the meteor.

"We had no idea what it was" at first, Bagwell said, and "we had fire crews going out all over" checking for fire or a possible plane crash.

No fires, no planes, and no fragments of a meteor were discovered, and Bagwell said it's now thought the cosmic rock burned up when it entered the atmosphere.

Have the aliens landed?



DENIS HIAMS



JOHN STARKEY

Pictures: VAUGHAN WILLCOX

Story: MARK O'CALLAGHAN

INQUISITIVE aliens considering visiting Worcestershire will have to make their presence felt before locals believe they really exist.

Following the relaunch of the UFO investigation unit Skyscan Two in the county, and a double sighting in Malvern yesterday, we've been on the streets to gauge your views.

Marcus Wilson of Bewdley believes the mysterious flying objects are "distractions" sent by God. "I believe God sends these UFO's out to distract us from trying to blow each other up."

Council employee Denis Hiams of Wichenford doubts the existence of supernatural phenomena.

"Most of these things can be explained. They may seem uncanny at the time but there is normally a logical explanation.

"I'll remain sceptical about the

existence of intelligent life from another planet until I see firm proof to the contrary."

Housewife Cynthia Taylor of Droitwich is hedging her bets until more information is available. "I wouldn't like to say definitely whether or not they do or don't exist. About five years ago I saw very strange lights floating in the sky near my house which have never been properly accounted for."

Worcester girl Jane Tattersfield 22, of Ombersley Road, sympathise with the people who claim to have spotted the UFOs.

She said: "People who see these things must have terrible trouble convincing the rest of us about what they've experienced. I'm prepared to believe there is life on other planets even though I haven't seen any UFOs."

However, schoolboy John Starkey, 15, needs no convincing about the possibility of aliens on other planets. "I am sure there is life in other solar systems and we should be spending more money trying to contact them."



JANE TATTERSFIELD



MARCUS WILSON



Cynthia Taylor

Did a UFO land here?

Are little green men from another planet trying to contact us?

Nigel Crist wants to know after an encounter with a strange green light.

Nigel, 29, was walking his dog towards Petts Wood railway station when he spotted

the odd light.

He said: "I was walking along Woodhurst Avenue towards the station when the green light shot across the sky and seemed to land in Orpington." He wonders if anyone else saw it. The object appeared on August 7 at 11 p.m.

Nigel, an insurance clerk, added: "I'm open-minded about UFO but I'm sure it wasn't a plane light or a flare, I hadn't been drinking!"

The mystery light had no tail and he felt it was not a comet as it was a green colour and not orange.

ORPINGTON & KENTISH TIMES
AUG. 16 1984

Both Orpington Police Station and the Ministry of defence said they had no reports of UFOs in the area. The Ministry said there were no flight exercises that night.

If anyone else spotted the light or has any theories, write to let us know.

Aliens amid the Wiltshire corn?

BATH & WILTS CHRONICLE
AUG. 15 1984

IN THE PAST, you have published a number of reports on UFOs, and mystery Wheatfield circles (the photograph of one at the White Horse, dated August 15, being the most interesting example).

If whirlwinds really are the simple explanation, why, after centuries of grain growing, should a few Wiltshire circles attract so much attention.

I suggest that it is because these symmetrical circles appear to have been formed with a near-mechanical precision, whereby the three-foot-high grain stalks are not "lifted 100ft into the air," but are being pressed down flat, usually in a clockwise direction, with a "clean" division around the perimeter between stalks standing erect and those laid flat.

It might be interesting to ascertain if, like Whirlpools, hot (or cold) Whirlwinds rotate in one direction (for our hemisphere), and if any farmer has ever reported being uplifted (or laid out flat), while tilling his fields?

One is reluctant to offer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Evening Chronicle, 33-34 Westgate Street, Bath BA1 1EW

explanation, but there does appear to be a tenuous link with reports of "pulsating orange nocturnal lights" and "nebulous spinning discoid objects" seen by so many people, and recorded on radar and newsreel film, in the air and on terra firma.

N. J. GRIFFIN
5 Alexandra Buildings,
Grosvenor,
Bath.

WATFORD OBSERVER
OCT 19 1984

Pictures of crashed alien craft

WITH regard to the cheap and ignorant jibe from P. Smith (Watford Observer, October 12) about the bases on the moon, maybe the party in question might be laughing out of the other side of the face were he or she to see some of the photographs which I have.

Some of the 3,000 to 4,000 pages of top-secret documents which, as a result of several court cases, my investigator colleagues in the U.S. have recently secured from the U.S. Air Force, the FBI, and five or six other American governmental agencies, go back in some cases to 1947 and 1950.

They include Air Force and FBI documents about crashed flying saucers with dead crews. There are considerable numbers of these mostly held in the U.S. but also in certain other countries too.

I am now engaged in publishing a selection of the photostats in the international journal which I edit.

We have readers and correspondents in every part of the world, including Russia and China, and among the material in a dozen languages, which is reaching me regularly, there is a highly interesting proportion which is in Russian or Chinese. Also I have just completed a translation of China's first book on the subject.

We find that, all over the world, folk with a modicum of sense and also of curiosity are anxious to know about the extraordinary and vitally important events now taking place on this planet.

I do not expect to find many readers of the Watford Observer among them. — Gordon Creighton, Cedars Avenue, Rickmansworth.

KEVIN CHASES UFO — BY CAR

KENT EVENING POST
MAIDSTONE
SEP. 24 1984

SIGHTINGS

The object made no noise and shortly after Kevin saw it for the second time, it headed off over the fields towards London.

He tried to follow the object in his car. The second time he noticed it, the UFO was hovering in the sky in the distance.

Police telephoned RAF Manston. A police spokesman said it was a "matter of procedure" to report all UFO sightings to the RAF.

A UFO has been reported flying over the Kent countryside.

The mystery object, described as a square of white light with two lines of white light running across the middle, was seen near the Shell Research Centre, Sittingbourne, in the early hours of Sunday morning.

It was spotted by Kevin Pook, 19, of Staplehurst Road, Sittingbourne, shortly after 2am.

Kevin told police he saw the UFO twice, once around 2.05am and then about half an hour later.

Was this a UFO sighting?

FOLLOWING last wee's sighting of a UFO over Tonbridge, there has been another more dramatic vision of one in a field on the outskirts of the town.

Ten year old Natatia Bray, of Hectorage Road, Tonbridge, who is a pupil at the Slade School, was playing with some friends behind the school when she saw an unusual object in a field with smoke coming from it.

"I was very frightened," said Natatia: 'Behind the tree I could see a silvery, egg-shaped thing with black smoke and fire coming from it, and it was glowing orange.'

Natatia's mother, Mrs Ellen Bray, said: "Natatia isn't one for making up stories, and after reading the article in last week's paper I feel she's got to be telling the truth."

When a Courier reporter visited the scene of the incident on Friday afternoon, only a few hours after the sighting, he found a willow tree with its trunk and large branches flattened and split, and the centre burnt out, but there was no sign of the mysterious object.



● Jenny Randles — new book.

Was it a UFO that landed in the forest?

THE chill night throbed with an eerie silence as a group of American servicemen raked a Suffolk forest with their torchlight.

They were hunting for clues — traces of a UFO crash-landing reported by a security patrol, in which trees and lights at the end of the air force runway had been damaged.

They recorded radiation levels, strange indentations in the soil around what appeared to be a blast area, and damaged trees.

Moments later a senior officer in charge of the men ordered them to "douse lights" as a strange object appeared to be moving towards them in the night sky.

What happened next is on a dramatic tape-recording which a group of British ufologists claim was made by the colonel in charge of the search.

"There's no doubt about it. There's a strange red light ahead," is on the tape.

INQUIRY

"We have got two strange objects, half-moon shaped, becoming full circle, with coloured lights on them — five to ten miles out, maybe less."

The next moment, the speaker almost seemed to lose control as he ordered the terrified men back to base.

The British ufologists who say they received the tape-recording just a few weeks ago have demanded a public inquiry into the Rendlesham Forest UFO sightings.

They claim that suppression of the tape and previous denial of its existence was part of a cover-up by the Americans and the British Defence Ministry.

Jenny Randles, director of investigation for the British UFO Research Association, says: "Our objective is not to convince anyone that a spaceship landed there, even though there are eye-witnesses who swear that they saw aliens in silver suits communicating with an officer at this same spot three nights before the tape-recorded incident.

"What we are concerned about is that whatever landed there eluded the radar network which is supposed to be our front line of defence."

Jenny, who has written about the Suffolk incident with two other ufologists, Dot Street and Brenda Butler, — Sky Crash, A Cosmic Conspiracy, published by Neville Spearman, £7.50, said: "We are not just trying to sell another book.

"We believe the British public has a right to know what is going on. It may or may not have been a UFO which crashed in that forest the first time.

SHIRLEY DAVENPORT

SALISBURY JOURNAL WILTS OCT 25 1984

Close encounter for Charlie

CHARLES Coleman had a close encounter when he saw what he believes was an unidentified flying object hovering over Old Sarum early on Saturday morning.

He spotted the "bright ball of light" as he opened a window at his bungalow home in Bingham Road, Bishopdown, to let in his cats—and they saw it too.

The UFO was over Old Sarum then suddenly shot off towards Laverstock at great speed climbing steadily before it disappeared, said Mr Coleman.

"It lasted a minute and moved much too fast for a plane or helicopter," he added. "And it was silent. There was no noise at all."

Mr Coleman noted the time at 6.35 am, and although it was still dark and the sky patchy the object stood out against a clear part of the sky.

Police at Salisbury had no reports from anyone seeing the light and spokesmen from Edgely Aircraft of Old Sarum and Pains-Wessex pyrotechnics factory at High Posts said they were not responsible.

Air traffic control at Boscombe Down and the Army Air Corps Centre at Middle Wallop also confirmed they had no aircraft up at that time.

THE GLOBE AND MAIL
NOV. 8 1984

Book ties events to UFO coverup

LONDON (Reuter) — It could be a close encounter of the British kind.

Three independent researchers claim that a "major conspiracy of silence and disinformation" has covered up disturbing events in remote woodlands close to key NATO bases in eastern England.

Some members of Parliament back the researchers' demand for an official investigation into exactly what happened in late December, 1980, at Rendlesham Forest only 13 kilometres from the town of Ipswich.

Did a radiation-spewing alien spaceship crash-land there and disgorge tiny silver-suited figures to repair it? Were trees scorched and the earth torn up as cattle became frenzied in nearby fields?

Or was it just the flashing beam of a North Sea lighthouse, the hallucinations of men on drugs, the secret testing of a war machine that went wrong?

The questions mounted with the publication in Britain of *Sky Crash — A Cosmic Conspiracy*, by Brenda Butler, Dorothy Street and Jenny Randles.

"What has happened in Britain over the past four years makes Watergate look like a charity tea party," said Ms Randles, who is director of investigations for the British UFO (Unidentified Flying Objects) Research Association.

Officials of the Defence Ministry and the Pentagon have acknowledged that something out of the ordinary took place on the fringes of the Woodbridge and Bentwaters bases, both leased to the U.S. Air Force, around Christmas four years ago.

But they deny the presence of strange craft or other-worldly creatures.

A ministry spokesman said no "defence implications" had arisen in any of 1,400 reported UFO sightings in Britain between 1980 and 1983.

Addressing a news conference, Ms Randles said four years of research had turned up many civilian and military witnesses to phenomena beginning in the pre-dawn hours of Dec. 27, 1980.

Quoting several sources, she said a local farmer spotted a bright light over Rendlesham

Forest and alerted U.S. base authorities who sent out patrols.

"When they reached the spot where the UFO had come down it appeared to be in trouble, presumably having crash-landed," the book said.

"Three entities were seen, apparently hovering in a shaft of light that projected from the underside of the object. They seemed to be making efforts to repair their stricken craft.

"All officers except the base commander himself were ordered back and he alone went right up to where the aliens were.

"Although nobody seemed to know what then transpired, it was generally agreed that communication, by way of sign language and apparently some sort of telepathy, ensued.

"The craft was earthbound for over three hours, upon which it was repaired sufficiently to allow takeoff. This it did shakily at first, but soon shot away at tremendous speed."

The book said photographs taken by witnesses at the scene were confiscated and never resurfaced. It also quoted the then base commander — Gordon Williams, now a brigadier-general — as denying that he was in contact with aliens.

These alleged creatures were variously described in evidence quoted by the authors as being about one metre high, wearing silver suits and capable of hovering in the light beam below the domed disc mounted on tripod legs.

Colonel Charles Halt, deputy base commander at Bentwaters, emerged as a key figure in the story.

The authors said his official account mentioned reports that the object appeared metallic and triangular, "approximately two to three metres across the base and two metres high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light."

Col. Halt was reported to have said animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy and that deep holes were found on the scene, where radioactivity was measured.

At the press conference Ms Randles played a tape recording which she said Col. Halt made three days later — on Dec. 30 — when he was examining the woodland site.

The crackling tape, which the researcher said had been supplied by official sources in both the United States and Britain, recounted an apparent UFO return.

A voice says: "Hey, this is eerie."

It goes on to report "some kind of strange flashing light, definitely coming this way . . . This is weird . . . Two strange half-moon objects . . . A beam coming down to the ground . . . It's unreal, strange . . ."

No outcome is reported in the tape, but the researchers said Col. Halt stood by it although he professed no knowledge of any alien beings in the region.