

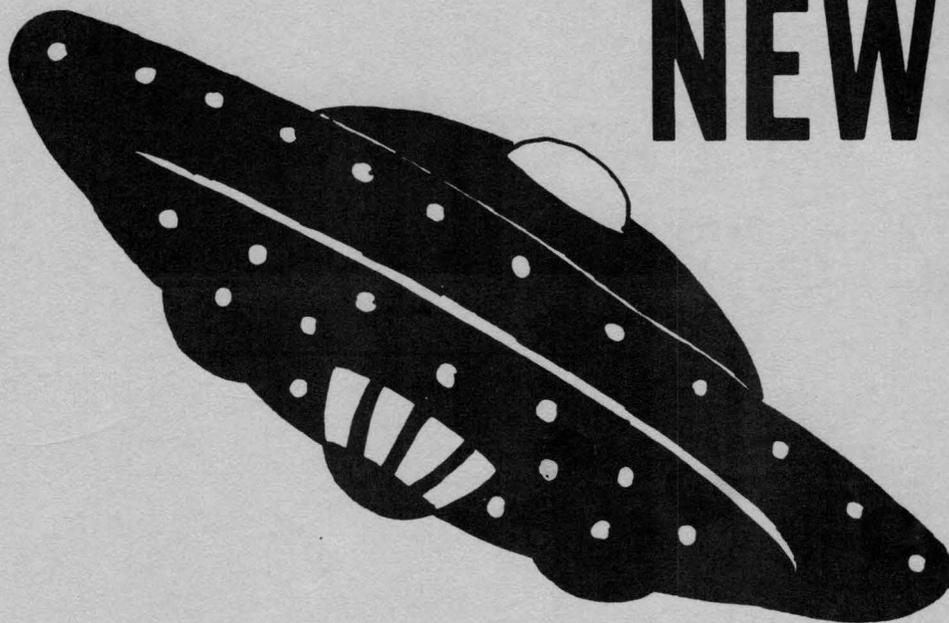
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UFO

NEWS



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UFOs seen by Valleyfolk

SUN CITY AZ. DAILY NEWS SUN
OCT 2 1984

By JEANNE STUCKWISH
Staff Writer

When asking those who have seen them to explain unusual sightings of unidentified flying objects, the reluctance of individuals is understandable.

Not many people will come forth with stories, even though UFOs have been observed as early as Biblical times and have been reported throughout the world in this modern age.

WITH FEW exceptions, scientists have refuted most reports and assigned their own interpretations to what has been viewed, with such explanations as swamp gas, bright or falling stars, meteorites, weather balloons and the like.

They prefer to believe that everything has to be weighed, measured, and computed to be real.

And that is part of the reason people don't speak about their own sightings.

FOR MOST people, many of the events recounted are within the realm of possibility.

It is true, some UFO sightings do have logical explanation. But to people who have seen the objects, there is no dissuading them that there is not "something out there."

Gradually, times are changing. Today many scientists have been involved with UFOs for years and an ever-increasing number of workers has gone into such studies.

So the problem is studied by a veritable army of scholars, each trained to a high degree of technical proficiency.

WITH THE publicity generated by the many TV stories and movies about things in outer space, some with factual backgrounds, the public is becoming more and more used to the idea that there very well could be such phenomena. People are beginning to discuss the events intelligently.

Phoenix and Sun City residents have seen their share of UFO displays.

Some individuals have related their stories, asking that their names not be used, however.

DAVID, FOR instance, reported two separate sightings, one alone and one with his family.

Leaving on a moment's notice for an elk-hunting trip on Pyramid Mountain near Steamboat Springs, Colo., he took more than eight hours to trudge through snow to reach the tree line.

Managing to find an old trapper's cabin, he suddenly awoke around 3 a.m. the day after his arrival, to see something nearby in the sky. Racing for the door, he said the sky was clear by the time he opened it.

FAR AWAY he could see an object "doing strange things." At that distance, it looked to be about the size of a quarter, but he noticed that it would blot out a star as it passed below it. He caught the color of mint green as it darted from spot to spot. "Then, it was just gone in the blink of the eye," David said.

A few weeks ago, between 10:30 and 11 p.m., as David and his family were emerging from their car near 39th Lane and Thunderbird Road, they noticed a monstrous lighted object hanging in the sky in an area that seemed to be on the other side of South Mountain.

David describes the thing as "monstrous, with lights completely encircling it. No flashing lights—nothing—just a perimeter of blue and white lights," he explained.

IT SEEMED to move in a southerly direction, then stopped in mid-air and with controlled speed moved slowly straight down.

He said it looked like a half-dollar. "At that distance it was huge," David said. "Probably about eight to 10 football fields in diameter.

The family watched for quite awhile, but they didn't see it again.

THEY THOUGHT they might read about it in the papers, but they saw not a word.

Here's another story:

George was awake at 2 a.m., looking out the window. His attention was drawn to what looked to be a ball of fire in palm trees a few blocks away.

HE CALLED the fire department, but when the firemen arrived, there was no sign of a fire in any palm trees.

And another:

Tina and Chris apparently both observed the same object about 10 days ago.

WHILE TINA was driving west on Glendale Avenue between 75th and 83rd avenues, she saw a moving object out of the corner of her eye.

At first she thought it was a falling star, but it was too large. Tina thinks it had a round base and it looked as if it were on fire, with a trailing tail that was a beautiful mixture of bright blue-green colors. "The tail of color was fairly long," Tina relates. "I watched it until it disintegrated. I was expecting it to hit the earth."

When Tina arrived home, she called TV Station KPNX, Channel 12, and they told her they had received several calls from the Luke Air Force Base area.

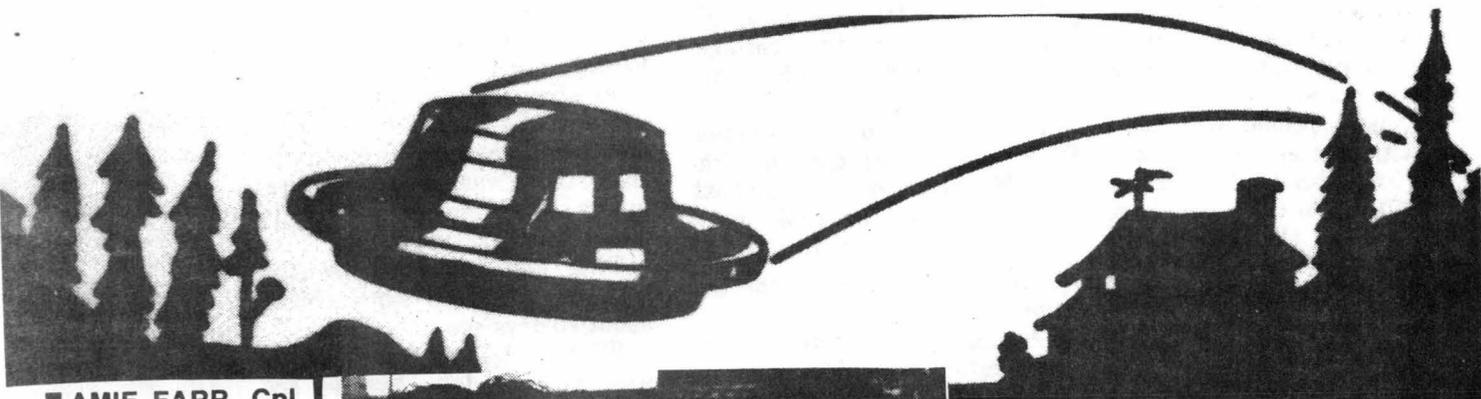
IN THIS case, the object was unofficially identified as a burning meteorite.

Peering out the car window, Chris saw a long object while he was driving at 57th Street and Olive Avenue. He mentions he didn't see the start of it. When he saw it, it was a sort of turquoise color. "It just went fhttt and it was gone," he remembers.

A Youngtown resident said she thought the object she saw was a star, except that it was blinking, at a great distance, in even sequences of white, bluish-purple and green light.

AS SHE WATCHED it, she had the feeling of being watched, and the "star" moved quickly towards her apartment, hovering at an estimated 5,000 feet above her, by this time, brilliant white. By the time she had brought her husband out to see the object, it

Jamie Farr's chilling encounter with a UFO



JAMIE FARR, Cpl. Klinger on M*A*S*H and AfterMASH, once had a bone-chilling encounter with a UFO.

It was, he says now, the most frightening experience of his life.

"I wouldn't ever want to see another one," he said.

"One scare like that in a lifetime is enough."

Farr said that his brush with the alien craft took place back in 1965 on a pitch black night, when he and his wife were driving along an empty highway in the desert outside of Yuma, Arizona.

The Farris were heading back to California after visiting with his mother in Phoenix.

"There's a very long stretch of desert along that road which was absolutely empty," he recalled.

"My mom had packed some things like carrot sticks and celery, and Joy and I were nibbling on those little snacks as we drove along."

Suddenly the darkness of the desert night was shattered by the appearance of a single bright light which Farr took for a beacon on top of a television tower or similar structure on one of the distant mountaintops.

That idea vanished when he realized that the light was zig-zagging across the sky.

"We kept an eye on it and sure enough it was moving — zig-zagging at a terrific



JAMIE FARR'S WIFE, Joy, was fascinated by the craft — Jamie was terrified.

By PHIL BRENNAN

rate of speed. And then suddenly — to our amazement — it would stop and just hover there in the distance."

As Farr watched open-mouthed, the strange light repeated its stop and go maneuver several times, and then gathered speed and hurtled across the sky directly toward his car.

"It came all the way down until it was adjacent to our car — moving parallel to us. It was probably about 50 yards away," he said.

The astonished couple peered through the darkness, trying to make out the shape of the strange craft that was escorting them through the desert.

"It had a dome shape which we could barely make out," he said, adding that there were a pair of rotating blue and red lights which flashed over the desert sand

like the emergency lights on a police car.

"From this light you could see the UFO create a vacuum, pulling up the sand," he said.

The UFO skimmed along just above the desert floor, keeping pace with Farr. When he gunned his engine in an attempt to race ahead, the craft merely increased its own speed to match his.

As they raced along, Farr discovered that his wife did not share his overwhelming fear.

"Joy wanted me to try to make contact with it but ... no way! I wanted no part of it. I just gunned that Renault as fast as I could, but the UFO stayed with us for a while."

It was at this point that a new threat appeared that made Farr's blood run cold.

"I looked up at the sky and saw a single engine airplane coming straight at me," he said.

In panic, he swerved the car off the road in a frantic attempt to avoid a head-on collision with the speeding plane.

As his car careened wildly across the sand, he suddenly realized that the plane was a phantom — it just disappeared into thin air.

Farr speculated that someone aboard the UFO had projected the image of an attacking aircraft against the movie screen-like background of the dark sky.

It was then, he recalled, that the UFO soared upwards and raced off toward the distant mountain tops where it vanished as quickly as it had appeared.

"My feeling was one of pure fright, but my wife's was one of curiosity because she'd been reading about UFOs since high school. She was all ready to make contact. But not me!

Future

"I was a devout coward. After all, I still had my career ahead of me, with all those reruns and residual payments to look forward to."

Farr said that before his encounter with the alien craft he had not believed in UFOs.

"I do now," he said. "I can't believe that we're the only intelligent beings in the universe. There have to be others out there. Eventually we'll all be in touch."

One scare like that in a lifetime is enough, he says

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, 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.

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

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

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."

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.

LAS VEGAS NV.
SUN
OCT 10 1984

Couple report attack from space

SAUK CENTRE, Minn. (AP) — The most exciting thing that was expected to happen this week at the Truckers Inn in Sauk Centre was the switch to new owners. That was before the truck-driving team of Robert and Jackie Bair of Selah, Wash., showed up.

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

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 continued. "We couldn't see what they were seeing, let's put it that way."

The Bairs repeated their story to Sauk Centre Police Chief George Trierweiler, who had 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, but I want you to go over and see if they're OK,'" Trierweiler related.

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 and State Patrol Sgt. Fred Korte, who also inspected the truck. They both strained to see the creatures that the Bairs complained were standing guard in 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. Ms. Sills described the Bairs as clean, neatly dressed and quiet. "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 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.

Honeymooners spotted UFOs

No one is surprised when honeymooners report seeing stars.

So, when D.P. and his new bride said they had seen four moving objects in the sky while honeymooning in the San Juan Islands, apparently no one took their reports too seriously.

"They looked like moving stars — three moving in tandem in a northeastern direction, and one moving in a southeastern direction. We observed these objects through field glasses and are convinced they are not airplanes," D.P. wrote.

They called the UFO hot-line number and the University of Washington Department of Astronomy, but didn't really get an explanation, D.P. said.

"Is there any government or private agency, or group that keeps track of satellites and offers such information to the public?" D.P. asked.

It's likely the honeymooners saw some satellites.

TROUBLESHOOTER



SHELBY GILJE
Times staff columnist

But since there are thousands upon thousands of satellites in orbit, it would be difficult to tell exactly what they observed, said Bruce Margon, chairman of the UW Department of Astronomy.

The Soviets alone launch three or four satellites a week, Margon said. Counting these satellites and those launched by other countries, there is considerable "traffic" up there.

"So, asking if it's a satellite, why don't we know about it, is a little like asking if we know something about cars on the freeway," Margon said.

The UW astronomer said in some cities, such as New York, planetariums do have a public-service line that takes calls about what's been observed in the sky. Margon knows of no such service in this area, but he did have a down-to-earth suggestion for D.P. and bride.

Why not check out astronomy classes offered at the UW, the Pacific Science Center and Bellevue Community College?

Hill Williams, The Times' science reporter, also guessed the honeymooners had observed satellites.

"The direction of travel would jibe with satellites in polar orbit. However, if they saw all four at once, it would be unusual," Williams said.

The honeymooners noted they already had consulted the UFO hot line, also known as Phenomena Research, 5108 S. Findlay St., telephone 722-3000. That group also was suggested by Williams.

However, Williams, a veteran of science reporting and marriage, did have one suggestion for these star gazers:

1381

Everyday's Halloween for pursuer of UFOs, and other phenomena

By John B. Gibson

Valley News Dispatch

BELL TOWNSHIP — Diane Enion of the Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research in Pittsburgh was in Cole Hollow Road area recently in another of her seemingly endless series of probes into the unexplained.

Generally, her sense of curiosity in the interest of research is directed to loftier levels — various altitudes at which Unidentified Flying Objects are reportedly seen — but her recent voyages into the unexplained have been on a more down-to-earth level, literally.

Hence her probing of a local family's reports of hearing strange, nocturnal noises, like those of a predator, near their home. Information gathered there will be studied and placed with a growing volume of data which indicates numerous "sightings" of strange creatures in Westmoreland County.

Enion's name shot into the limelight this summer when Kiski Valley residents began reporting to Rainbow Control Emergency Communications System that they had seen strange lights in the sky.

In eight days, Aug. 15-22, Rainbow received 20 calls on the sightings, among them those from Kiski Valley police officers. Residents of West Vandergrift, Leechburg, Vandergrift, East Vandergrift and Parks Township were among the callers.

The most recent report of a UFO in the Kiski Valley, she says, came on Sept. 23. Two young men reported they stopped their car near Hessom's Restaurant, Route 56, Allegheny Township, at about 12:35 a.m. after a UFO hovered "fairly low" over their vehicle. Enion, a resident of Brentwood, near Pittsburgh, happened to be in the Kiski Valley when the sighting was reported and, accompanied by a police officer, quickly left for the scene.

Upon arrival the UFO had disappeared, she said.

Enion says several stars were highly visible in areas skies during the period of the August sightings, which might account for some of the lights.

However, she concedes, that explanation might not satisfy many of the residents who reported the sightings.



Diane Enion

And, while they might be frustrated in their search for more information on what they saw, Enion says she finds similar frustration in researching other unexplained phenomena, especially a recent case in Luzerne County, eastern Pennsylvania. More on that in a moment.

Included in her "unsolved" files are reports, some of them from the Route 819 area of Bell Township, of sightings of a Bigfoot-like creature and another of a large, black panther.

Similar sightings have come from the Greensburg-Jeannette and Johnstown-Conemaugh areas and probes of them have yielded impressions made in the soil by creatures whose feet have either three or five toes.

"Whatever they were, they had to be of significant weight to make such impressions in the soil, especially on the heels, which would take a lot of their weight," says Enion.

Enion says her probe of the Luzerne County report of strange lights and poltergeist activity is "driving me up a wall."

She was among a group of researchers who positioned battery-operated cassette

PA. VALLEY NEWS
DISPATCH
TARENTUN PA.

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tape recorders and a video cassette recorder in an area so remote from the Wilkes-Barre area that "we saw only one other car during the weekend we were there."

Before the weekend was over, one of the new tapes in one of the tape recorders would capture what Enion calls "the sounds of a man chanting a weird rhyme about a man who had a fishing pole which he liked so much he wanted to catch all the fish in the sea with it. It doesn't make any sense. Then, also on the tape you can hear the groaning of what sound to be children."

The property, notes Enion, was the scene of a mass murder about 70 or 80 years ago. "A father killed all his children there and then committed suicide," she says.

Cameras taken to the field malfunctioned while in the area, but worked perfectly when taken out of the field, she says.

One incident is particularly disturbing to Enion; the videotape recorder camera mounted on a tripod in the field was knocked off the tripod and had been opened and the video tape pulled out it.

"It's a really spooky place!" she says.

Enion says the research center's staff "tries to stay away from the religious or psychological aspects" of unexplained phenomenon. "We're not trained to handle that and for us to try would mean we're looking for trouble," she says.

Next on the center's list of research projects are unexplained happenings in a house in Delmont.

She says they center around a 20-year-old house which is built on the former site of another home, long since demolished. Deeds to the ground on which the house is built extend to the 1700s, she says, and research is under way to determine if the ground's former use or a happening in the former structure could be a cause of the spine-tingling phenomena occurring in a bedroom of the present house.

The occupants have reported sensing the "presence" of someone in the bedroom, she says. The "presence" becomes frighteningly apparent when there is suddenly a depression in the coverlet, indicating that someone is sitting there. Occupants report the bedroom becomes extremely cold when the "presence" is sensed and they have difficulty breathing.

NOV. 1 1984

1381

UFO seen Tuesday night called Cessna formation

By E.B. WALZER

Staff Writer

'Twas the Halloween season so one would expect to see things flying through the night sky.

But residents and officials agreed that the witches and goblins were not on the prowl: the slow moving lights were either some daring young men in their flying machines or a group of pilots flying in formation.

The brightly lit unidentified flying object seen by hundreds of people in Rockland, Westchester and Putnam counties Tuesday night apparently became identified Wednesday.

A Brewster man, who owns two of the airplanes used in the flights, confirmed that the lights were a formation of Cessna aircraft. Lon Baughman said his son had flown an airplane they jointly own in the formation flights. Baughman said one of his planes had been used Tuesday night.

State police said that Baughman's son, Jeff, was one of the four pilots met by Trooper Michael Gabomski Tuesday night as they landed at Stormville Airport in Dutchess County shortly after numerous sightings were reported to the south.

The other pilots were identified as: Peter Dine Putnam Valley; Angelo Marafioti of Stormville and Rick Crisenson.

Although police said the four men denied flying in formation that night, Lon Baughman confirmed during a telephone interview Wednesday that he and his son have participated in the flights.

Police also said the airplane flown Tuesday night by Jeff Baughman was identified as one of three that landed at Stormville the night of July 24, which, before Tuesday, was the last night that mass sightings had been reported.

"It was definitely one of the

planes that was flying in formation (July 24)," said East Fishkill Sgt. Daniel Andriano, who saw the lights — which he said were a formation of eight planes — break up over Stormville that night.

But not everybody is convinced it was a formation of planes.

Dr. Joel Mandel, a member of the Rockland County Astronomy Club, said the object sighted Tuesday night was "definitely a blimp." He said that members of the group were at the top of Silvermine Mountain in Harriman Park star gazing through powerful telescopes.

About 8:15 p.m., he said, they spotted some strange lights in the sky that did not change position and its back and sides were visible as it moved from Westchester across the Hudson River to North Rockland and eventually back to Westchester.

The object's long lights were "typical landing lights," he said, describing them as stationary and not flashing.

Mandel estimated its height at 2,000 to 4,000 feet. He said it was definitely not a group of objects or a UFO — just a blimp.

Marjorie Melanson, another club member, agreed, saying she saw it through one of the telescopes.

"It's not an airplane. It's not a blimp. I think it's a UFO," said 38-year-old Haverstraw resident James Archambult Tuesday night. "It was round and it had a bunch of white lights on it. We saw it hover over the Orange and Rockland generators (in Haverstraw) for about 15 minutes."

A rash of similar sighting occurred during the summer, when a group of ultralight pilots apparently tried to simulate a UFO by flying at night in a group, using different colored lights and cutting their motors off from time to time, police said.

The spottings dropped off after police began investigating whether federal flight regulations were be-

ing violated.

According to Federal Aviation Administration officials, the night formation flights are not illegal as long as the pilots confer prior to the flights and leave their navigational lights on at all times.

"They're not really doing anything illegal, per se, as far as the regulations are concerned," said Thomas Slocum, operations unit manager for the Flight Standards Office of the FAA's Teterboro, N.J., district office, which covers Westchester and Putnam, "but they're getting to be a general pain.

According to Baughman, "They're all experienced pilots. This is why I said (to Jeff), 'I think you should tell the people you're not a bunch of nuts, you're experienced pilots, that you enjoy flying formation, you enjoy flying at night.'

"We don't have any concern with them flying formation," he said, "but they should stop trying to fool the people. The joke is over. It's just upsetting everybody."

— Staff Writer Naedine Hazell contributed to this report

UFO sighting reported in Blair

By Bob Sefick
and James W. Siehl
The Tribune-Democrat

Tyrone

An area resident told the local police he spotted an unidentified flying object at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday about 100 yards above the treeline near the Jamesville Pike, about two miles west of this Blair County town.

The resident, a man whose identity and age were not revealed by the police, told authorities he believed that the UFO landed south of the pike on state gamelands.

The man described the UFO as having red lights at the top and white lights at the bottom. When the local police used binoculars to survey the area, they, too, spotted red lights and white lights — but those lights were on the top of the WTAJ tower on Wopsonnock Mountain and at the bottom of the tower on fences.

The state police said the general consensus was that the man had somehow confused the tower with a UFO, but the resident refused to be shaken from his conviction, the state

People tell of bright flashes of light and objects ascending vertically into the sky.

police said. The man had not been drinking, the police reported.

Reported to center

The incident was reported to the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained at Greensburg.

The voluntary research center serves as a statewide clearing house for UFO sightings and other phenomena.

According to Stanley Gordon, director, UFO sightings have persisted throughout the year. More recently, he said they have come from Fayette County and as far away as Lehigh County in eastern Pennsylvania. He said there had been a report of a UFO

in the Gallitzin area as well as in other counties surrounding Cambria.

People are seeing large unexplained objects at low levels, Mr. Gordon said. They tell of bright flashes of light and objects ascending vertically into the sky, he added.

Big cats reported

Sightings of big cats and other strange phenomena in western Pennsylvania, including Bigfoot — the large apelike creature — cougars and black panthers, also have been reported, Mr. Gordon said.

Although the cougar officially has been extinct in Pennsylvania since 1890, according to Mr. Gordon, he said an extremely good cougar track was found during a search the past July in Armstrong County. He said it was authentic and verifiable.

Panthers in Westmoreland

Panthers never have inhabited this part of the world, Mr. Gordon pointed out. But, four people in Westmoreland County reported seeing one in daylight from a distance of 100 feet. It was described as large, muscular, solid, shiny black and 6 to 8 feet long.

Mr. Gordon emphasized that the Greensburg operation is available 24 hours a day for reports of unexplained sightings. Correspondence may be mailed to 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg 15601.

LA CROSSE (WIS.) TRIBUNE
OCT. 10 1984

UFO sighting spooks couple

SAUK CENTRE, Minn. (AP) — A husband and wife truck driving team has abandoned the load of vegetable fat they were hauling after saying they were attacked by bird-like beings from a bubble-shaped spaceship.

Police Chief George Trierweiler said the couple claimed to have been under attack by the creatures since they passed through Billings, Mont. He said they spent the night at a motel after refusing to continue the trip.

"They said a small, bubble-shaped spaceship came down out of a dark cloud and sprayed their truck with small metal filings," Trierweiler said. The couple told Trierweiler that the

truck collided with the spaceship and a "peanut-sized capsule" fell out.

Jim Ketchum, general manager of Scott Davis Transport Inc. of Yakima, Wash., said a new team of drivers had been dispatched to take the truck to Madison, Wis.

"They are plain-old everyday folks. They're not crazies," Ketchum said of the couple.

Sgt. Fred Korte of the state patrol said the couple complained of seeing creatures with v-shaped heads.

"I went out and talked to them and I couldn't see any of the things they were seeing," Korte said.

MEDFORD STAR NEWS
OCT 3 1984

'Fireball' incident is still a mystery

I don't know for sure whether you published my request for information from people who saw the August 19 "fireball", as I never heard from anyone up your way, or from around Ladysmith, either.

As matters stand, it seems at least as likely that this spectacle was caused by some sort of flare as by a falling meteorite. No one seems to have seen the bright object moving very rapidly, and no one seems to have heard any noises. If the object was a meteorite, some observers would certainly have reported one or both of these phenomena.

So we seem to have dead-ended unless someone gets to messing around in the woods up there north of Thorp and finds something which will settle the question. — Dr. W. F. Read, Dept. of Geology, Lawrence University, Appleton.

1381

School to host UFO convention

NY-STATEN ISLAND
ADVANCE
OCT 31 1984

BY WENDY DILLER
Advance Staff Writer

If you've ever glimpsed any dark, shiny objects speeding through the sky at rates that almost defy those of light, then come to Tottenville High School Sunday.

Not to watch the skies, which may be clear as glass, but to hear about unidentified flying objects or UFOs. They are more than a silly notion to thousands of people, and many who take them seriously will attend a 12-hour program entitled "UFOs: The Greatest Story Never Told," which begins at 10 a.m. at the Huguenot school.

Pete Mazzola, an Annadale resident who founded and heads the Scientific Bureau of Investigation (SBI), organized the free, all-day conference to generate public interest and push the federal government to release more information on the subject. About 500 to 1,000 witnesses of UFOs are expected to attend, he said.

Mazzola has been obsessed with this eerie subject for five years, ever since he spotted a UFO flying from Staten Island to New Jersey. The Vietnam veteran, certified hypnotist and New York City police officer insists the New York metropolitan area is in the middle of a "UFO flap" — that is, an unusual number of the strange, airborne objects have been spotted here in the past 18 months.

SBI, which investigates UFOs nationwide, receives 1,200 to 1,500 calls a year on its UFO hotline, and police departments, airports and air force bases receive thousands more, Mazzola says. Although 85 percent of SBI's calls refer to events that can be easily explained and don't justify further research, 15 percent are worth exploring. SBI sometimes sends its far-flung members, who include many police officers, to spot-check sites where alien objects have been seen.

"Not every 'UFO' is a UFO. We're after things that defy normal explanations, that defy normal aerodynamics, are shaped

oddly and make sharp right turns, hover or come to a dead stop in the air. Those things are impossible to do in our technology now," Mazzola said.

The federal government has also researched the subject extensively during the past 25 years, but refuses to acknowledge its work or release its reports on the subject, he claims.

However, passage in the 1970s of the Freedom of Information Act, which allows ordinary citi-

zens to request copies of all federal documents but those labeled classified, has enabled Mazzola and other UFO experts to gain access to more than 5,000 documents detailing the federal government's secret work on UFOs.

The Air Force, for example, compiled a "blue book" of investigations into UFOs between 1947 and 1969. It concluded that the objects don't threaten national security, but the book wasn't released to the public until after the information act became more widely used.

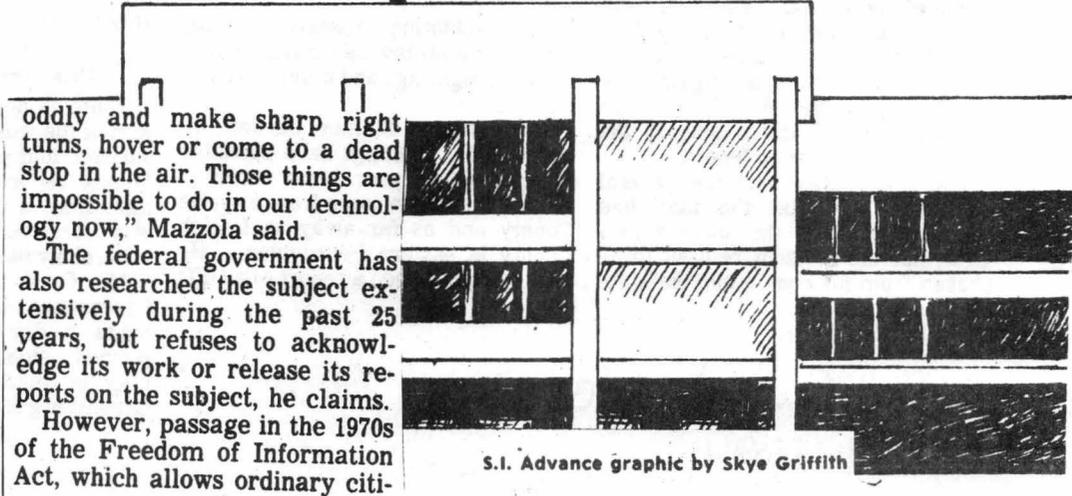
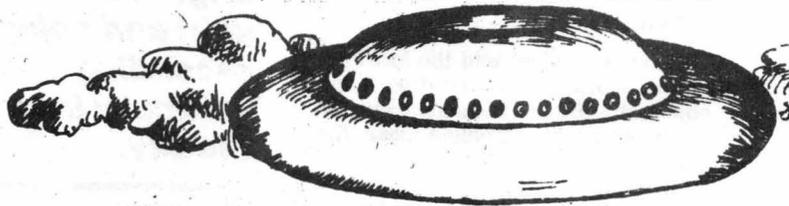
Revelations by the government include: a note by a U.S. Air Force deputy base commander describing how Air Force personnel at a base in England spotted an unusual, glowing, metallic aircraft landing in December 1980; reports on American jets sent out on emergency flights to track down UFOs flying over army bases and power plants, and a memo

by an American general stating that UFOs created problems in Vietnam.

"We have movies, photographs and other evidence offering proof that UFOs have been spotted," Mazzola said. A book, "Clear Intent," published by Prentice-Hall Inc., details the government's allegedly massive coverup, and its authors, Larry Fawcett, a Connecticut police officer, and Barry Greenwood, will speak Sunday evening.

Other speakers will be I.L. Cohen, author of "The Secrets of Stonehenge," William Sherwood, a former engineer with Eastman Kodak Co. in Rochester, N.Y., and Helen Wheels, a musician and author of "My UFO Encounter."

And, who knows, you might just spot an inexplicable burning red dot or shining green spot on the horizon before Sunday. In that case, SBI's hotline number is 984-6210.



S.I. Advance graphic by Skye Griffith

1351 Egg-shaped UFOs — bathed in a bright light that makes them look like balls of fire — are terrorizing a Brazilian town and wrecking its economy, report shocked eyewitnesses, including the town's mayor and its former police chief.

The bizarre spacecraft are frightening farm workers so badly they won't work in the fields, fearing they'll be kidnapped by the alien visitors.

"This town is in an uproar," declared Odilon Goncalves, former police chief of the small town of Demerval Lobao in north-east Brazil.

"Everyone is in a panic and we don't know what to do. Hundreds of people have seen these flying machines, and several have been chased by them.

"I didn't believe in all this stuff until one day I rode out to a farm where almost everyone complained about the intruders — and in broad daylight an egg-shaped machine, a ball of fire, passed no more than nine feet over some bean fields. I saw it from 30 feet away!

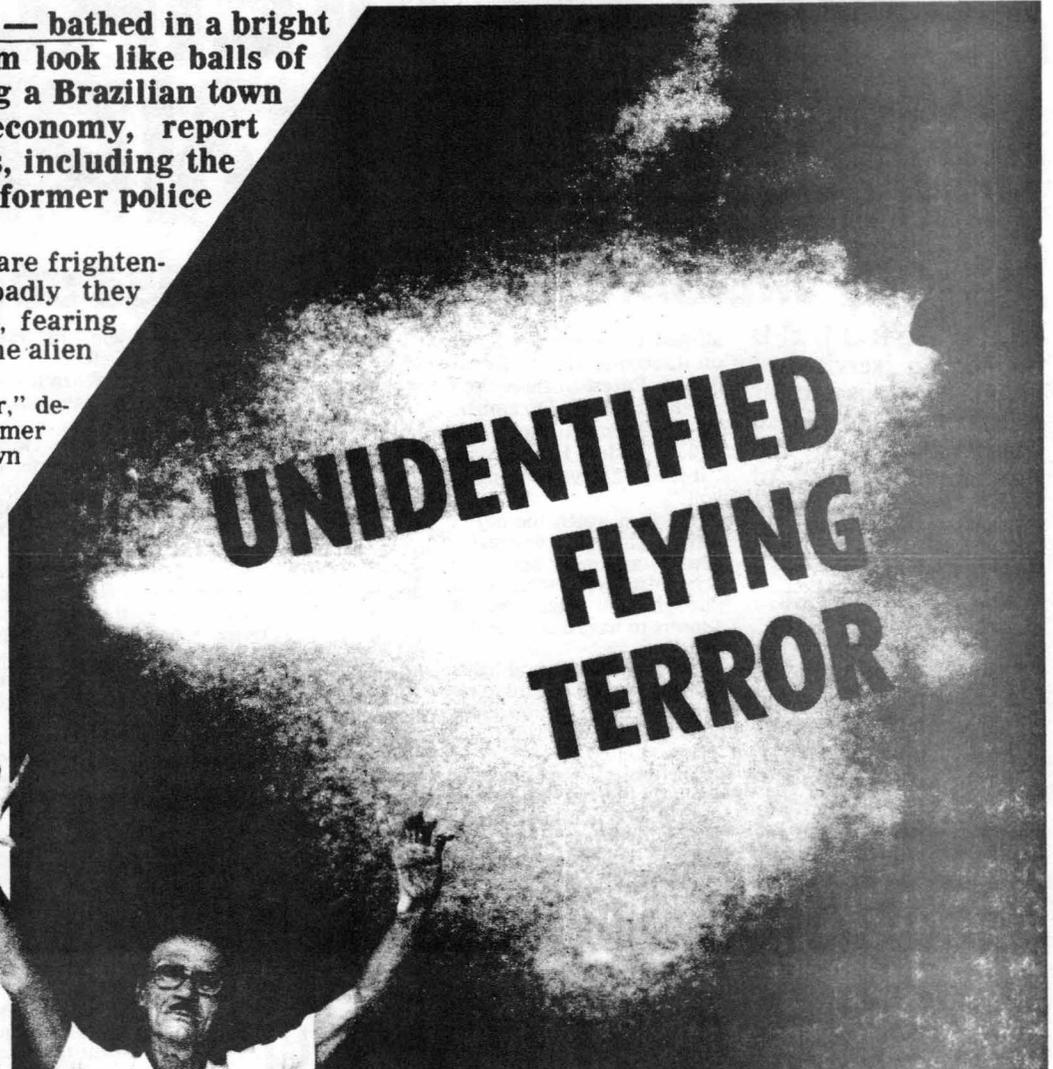
"I had to rub my eyes in disbelief. I'd never seen anything like that before.

"I filled out a special report, which was sent to state authorities. Our town is up in arms, but there's no way we can catch these machines."

Local farmer Jose Macedo informed The ENQUIRER that he spotted three of the UFOs above his farm one night.

"Other workers had gone outside, and we huddled together in fear as the UFOs' bright spotlights lit up the entire area as bright as sunlight," he said. "Suddenly, the bright lights went out, and then from one UFO different-colored lights were emitted — red, yellow, orange and green.

"A UFO then swooped down over our heads. One of my companions tried to throw a knife at it — and he became temporarily para-



TOWN IN PANIC: Former police chief Odilon Goncalves said: "This town is in an uproar." lyzed just like a statue." The town's mayor, Maria

Mendes, says she also has seen the UFOs on several occasions.

"As incredible as it sounds, Demerval Lobao has become a playground for flying saucers, and it has affected our prosperity," Mayor Mendes said.

"There are many days when farmers can't work — they're afraid of being captured by the UFOs. If the flying saucers don't go away soon, our town is in danger of going bankrupt.

"I personally saw one UFO last August when I

went to my family's small farm outside of town.

"The egg-shaped machine swooped down on some workers as if it were an ambush. I just couldn't believe that what I was seeing was real. And last April, two UFOs paid a visit downtown. Everyone locked themselves indoors as the two objects descended to roof level and whisked down our main street as if they were racing each other.

"And as this happened, all the streetlights went out — but all the other lights in town stayed on.

"All we can do is pray that they leave us alone so we can all get back to work," the mayor said.

— GARY RICHMAN

'THIS IS WEIRD ... UNREAL'

Dramatic tape of UFO

incident played at Press conference

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

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.

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,

sent to the Ministry of Defence.

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 that 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.

"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."

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 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.

By **JOHN GRANT**

taped commentary during Suffolk's "Sky Crash" incident near Woodbridge airbase.

As they stood in bewilderment between 200 and 300 yards from what is

'Three silver-suited entities hovered in beam of light'

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 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

CHATHAM
STANDARD
KENT
OCT. 25 1984

LOWESTOFT JOURNAL + MERCURY, SUFFOLK OCT 26 1984

Those unexplained lights . . .

3128

MYSTERY DEEPENS

Expert
3128
tackles
the great
UFO
mystery

AN INDEPENDENT investigator has become involved over the claimed double-sighting of an unidentified flying object over Sittingbourne by two teenagers.

Kevin Pook (19), of Staplehurst Road, and Linda Stump (19), 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, five weeks ago.

Mr. Timothy Good, aged 42, who has been researching U.F.O.s since 1955, told the Gazette he found the case "intriguing".

Mr. Good later spoke to Kevin about the sighting and said afterwards: "I was very impressed with him. He seemed completely sincere."

"It is typical of a lot of U.F.O. sightings in several respects. People aren't normally familiar with this type of shape — the rectangle of light. But it is something which crops up quite frequently."

He is appealing for any other witnesses to contact him. Kevin received a telephone call shortly after news about the sighting was published in this newspaper from a man who also claims to have seen the lights while walking his dog during the afternoon.

He did not give his name or any information enabling anyone to contact him and Mr. Good wants him to contact him.

Mr. Good, who is based in Beckenham, has travelled worldwide interviewing key witnesses and discussing sightings with pilots, astronauts, scientists and politicians.

He can be contacted on 0306 880669.

THE mystery of the unexplained lights in the sky over Oulton Broad became even greater this week.

And it seems it was not the first time strange sightings to have been reported in the area.

But what the sightings

were of has become more of a mystery than ever.

The Journal received a stack of callers confirming our story published last week.

Mrs. Anna Goddard, of 1, Longfield Way, Oulton Broad, has a husband, Robert, who has spent a lifetime as an aircraft engineer. But even he did not know

what the couple saw on Sunday week.

A former RAF colleague of Mrs. Wendy Somers, of 87, Caldecott Road, Oulton Broad, said the object sounded like an air ship carrying freight when she told him what she had seen.

Tethered

But Airship Industries, who are the nearest company to Lowestoft to use such craft, flying out of RAF Cardington, Bedfordshire, said their craft were all tethered to the ground over the weekend.

Suffolk investigator for the British UFO Research Association, Mrs. Dot Street, of 15, Blackberry Way, Oulton Broad, said she had contacted bases such as Bentwaters and Mildenhall as

well as the heliport at Ellough trying to find what the mysterious object was . . . but without luck. However, such places do not always divulge what they fly, she said.

She had seen little Lee-Emma Blakemore about the incident and was impressed by her memory. The fact that she could recall exactly what she was wearing at the time makes her evidence of what she saw likely to be accurate.

She now hopes to interview more of those who think they saw something.

Mr. Patrick Brackstone, of 114, Higher Drive, Oulton Broad, said he saw exactly what Mr. William Tompkins described in last week's paper at about the same time of an evening back in October last year. But his story was never printed.

THE HYDNBURN CITIZEN
LANCS

OCT. 26 1984



3128
STILL on the trail of Unidentified Flying Objects in Hyndburn, a group from Oswaldtwistle claim to have made two UFO sightings.

Four friends first saw something strange in the sky over three weeks ago — the same day the Citizen reported a UFO over Clayton-le-Moors.

They were in the area rabbit hunting when they saw something 'green and flashing' in the sky — unlike anything they had ever seen before.

Two weeks later the same group with a fifth friend again saw an object in the sky which was 'luminous green' and 'not a bird or plane'.

One of the group, Christopher Halton from Dudley Avenue, Oswaldtwistle, said they were at West End School, Aspden Lane, when it happened.

With him were Craig McKenzie, Ian Giles, Sharon Holden and Velda Creech, all from the Oswaldtwistle area.

Senan Moloney continues his series on our magnificent obsessions with one of Ireland's top U.F.O. hunters...

The man with his head in the sky

IF YOU have ever seen blinking lights in the heavens or saucers in the sky—you are not alone.

The Spectrum Society, Ireland's UFO watch, has documented over 4,000 cases of UFOs in this country, according to its secretary, Owen McQuail.

"About seventy per cent of sightings are due to natural phenomena," says Owen. "People can see satellites, meteors, Venus, clouds and flocks of birds and believe them to be UFOs. As a matter of fact, we investigated the claim of a man in County Clare who said he had kept a strange piece of metal which he saw fall off a spaceship. It turned out to be a piece of a weather balloon."

"But according to the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics, approximately a third of all UFO sightings cannot be explained. And a great many of these sightings are made by pilots, sea captains, astronomers and astronauts, people who are supposed to know what's happening in the sky."

The Spectrum Society has been looking upwards and outwards since Owen McQuail founded it in 1974. It has over a hundred members in every walk of life, and at one stage it was receiving reports of sightings at the rate of a thousand a year.

In some cases UFOs are said to have landed in Ireland, and there are eyewitness accounts of silver humanoid beings collecting samples of earth rock outside their craft. In contrast, a parliamentary question in the Dail a year or two ago, elicited the official response that there were only fifteen UFO reports on file.

Owen is 45, with a receding forehead and

worried eyes. He had a fire in his home a few months ago which destroyed much of the society's records, and the day after he was visited by hostile life-forms in the shape of burglars. The day I was there, his cistern overflowed. No wonder the poor man has worried eyes.

Not that he's in the least fearful of meeting alien extra-terrestrials. He has seen UFOs on two occasions, and took part with society members in a World Contact Day exercise in 1975, in which people all over the world tried to contact aliens telepathically, asking them to communicate with mankind.

The first of Owen's close encounters came during a skywatch in the grounds of the Clarehaven convent in Finglas at midnight on June 24, 1973.

"I saw this massive orange ball travelling from the south to the north. It must have been about



forty miles up, it had no vapour trails and was about the size of a large jaffa orange. It gave out no noise at all but it was very brightly orange. I watched it with other members of the group for about ten seconds. That fella must have been doing 2,500 or 3,000 miles an hour."

Five years later, Owen

saw a UFO closer to home. "I was out in the back garden and I saw what looked like a dumb-bell in the sky. There were two white orbs joined by what I would call a fluorescent tube. It wasn't an aeroplane, but it was moving at a hell of a lick. Then it just disappeared in front of my eyes. I think now it must have been about two miles up, because it didn't cause any electro-magnetic interference, the lights didn't flicker in the house or anything."

Owen has a number of hypotheses and theories about the origins of UFOs, but he has no doubt that they exist.

"The experts estimate that at least 6,000 million stars are capable of supporting life. And that only takes account of life generating conditions as we know them, and not other environments that could give rise to a different kind of life. So I do believe there is life elsewhere in the Universe, absolutely. It is a scientific likelihood. Whether we have a common creator is another matter."

HEAD IN THE SKY DON'T

He speculates that UFOs may be a visualization of our own future or mental projections, if not the craft of extra-terrestrials. If so, these visualizations have been going on for a long time. The first case in which a witness said he saw a "flying saucer" was in 1896 in America.

Even earlier, many civilisations have myths and legends involving visitors from space. "In Celtic mythology you have

King Bran, who is reported to have travelled in a spaceship, and Incas, Mayans and Indians have spaceship folklore. The word "Vimana" that is found in Hindu scripts means "aeroplane", and there is also the flying carpet syndrome," he says.

Owen was considering the agreement between Isaac Newton and Archbishop Usher that the world was created at 9 a.m. on a morning in October, 4,004 years BC,



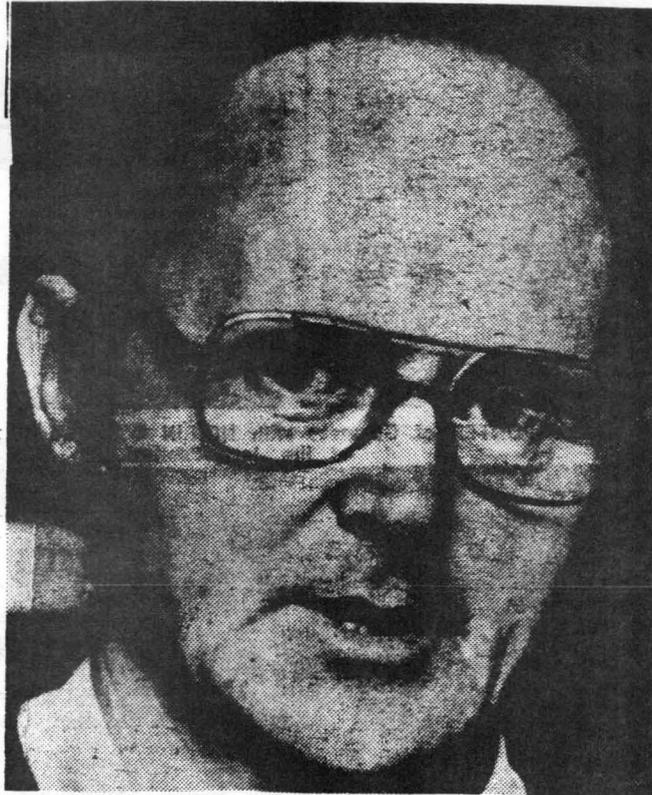
and how long cosmic day-trippers have been visiting this planet, when Allen Lawler arrived.

Allen Lawler is an ex-soldier and now chief investigator of the Spectrum Society. He has also been accepted by NASA as a volunteer for any human colonization of space.

"Allen has a healthy 28-year-old body," says Owen. "Now if they transplanted my brain into him, you'd have a very good unit."

Allen was returning a borrowed record, Klaatu's "Calling Occupants of the Interplanetary Craft", and the conversation turned to Irish UFO sightings on the society's files.

"There was one case in Newbridge where two fellas saw a UFO and took a series of photographs of the object," said Owen. "In 1977 two boys

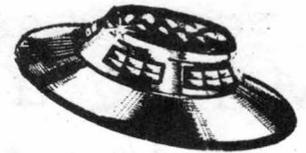


Owen McQuail . . . waiting for the aliens.

went for a walk, one aged thirteen, the other fourteen. One had a tape recorder with him and the other a camera. God knows why. They went into a field in the middle of the afternoon and suddenly they saw a bright spinning object. The tape recorder stopped, but one fella took pictures of the object.

"There are ten pictures of this UFO, and they have been authenticated by photographic experts and others, but I think it's a little too handy, too good to be true. The two lads, Michael McDermott and Christy Hannon have since become Franciscan priests", I believe,

"Then we had a UFO crash landing in Clondalkin," said Allen. It was seen by these two chaps in their teens with one of their mothers in the early evening, the twilight zone. They saw a huge disc flying very warpy on its way down. They said it was dome shaped with a tassel at the top and so many lights underneath that you couldn't miss it. It was pulsing and fading with a bright bluish light.



in one piece suits with a radio contraption on their left ear, walking around for fifteen or twenty minutes, collecting samples. Then they got back into the ship and blasted off."

Owen says that there are legions of people who are convinced UFOs exist. "I've even had a Fianna Fail Minister report a sighting, and the interest in UFOs in high places is incredible. Mind you the majority of people are beginning to wonder now if we aren't the only life in the universe."

He walked me to the gate, and then, with a quick check on the sky, disappeared indoors.

"It went into the grounds of a convent and they next heard a bumping and scratching, and then silence and lights appearing in the air then more bumping and sliding. The lads ran into the convent and saw the object wobbling back up into the sky. Then it shot off at speed.

"We saw scrapes on the ground in the convent, and stud marks where the UFO had put down its tripod. The grass was scorched in the centre of these marks, where there must have been a blast of heat from the engine.

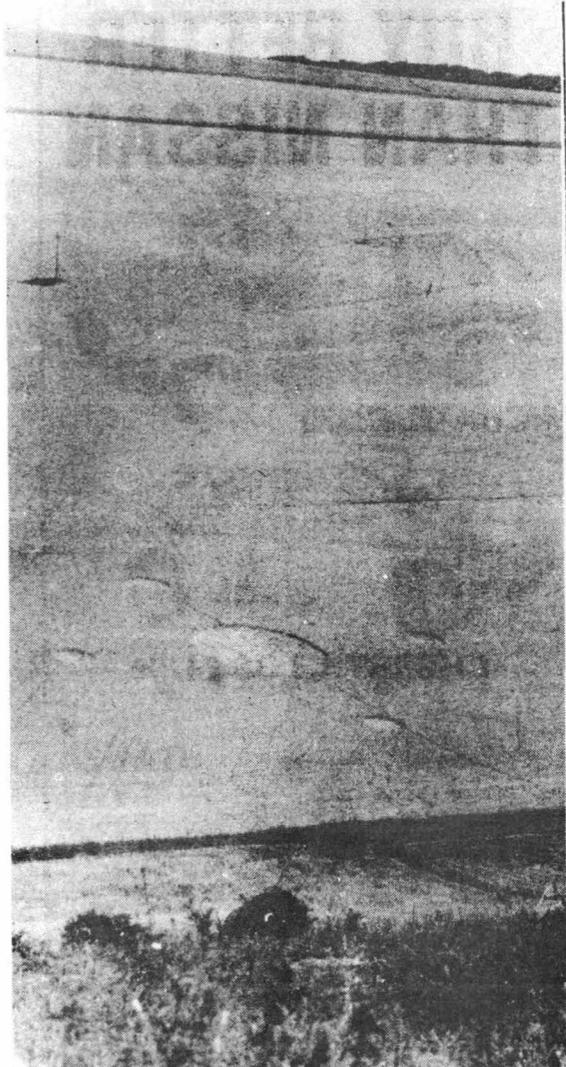
"In Sallins in 1980 a UFO landed in a field, and we found marks on the ground. The farmer tried to persuade us that it was only his cattle having a jamboree in the centre of the field, so we told him that if a UFO had landed, his cattle were probably full of radioactivity and would have to be put down. Three families and the police all saw that object landing. They said it was glowing red, like the brake lights of a car, but when it landed the red faded away.

"A local man, Michael O'Shea, says he saw aliens

SEP. 20 1984

Making a mark
on the media

‘Aliens’
return
predicted



STEUART CAMPBELL
I don't believe it

By SCOTT BEGBIE

Watch the skies around the year 1990 — that's when UFOs will be returning in force.

This bold prediction comes from Edinburgh's resident researcher into Unidentified Flying Objects, Mr Steuart Campbell. But he isn't expecting to see alien craft in the heavens. His explanations for all those lights in the sky — and some on the ground — are much more earthbound.

Most were cases of mistaken identity — people thinking aircraft, satellites or even some planets were flying saucers.

The remainder could be contributed to a rare but entirely natural phenomena — ball lightning, said Mr Campbell, the Scottish area investigator for the British UFO Research Association.

The reason for his 1990 prophecy? Ball lightning, about which little is known, seems to be linked to the amount of electricity in the atmosphere. This in turn is linked to the amount of sunspot activity.

These spots appear like pimples on the face of the sun in an 11-year cycle. They are due to reach a peak in 1990.

The last peak was in 1979 — the year Livingston forestry worker Robert Taylor claimed to have seen a dome-shaped object hovering over the ground, and to have been attacked

Mr Campbell, a freelance architect, said: "I am convinced that Mr Taylor is no hoaxer. But what he experienced was not extra-terrestrial, it was a natural — if rare — phenomena."

In the months leading up to the Livingston incident, Mr Campbell was receiving a call a fortnight about UFOs. Since then he has heard nothing, but he expects to get busier as sunspot activity increases.

His theory is that UFOs are the twentieth-century equivalent of fairies and goblins.

THESE mysterious rings that appeared in a cornfield near Seaford some weeks ago may or may not have been caused by visitors from outer space but one thing is certain — UFOs are still news as far as the media is concerned.

As well as substantial coverage in the local newspapers the rings were seen on television and the Daily Mail devoted an entire page to the story with photographs from one of the area's nearby residents, Labour's Dennis Healey.

As far as Philip Taylor, of the British UFO Research Association, is

concerned the strange markings were an elaborate hoax.

Similar rings had appeared over the past four years in the same spot in Wiltshire and it had been proved they could be made by two people swinging chains.

However, a claim that the rings were in fact evidence of an extra-terrestrial visitor came in the little-known magazine Viewpoint Aquarius which stated that the corn had become dry, flattened into a clockwise shape and lost its chlorophyll (green colouring) as a result of a space craft landing.

Outer space or out your mind?

3128
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT - the phrase conjures up immediate visions of flying saucers, little green men and close encounters of the eerie kind.

UFO reports vary from bright lights in the sky to more tangible manifestations here on earth such as the recent mysterious rings discovered in a cornfield near Seaford.

And then of course there are the more bizarre stories of actual contact with space creatures, of people being invited on board a flying saucer.

But what are these sightings?

Elaborate hoaxes? Mental aberrations? Genuine mistakes?

Or are some of them real glimpses of life from another world?

The leading local expert on UFOs is Philip Taylor, of Polegate, who is regional investigation co-ordinator of the British UFO Research Association.

And after 10 years as a member of the society he has reached the conclusion, 'I don't have any evidence to support the idea that such sightings are space craft coming here from outer space.'

'There is no evidence for that at all although I did believe it was possible at one time.'

He went on, 'Like a lot of

people in this business my opinions have changed over the years.

'About 10 or 15 years ago I would have been saying that my interest was in trying to discover what these sightings were or where they came from.

'That was my original interest - now it is a question of trying to find out what makes people report these cases. It has become more psychological.

'In a very general sense it is my belief that people have a need to believe in something out of the ordinary, something other-worldly.

'Thirty years ago for instance people were saying alien beings were coming from Mars or Venus. Now science has proved that is impossible the sightings are put down to something which is further away, beyond our knowledge.

'I have yet to come across a case where there seems to be a physical object which I really cannot explain at all but I know people and have read cases which do seem very baffling.

'I am not in a position to say absolutely there is no such thing as visitors from outer space - anything is possible.'

A scientist and a keen astronomer Philip has been one of the association's re-

gional investigators for about three years.

His duties, unpaid and previously unpublicised, include the following up of UFO reports from this area usually after they have first filtered through the association's headquarters.

His first move is to send the people involved a de-

ALTHOUGH details are currently under wraps a 'fascinating case' of a local UFO sighting has been investigated by the UFO association and is likely to be made public soon.

tailed form requesting greater and more precise details.

If he then feels the case is worth further investigation he visits the person, often taking them back to the spot where they made their UFO sighting.

The number of reports of sightings vary enormously but are usually between 500 and 1,000 a year.

Some years, particularly if national publicity has been given to a sighting, the number of reports rises dramatically.

The past few years have been fairly quiet ones for the UFO researchers and Philip added, 'After the Close Encounters film the number of reports actually went down which was the reverse of what we were expecting.'

About 90 per cent of the sightings had 'a reasonable explanation.'

He went on, 'Run-of-the-mill cases are often just meteors, satellites or weather balloons - people

can be very misled by all sorts of common phenomena.

'The majority of the remaining 10 per cent of cases are often not fully investigated because of the time and effort they would take up - precise sighting details are required if reports are to be easily checked with air traffic controllers, astronomers or meteorologists.'

He went on, 'Other cases are so bizarre there is no way you are looking for a natural explanation.'

'Very often in these instances we are dealing with cases which are real to the people involved but do not have any reality to anybody else.

'I have spoken to lots of people who can't be pinned down as being anything like mentally disturbed and yet they are convinced they have had extraordinary things happen to them.'

Ten years ago Philip himself witnessed a 'brilliant spot of light in the sky' which he observed over a period of five or six hours.

'I have never fully understood it but I now believe it must have been a very high altitude balloon.'

In spite of his scepticism about flying saucers and visitors from another planet Philip does believe there is life somewhere out in space.

He said, 'I don't think there is much reason to doubt that there is life on other planets - just the sheer number of planets makes it unlikely that life has not developed somewhere else.'

The man who started it all

3128
THE term flying saucer was coined by the press in 1947 after American businessman Kenneth Arnold reported seeing nine gleaming discs 'skipping like saucers across water' while he was flying in a plane over Washington on June 24 of that year.

He reported seeing the nine objects flying in echelon between the snowy peaks around Mount Rainer at a speed he estimated to be 1,200 to 1,700mph.

At first a hoax was suspected but after inquiries into Arnold's character the

story made headlines across the world.

The story marked the modern era of investigation into mysterious sightings which many people believe tie up with numerous historical references which until 1947 had no collective name.

Today there are an estimated 100,000 sightings on record with several hundred reports of actual contacts with the occupants of the objects.

About 20 years ago the term flying saucer was replaced by the present unidentified flying object but

now that too has become hackneyed and is automatically assumed to be a report of visitors from outer space.

The latest term which may now replace that of UFO is the even more unwieldy transient aerial phenomena.

Said Philip, 'The modern craze has been going for nearly 40 years now and still shows no sign of dying out.'

EASTBOURNE
DISTRICT
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NOV 3 1984

IN FOCUS

IT WAS ³¹²⁸ in June, 1947 that the world first heard about "flying saucers." The name had been coined by newspapers eager to embellish businessman Kenneth Arnold's report of having seen nine "saucer-like" objects flying near Mount Rainier in the state of Washington. Soon, a flood of similar stories followed. Was the Earth being visited — perhaps invaded — by beings from another planet? Or, had the emotive term "flying saucer" somehow coloured people's interpretation of what they saw, or thought they saw?

Let us be clear, first, on the distinction between "flying saucer" and "Unidentified Flying Object" (UFO). A UFO is nothing more than an apparently airborne object whose nature is not immediately obvious. Thousands of UFOs are seen daily. Most are quickly identified as being astronomical (e.g. Venus, Sirius, a shooting star or fireball), meteorological (lenticular clouds or "Sun dogs"), or man-made (artificial satellites, balloons, or conventional aircraft). The point is that, seen for the first time, or seen in unusual conditions, even well-understood phenomena can seem mysterious.

By contrast, "flying saucer" connotes a certain appearance — and implies the purpose — of a UFO. Every scientist will concede that there are UFOs. None that I know of will concede that there is a proven case for them being spacecraft of some kind from another world.

It is all too easy to become caught up in the "popular" literature on the subject. UFOs, unfortunately, have the same emotive appeal as "ancient astronauts," the Bermuda Triangle, and other fabricated mysteries. Yet, when all the nonsense is sifted out, when all the obvious explanations have been tried, there remains behind a small core of UFO sightings that are presently unaccounted for. What could be the cause of these? Is some form of intelligent control still a possibility? Or is there some more natural, but not fully-understood, process at work?

Let us, for the moment, give our imagination some rein. Consider the possibility that a minority of UFOs just might be visiting spacecraft from other star systems? Does this raise any fundamental problems?

To begin with, we cannot, at present, conceive how rapid interstellar travel would be feasible. Pioneer 10, for instance, is due to make a distant fly-by of the red dwarf Ross 248, $10\frac{1}{2}$ light years from home, in the year 34,593 A.D.! Travelling at a modest 25,000 miles per hour, it is a humble craft indeed to be embarked on such a massive voyage. High speeds, however, especially those approaching the speed of light itself, invoke some peculiar effects predicted by Einstein's theory of relativity. It is an open question as to whether we shall find a way around these — or whether other intelligences in space have already done so.

More serious for the "alien spacecraft" notion is the problem of the sheer quantity of UFOs. A simple calculation is enough to show this. Imagine that there are one million other races in the Galaxy busily

despatching starships on exploratory missions (a generous estimate). The Earth is likely to be only one of, say, 10 billion "interesting" places available to visit. Then, for even one alien starship to find its way here every year would require that each race be sending out 10,000 craft annually! If we assume, on the other hand, a more reasonable figure of one starship launched annually, then we might expect extraterrestrial visitors at the rate of only one every 10,000 years. The fact, is, there are just too many UFOs around for the alien theory adequately to account for them. Perhaps all that is needed is a little more imagination: could UFOs be time machines carrying tourists from the future? The possibility is a fascinating one — best left to the science fiction writers to explore.

For our part, let us return — quite literally — down to Earth and consider what other explanations there might be for the "unresolved core" of UFOs.

In 1954 there was a "wave" of UFO sightings in France. Such sudden outbreaks of activity are a common feature of the phenomenon. On this occasion it led to some interesting results emerging from the work of a team of French investigators. The 1954 sightings, it turned out, correlated well with the locations of known geological faults. This highlighted a suggestion made earlier by the American Charles Fort, that there might be a possible link between anomalous atmospheric events and regions prone to earthquakes and tremors. Could UFOs, in fact, be "earth lights"?

The idea was tested further by groups in Britain. Plotting the position of UFO sightings in Leicestershire, made over a 25-year period, researchers Andrew York and Paul Deveurex discovered an unusually high incidence of UFO activity in regions of local faulting. A similar result emerged in the case of Warminster, Wiltshire — perhaps Britain's premier UFO "centre." Two faults, it was noted would pass under the town and its surroundings: one of them directly beneath the UFO "hot spot" of Cley Hill. What could this imply?

Back in the laboratory, U.S. Bureau of Mines researcher Dr. Brian Brady carried out an experiment in which a sample of granite was filmed, under darkened conditions, as it was slowly crushed. Later, he found that the granite, under high pressure, had given off flashes of light. The same experiment has now been performed in Britain — revealing the same results. So brought was the emitted light on one occasion that it was seen in normal daylight. On a much larger scale, during earth movements, could the same effect give rise to aerial lights that appear as UFOs?

The mechanism by which natural rocks and minerals give off light when stressed is still a matter for discussion. Certain crystals subjected to pressure produce a current by the so-called "piezo-electric effect." If the pressure were great enough — for instance, during a fault movement — then this might result in a discharge above ground level seen as a glow in the sky. Another possible mechanism is "triboluminescence:" the emission of light due to frictional forces.

We have looked in detail at just one of the proposed natural hypotheses for UFOs. There are others, including that of ball lightning — a remarkable and elusive phenomenon to which we will return another week.

The five per cent UFO factor

By
MARY
JOHNS

PLACE..... Malvern Hills
DATE..... August 6, 1984
TIME..... dead of night
WITNESSES..... Roger and Linda Martin
OBJECTS.....
slow moving, spherical, with bright lights coming from them
RESEARCH..... for one month
CONCLUSION..... low flying military aircraft

Roger and Linda Martin, from Malvern, may not be too pleased to receive the results of Skyscan's investigation into the mysterious UFOs they spotted one August night this year.

Derek Lawrence, and his co-investigators, have come to the conclusion that the spherical objects which hit the headlines and were seen over the Malverns emitting bright lights and making a lot of noise, were actually military aircraft.

The file is now closed. The report, like 95 per cent of the others they've made, doesn't make Skyscan the most popular team in the world.

People don't really want to be told that the UFO they spotted amidst much excitement and mystery was actually a low-flying aircraft, a pigeon with painted wings or even pure fabrication.

But with an average of one sighting a week coming their way, Skyscan likes to be thorough, and sceptical.

The list of cases is impressive. Here's a selection of the many sightings during the past few years:

- Bright pear-shaped objects seen hovering over Droitwich.
- Six small coloured lights moved up and down over Broadheath.
- A gold-coloured ball followed the Worcester to Malvern train home one evening.
- Mr Bruce Fisher saw bright white lights over Hereford.
- Mrs Patricia Lloyd saw a hexagonal object swooping over her garden in Pencombe.
- Mrs Rosemary Hughes saw the ground glowing in Lenchwick.

● Christopher Whippe saw a brightly-coloured object grow and grow in the sky until it split into two.

● Mrs Judy Lessemun saw a sputnik land in her cabbage patch.

● Worcester schoolgirls Beverley Burton and Jane Hancock saw a large silver egg shape flying over Brickfields Post Office.

● Mrs Rina Oakes' wind-screen wipers stopped working when she saw a craft with red lights hovering over a Redditch estate.

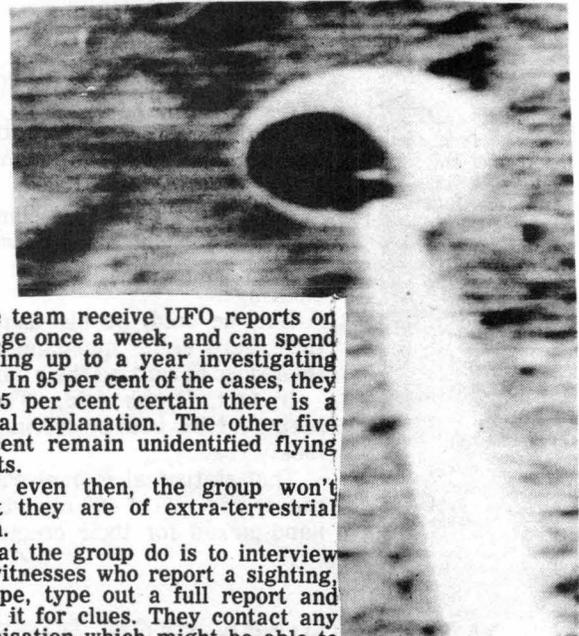
● Maureen Freeman and Carol Stringer, two Leominster housewives claimed to have been transported back in time while driving along the A49.

● Author Colin Stone said he had been chased down the M4 by a spaceship near Hay-on-Wye.

We could fill this whole feature with nothing but similar reports over the past decade from our files and those of Skyscan, and not one of the witnesses involved would be over-pleased to be told that their sightings had a natural explanation, that the gold ball following the train was a reflection, that the bright light in the sky was Venus or the coloured lights were from a helicopter.

But Derek and Christine Lawrence, and Tony Green, the three founder members of Skyscan are not in the game to establish that little green men are about to invade earth. They just want to know the truth.

***'The UFO
does exist...
There's no doubt
about it.'***



The team receive UFO reports on average once a week, and can spend anything up to a year investigating them. In 95 per cent of the cases, they are 95 per cent certain there is a natural explanation. The other five per cent remain unidentified flying objects.

But even then, the group won't admit they are of extra-terrestrial origin.

What the group do is to interview the witnesses who report a sighting, on tape, type out a full report and study it for clues. They contact any organisation which might be able to help, like airports, the balloon and airship club, the Met Office, the RAF, research stations and so on, and usually come up with what they believe to be the answer.

"You have to be diplomatic," said Derek. "People don't always want to know if you have found an explanation. They would rather think it was a UFO."

The group regard their research as a job, rather than a hobby. "We like to think we are offering a service to the community," said Derek. "One of our greatest difficulties is to get people to contact us when they see a UFO. People take us a lot more seriously than they used to and certainly we get more help from official sources with our enquiries, but we'd like far more people to come forward."

It costs the group several hundreds of pounds a year in stationery, petrol, phone calls, etc. "We daren't add it up," said Derek.

But they're keen. "Officially we meet one night a week. Unofficially, it seems to be most nights."

And what about the unsolved five per cent of sightings? Do they believe they are not of this earth.

"We don't believe anything," said Tony firmly. "As investigators we believe nothing."

"But the UFO does exist. There's no doubt about it. It could have a natural explanation. All we know is that we don't know what it is."

If you happen to see, or have seen, an Unidentified Flying Object, and would like to know what it was, Skyscan can be contacted on Worcester 424408 or Worcester 24432.

Researcher charts UFO sightings

CA SAN JOSE MERCURY (M)
NOV. 11 1984

Best place to be is in car, he tells conference

By Mitchel Benson
Staff Writer

In the 11 years since J. Allen Hynek set up the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., the astronomer has learned a thing or two about interviewing those who claim to have had close encounters of any kind.

When he started out, Hynek said, his "first question was whether they were doing anything special (at the time) that might have been exciting."

But, he said, people usually reported that they were doing mundane tasks like walking their dogs or putting their cars in their garages.

In fact, Hynek said, "The best chance for seeing a UFO is to be driving — especially on a lonely road."

That statistical morsel comes from Hynek's recent analysis of 400 reports of UFO sightings, hand-picked for their credibility. He reported

on the analysis Saturday at Stanford University during the second annual conference of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

Of the 400 reports analyzed, 46 percent indicated that the person or persons who claimed to see a UFO saw it hovering, 46 percent said it moved silently and 21 percent reported that it made vertical takeoffs.

"Rarely do UFO reports mention wheels or wings or, for that matter, fiery dragons or pink elephants," Hynek said.

Throughout his presentation, the professor emeritus of astronomy from Northwestern University emphasized that what his center does and what people think it does often are two different things.

"We do not study UFOs, we study UFO reports," Hynek said.

Hynek also described himself as "an enemy of pseudo-science" who needs more research

money to study why so many people claim to have seen UFOs perform in the same manner under similar circumstances.

"We have a phenomenon, and I do not pretend to understand what causes that phenomenon," he said.

But Philip Klass, considered one of the foremost debunkers of unidentified flying objects, challenged Hynek to present what evidence he already has to the National Academy of Sciences for what he called an impartial verdict on the question of the existence of UFOs.

NAS serves as a scientific adviser to the U.S. government, but it is not a government agency.

"Simply collecting more and more UFO reports leads nowhere," said Klass, a senior editor of Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine. "I believe the time has come for a whole new approach."

In an interview after his presentation, Klass declined to take it upon himself to propose the UFO study to the National Academy of Sciences.

"The burden of proof is Hynek's. Hynek has the most to win or to gain."

But Hynek said in an interview that he would not take Klass up on his challenge.

He said that he has not had the time or funds for as exhaustive of an investigation into the phenomenon as the National Academy of Sciences would deserve or demand.

"I've often said that investigation of one UFO case requires the same amount of time and effort as one homicide investigation," Hynek said. "What would be the point of presenting this half-cooked stuff to the National Academy?"

MB WINNIPEG FREE PRESS
NOV 13 1984

How far back have UFO sightings been dated?

Q. How far back have UFO sightings been dated?

A. The modern age of UFOs began June 24, 1947, with a sighting by Kenneth Arnold in the Cascade Mountains of western Washington, says Ed Barker, director of the Manitoba Centre of UFO Studies at the Planetarium. The shiny objects Arnold described were dubbed flying saucers by the news media — a term in use until the U.S. Air Force began investigating sightings and labelled them unidentified flying objects. However, Barker says there is ample evidence in folklore that similar objects have always been observed — as far back as Roman times. The first known Manitoba sighting was in 1898 when strange objects, described as bluish-white plates, were seen hovering near Crystal City.

1381

The UFO buster

Star watcher tracks flying saucers and their pilots



Times Herald

Dan Wright thinks that unidentified flying objects, reported for many years across the world, are visitors from outer space. He is

the Michigan director of the Mutual UFO Network, which investigates such reports.

By **BILL BUNN**
Times Herald Reporter

Dan Wright believes there is someone Out There. His job is to find out who — or what — they are.

Wright is the Michigan director of the Mutual UFO Network, which investigates unidentified flying objects.

He believes flying saucers are far more than science fiction.

And he asks others to make this leap of imagination and consider that we may be neither alone nor unknown in the universe.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I submit that UFOs are real," Wright told members of the Greater Port Huron-Marysville Chamber of Commerce.

He presented slides, photographs and government reports to support his claim that some UFOs are outer-space visitors — possibly from planets of other stars in our Milky Way galaxy.

These extraterrestrial travelers may be studying us, even trying to manipulate our nuclear weapons, he said.

He cited accounts of UFOs over military missile bases in 1975 in Montana and Maine. In one case, a missile's computer-controlled directional code changed mysteriously.

Wright realizes that the idea of space tourists draws skepticism.

"A nut or a bolt from a UFO is the only thing that will convince some people of the reality of the phenomenon," he said.

CON'T NEXT PAGE

THE UFO BUSTER CONT

"For most of us, it is logical to assume there is intelligent life somewhere out there. But to say we are being routinely visited is another jump," he said.

Wright had at least one sympathizer, though.

Leo Siskonen, Marysville, said he saw a UFO in the late 1950s in northwest Detroit.

He was driving through a golf course when "All of a sudden this thing appeared," Siskonen

said. "It was a white light, almost round, with little fringes on top.

"I definitely thought it was a UFO of some kind. It couldn't have been anything else."

But Siskonen was reluctant to tell anyone. "I thought they'd say, 'You've been drinking or something.'"

Wright estimates only 10 percent of UFO observations are reported. "Fear of ridicule is

what stops 90 percent," he said.

Still, 123,000 sightings by more than one person are in Mutual UFO Network files, Wright said. The 15-year-old private, non-profit organization has 12,000 members worldwide.

The reported UFOs are usually lights or what appear to be metallic objects that may hover soundlessly or dart about the sky, appearing and disappearing, Wright said.

Most pictures he showed

looked like two soup bowls with wide rims placed face to face. The images were mostly tiny and fuzzy.

Flying saucers could come from plenty of places, Wright said.

The known universe has about 100 billion galaxies, each with an average of 100 billion to 200 billion stars, he said. One estimate is that each star in 200,000 could have a planet with intelligent life — meaning more than one million such planets in our galaxy.

But almost all stars are hundreds of light-years away. A light-year is the distance light travels in a year — almost six trillion, or 6,000,000,000,000, miles. Even traveling near the speed of light, 186,000 miles a second, a spaceship from a planet 100 light-years away would take more than 100 years to get here.

"How do they get here? We're really not sure," Wright said. He suggested UFOs may use time travel or follow other-dimensional paths to cover the vast distances.

The UFO Network has 76 reports of people seeing extraterrestrial occupants of these supposed spacecraft on the ground, Wright said.

The E.T.s are slender, less than 4 feet high, with big heads, holes for ears and nostrils, slits for mouths, long arms, white or swarthy skins and large eyes placed far apart.

"They plainly look like us, or perhaps it would be more accurate to say we look like them," Wright said.

NY. MAMARONECK TIMES

NOV 9 1984

Truthful article on 'UFO' sightings

This is in response to your excellent and truthful article on the "UFO" events reported throughout your area. As one of four investigators from APRO, the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, we have tried to get the truth out to the public as we believe that 90 percent of the sightings were the pilots. With more thorough investigation it might be higher. I was to be one of the principal speakers at the Brewster Conference at the request of attorney Peter Gersten. Because I wanted to reveal what we found out, Mr. Gersten refused to let me speak and made other arrangements. This constitutes censorship. It was only because of pressure by certain people that at the last minute I was put on the discussion panel. This gave me the opportunity to reveal the truth and the facts. As I was speaking to the audience, Mr.

Letters

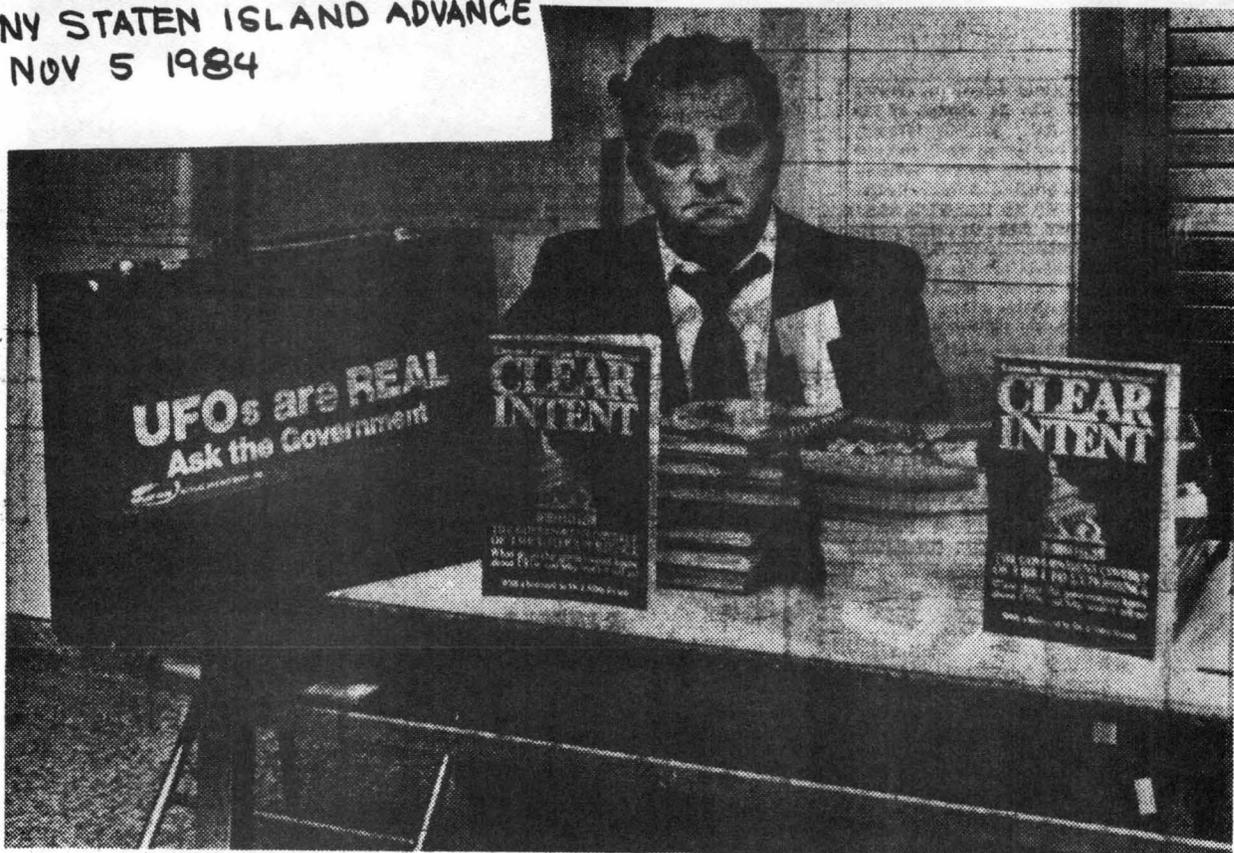
Gersten was behind me telling me to keep quiet about the pilots as was Phillip Imbrogno, of Hynek's organization, CYROS. I deeply respect and support Mr. Gersten and his fight for "the people's right to know," but it appears that Mr. Gersten didn't think the people had a "right to know" the truth about the pilots.

The night following your article, Mr. Gersten's "UFO Hotline" stated, "contrary to published reports, the pilots have not been identified." Who is he trying to fool? I was the first UFO investigator to find out the name of the lead pilot and made it public. I believe I have a legitimate claim to the \$1,000 Mr. Gersten is offering for the pilots' identification. I'm also sure that I'll

never get it. But that's not all that important. What counts is that you printed the names and confessions of the "Martian Aliens," and the public now knows.

The only thing that Gersten, Imbrogno and Hynek are going to accomplish is to destroy their credibility in the UFO field and damage all future UFO sightings, investigations and cooperation from the police, media and the public. I have been accused of being a fool and not knowing of what I speak, but I wonder who really is the fool. And who is the one to be trusted?

NY STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE
NOV 5 1984



Lawrence Fawcett displays his book at a UFO conference in Tottenville High School.

S.I. Advance Photo by Tony Carannante

UFO-logists discuss coverup, electricity — & Telly Savalas

By DENISE RINALDO
Advance Staff Writer

"I saw a 50-foot-long circular craft. I didn't feel any apprehension, and I just sort of glided into it. The moment I got on board I saw a man — a man who looked a little bit like Telly Savalas."

The Savalas-oid creature taught Bryce Bond the art of ultrasonic breathing — a kind of high-pitched droning which, the counselor-psychic-former journalist promises, is the antidote to aging, smoking, drinking and general frustration or malaise.

Bond, who says he communed with the extraterrestrial captains of an unidentified flying object (UFO) he happened upon in England, answered the question most skeptics ask about alleged UFO sightings. In the words of one of the curious who

wandered through the UFO conference at Tottenville High School yesterday: "If they're going to come 5 million miles, why don't they do something? Don't just let off a cloud of steam and go back home."

Bond maintains that they do. He met more than once with a group of the weary travelers, he claims, but was able to recall details of the get-togethers only after undergoing regressive hypnosis. The procedure enabled him to reclaim 2½ hours of "lost time" during which the "close encounter" occurred.

But the conference, sponsored by the Scientific Bureau of Investigation, whose international director, Pete Mazzola, operates out of Annadale, wasn't all trances and Telly Savalas.

Documentation was presented

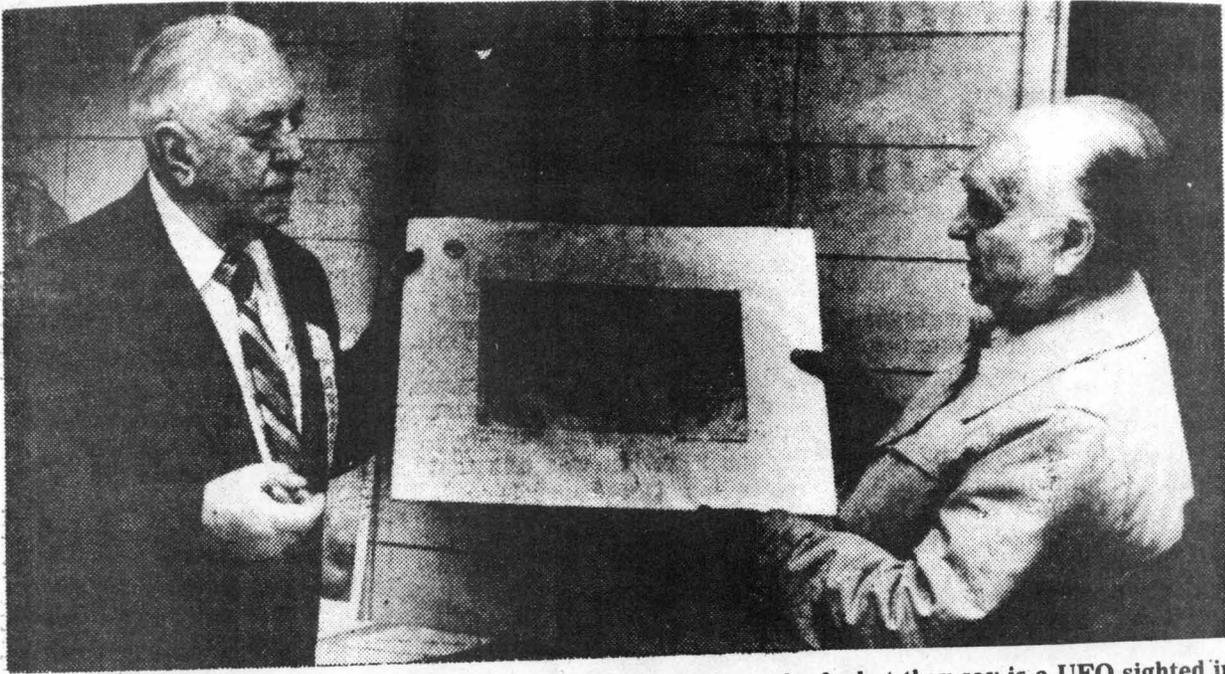
that would convince even Kojak that there's something strange going on up there, and it was presented by people who say they think the little green men may be smart enough to keep their distance.

Colmán Von Keviczky thinks UFOs are a threat to every country's national security, and claims the United States, Iran, Italy and even the United Nations recognize the danger. The governments, he says — displaying reams of documents to bolster his argument — are keeping what they know about UFOs secret for fear that the truth would panic those of us who thought E.T. was just a movie.

He pulls out a copy of a U.S. Defense Department memo

(See UFOS, Page A 6)

CON'T NEXT PAGE



Colman Von Keviczky, left, and Milan Pribis discuss a photograph of what they say is a UFO sighted in Denmark in 1974.

dated 1953: "... if the apparently controlled maneuvers reported by many competent observers are correct, then the only remaining explanation is the interplanetary answer."

Well, that *was* more than 30 years ago.

But it doesn't stop there, Keviczky, a former major in the Royal Hungarian Army, proves. He can show you memos, reports and letters — recent ones — showing that the questions about the existence and source of UFOs have resulted in quite a bit of paperpushing at the CIA, the FBI and the National Security Agency.

Another featured speaker at the conference, Lawrence Fawcett, is the author of "Clear Intent," a recently published book that aims to prove the U.S. government is conspiring to keep us in the dark about UFOs.

His arguments are rational — he explains that UFOs have been seen doing things present technology can't replicate — and his evidence appears to be sound. The book documents UFO sightings near U.S. government installations, such as Air Force bases. He obtained the often detailed descriptions under the Freedom of Information Act, which gives all citizens access to any government document that

isn't classified.

"There's been no reaction at all from the government," Fawcett said before he addressed the small but devoted audience. "Usually when books come out they put out some kind of a response — a denial — but there's been nothing." In addition to the Freedom of Information Act, Fawcett and Barry Greenwood, co-author of the book, obtained some of the 5,000 pages of government documents they've secured since 1977 by bringing lawsuits against the CIA, demanding to see documents the agency wouldn't release.

Fawcett, a police lieutenant in Coventry, Conn., says that prior to 1965 he had no interest in UFOs. It was then that he had his first and only sighting. "I saw an object come down and stop over an electrical substation in Manchester, Conn. It was round and very, very big. A rod came out of the bottom, and I saw electricity jump and all the lights went out. The rod came back up and it disappeared."

The lights came back on after a short while, but what caused them to go out remained a mystery, he said. A "ufologist" was born.

The typical government reaction to a UFO is to shoot first and ask questions later, Fawcett's research shows. Because

S.I. Advance Photo by Tony Carannante

of that, he says he's not surprised aliens haven't made a habit of rubbing elbows with earthlings.

So for now, we'll have to be content with sightings from afar. The conference's purpose, Mazzola said, was to educate the public and force the government into telling what it knows about UFOs.

Anyone interested should keep his eyes open. New York has been experiencing a "UFO flap" since early last year, Philip Imbrogno, a speaker at the conference said, with sightings of "boomerang-shaped patterns of lights" hovering over Connecticut, Putnam County and Westchester County becoming almost commonplace. The phenomenon has been independently reported by thousands of people, who swear it wasn't a group of Cessna 152s flying in formation. That's how the Federal Aviation Administration explains it.

"That's physically impossible," Imbrogno says, and the debate continues.