

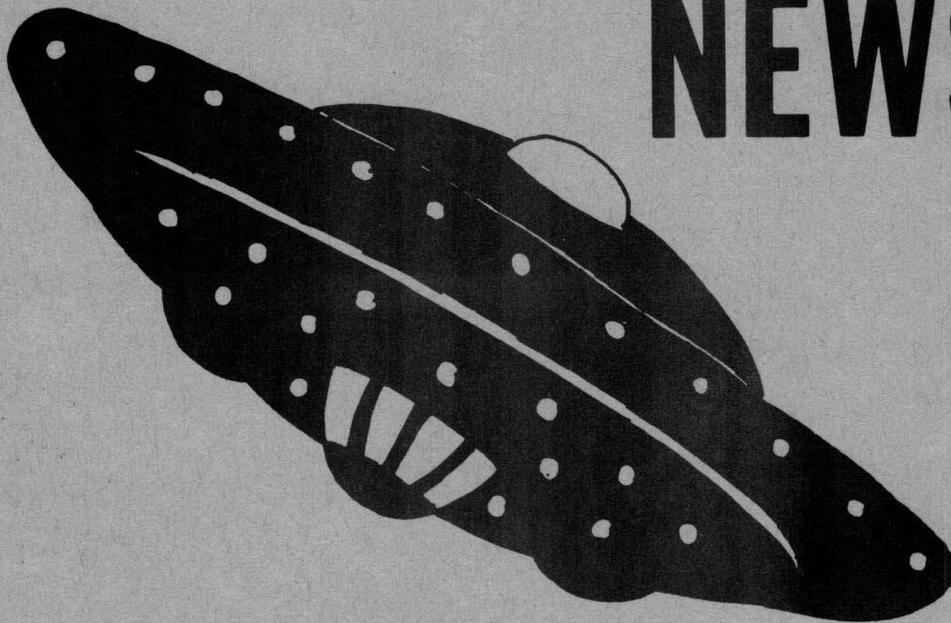
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HARRY R. COHEN
editor

S. MAC WILLIAMS
asst. editor

RON SMOTEK
photo analysis

RICHARD SMOTEK
"supplement" research

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

G. RONCORONI
Argentina

JEFF BELL
Australia

GEORGE HUME
W. Australia

H.C. PETERSEN
Denmark

JEAN SIDER
France

M. MORI
Japan

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UFO Canada

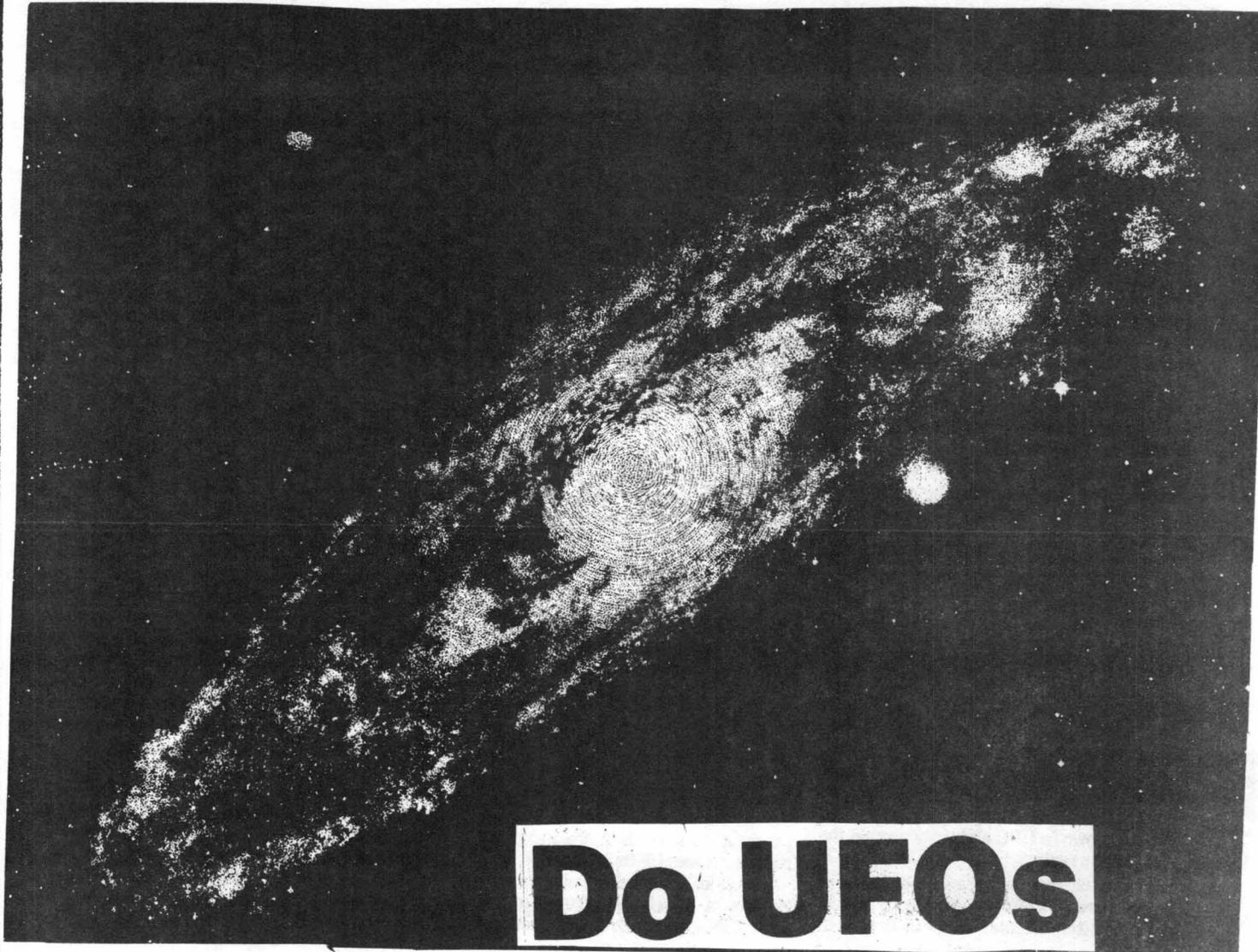


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Do UFOs

really exist?

By Abe Aamidor

St. Louis Globe-Democrat

If you're like most people, you probably think that UFOs don't exist.

So how come Ted Phillips has uncovered reports of physical evidence in some 2,500 alleged UFO landings in 65 countries since he began researching the subject in 1968?

Phillips, 43, from Reed Springs, Mo., hasn't seen that many unidentified flying objects in his time. He says he's never seen any, in fact.

But he has seen what others call evidence, ranging from scorched earth samples to some broad, circular impressions in an Iowa field that could only have been made by a heavy saucer-shaped disc.

Phillips isn't even counting photographic evidence or anything that shows little specks in the sky or a luminous object hovering near the horizon.

HE'S A PROFESSIONAL photographer who knows how easy it is to stage some shots. Phillips has worked for years with J. Allen Hynek, the noted astronomer and founder of the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill. as well as with MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network, based in Seguin, Texas.

Phillips says a lot of UFO sightings begin when the dogs begin to bark and a farmer goes out to see what's the matter. If reports show the sightings occur with cyclical certainty between 9 and 10 p.m. or around 1 a.m., frequently in the rural zones of Missouri or Iowa during the months of September and October, Phillips knows it is not just chance that is making people believe they have seen things that should not have been there.

Phillips will be one of the featured speakers at the 16th annual MUFON Symposium, June 28, 29 and 30 at the Chase-Park Plaza Hotel. The event is open to the public.

Advance registration is \$25 through June 21; after June 21 registration is \$28. Registration for individual sessions is \$7.50. Call 831-0413 for more information.

THE UFO INVESTIGATOR says one of the best cases he knows of originated on a farm in Southwest Missouri's Barry County.

"A farm family of seven saw an object in the field about 250 feet outside their kitchen window one morning," Phillips said during a phone interview recently.

"They thought it was a piece of airplane or something that fell from the sky, but after a couple of hours it silently ascended, made a sharp right turn, then a left turn and continued ascending."

The object was reportedly four feet in diameter with a wedge-shaped bottom. It flew to a large, cylindrical object about 185 feet up in the sky and together they both disappeared into the heavens.

CONT NEXT PAGE

Investigators are on the trail of evidence they say points to travelers from another world

That's what the farmers said they saw. What Phillips saw was a dramatic, sorrowful-looking plot of scorched earth right under the spot where the UFO had allegedly landed. There was no moisture in the soil in that spot; the moisture content elsewhere in the field was 12 percent.

PHILLIPS SAYS THE members of the farm family were pillars of the community in Jennings. He asked around town and most people said they didn't believe in UFOs, but if they were going to believe anybody's account of a UFO sighting, it would be from that family.

But all that the cautious Phillips will conclude is that the witnesses "simply saw an object that should not have been there."

So-called landing pod indentations, broken tree limbs, damage to plants along purported flight paths and even completely independent reports of the same, smelly, dark, vile liquid being distributed near landing sites — these are all commonly reported traces of a physical presence of things unknown in UFO sightings around the world, Phillips says.

There are patterns to the evidence found at many reported UFO landings, says Phillips. There are often circular rings in the earth

which are either burned, depressed or dehydrated and in some cases the soil has glowed for three or four evenings after a reported landing.

There are cases where soil would no longer absorb water after a reported landing and there have been reports of mysterious coatings found on "ring soil." According to Phillips, in 1971 a scientist at Nottingham University in England studied coating from ring soil and concluded that there was no conventional or natural explanation for its existence.

ANOTHER PART-TIME researcher into UFO phenomena is John Shuessler, a 52-year-old aerospace engineer who lives in Houston. He, too, will speak at the UFO convention in St. Louis later this month. His special interest is collecting medical evidence of visits from outer space.

"In many cases people are harmed," Shuessler said by phone from Houston. "Accumulation of that information has potential to give us more insights into the nature of these UFOs."

Shuessler has received more than 300 reports of injuries attributed to encounters with UFOs since his first encounter with a

reported victim. That was on Dec. 29, 1960 in Houston.

He says that a local businesswoman, Betty Cash, an assistant, Vickie Landrum and Mrs. Landrum's grandson, Colby, reported that they were followed by a bright, very hot craft which hovered over their car for several minutes, scalding them and forcing them to flee from their car before it took off itself.

THE THREE VICTIMS actually exhibited several profound symptoms from this alleged encounter, including burns on the skin, substantial hair loss, diarrhea, vomiting and damage to the eyes. Many of the symptoms paralleled those from radiation exposure.

The two adults were so severely injured that neither has worked since. Shuessler adds that at least one area hospital performed a myriad of physical tests on the victims after the encounter but uncovered no known physical cause for the symptoms.

What made the case even more remarkable, says Shuessler, is that several other Houston area residents, including some helicopter pilots, independently reported seeing an unidentified bright object in the area where the three victims were injured at about the same time as the injuries were reported to have happened, though none of other witnesses were harmed.

IN ANOTHER NEAR-TRAGIC encounter in 1979, Val Johnson, a sheriff's deputy, was on patrol in a remote area of Northwest Minnesota when he saw a light and sped toward it.

As he approached the object it fired a "shot" at him, blinding him temporarily and causing him to steer the car into a ditch.

Later, it was discovered that Johnson suffered corneal abrasion, though he had not been thrown from the car; it was also revealed that paint from the patrol car was chipped and the windshield cracked, though no evidence of what had struck the car was ever discovered.

Later that same evening, a couple of hundred miles to the south in Iowa, an independent report was filed by a local farmer describing almost the identical scenario, except that the farmer managed to swerve in time and avoid hitting the mysterious, lighted object as it moved toward him. The farmer was not injured.

Phillips and Shuessler will share what insights they've gleaned through the years at the UFO convention, but both men claim they are not trying to sell anybody on the existence of extraterrestrial visitors.

As Shuessler said from Houston, "I've vacillated over the years from, 'Sure, there must be,' to, 'How can that be?'"



Ted Phillips



John Shuessler

UFO fans hold anniversary encounter

By ROLLA J. CRICK
of The Oregonian staff

Cast your eyes to the skies next week and be prepared to report sightings of unidentified flying objects, a champion of UFO awareness is pleading.

Wayne S. Aho of New Age Foundation Inc. in Tacoma, Wash., an organization that records UFO sightings, expects a lot of unidentified objects to be flying worldwide that week, says many of them could appear in Northwest skies, particularly near Mount Rainier.

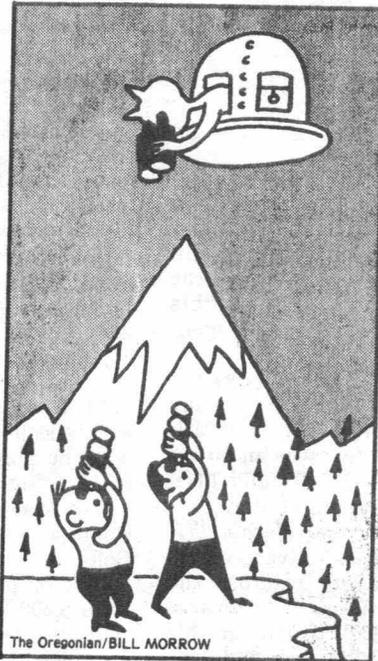
June 24 will mark 38 years of UFO sightings in the United States. It was on that date in 1947 that Boise, Idaho, businessman Kenneth Arnold said he saw nine "pie-pan shaped" objects like "saucers" flying in formation near Mount Rainier.

Aho contends the mountain is a major landing site for UFOs, and a few years ago members constructed a "saucer port" near Ashford, Wash., complete with decoy spaceship replica to lure extraterrestrial visitors.

The 24th annual "New Space Age-Convention" of the New Age Foundation will be held from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. June 22-23 in the Shaw Room of Seattle Center.

New Age Foundation conventions have gone beyond just UFOs. A feature of this year's meeting will be a gathering of persons who have had near-death experiences.

There will also be sessions on



The Oregonian/BILL MORROW

alternate energy, holistic health, spiritual transformation, nutrition and communication.

Arnold, of Meridian, Idaho, died Jan. 16, 1984, but the UFO craze he started when he told his experience to Pendleton East Oregonian reporter Bill Bequette two days after the event, continues to flourish.

Bequette, now an editorial writer for the Tri-City Herald in Kennewick, Wash., recalled last week that he "had no inkling what I had by

the tail when I put a little four-paragraph story on the news wire."

He said that when Arnold came to the Pendleton East Oregonian, he wanted to know whether the newspaper knew of any testing by the military of a new type of aircraft.

"I told him I didn't know, but we could put a short story on the wire and maybe someone else would verify his sighting," Bequette said. "He had used the description 'saucer-like' and that's what did it."

"I went to lunch and when I came back there were calls from all over the country."

Since then, UFO sightings and "close encounters" have been reported all over the world.

People claiming to have ridden in interplanetary ships have visited newsrooms. A woman who said she was from Venus gave lectures in Portland on love.

The U.S. Air Force has extensively investigated reported UFO sightings and issued a "Project Blue Book" report that discounted the finding of any solid evidence to support existence of alien spaceships or extraterrestrial landings.

Aho angrily termed the denial of UFOs "a cosmic Watergate" and "a most dastardly coverup" in which those who reported seeing UFOs came to be treated as second class citizens.

Of all of the UFO-related events that have occurred since Arnold's

1947 sighting, the one involving "The Two" was perhaps the most odd.

From 200 to 1,000 people were believed to have become disciples of a man and woman, known as "Him" and "Her," who appeared in Waldport in 1975 and promised a new and better life on a higher plane. People left children, businesses, houses and land to follow the couple. About 20 left the Oregon coast with them, but the group grew many times as it moved across the country.

Eventually, it was determined that "Him" was Marshall Herf Applewhite, a former Houston music teacher, and "Her" was Bonnie Lu Trusdale Nettles, a Texas nurse.

Applewhite also was identified as a bit opera singer and as the son of a Presbyterian minister.

The couple preached that followers would undergo metamorphosis before boarding the UFOs which, in a Salt Lake City recruiting meeting, were identified as the cars, buses and planes of the Kingdom of God.

Many of the followers became recruiters and moved across the country in pairs to spread the word. "The Two" vanished when news people went on to cover other events in the world a decade ago.

Some of the disciples eventually returned home, disillusioned and despondent. They faced battles to recover property they had given away, and the children they had abandoned.

Lights in the Sky Linked to Satellite

By MARK ZALOUDEK
Staff Writer

Science prevailed over science fiction as the saga of strange lights affecting across Monday night's sky unfolded Tuesday.

The latest explanation for the aerial phenomenon - described by residents across Florida as every-

thing from "a ball of fire" to a visiting UFO - is that it was caused by the disintegrating platform of a Russian communications satellite. Officials for the nation's air defense agency said the 22-foot-square metal structure incinerated without leaving a trace upon re-entry into Earth's atmosphere.

Astonished viewers across the Sarasota-Bradenton area, who tied up phone lines at law enforcement agencies and newspapers with varying reports of sightings shortly after 10 p.m., don't uniformly buy the Soviet satellite theory, however.

Craig Anderson, a 21-year-old Bradenton resident, does not believe the light he saw in the sky Monday night was debris falling from space.

"That's a bunch of bogus," Anderson said Tuesday. "I would classify it as a UFO until they can prove me wrong."

Many were just as skeptical about a laser light theory proffered Monday night by the Federal Aviation
Continued on 8A

Administration flight service station in Tampa. An FAA spokesman said the Harbour Island development in southern Tampa had received permission to test the lasers Monday and Tuesday nights in preparation for its grand opening.

"It just looked mysterious as the devil because it didn't make any noise," Sarasota resident Trey Miller said. "It definitely was an object floating through the air and definitely wasn't a laser light show."

Miller phoned the *Herald-Tribune* to describe a silver, cigar-shaped craft traveling across the sky with its lights on. The bizarre occurrence stopped traffic on his way home, he added, as people got out of their cars to gaze skyward.

Elbert Houston of Sarasota had carried his trash cans to the curb when he was distracted by bright lights coming out of the southwest sky. "I couldn't distinguish what the front part of it was, but there

was spotted lights and a long red flame coming out of the back of it," he said. "If it was metal burning up, I don't think it would have had the flame we saw."

Government experts say it was space debris orbiting Earth and they pinpoint it as a useless component of the Russian Molniya 3-21 communications satellite launched May 29.

"The communications satellite itself is still in orbit. What decayed was the platform," said Public Affairs Officer K. Cormier of the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"We're presently tracking more than 5,600 man-made space objects traveling through space. They (engineers) had detected through our NORAD space surveillance system that one was losing altitude and speed. They had been watching this particular space object and predicted it would re-enter the Earth's atmosphere" at approximately 10 p.m. Monday, Mrs. Cormier said.

The Thing goes on show

3128

AN UNIDENTIFIED flying object came back to Warminster yesterday after 20 years.

Journalist Ken Rogers was a schoolboy in the town when it caught the world's imagination in 1965.

Mysterious sounds were heard followed by sightings of

fiery cigar-shaped objects in the sky. People were so frightened by "The Thing" that the council called a public meeting at the Town Hall to alleviate fears.

From then on hundreds of sky watchers and UFO investigators from all over the

world went to Cradle Hill, Warminster, hoping for scoop photographs.

The town became as famous for UFOs as Loch Ness is for monsters.

Since then Ken Rogers has been collecting evidence of the "Warminster invasion"

and he is now showing the story at Warminster library and museum.

A large collection of reports, press cuttings, illustrations, photographs, books, magazines and historical documents all charting the bizarre story will be on show until August 30.

Solutions sought for UFO mysteries

By SCOTT SIMONS
Herald & Review Staff Writer

An unidentified flying object had landed at an English Air Force base, the news commentator said, and inside were seven dead, people-like bodies. Only 4½ feet tall, they had black hair and Latin-type features.

It was in June 1955 when Leonard Sturm heard a report on the radio that picqued his interest and led to



Leonard Sturm

serious involvement in trying to unravel the UFO mystery.

Intrigued by the news, Sturm, of 1835 S. Fairview Ave., went looking for the story the next day in Chicago and St. Louis newspapers. No luck. He later learned the story was censored by the English government, although one New York City paper had it in one edition before the story was killed.

Now the Illinois director for the Mutual UFO Network, a national non-profit organization dedicated to research and investigation of UFOs, Sturm says that case was one of the first actions taken by a government to keep UFOs and their inhabitants a secret.

This weekend, Sturm is attending a symposium in St. Louis with the theme, "UFOs: The Burden of Proof." He says it is up to civilians — while their government counterparts aggressively and secretly pursue it as well — to unlock the mysteries of visitors from outer space.

An interview with the 60-year-old Sturm, an electrical engineer for Illinois Power Co., quickly dispels any

notions the guy's a kook.

In a paced, even voice, Sturm notes that the secrecy, or cover-up, if you will, is due to the recognition by governments in the U.S. and Soviet Union that whoever first befriends alien visitors could be provided with an abundance of information that could solve problems here on Earth.

"But that's not the primary reason for secrecy," Sturm said. "Their craft are powered by a physical means we don't know anything about."

Sturm has had three sightings of his own between 1959 and 1974, the second of which prompted him to found the Decatur UFO Research Committee in 1967. The small study group meets the last Tuesday of each month at the Decatur Public Library.

And though the local group is comprised of more common people, the national UFO organization is strictly professional.

"The members are scientists and engineers who recognize the UFO phenomenon is very real and can't be explained in scientific terms," Sturm says.

The group is trying to solve the puzzle, involving three very important questions:

- "Who are they?"
- "What do they intend to do to us?"
- "Where are they from?"

"That's the most intriguing question because people see them leave, from apparently one time-space frame into another we know nothing about," Sturm says. "They vanish before their eyes. There are a lot fewer reports the other way around."

In the Decatur area, the last reported sighting was more than three years ago.

"Few people watch the sky," Sturm laments. "Decatur people don't seem to be interested. They've found my talks interesting, but not enough to join."

Nationally, though, the scientific community is employing more sophisticated equipment to analyze data and evidence. People have reported 130 different shapes of vehicles over the years, meaning that aliens could be coming from many places.

Sturm is optimistic the mystery can be solved.

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Sightings better than

average?

When Leonard Sturm talks about his own UFO sightings, he notes there have been more than 2,500 reported cases where craft have landed or almost landed.

Of those cases, more than 300 resulted in the UFOs' occupants abducting those who watched. Some earthlings were returned, Sturm says; others were not. In that light, he says his sightings were not awe-inspiring.

Still, the Illinois director of the national Mutual UFO Network says his three sightings were "better than average," all occurring during the day with witnesses present.

Many people think about flying saucers appearing at night, but Sturm says UFO night sightings are "quite insignificant."

Seeing is not necessarily believing

Terry Camfield of Argenta takes an agnostic approach to UFOs.

"I believe it's possible, but I'm still not convinced I saw one. I'd like it explained to me."

But Camfield, a 33-year-old general foreman for Baldwin & Associates at the Clinton nuclear power station, acknowledges he did see something April 14, 1982, the last reported sighting of a UFO in the Decatur area.

He was riding his motorcycle three miles west of Maroa on a county road when a "white-looking light" caught his eye.

Leonard Sturm, a state director for the national Mutual UFO Network, investigated the sighting after Camfield was told by a friend of the Decatur man's involvement in UFOs.

According to the report filed with the organization, Camfield said he saw a horizontal bar of light in the sky coming toward him. The object circled in the sky, always west of Camfield, but flew in a vertical position when it was in the east and west directions of its circular path.

"The object did not look like anything except a fluorescent light tube flying in the sky," Camfield told Sturm.

Camfield stopped to watch the object from 3:30 to 3:40 p.m., then headed home to pick up his camera. He drove back to the spot in his car and snapped 24 color shots of the object with a 50-millimeter lens. At 4:10 p.m., Camfield returned to his home, where his wife, Shelly, had since arrived.

Before returning to the location with his wife, he took the film out of the camera,

Following are descriptions of his not-so-close encounters:

- 1959 — Sturm and his family were traveling north on Illinois 47, just south of Morris. He was in the back seat while his wife was driving.

The craft, slightly elliptical in shape and bright, was about the size of a DC-3 twin-engine airplane, Sturm said. It appeared suddenly, off to the northeast of the car.

He rolled down his window and stuck his head out. He could only see the bottom of the craft, which was about a mile away from the car. After a minute, the craft was directly east of the car, and, using trigonometry, Sturm figured it was traveling about 4,000 mph. His son and wife also saw it.

- Labor Day weekend 1967 — Sturm was off the shore of Lake Decatur across from Nelson Park about

3:30 p.m.

U.S. Air Force jets were leaving long vapor trails in the sky, but Sturm said a "self-luminating, round, globular object" flew considerably high overhead. "We simply watched it fly by," he added.

- 1974 — Sturm and an Illinois Power Co. engineering clerk were returning from a business trip in Mount Vernon, traveling north on U.S. 51. About a mile south of Macon, Sturm looked up ("I watch for them all the time") and it was directly above the car.

The silver, aluminum-colored craft looked like a "big airplane," but it had no engines, tail, wings and did not make any noise. About 2,000 feet up, it traveled north and Sturm's colleague also saw it. Viewing time was about 1 to 1½ minutes, until they lost sight of it over the tree line while negotiating the S-turn at Macon.

but in his excitement forgot to rewind the film. As a result, 17 of his shots were fogged, leaving only the first, long-range shots.

The photographs were tested to ensure the small white line was not a reflection or any other kind of aberration.

Returning to the location, the Camfields watched the object again from 4:45 to 5 p.m., still in its circular flight path. The couple lost site of the object while driving home.

Camfield told Sturm that he had the feeling the object was relatively small — six to eight feet long and only one to two inches in diameter, but slightly thicker in the middle. It traveled at variable speeds, sometimes quite fast and at others almost stopping or hovering.

He estimated the object was 200 to 400

SOLUTIONS CON'T

feet away, but at an altitude of 1,000 to 2,000 feet. It emitted no noise.

Despite his observations, Camfield, unlike his wife, said he doesn't watch the sky any more than usual. He, like Sturm, doesn't know of any other people who saw it.

"I wanted a witness," Camfield said in an interview, "and I just want to know what it was. It didn't move unless I moved."

The only thing that casts doubt on the siting is that only the Camfields saw it, Sturm said. But he acknowledged that people in the Decatur area do not watch the sky and take a casual, if any, approach to UFOs.

Shelly Camfield, though, after her "strange" encounter, now watches the sky more than she did before the incident.

"I believe it's possible, but I'm still not convinced I saw one. I'd like it explained to me."

... Terry Camfield

TX. FORT WORTH TELEGRAM JULY 2 1985

UFO tale is fodder for movie

Aurora can brag of its own 'E.T.'

By PRESTON LERNER
Star-Telegram Writer

AURORA — About 800 tombstones mark the Aurora cemetery in Wise County in a gridlike pattern.

Buried there are saints and sinners, infants and grandparents, preachers and soldiers.

Some folks claim that beneath the massive oak trees, there's also a Martian — given a Christian burial after his spaceship crashed into a windmill in the tiny community in 1897.

Others maintain that the UFO legend was a hoax from the start. When the legend is resurrected every few years, they promptly, if somewhat hopelessly, point out inconsistencies in the story.

Phil Flora, a Houston film producer, doesn't care whether it's true. He is helping to put the finishing touches on *The Aurora Encounter*, a feature-length movie that uses the legend as the mainspring of its plot.

In the movie, the alien is purported to have survived the crash and enjoyed several humorous and sentimental encounters with Aurora residents before his death a few

days later.

Director Jim McCullough was inspired to undertake the project more than a decade ago after sharing an airplane ride with an Associated Press reporter who had researched the story.

Nobody showed any interest in the film until the lines started forming for *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial* in 1982. Suddenly, cute little creatures from outer space were hot properties, and McCullough was able to find investors to bankroll the project.

Flora said principal photography was done in October and November. The Big D Ranch near Ferris doubled as Aurora and Waxahachie stood in for turn-of-the-century Austin.

In the movie, the alien wanders across the path of the checkers-playing town drunk, portrayed by actor Jack Elam.

"He lives in a little cabin on the edge of town and he makes a living by mixing up an elixir that contains about 80 percent alcohol," Flora said. "Unfortunately, he samples too much of his own wares."

Consequently, the townspeople don't believe Elam's tale of a stranger in town. It falls to an enterprising young reporter to nail down the story.

This plot clearly is a work of fiction. And Flora acknowledges that he wouldn't want to bet on the truth of the original tale.

"I expect it was someone's vivid imagination," he said. "But it makes a wonderful story."

The first and most complete account of the Aurora incident came in an article in *The Dallas Morning News*. Correspondent S.E. Hayden wrote that an airship sailed over the public square on April 17, 1897, collided with Judge J.S. Proctor's windmill and exploded.

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one aboard, and while his remains are badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world," Hayden wrote. "T.J. Weems, the U.S. Signal Service officer at this place and an authority on astronomy, gave it as his opinion that he was a native from the planet Mars."

The most popular continuation holds that the alien was buried under a gnarled limb of an ancient oak tree in Aurora Cemetery. Supporters of an offshoot version contend that a second alien survived the crash, escaped into a creek bank south of town and never was seen again.

Nobody who lived in Aurora in 1897 is left to confirm or deny the tale.

The UFO legend lay dormant for more than a half-century. It was resurrected by newspaper writers

in the mid-1960s and then again, this time with a vengeance, in 1973.

As recently as 1980, the theory was being advanced in the supermarket tabloid *The Globe*, in a story ending with this promo: "Next Week: Couple Kidnapped by Aliens."

Debunkers closed ranks, and Etta Pegues, the most accomplished chronicler of Aurora's history, researched the incident in detail.

Contrary to correspondent Hayden's report, she found Proctor didn't have a windmill, the so-called astronomy expert Weems actually was a blacksmith, and all the graves in Aurora Cemetery were accounted for — without a single Martian.

Pegues solicited affidavits from people who lived in Aurora at the time but knew nothing about a UFO incident. Evans, on the other hand, could provide only hearsay testimony.

"What did really happen in 1897?" she wrote. "NOTHING."

UFO enthusiasts gather in St. Louis

By Bob Mills
Of The Telegraph

On a clear, warm July 7 in 1947, Marian Anderson had just finished her lunch break and was driving back to work at a business in Stoughton, Wisconsin.

As she drove down Main Street, she noticed about 30 people standing on a street corner, looking and pointing up at the sky.

"I stopped the car, got out and looked up -- and there they were," she said. "There were nine of them -- nine objects moving very majestically across the sky. They were circular and flat, at least they looked flat on the bottom, and they appeared to be made of some kind of metal. You could tell by the way the sun was hitting them."

Mrs. Anderson said they all watched for several minutes until the strange objects flew out of sight.

She believes she was part of a genuine UFO encounter that day.

Even now there is excitement in her voice as she recounts what happened that afternoon 38 years ago.

"It was one of the most exciting events in my life," she said. "I've considered myself so lucky."

Mrs. Anderson pointed out that the Stoughton sighting of strange flying objects came only about two weeks after a similar sighting in Washington, in which an airplane pilot reported seeing nine metallic objects moving across the sky "like saucers skimming over water."

Mrs. Anderson said she thinks some UFO's may actually be visitors from another planet. "At least it's what you want to think. Just because we can't get to the outer planets or to other solar systems, that doesn't mean they can't get here."

MRS. ANDERSON flew into St. Louis last Friday from Madison, Wis., to attend the three-day 16th Annual Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON) Symposium at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel.

People came from as far away as Canada and California to attend the symposium.

A model flying saucer, complete with flashing multi-colored lights and a tiny E.T. figure, was on display at the symposium. There was also a display of UFO photos and newspaper articles, telling amazing UFO stories.

There were MUFON T-shirts and a wide variety of UFO related literature for sale. One hot item was the "Galactic Gourmet" cook book, featuring "out of this world recipes".

The symposium featured about 10 speakers, all well versed in the field of UFOlogy. The topics ranged from government cover-ups of UFO incidents to cases of abduction by alien beings.

MARGE CHRISTENSEN of Beverly, Massachusetts, who is the National Director of Public Relations for MUFON, addressed the Saturday morning session of the symposium, stressing the need for the government to sponsor research on UFOs and to reveal everything it already knows about the topic.

"Public information and education on the UFO phenomenon are absolute musts," she said. "If the public were aware of the UFO phenomenon, the burden of proof would be shifted to the government."

Mrs. Christensen said she thinks all mankind stands to benefit from a study of UFOs.

"We would be opening the doors to a wealth of knowledge," she said.

Throughout the symposium there

was talk of the government covering up information dealing with UFOs.

One speaker, Leonard Stringfield of Cincinnati, Ohio, said he had evidence that indicates the federal government is now holding the body of at least one alien creature that was shot by an M.P. at Ft. Dix, New Jersey.

Stringfield said an eyewitness described the creature, which came out of a strange metallic craft, as being about four feet tall with grey, "snakelike skin".

GEORGE FAWCETT of Lincolnton, N.C., spoke about common characteristics in UFO incidents, such as the sighting of a reddish orange object, the smell of ammonia or sulfur, magnetic disturbances and the presence of "small creatures in helmets and silver suits".

Fawcett said probably 90 percent of UFO sightings go unreported. He said he has been able to explain all but about 22 percent of the cases he has investigated.

Fawcett said UFO encounters can have strange effects on humans. He said he heard of a case of an uneducated woman whose I.Q. jumped after she encountered a UFO.

"She could read a book and memorize every word in one day," he said. "I understand she also developed psychic powers."

Peter Gersten, a New York attorney, submitted a perplexing problem to the symposium: who is liable for damages when someone is injured in a UFO encounter?

Gersten is currently representing Betty Cash and Vickie and Colby Landrum in a case stemming from a bizarre incident that occurred near Houston, Texas. The three said they were travelling on a road near Houston when they came upon a huge glowing object hovering over the road. They said they also noticed helicopters in the area.

Gersten said within a few days all three began to display symptoms of radiation poisoning. Their hair began to fall out, their fingernails turned black and fell off. They grew

CHART OF BASIC UFO SHAPES AND TYPES MOST COMMONLY REPORTED

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | BOTTOM VIEW |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| A |  COIN SHAPE |  |  |  STRAW HAT |  |
| B |  HALF MOON |  |  |  |  |
| C |  CANE ON TOP |  |  |  |  |
| D |  LENS SHAPE |  |  SATURN SHAPE |  DOMED DISC |  |
| E |  |  |  EGG SHAPE |  |  |
| F |  METALLIC BALL |  TWO OBJECTS CONNECTED |  BALL OF GLOWING LIGHT | --- |  |
| G |  TEAR DROP |  FOOTBALL |  TRIANGLE |  CRESCENT |  MISCELLANEOUS IDENTIFICATIONS |
| H |  |  |  |  LARGE "SAUCER" OR CARRIER CRAFT | |

very weak, and were often nauseous.

Gersten said they are trying to sue the government for damages in the matter.

"The government recently moved to dismiss the case on the grounds that they neither owned, operated or were responsible for the object the three encountered," Gersten said.

Gersten went on to explain that the government has never denied the existence of the object.

"The existence of the object is not disputed. The problem is the government is acting like it doesn't know what it was or even cares what it was. Do you really believe that? If the government is swearing that the object is not theirs, while there were many helicopters in the area, that is much more significant for UFO research."

SURPRISINGLY very few people at the symposium claimed to have had a real UFO experience. Many told what they heard from other people, but personal eyewitness accounts were rare.

John Roppolo, president of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, which hosted this year's symposium, said about a quarter of the group's nearly 50 members claim to have seen a UFO.

"Mostly we enjoy investigating UFO reports and trying to dig in and see what the phenomena are rather than just speculating about what they are," he said.

Roppolo said there is a group of MUFON field investigators in the St. Louis area. The group is made up of people who have been trained by MUFON to investigate UFO reports.

Walter Andrus, International Director of MUFON, said that MUFON actually emerged from the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis and the Tri State UFO Study Group in Quincy, Ill.

MUFON is now an international organization, with chapters in Europe, Africa, Australia and North America.

MUFON was organized in 1969, the year the federal government says it officially stopped investigating UFOs.

TX. FORT WORTH STAR TELEGRAM JULY 1 1985

1581

Did martian die? Debate lives on in Aurora

By PRESTON LERNER
Star-Telegram Writer

AURORA — Under slate-gray clouds, the sounds of birds, crickets, roosters and cows waft across the rolling green pasture of Aurora Cemetery in Wise County. That special brand of stillness reserved for country cemeteries hangs in the air.

Some 800 tombstones, the earliest dating back to the 1860s, conform to a grid-like pattern. Buried in the shade of the massive oak trees are saints and sinners, infants and

grandparents, preachers and soldiers.

And, at least according to some sources, a solitary martian.

Some Aurora residents maintain that the town was the site where an unidentified flying object crashed into a windmill in 1897 and the tiny man piloting the craft was given a Christian burial in Aurora Cemetery.

Others maintain that the UFO legend was a hoax from the start. When the legend is resurrected every few years, they promptly, if somewhat

hopelessly, point out numerous inconsistencies in the UFO story.

Phil Flora, a Houston film producer, doesn't care whether it's true or not. He is helping to put the finishing touches on *The Aurora Encounter*, a feature-length movie that uses the legend as the mainspring of its plot.

In the movie, the alien is purported to have survived the crash and enjoyed several humorous and sentimental encounters with Aurora residents before his death a few days later.

Director Jim McCullough was inspired to undertake the project more than a decade ago after sharing an airplane ride with an Associated Press reporter who had researched the story.

Nobody showed any interest in the film, however, until the lines started forming for *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial* in 1982. Suddenly, cute little creatures from outer space were hot properties and McCullough was able to find investors to bankroll the project.

Flora said principal photography

was done in October and November, with the Big D Ranch near Ferris doubling as Aurora and Waxahachie standing in for turn-of-the-century Austin.

Although some work remains, Flora said the film should be in the can in a few weeks. After that, he hopes to line up a deal for theater distribution.

In the movie, the alien wanders across the path of the checkers-playing town drunk, portrayed by actor Jack Elam.

"He lives in a little cabin on the

edge of town and he makes a living by mixing up an elixir that contains about 80 percent alcohol," Flora said. "Unfortunately, he samples too much of his own wares."

Consequently, the townspeople don't believe Elam's tale of a stranger in town. It falls to an enterprising young reporter to nail down the story.

Meanwhile, somehow, the UFO incident has a ripple effect on state politics. Before the movie ends, the

Did martian die?

Debate lives on

Continued from Page 9

Texas governor — played by Spanky McFarland of *Our Gang* fame — makes an appearance.

This plot clearly is a work of fiction. And Flora acknowledges that he wouldn't want to bet on the truth of the original tale. "I expect it was someone's vivid imagination," he said. "But it makes a wonderful story."

Bonnie Oates walks past her cactus garden and points to a well house — a small, modern structure that unintentionally marks the notorious spot where the UFO is supposed to have burned — on the back side of her property.

"People used to come here from all over to look for debris. They'd get out and work a day at a time for a piece (of metal) this big," she said, making a small circle with her fingers. "I've heard several people, older people, who swear something definitely happened."

The first and most complete account of the Aurora incident came in a *The Dallas Morning News* article the day after it was supposed to have occurred. Correspondent S.E. Hayden wrote that an airship sailed over the public square on April 17, 1897, collided with Judge J.S. Proctor's windmill — on the property now owned by Oates — and exploded.

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only one aboard, and while his remains are badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world," Hayden wrote. "T.J. Weems, the U.S. Signal Service officer at this place and an authority on astronomy, gave it as his opinion that he was a native from the planet Mars."

The most popular continuation holds that the alien was buried under a gnarled limb of an ancient oak tree in Aurora Cemetery. Supporters of an offshoot version contend that a second alien survived the crash, escaped into a creek bank south of town and never was seen again.

"People used to come here from all over to look for debris. They'd get out and work a day at a time for a piece (of metal) this big."

—Bonnie Oates

Nobody who lived in Aurora in 1897 is left to confirm or deny the tale. But those who knew the 19th-century occupants are among the most fervent believers in the UFO legend.

Janie Hyatt, for instance, remembers being told this story by her mother, Mary Ann Evans, who was 14 when the UFO incident allegedly occurred:

"My grandparents wouldn't let her go. She being a girl and it being so strange, Grandpa was pretty stern about keeping her away," Hyatt said. "They told her a plane fell and there were two little green men inside."

Oates, while acknowledging that she had no personal knowledge about the incident, refers to stories told to her by Charlie Stephens:

"He (his father) said the elements all lit up like the world was on fire," Oates said, quoting Stephens. "The sage grew this (chest) high (around the crash site) and it was all burned

up and debris was all over the place."

The UFO legend lay dormant for more than a half-century. It was resurrected by newspaper writers in the mid-1960s and then again, this time with a vengeance, in 1973.

As recently as 1980, the theory was being advanced in *The Globe* in a story ending with this promo: "Next Week: Couple Kidnapped by Aliens."

Evans and Stephens, both dead now, were primary sources for several stories purporting to lend credence to the legend. The case reached the ear of several UFO organizations that were prepared to exhume the martian's grave in 1973.

Debunkers closed ranks and Etta Pegues, the most accomplished chronicler of Aurora's history, researched the incident in detail.

Contrary to correspondent Hayden's report, she found Proctor didn't have a windmill, alleged astronomy expert Weems actually was a blacksmith and all the graves in Aurora Cemetery were accounted for — without a single martian.

Pegues solicited affidavits from people who lived in Aurora at the time but knew nothing about a UFO incident. Evans and Stephens, on the other hand, could provide only hearsay testimony.

"What did really happen in 1897?" she wrote. "NOTHING."

Pegues died recently, but Rosalie Gregg, chairman of the Wise County Historical Commission, reaffirmed her analysis. "We say it didn't happen, definitely," Gregg said.

The most popular explanations for the hoax are either that railroad workers started it as a lark or Hayden and Proctor sought publicity for the dying town of Aurora, which had seen its luster tarnished by a spotted fever epidemic and the failure of the railroad to come through the city.

The alien's alleged tombstone has disappeared, apparently the work of treasure hunters. The limb under which the tombstone was thought to have rested is gone, too, a victim of a recent storm. And everybody who could settle the matter once and for all is still alive.

The mystery endures. If R.L. "Mug" Trammell, whose mother lived in Aurora in 1897, has his way, the mystery may deepen.

"What I know — the scientists will call me a liar," he says. "There's some people who will tear their hair out. What I know is so scary, they won't want to hear about it."

So, Trammell was asked, what do you know? "I'm not saying," he said.

SECRET UFO BASE IN GRAND CANYON

EXAMINER
JULY 30 1985

SPACE ALIENS are using the Grand Canyon as a secret UFO base, say experts.

A team of UFO researchers led by Prof. Keiji Nakamura of the Imperial Academy in Tokyo, Japan, investigated the area after numerous reports of sightings.

They flew over the most inaccessible parts of the Grand Canyon in a helicopter filled with sophisticated photographic, electronic, and radiation-recording equipment.

And they found:

- Rock ledges cleverly concealed as doors to giant underground hangars.

- Much higher than ordinary readings of radiation levels.

- Unidentifiable, but amazingly effective radio-jamming gear in the area.

"We were forced to cut short our flyover by UFOs that buzzed us — and the loss of the use of our radio," says Nakamura.

The Southwest is a hotbed of UFO activity.

Each year California, a stone's throw away in spaceship flight time from the Grand Canyon, reports the most UFO sightings, followed by Arizona and neighboring Nevada, says

Aliens stealing our minerals and power

By EDDIE BEA

the National Investigations Committee of UFOs.

Eyewitness reports of nearby UFO activity indicate that the aliens may have established the base in the Grand Canyon to be near sources of power and metals.

Residents of the tiny Arizona town of Childs say that alien spaceships regularly draw power off a nearby electrical generating station and engage in rock-gathering expedi-

tions on the ground.

One eyewitness who asked to remain anonymous says that the aliens make no effort to hide their free-loading.

Energy

"I watched a UFO hover right over the generators and shoot a sort of energy beam at them. Then there was a great buzz from the generators as the spaceship was gobbling up the power."

At least 1,000 residents of two Arizona copper min-

ing towns — Clifton and Morenci — say their hometowns have been visited by UFOs several times in the past five years.

Workmen at a local copper smelting plant say they saw an enormous V-shaped UFO hover over the plant and shine a beam of light down one of the smokestacks.

In addition to their interest in power sources and mines in the Southwest, the aliens appear to be keeping an eye on U.S. military installations in the area.

In a series of sightings reported by the U.S. Air Force Office of Special In-

vestigations, three security policemen said they saw an unidentified light traveling over a Department of Defense Restricted Test Range at Kirtland Air Force Base near Albuquerque, New Mexico.

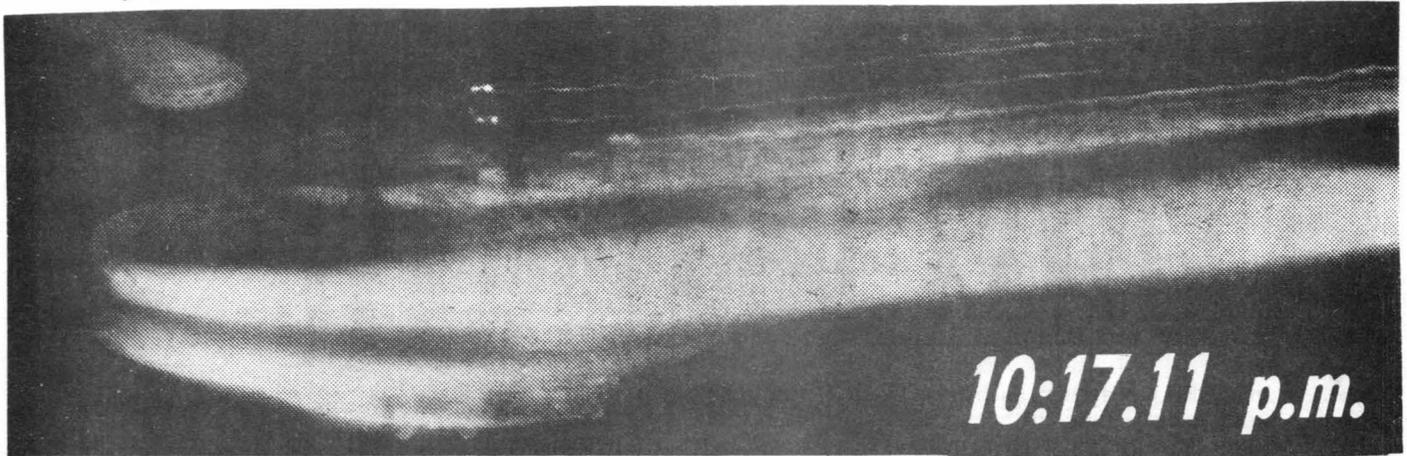
The witnesses say the light landed, and later took off straight up at a high speed and disappeared.

Five days later, the radar control system — and backup — for both the airbase and Albuquerque airport mysteriously blacked out for five hours.

A Defense Nuclear Agency investigation concluded that the blackout was caused by a type of jammer unknown to their experts.



RESEARCHERS WERE buzzed by UFOs when they tried to investigate the Grand Canyon base.



10:17.11 p.m.

ARTIST'S CONCEPTION of the starships streaking across Kenya's nighttime sky.

As hundreds of people watched in horror, three alien starships engaged in a spectacular dogfight and disintegrated in midair in what experts believe to be the first known battle between UFOs.

The stunning aerial assault was witnessed by more than two hundred African villagers, who watched for nearly an hour as the eerie scene unfolded, lighting up the night sky over Kenya.

French aviation expert Louis Bujon arrived in Kenya with a team of researchers one day after the incident occurred.

"Never before has there been a UFO encounter that was so well documented," Bujon said.

"We have confirmation from Cairo that the three crafts appeared on military and civilian radar screens and vanished simultaneously."

Bujon said his researchers have interviewed dozens of witnesses and will remain in the field until all those who saw the dramatic incident have been contacted.

"The eyewitness accounts that have been gathered to date are virtually identical in every aspect," said Bujon, a professor of astrophysics.

According to Bujon, villagers in the Rift Valley north of Mount Kenya noticed an unusual light in the sky at about 9:20 p.m.

"This white light descended rapidly toward earth and was at first thought to be a shooting star or some other naturally occurring phenomenon," the professor said.

"However, at a height of approximately 3,000 feet above the ground, the light stopped descending and hovered there for about 15 minutes. It was very still."

Bujon said that a second light suddenly appeared beside the first and both began a slow descent toward earth.

"By this time there were between 200 and 300 people watching from the ground," he said. "They described the approaching crafts as round, brightly lit objects. At this point, a third craft, much larger than the

Starship dogfight seen by hundreds

STARSHIP
DOG FIGHT
CONT

others, approached rapidly from the south."

According to eyewitness accounts, the larger UFO fired what appeared to be beams of light at the other two crafts, which veered away in opposite directions.

"The two smaller saucers circled around and returned fire with what we can only assume to be some type of laser weaponry from the descriptions that we have received," Bujon commented.

"At precisely 10:17 p.m. the three

crafts disintegrated in a tremendous explosion."

Bujon said he does not believe the explanation offered by some scientists that what the villagers actually witnessed was a meteor shower.

"Evidence does not support that conclusion," he said.

"This was a skirmish in an inter-planetary war."

— MARC JUBERT

Hour-long battle blazes across the sky and turns up on radar screens

SPECTACULAR explosions ended an amazing aerial battle, according to eyewitnesses.



10:17.31 p.m.

Zimbabwe Air Force goes UFO hunting

From Jan Raath
3128 Harare

Zimbabwe military authorities are unable to explain an unidentified flying object that was seen by experienced airmen, tracked on radar and outflew two pursuing jet fighters.

Air Marshal Azim Daudpota, the Pakistani chief of Zimbabwe's Air Force, said yesterday there was no doubt that the object existed. "It was no illusion, no deception, no imagination".

He scrambled two Hawk jets from Thornhill airbase in the midlands town of Gweru at 5.45 pm on Monday last week after reports of sightings of the object from Bulawayo and five other urban centres in the western province of Matabeleland South, including Beitbridge.

THE TIMES
LONDON

AUG. 3 1985

It was seen clearly by staff in the control tower at Bulawayo airport and the meteorological radar there also locked on to it, *The Herald*, Zimbabwe's main daily newspaper, said yesterday. It was described as appearing orange in the settling dusk, rounded, with a conical top, winged and silent.

The Hawks arrived above Bulawayo to find the UFO hovering at about 7,000ft, but it suddenly shot into the sky at "tremendous speed", leaving its pursuers behind. The jets levelled off at 31,000ft, with the UFO stopping at about 70,000ft.

SALISBURY
JOURNAL
WILTS
JULY 25 1985
UFO mystery
3128
baffles Paul

A UFO mystery has descended upon Fonthill Bishop where there were peculiar goings-on at the weekend.

On Saturday evening a large circle of flattened grass appeared in a field off the A303 near the village.

Traffic came to a halt as motorists stopped to inspect the circle — identical to ones seen around Winchester from time to time.

One witness, Mr Paul Mullins, a presenter for Radio Odstock said: "There was one large circle with four little triangles of three circles at each corner.

"I don't see how anybody could have done it as a prank — there were no marks, leading to and from it. Besides, it would have taken a long time and the road was fairly busy.

"I've no idea what caused it — but it does seem odd."

No UFO sightings were reported to police over the weekend.

N.Y. Police Watch Huge UFO Buzz Nuclear Power Plant

An American nuclear power plant was buzzed by an enormous UFO, say the plant's security guards, local police officers and other eyewitnesses — and, incredibly, the New York Power Authority confirms the sighting.

By FRANKLIN R. RUEHL

"On the night of July 24, 1984, a UFO was seen by security guards over the Indian Point nuclear power plant," said Carl Patrick, spokesman for the New York Power Authority, which operates the plant near Peekskill.

"But the UFO in no way affected plant operations."

UFO investigator Philip Imbrogno noted:

"This was the first time ever that there is confirmation that a UFO

was sighted over a nuclear power plant."

Imbrogno, who's associated with Dr. J. Allen Hynek's Center for UFO Studies in Arizona, interviewed six of 12 guards who saw the craft.

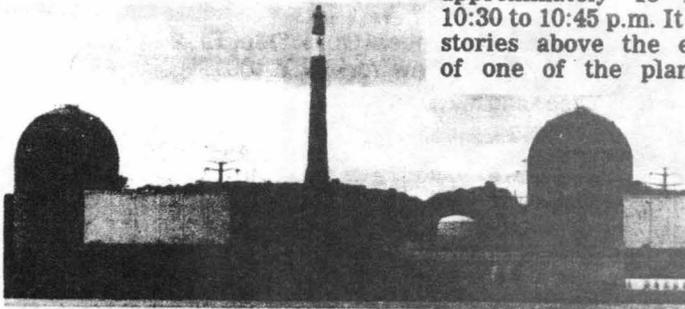
"They said the UFO was gargantuan and looked diamond-shaped, measuring about 450 feet in length. At first, it was bright white. But at one point it changed from white to blue to red to green to amber," Imbrogno said.

"It hovered above the plant for approximately 15 minutes, from 10:30 to 10:45 p.m. It was roughly 30 stories above the exhaust funnel of one of the plant's three nuclear reactors."

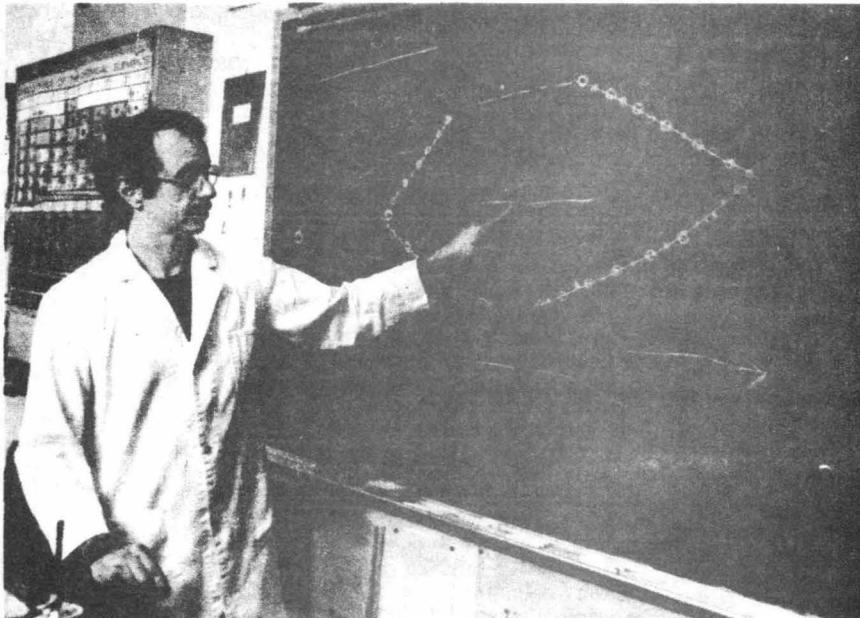
Many other people in the area also reported sighting the UFO.

"Local police in Peekskill received numerous calls reporting UFOs during that evening.

"Many officers from various police stations personally told me that they saw



POWER PLANT wasn't affected by UFO visit.



INVESTIGATOR Philip Imbrogno sketches drawing of UFO on a blackboard.

the UFO," Imbrogno added. Sgt. Karl Hoffman of the Peekskill Police Department admitted: "On the evening of July 24, 1984, I observed an unidentified flying ob-

ject. I saw a dozen white lights in V-formation, slowly moving toward the power plant at Indian Point.

"I have absolutely no idea what that object was."

UFO theory on mystery circles

A MYSTERY fit for the files of scientist and visionary Arthur C. Clarke was being speculated upon by villagers this week.

On Monday, while driving to his boutique in Rustington, Jeremy Fisher of Grove Lane, West Chiltington, spotted some strange markings in a cornfield on the side of the Long Furlong, a twisting country road between Findon and Clapham.

And, after studying them, he is now convinced the impressions were made by alien visitors.

"I was so intrigued by them that I nearly drove into a lorry," Jeremy explained afterwards.

With him was his wife Carol and 26-year-old Lisa Wigg, who lives in Storrington. "I thought it was very unusual," said Carol. "The marks had either been left by a UFO or it was a hoax."

What the three had spotted in the corn were five perfectly

formed circles. The one in the middle measured 18 yards across and the smaller ones five yards. The smaller circles appeared to be spaced at an equal distance from the centre.

"When I got to the shop I 'phoned Worthing police," said Jeremy. "They were very sceptical. One of their theories was that the wind had done it."

But he is still convinced the circles were left by visiting aliens.

"Twenty years ago I saw a flying saucer on the brow of the hill when I was driving home along the same road," he said. "It was a huge disc. It was winter time and I could see it clearly outlined against the sky."

Also at the scene on Monday afternoon was Jean Monger from Clapham. She claims to have seen a UFO over the area eight years ago. "It floated across the forest. It was cigar-shaped and had green and red lights."

A man who identified himself as a "UFO watcher" made a brief appearance at the scene. He said that the marks had been

reported to him and he had come to inspect them.

"I saw two of these sets of markings next to each other in a field in Hampshire. They were exactly the same shape. It was in 1983 at exactly this time of the year," he claimed.

Tony Wicks, manager for Findon Farms which owns the land, was more sceptical.

"I noticed the marks on Saturday at about 7.30 a.m. I thought somebody had been having a game. I don't believe it's anything to do with outer space. I don't know what it is but I think it's been done by human beings with a piece of string. I heard of something similar appearing at Winchester."

He said there were no footprints near the circles but there was a trail where the corn had been trampled.

The Fishers remain unswayed. Carol took a few ears of corn away with her from the large circle. She claims to have psychic abilities and intends to analyse the samples to shed some light on the mystery.

LISA WIGG and Jeremy and Carol Fisher beside the field where they are convinced an unidentified flying object has left the mysterious circles visible in the picture. Photograph by Stephen Cobb.



Hole story continues

By MARY KOCH

And now, here's the latest report about reports on Okanogan County's famed "Hole-In-The-Ground," aka "Earth Cookie."

When last heard of, the mysterious hole and accompanying mound of earth were the subject of a report in the prestigious monthly magazine, "The Atlantic."

As reported at the time in The Chronicle, the pear-shaped hole was discovered last October on the Timm Ranch, which is on the Colville Indian Reservation. The hole was found near a wheat field Oct. 17 by Rick and Pete Timm, who were baffled over how it got there.

The Atlantic article included several theories explaining how the hole might have been made, although the author noted that no one has come up with a satisfactory answer.

But wait. Now "The Sun," a tabloid published in Palm Beach, Fla., has published its version of the story -- and solution.

"Aliens dig hole in Washington," announces the tabloid's large headline.

The UFO has plucked up a giant hole in southern Washington State and then plunked down the tons of raw soil a few feet away -- to the utter bafflement of local landowners and residents all over the country," the tabloid reports.

"No one is quite certain what the giant hovering cigar-shaped craft was doing when it beamed green light over an area the size of a football stadium and then moved the whole plot -- down to a depth of five feet -- 73 feet away," the story continued.

The phenomenon seems to have grown. When The Chronicle reported the story Oct. 31, the earth plug measured eight- by 10-foot and ranged from 18 to 22 inches deep.

The Sun story quotes "UFOlogist Bernard Fogler," Los Angeles, who reportedly "rushed to the scene." The Chronicle's attempts to interview Fogler were thwarted because he does not have a telephone listing.

But the Sun reports that Fogler interviewed a "hand" who was rounding up cattle in the area and saw the hovering craft from a half-mile away.

Fogler believes the UFO has been doing research in the Washington area "for years now," the Sun reports.

"That craft has been sighted 10 or 15 times over the past decade, and it's always capturing an animal, drawing core samples from the earth, uprooting trees and taking them in the craft -- things like that," Fogler is quoted saying.

Fogler told the publication the UFO was digging worms -- "more or less." "I think it was taking a sample of the little animals and insects

that live just below the surface of the earth," said Fogler. "They are extremely important to our ecology, and anyone who wants to understand our planet has to know about them."

The whole story was just too much for a 71-year-old Sun reader in Coral Gables, Fla. The reader, Woodson Moore, wrote a letter to Okanogan's mayor "or next city official" to check up on the newspaper report.

"I am trying to determine if articles of this type are just being made up by this type of publishers to sell their papers or if there is any basis for truth in any of them," Moore wrote.

Moore said he was "embarrassed to bother you with my question," but he wanted to know, "Did this actually happen in your county as described in this article?"

"All this is just for my personal satisfaction," Moore explained. "I am just a native, law-abiding, honest citizen, retired after 35 years as instrument mechanic with Pan Am."

"These UFO articles I take with an open mind but keep hoping some more advanced creatures will land here and show us how to save our planet and ourselves."

Okanogan city clerk Mirred Brewer delivered Moore's query to The Chronicle. This newspaper's earlier reports have been sent to him. He'll have to make public what

TWISP, WA METHOW VALLEY NEWS
JUNE 13 1985

UFO's seen over the Methow

392

By Jennifer Pitts

Unidentified flying objects were reportedly seen late Saturday and Sunday nights by local residents and visiting tourists.

Dick Chavey of Winthrop said he saw them Sunday night. He first noticed them in the southeastern sky, well above the horizon. "They were nothing spectacular -- they were just there -- no little green men, no flying saucers, just some unexplained phenomenon."

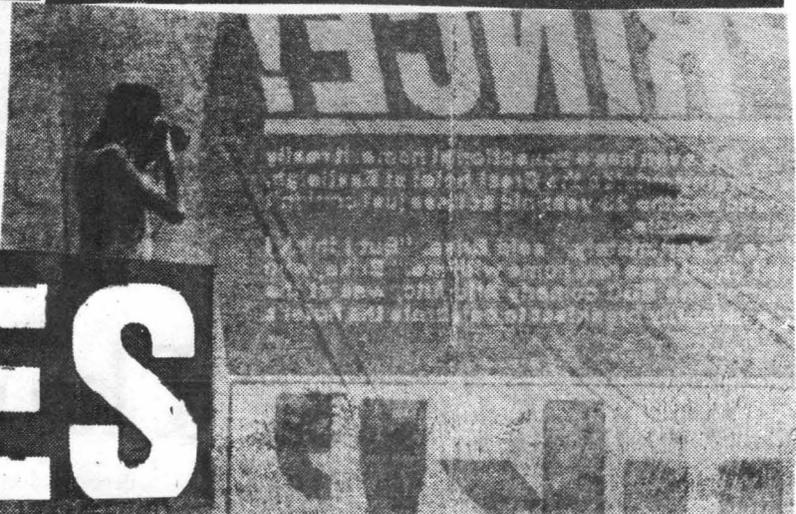
Chavey said the UFO had red, green, and white lights that blinked on and off as those on an airplane, except that the object stayed in one spot. He reports watching this unusual sight for at least a half hour. Later he saw two more similar objects in the southwest sky also appearing well above the horizon.

Jennifer Hurlen of Twisp reportedly also saw the UFOs at the same time as Chavey. She and Paul Yates and Jim Gerlach of Winthrop spoke with some tourists who evidently had been camped up on the West Chewuch and told of UFO sightings on Saturday night.

According to Patsy Yates, the tourists described the UFOs as sphere-like with red and green lights, basically milky white, and when they moved they skipped around like water bugs. The campers said the lighted objects moved with incredible speed and told of seeing seven UFOs over a period of three hours.

Dick Chavey said it was the story told by the tourists that prompted him to look for the UFOs. His latest report is that he saw them again about 10 p.m. Monday night.

CURSE OF THE GIANT CIRCLES



FARMERS' crops have been wrecked again by Hampshire's most baffling phenomenon — the curse of the giant circles. Farmers are angry, experts baffled — but the cause of the weird and gigantic circles remains unsolved.

Four farmers between Winchester and Alresford are counting the cost after crops were swirled flat in perfect rings this month ... literally over night.

Four smaller rings surround the central circles, which measure more than 40 feet across.

For one Alresford farmer it's the sixth year corn has been lost to the phenomenon — he says damage runs into hundreds of pounds.

"I'm fed up with it," he said. "As far as I'm concerned it's a bad joke. But you can't bring a case for criminal damage if you can't catch anyone doing it."

"We've thought of all sorts of things to stop this, but I'm not going to sit out in the fields

all night and every night."

Hoax?

But Hampshire's NFU chairman John Hazel says: "If it's a hoax, we cannot tell how it is done. There is a lack of any visible means how these things are being made."

"In one case these circles have appeared in one field for three years now, but not in the

same position, which would rule out a geological or archaeological cause."

Answers

UFOS, helicopters and local whirlwinds have been put forward as answers — all have been discounted by Wessex phenomena experts.

But if hoaxers are to blame their work would need military-style cunning, according to the Wessex Association for the Study of Unexplained Phenomena, WATSUP.

Somehow, the hoaxer would have to cross dense cropfields by night without leaving a single mark.

The use of stilts has been ruled out because these would leave marks in the earth — none has been found despite painstaking searches.

Working in darkness — bright light would attract attention — he would have to create a geometrically perfect circle.

Every ear of corn would have to be swirled neatly in a clockwise direction — and made to lay flat. And that would be near impossible, even with a garden roller.

And this is before our hoaxer sets to work on the four smaller circles — each spaced exactly round the main ring, each edged with the neatness of a pastry cutter.

"We've never seen anything as baffling as this," says John Postans of WATSUP.

Truth

The group, which sets out to nail the truth behind weird

phenomena, has conducted detailed investigations into the circles. They have found absolutely nothing — except the circles.

"It seems to be mechanically created because the edges are so cleanly defined," says WATSUP member Steve Dyer. "Yet the corn is not actually broken at all."

The circles always appear on sloping or hilly fields — as if they were meant to be seen.

Strange

Steve said: "What is strange is that it's not just a Hampshire phenomenon. It has been reported worldwide since the 1950s."

"If there's any kind of 'set up' it's on a global scale and it seems rather obscure to think of a hoax on that scale."

"I'd love to say it was an elaborate hoax, but somehow you've got to

then put forward an explanation. We haven't got a clue."

Pursuit

Two police patrol cars sped to Stockbridge Down days before the circles appeared — in pursuit of a UFO.

Shaken pensioners Jack and Pat Collins spotted a brilliantly lit object hovering over desolate downland as they drove home at night.

Jack, of Fox Lane, Stanmore, Winchester described it as "A perfect circle".

Andrew McKenna probes a mystery that has left UFO experts baffled

'We haven't got a clue'

WESTERN DAILY PRESS BRISTOL
JULY 26 1985

"It was a huge circular thing and it was divided out like the spokes of a wheel," said Pat.

"Around the outside of it there were very bright lights, like huge light bulbs, and other lights in the sections,

"It was so bright — like something out of a fairground."

Jack, who had been driving their car, put his foot down when he spotted it hovering about 30 feet above the open fields.

File

The couple were so shocked at seeing the fiery circle they called the police.

Two cars from Andover raced to the scene — they found nothing, despite a 20 minute search of the open, rolling country.

A police spokesman said such sightings were noted in a UFO file.

He said they had never been asked to investigate the corn-field circles. "We have always recorded them as unexplained phenomena."

WEST SUSSEX GAZETTE
ARUNDEL JULY 18 1985

Encounters

3128

with the Thing

MYSTERIOUS UFO sightings which made Wiltshire town Warminster famous 20 years ago will be remembered at a special exhibition in the town.



Journalist Ken Rogers, who was a 15-year-old schoolboy in Warminster in 1965 when the sightings began to make national news, is staging the show in the town's library.

He aims to bring together press cuttings, books and historical documents to trace the history of the phenomenon which became known as the Warminster Thing.

The exhibition,

which opens on Tuesday and runs until the end of August, will bring back memories of the people of Warminster of the days when strange objects were seen in the skies and mysterious sounds were heard over the rooftops.

The problem reached its height in August 1965 when the local council called a public meeting to try and allay people's fears.

The world's press

descended on the town and scores of sightseers packed the hills around the town to keep watch and photograph the mysterious visitors from outer space.

Mr Rogers, who now lives in London, is returning to Warminster for the exhibition. He said: "It is interesting to look back on this. It is part of the modern history of Warminster."

Mr Rogers, who is among the many who claim to have seen the Thing was a founder member of the Warminster UFO society which became the British UFO Society.

GUARDIAN. LONDON
JULY 29 1985

UFO sighted

A CHINESE Boeing 747 jet encountered a large, bright unidentified flying object last month over western china, the overseas edition of the Communist Party newspaper, People's Daily, reported yesterday. The Peking-Paris flight was over Lanzhou, the capital of Gansu province, on June 11 when the crew reported a UFO at 33,000 feet.—AP

U.F.O. 'HOAX'

Regarding the appearance of what you refer to as a "U.F.O. hoax in Patching wheatfield," (W.S.G. July 4), naturally the theory that it is a hoax is something which must be looked at and considered in such cases as this.

However, my initial inquiries indicate that Mr. Anthony Wicks was not the first person to walk over to the mysterious circles, and therefore the tracks which he found and suggests were made by those responsible for the circles may not be so.

Also, of course, bearing in mind the recent history of the area around Clapham and Patching, i.e. the

number of reported U.F.O. sightings in the area; the as yet unexplained disappearance of a number of dogs; the fact that this is not the first time in this vicinity, all make this recent incident worthy of investigation before reaching any conclusions.

For some years I have been involved in the investigation of the various "strange phenomena" regularly reported in this area and, while I certainly do not dismiss the possibility of this being a hoax, I, like many others prefer to reserve judgement until my investigations are complete.

Charles P.T. Walker
28, Christchurch Road,
Worthing.

COLORADO CHIEFTAIN
JUNE 24 1985

Denver UFO Society awaits saucers' return

DENVER (AP) — UFO sightings in the United States reached an all-time high 13 years ago, when more than a thousand were reported and the topic was a favorite subject of debate.

Today, even the most sensational tabloids are ignoring stories about flying saucers.

Reports of odd-shaped, fast-moving, flashing objects in the sky are down 50 to 75 percent since the last rash of sightings in 1973, said Mark Rodighiero, a researcher at the Center for UFO Studies in Illinois.

Amateur groups interested in UFOs also have dwindled. The Air Force closed its formal investigation of unidentified flying objects in 1969.

This has not deterred a small but faithful group of UFO believers. About 30 members of the 27-year-old Denver UFO Society still meet once a month at the Glendale Fire Station.

Lorita Green, president of the society, joined the group in 1963 after she saw her first UFO that summer while working in her garden in Commerce City.

"Everybody saw UFOs that summer. I tell you they was thick," she said in the kitchen of her Adams County home, where a sticker on her refrigerator reads: "Flying saucers are real. The Air Force don't exist."

Mrs. Green and her husband, Juan, are so convinced that UFOs are real that they moved to a rural area at the suggestion of "contactees" — people who have met with UFO occupants.

They both believe more UFOs will soon start to appear.

"Of course," she said with a laugh, "I've thought that for 10 or 15 years."

Some UFO researchers suggest the sightings have declined because the spacecraft are only visiting "blue" countries. They say the visits are cyclical and will resume. Some also believe that the aliens are too shy to let humans see them.

In the past, those who saw UFOs were thought to have mental problems. But the increased number of sightings has helped make UFOs more acceptable. Believers include people like the Greens, as well as authors, professors and scientists.

J. Allen Hynek, an astronomer who once was the chief UFO debunker for the Air Force and is now considered the top authority in the field, estimates there have been 39,000 reports.

"Most are 'just nonsense,' but 1,000 sightings from 140 countries merit investigation, he said.

Hynek, 73, helped found the Center for UFO Studies in Illinois and has opened a branch office in Phoenix, Ariz. Practically no research money is available so he operates with donations.

He's never seen a UFO, but he hopes that someday, there will be a "mini-NASA" devoted to research.

David M. Jacobs, a history professor at Temple University, wrote a book called "The UFO Controversy in America."

He said, "This has been going on for so long and there have been so many reliable people who have claimed this, it's just plain crazy to say everybody is wrong."

But others disagree, like Philip J. Klass, senior electronics editor for Aviation Week & Space Technology magazine and the country's best-known UFO debunker.

He said UFO reports have declined because they have become so outlandish, with frequent stories about abductions by aliens. The more believable stories are no longer considered interesting.

Klass said all UFOs have earthly explanations and the myth has survived for so long because it has a mass appeal.

"This is a great hope," he said. "It's the universal dream that we are not alone."

NEWS RECORD
MIAMI OKLAHOMA
JUNE 1 1985

Australians report UFO

339
SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Hundreds of early risers reported sightings of a UFO today that gave off a "mysterious bright light" as it hovered in the skies over Sydney.

Radio stations were inundated with calls from people saying they saw a brightly colored object as they went to work.

"It was a very large and bright round object and it appeared to have steam coming off it," said radio commentator Grant Goldman.

Last week, the switchboard of a local radio station was jammed with listeners claiming to have seen blinding lights which appeared to explode before plummeting to earth.

The Meteorology Bureau suggested the flashes of light might have been a meteor shower.

EXAMINER
AUG 20 1985

UFO saves fisherman

SPACE ALIENS are thought to have been responsible for saving the life of a lone sailor, lost in storm-tossed seas.

Randy Morrison, 34, was about to open his survival suit and let the freezing cold water finish him off when he spotted a brilliant searchlight piercing the darkness.

The light gave him hope and led him to believe he had

been found and his life would be saved.

Now experts have no explanation for the mystery light other than it came from a flying saucer.

Randy has been told by the Canadian Coast Guard that the light could not have been out in the water of Milbanke Sound, north of Vancouver Island.

Visitor who wore sky blue scales

3128

HERALD
EXPRESS
TORQUAY
DEVON
JULY 30 1985
ENGLAND

A MOTEL proprietor in Argentina was walking home one night when he saw a mysterious object on the road, with two bright red lights. The beams were focused on the motel. Puzzled and alarmed, he ran into the building and found his daughter in a faint on the kitchen floor.

After she had been revived, she told him the place had been suddenly flooded with light. Then she found herself face to face with a tall man, wearing a suit of shiny sky-blue scales. He was fair-haired, and holding a sky-blue sphere. There was a huge ring on his finger.

Light came from his fingertips and feet, and it seemed as though he was draining the strength out of her. However, she had an impression of

Booklist edited by Judy Diss

goodness and kindness. The man was smiling. When he walked out of the room she fainted.

This strange story is one of many in "The UFO Casebook" (Orbis, £1.99), a large paperback filled with accounts of alleged sightings of flying saucers and encounters with aliens. There are numerous illustrations.

One is a still from a film taken in Florida in 1952. It has been established as probably genuine, and shows an object about 40 feet long in the sky.

The photographer gave his film to the U.S. Airforce. It was never returned. Some people see this as an example of the U.S. Government's apparent campaign to suppress evidence of UFOs. Fortunately the photographer had snipped off the first few frames of the film, in case it was lost.

The book explains that the term "flying saucer" derives from a phrase used by a U.S. airman in 1947, who said he saw strange objects "that flew like a saucer would if you skipped it across the water."

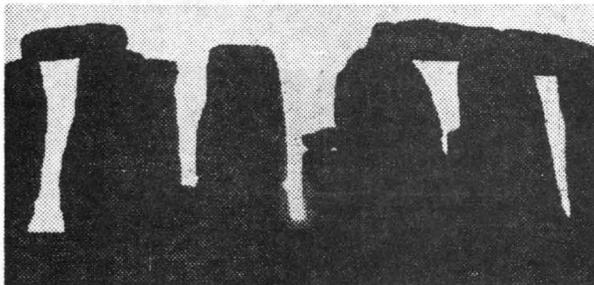
"Are UFOs real in the sense that, say, spacecraft are real?" asks the book. It takes a hard-headed view, but presents interesting reports and pictures. It even says there are persistent rumours that the U.S. Government has actually obtained a UFO, which is kept in total secrecy.



"The whole matter of government involvement, or the lack of it, is a further and fascinating aspect of the UFO controversy," it adds.

Other books in this excellent series are "Creatures from Elsewhere," which looks at the legends of the werewolf, the Abominable Snowman, the Loch Ness Monster and other mysterious creatures, and "Legends of the Lost." This contains accounts of Atlantis, King Arthur and the Holy Grail, the Lost Isle of Lyonesse, dragon legends and space visitors of ancient times.

- J.D.



"Legends of the Lost" — one of the evocative illustrations.

LIVERPOOL ECHO

AUG 1 1985

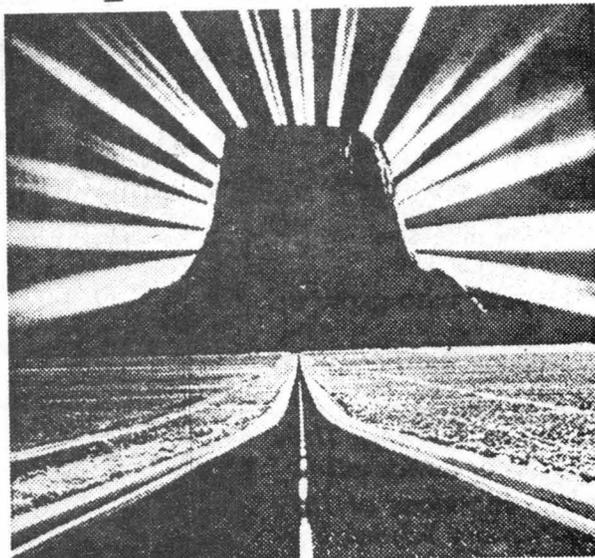
HAVE YOU noticed something missing this year? 3128

There don't seem to be any UFO's around, yet it's the height of the season for UFO spotters. It's a long time since I remember anyone reporting a sighting, especially on Merseyside.

There don't seem to be any UFO's

around, yet it's the height of the season for UFO spotters. It's a long time since I remember anyone reporting a sighting, especially on Merseyside

Do you think our visitors have finally written us off as beyond hope?



The dramatic cover picture for "The UFO Casebook."

Experts Claim . . .

Ancient Writings Reveal Egyptian Pharaoh Flew On An Alien Spaceship

By FRANKLIN R. RUEHL

An Egyptian pharaoh witnessed a huge fleet of UFOs hovering above the desert sands more than 3,400 years ago — and he even boarded one of the alien spacecraft and visited the stars, say experts.

Incredibly, translations of hieroglyphic records of ancient Egypt reveal that Thutmose III, who reigned 15 centuries before the birth of Christ, first saw a UFO one winter morning around the year 1482 B.C.

Brad Steiger, renowned UFO expert and author, told *The ENQUIRER*:

"The intriguing details from the hieroglyphics describe the UFO as 'a circle of fire.' Moreover, the object emitted no sound, as indicated by the inscription 'it had no voice.'

"The hieroglyphic records go on to say, 'After some days had passed, these things became more numerous in the skies than ever,'" Steiger explained.

"The UFOs in this fleet were extremely bright, or 'more . . . than the brightness of the sun,' and were relatively small, about 16 feet in diameter," he said.

"The UFOs were probably spacecraft from a larger mother ship."

Incredibly, Thutmose III was taken aboard one of the alien spacecraft, said UFO expert and biblical scholar Zecharia Sitchin, author of the book "The Stairway to Heaven."

The ancient records re-



HUGE FLEET of spaceships that looked like "circles of fire" descended upon the Egyptian kingdom of Pharaoh Thutmose III.

veal that Thutmose "flew up to the sky" and learned the "mysterious ways in heaven."

"Without a doubt, that

passage describes a trip into space.

"Thutmose III was transported by space shuttle to a space station in orbit above

the Earth," said Sitchin.

"There he met with advanced aliens he described as gods. After conferring with them and viewing space, Thutmose III was returned to the Earth via the shuttle."

Said Steiger: "This encounter, which took place over 3,400 years ago, shows that aliens did not just recently start exploring our planet.

"The report of Thutmose proves that ancient astronauts visited Earth long ago."

Goodbye to little green men...

3128

YOU ARE driving with friends in the country when you spot a strange object in the sky. It seems to come closer, then vanishes. Then you find yourself in a semi-dreamlike stage, further along your journey but on an unfamiliar road. Your shoes are unaccountably scuffed, you body hurts, and two hours have sped by.

Later, under hypnosis, you recall the incident. You find yourself on board, an unidentified flying object being medically examined by small, robot-like beings with the aid of a large, eye-shaped device. A tall, humanoid creature oversees them. Telepathetically, you answer their questions and to your surprise they answer yours. After a hazy period you are back in your car.

This is a fictional model of the rarest type of UFO experience, representing a fraction of the few "alien contact" incidents reported each year. Yet, according to Jenny Randles, national director of investigations at the British UFO Research Association, it is constructed from the common features found in hundreds of accounts in the UFO literature.

In her view, this is a close encounter of the fourth kind, fitting neither the prevalent atmospheric phenomenon (90-95 per cent) nor the typical UFO encounter (2-3



RANDES — UFO threat. Picture by Martin Argles

per cent). She believes this sort of case to be the province of psychologists and sociologists, reflecting the conclusion in Science and the UFOs, which she has written with Peter Warrington, that if Ufo-ology is left in the hands of non-scientists it will never escape the little green men.

Little green men are no longer runners. She says that no convincing photographs have been produced of aliens or UFOs on the ground, whereas atmospheric phenomena frequently mistaken for UFOs do show up on radar and film. This is as disappointing as the conclusion by the president of the Ghost Club that ghosts may

be the product of the collective unconscious.

She does not go as far as Carl Jung, whose book *Flying Saucers* (1959) suggests that UFOs may be psychic projections which throw back a radar echo. But she is keen that scientists study the possibility that the proximity of UAPs (unidentified atmospheric phenomena) exerts a "mind-scrambling" effect on the brain, releasing hallucinations deep in the human psyche.

Many of the cases she deals with involve as many as five witnesses, and she admits that five-person hallucinations are virtually unheard of. Investigating psychologists have found no

pattern of abnormality. "However the alien contact experience is subjective and can be real to one group of people, but a group over the road may have seen nothing," she says. She also suspects a form of "witness selectivity" at work.

She insists that BURA does not run away from little green men. In fact she has spent 4½ years challenging her own scepticism by investigating the bizarre UFO case near a US military base at Rendlesham Forest in 1980, when a "small triangular craft spewing fire" was seen by several witnesses.

Through the US Freedom of Information Act she obtained an MoD document describing the incident as a UFO encounter, and a tape made by US personnel on the spot. She suspects this is misinformation to disguise the testing of a secret military device.

"An MoD scientist told me recently 'You are messing with something so serious you could end up at the bottom of the Thames.' I want to keep pursuing it to the bitter end."

Science and the UFOs is published this week by Basil Blackwell, £12.50.

People is written by Stuart Wavell

...hello gushype

GROUND Saucer Watch, the American UFO group, should really investigate Carol Hill, who claims that her sexy bestseller about sub-particle physics shot into her noddle like radio waves from outer space.

"Unbelievable!" she recently told the Washington Post. "Like the story's coming from outside. Maybe it is. Maybe this sounds crazy. I believe in an enormous positive energy available to us."

Her book, unpromisingly titled *The Eleven Million Mile High Dancer*, is enormously and positively enhancing her bank balance. It is said to combine funk, fantasy, physics and feminism. The film rights have been sold, and both Kate Capshaw and Jessica Lange allegedly want to play Amanda, "the ultimate space-age romantic heroine" who wears skates and shorts.

Sadly Carol Hill (43) cannot skate, but is said to wear space-age earrings. Whereas Amanda has goddess proportions.

"Amanda is not me," she says. "I wish she were me. She's so strong and inspiring. Something's wonderful about her. She's the woman we'd all like to be. She makes me feel it's terrific to be a woman."

We are witnessing an easily explained phenomena here, gushype.

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