

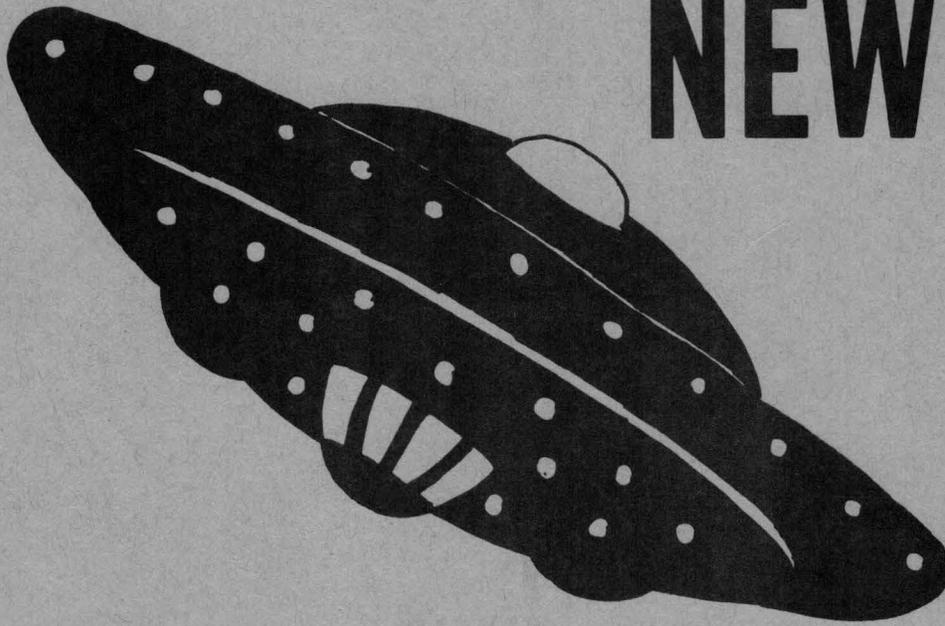
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UFO

NEWS



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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

CLYPEUS

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Turkey

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UFO Canada

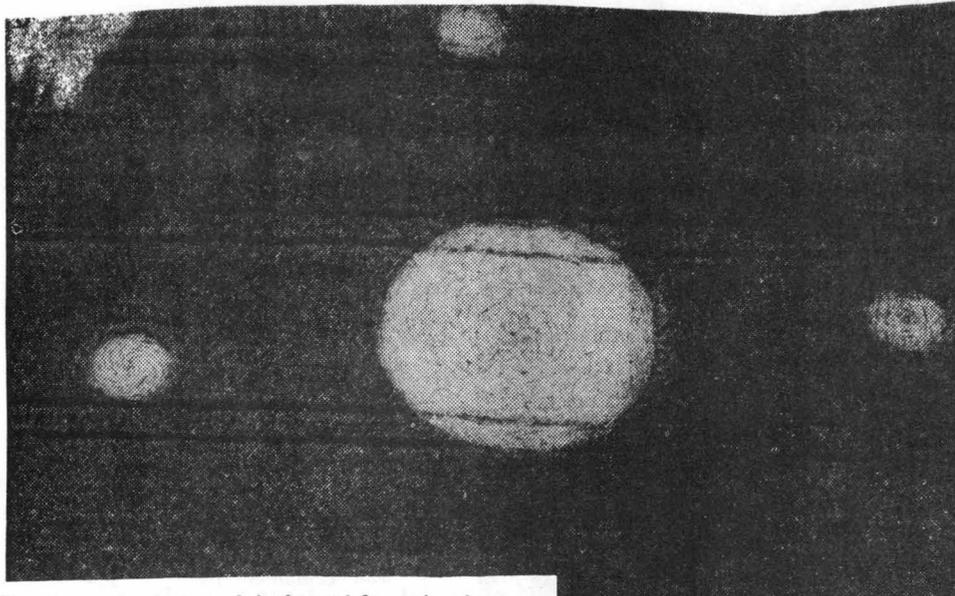


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ANDOVER ADVERTISER
AUG. 9 1985
ENGLAND

The strange 'landing marks' pictured from the air

IT'S THE GREAT ANDOVER FLYING SAUCER MYSTERY

Has a flying saucer landed near Andover? That was the question being posed this week following the discovery of a series of strange circular 'landing' marks in a wheat field south of the town.

At least one man, an expert in aerial phenomena, is convinced that the indentations in the corn were made by an odd-shaped object coming to earth.

Mr Omar Fowler of the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena, who visited the site near Danebury Ring, said he was convinced the marks were not caused by a natural phenomenon such as wind or atmospheric pressure.

"I also believe that this is not a student prank," he said. "The edges of the standing corn are too uniform and there is not a mark that would explain how the depressions are so symmetrical. In any case there would be no point in such a hoax."

Thrupton pilot, 'Busty' Taylor, who discovered the markings at the weekend, is equally bewildered. He was flying in a twin-engined Commanche, with Thrupton Flight Centre flying instructor Barry Dyke when they made a low turn and Busty spotted the five perfect circles in an area covering the size of a large aircraft hangar in the corner of a field.

The centre circle is between 40 and 50 feet across and the four surrounding circles are about 15 feet in diameter.

The sight so amazed the four pilots in the Commanche that Barry Dyke promptly used a helicopter to fly only 500 feet above the wheat field. Busty, an Andover driving instructor who lives in Apple Tree Grove, borrowed a video camera and made a film of the circles.

"I have never seen anything like it before," he said after the second flight. "There is no mark on the corn to show that anyone or anything has walked into the field to make the marks. There is no sign of burning and the circles are so neat that it looks as though something has punched them out of the corn."

ANDOVER CON'T

DAILY
TELEGRAPH
LONDON
AUG. 23 1985



And a close-up of the cornfield from ground level

5321-C35

28 UFOs OVER ³¹²⁸THE ADRIATIC

By Our Rome Correspondent

More than 28 sightings of unidentified flying objects were reported along Italy's Adriatic coast soon after midnight yesterday. The objects continuously changed colour, ranging from gold to blue before disappearing over the horizon.

One remained fixed in the sky for almost 20 minutes before rocketing upwards and disappeared within seconds.

BY 'ADVERTISER' STAFF REPORTERS

Busty, whose keen eye started it all off is keeping an open mind, but admits he cannot help wondering whether the blot on the landscape is a calling card.

When the 'Advertiser' took a closer look there was no trace of footprints nor any sign that the marked areas had been trampled down. The corn was lying in neat circles and in a perfect clockwise swirl effect.

The Army have begun investigations into the markings for the Ministry of Defence and photographs were being taken by helicopter during the week. But Omar Fowler of the Surrey Investigation Group already has his theory: "It is obviously difficult to say exactly what caused them but my belief is that the marks were made by a large body landing directly from above."

Mr Fowler, whose organisation has been in existence for nearly 20 years and which works in conjunction with the British UFO Research Association said the marks in the field at Leckford were typical of a series of phenomena recorded throughout the world during the past seven years, some of which had been found after alleged sightings of UFOs. The similarity went right down to the fact that the corn was flattened in a neat clockwise direction.

Circles have appeared in the same design in Sussex and Wiltshire and near Winchester only four weeks ago and one of the many mysteries to remain is why there are no burn marks.

Lt-Col Edgecombe of the Army Air Corps at Middle Wallop inspected the scene, taking photographs from the air and at ground level and has passed his findings with a detailed description of the markings to the Ministry of Defence.

"None of us who visited the scene could offer any reasonable explanation, other than a very cleverly done spoof," he said.

UFO author 3129 details sightings

THE recent claims that alleged flying saucers have once again been spotted in the skies over Burnley came as no surprise to self-styled UFO expert Stephen Brown.

Not that he has yet had time to evaluate the sighting reported by Mr Paul Quinn (Burnley Express, August 13th), but Mr Brown is convinced that extra-terrestrials have been interested in our solar system for some time.

He is the leading light behind the Lancashire Centre for UFO Spotters, and he is not at all worried that many people might scoff at the idea of visitors from outer space. In fact, Mr Brown is the first to tell people that in many cases there is a perfectly logical, material explanation for the strange objects in the sky.

But, as he points out in a detailed document he has just published on the subject, "there are many

explanations, but there is still a large amount that cannot be explained."

SIGHTINGS

Mr Brown, of Queen Victoria Road, Burnley, has spent two years collecting information for his work "UFOs Over Lancashire," and it contains reports of many sightings, going as far back as 1869. It also details the stand taken by the Ministry of Defence on the issue.

Prior to 1962, UFO reports were not even retained by the ministry, and although records are now kept, the "sightings," explained or otherwise, are not investigated unless they are considered "a matter of concern from a defence standpoint." This is almost never the case, says Mr Brown.

Despite his interest and work in the field, Mr Brown has never seen anything unexplained himself, although the Burnley and Pendle area would seem to have been "visited" several times.

Among the sightings he reports are:

May 8th, 1869: Several witnesses saw what looked like a "fiery flying goose" with a comet-like trail, flying around the Fence area and alighting in a field.

November/December, 1953: Three separate reports of "silvery objects" hovering in the sky in Burnley and Brierfield. All the descriptions were similar and the object was moving at incredible speed.

November 1958: More than a dozen Burnley people reported two strange objects over Burnley, on the same evening. Every description tallied in that it was silver, cylindrical, and moving silently with no vapour trail.

June, 1977: Perhaps the most bizarre reports came in throughout this month. Two separate sightings were reported over Nelson Cemetery. Both were described in great detail as having inverted portholes, a dome and a blue, flashing light at one end, and the sightings were at exactly the same time — 1 p.m. in the afternoon on a bright, sunny day.

CHASED

A Nelson man also claimed to have followed by a UFO as he and his wife travelled home from Manchester on their motor cycle.

They claimed the silent, silver cigar-shaped object "locked" on to them and chased them from Salford to Bury.

Shortly after this, three Burnley women reported seeing the same object actually in Burnley. One of them tried to follow it in her car as it passed over the Trafalgar area of Burnley, but said it moved off silently at incredible speed.

May/June, 1979: Two reports of "lights" over Pendle Hill and Towneley Park. The "lights" hovered and then streaked across the sky at great speed.

September, 1981: A Burnley housewife described what she first thought was a shooting star at 1-30 a.m. in the morning. She became suspicious when the star suddenly burst into a "blaze of coloured lights" and seemed to take on a horse-shoe shape, before disappearing.

1983: Four sightings over Burnley and Nelson. They varied from sets of lights, pulsating cigar-shaped objects, to a thin, green streak of light passing at speed through the sky.

January, 1984: Two Burnley sightings within days of each other of a bright light moving slowly over rooftops then disappearing vertically and silently into the night.

Mr Brown is certain there are many other reports to be had, and he hopes to publish them in a second volume in the future. His first book contains further reports from all over Lancashire and he wants to collect them together, not only for the interest of the Lancashire UFO spotters group, but because there has never been any publication concentrating just on Lancashire.

For confirmed "ufo-ologists" none of the reported sightings seem surprising, but even the sceptical among the population are being slowly converted to the idea that strange phenomena do occasionally appear in the sky.

In fact, according to Mr Brown, the very reason the Ministry of Defence decided in 1962 to retain reported sightings was: "in response to increasing public interest in the subject."

New UFO mystery baffles experts

MORE mystery UFO holes have completely baffled Army Air Corps experts at Middle Wallop.

The holes appeared at a farm near the AAC centre, which has now made an official report to the Ministry of Defence.

But the man conducting the investigation, Lt Col Greville Edgecombe, was left dumbfounded.

And he discounts the explanation given by Mr B. Essenhigh of Chilmark in last week's Journal.

There have now been five reports this year of similar manifestations appearing across southern England from Worthing to Westbury.

It all comes as no surprise to students of the rings who say they have appeared fairly regularly since the Second World War.

By Dick Bellringer

Despite their intensive investigations, nothing has been proved.

Certainly, Lt Col Edgecombe remains unimpressed by the theory that two people with a piece of string could have caused them.

In a letter to the Journal he says: "Being a born cynic I am quite happy to accept any plausible 'spoo' theory, but I am afraid this does not quite match up to what I saw."

Mr Essenhigh's theory, he says, is quite impractical because it would involve trampling every square inch of every ring.

There was no trampling and the wheat was completely undamaged — just laid gently flat in a spiral.

The hole he investigated was 40ft in diameter and the outer rings were about 12ft in diameter.

So, he says, a 20ft pole, held at one end and flush with the ground, swept slowly round in a full circle would produce the right 40ft hole and effect, except there were no scuff marks at the centre.

It would in any case take inordinate skill for two people to produce the exact measurements and symmetrical layout.

Five people might have managed it with one at the centre and one at each outer ring.

But it would only be possible if each of the circles was connected by tramlines in the field — as they were at Fonthill Bishop.

The most recent configuration, near Middle Wallop, had one of the outer rings completely isolated with no tracks leading to it.

He says: "No, Mr Essenhigh, back to the drawing board."

"I am an aviator and I had an expert aircraft accident investigator with me.

"We were both dumbfounded and none of us could offer a reasonable explanation. Spoo? Then how did they do it?"

The weird appearances have been investigated by Alresford design engineer Mr Patrick Delgrado for several years.

He says they are by no means new phenomena, although it is only in recent years that people have started taking notice.

He believes there is some as yet

unexplained connection between UFOs and the magnetic ley-lines which, many people claim, link standing stones like Stonehenge with other megalithic sites.

It is thought that the rings are created by UFOs at the point where the magnetic fields cross, although it is not known whether the ley-lines attract or are created by the UFOs.

An interesting development from the Middle Wallop rings is that a white jelly-like fluorescent substance was found in the centre of the main circle, and is now being analysed.

The rings in England always seem to crop up in the South, but they are by no means confined to these shores.

According to Mr Delgrado they have also been seen in Canada, Australia, Sweden and the USA.

CROYDON
ADVERTISER
SURREY
AUG 16 1985

Bright light in the sky

I REFER to an article in the "Advertiser" relating to a UFO sighting on Riddlesdown Common. I, too, saw a strange phenomenon at 10.30 am on the same day.

I was in my garden, distracted by a large glowing object above me. I gazed at this strange sight as it danced between the clouds.

It was there for only a few moments before it disappeared. I ran indoors and explained hurriedly and excitedly to my wife that I had seen the sun.

My wife, who is sceptical at the sun's existence, said it was more likely to be a UFO.

GARY SMITH.

Farleigh Road,
Warlingham.

ORMSKRIK
ADVERTISER
AUG 15 1985

Lights mystery

STRANGE lights over Skelmersdale have been reported to the Advertiser twice within the last three weeks.

But the two reports of UFOs in the sky have both met with a blank response from both local police and RAF officials.

The most recent report was made by a Parbold couple returning through the town late on Monday night from the M58 motorway.

Mrs Edith Davies said: "We were driving through Ashurst at about 11.40 p.m. when I saw these strange red, blue and white lights in the sky.

"They seemed to stay still for a while and then they just moved.

"I am absolutely sure it was not an aircraft or a helicopter.

So is my husband. We are completely mystified."

ANDOVER ADVERTISER
AUG 16 1985 ENGLAND

The UFO mystery remains unsolved

After a week of frenzied speculation, the Great Andover Flying Saucer Mystery remains unsolved.

Last week we reported the discovery of strange circular markings in a field south of Andover. This followed sightings at Clay Hill, Warminster, Westbury, Alresford, Worthing and Fontwell Bishop all since 16 June.

An Over Wallop woman claimed that early one morning before the discovery at Longstock, she looked out of her kitchen window, south west towards Salisbury and noticed a very bright light with four smaller lights surrounding it.

Another circle has since appeared in the cornfield, but being so small it is thought to be no more than a prank. Several theories have been floated to account for the spiral effect left in the corn. One person claimed it was caused by Wonderwoman spinning around and another claimed the lack of footprints in the vicinity

could be explained by the prankster crossing the field on stilts.

There was even the suggestion that the markings were the remains of a gnomes illegal pop festival, with the larger circle serving as the stage.

And if anyone read their Sunday Times last week they may have reached the same conclusion as Dr and Mrs J. Hoffman of Winchester Road, Andover who discovered an amazing similarity between the pattern left in the field and the latest design for a high technology home for Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher.

Meanwhile Busty Taylor, the pilot who discovered the phenomenon, and a number of UFO experts are adamant that something landed.

Although the mystery remains could we be looking for a Thatcherite gnome dressed in a Wonderwoman outfit, walking on stilts?

SUNDAY EXPRESS
LONDON
AUG 25 1985

COULD THIS BE AN ALIEN INVASION?

³¹²⁸
MANY PEOPLE in central and northern Italy reported seeing brightly coloured flying objects in the night sky last week at the same time that Swedish police released a report of a UFO sighting in Smaaland.

In Pavia, south of Milan, residents saw a circular object spinning in an intense green and orange light before disappearing over the horizon.

Along Italy's Adriatic coast on Friday, more than 28 sightings were reported of objects which continuously changed colour ranging from gold to blue before vanishing.

Aroused

A disc-shaped object about 15 feet wide and nine feet high was seen in Sweden in July by two young girls and corroborated by a local policeman, Jan Aschan, an officer with 15 years' experience.

Latest UFO reports have aroused particular interest in Italy in view of a claim by the pilot of an Olympic Airways flight from Zurich to Athens that he had a near-collision with a mystery object north of Como near the Swiss border.

Two "flying saucers" were seen by 45 Argentinian journalists aboard a Boeing 737 flight to Buenos Aires last week. Pilot Jorge Requiere said the UFOs veered away each time he headed towards them.

EVENING
CHRONICLE
NEWCASTLE
UPON TYNE
AUG 19 1985



ALWAYS ready to help unravel the great mysteries of life I am pleased to mention a letter which has arrived from deepest Yorkshire concerning strange flying objects.

It comes from Mr. Philip Mantle, who can be readily identified by his letter heading as Overseas Liaison Officer and Sighting Investigator of the Yorkshire UFO Society.

Mr. Mantle is keen to hear more of reported sightings of something which went flash in the night in June over the Tyne.

The Evening Chronicle carried a brief article following scores of claims of a sighting during one night in June. Indeed two Denton Burn listeners sparked off a wave of reports to Radio Metro's Night Owl programme after claiming their car had been "buzzed" by a strange low-flying craft.

Mr. Mantle is anxious to learn more of these odd goings-on and would appreciate a line from anyone with more news. He keeps watch for aliens at 106 Lady Ann Road, Scothill, Batley, West Yorkshire.

In return for including the above he tells me he will be only too pleased to inform me of any further news of sightings hereabouts. Watch this space ...

EVENING POST LEEDS AUG 21 1985 ENGLAND

UFO hunters click on Yorkshire moors

³¹²⁸
The Yorkshire UFO Society is on the lookout for mysterious objects in the sky over the region this week, as members conduct a nine-day "skywatch".

Results of their 24-hour-a-day vigils and logging of any unusual sightings in the heavens above part of North Yorkshire are likely to be studied by Leeds and Sheffield Universities.

They set up a caravan near Carleton and Elslack Moors, Skipton, last

Friday, and they believe they may have already had one "sighting".

That was early on Saturday morning, and has hopefully been photographed, using some sophisticated camera equipment.

The society's co-ordinator of research, Mr. Mark Birdsall, said: "A lot of people think there are frequent sightings, but in fact they are very few and far between, and we were lucky to have at least one possible one during

our Skywatch."

Members are also using astronomical telescopes.

Society members can distinguish between satellites, planes and meteors using their state-of-the-art technology, according to Mr. Birdsall.

Meanwhile, the group is hosting some lectures in Yorkshire. The first, at Christ Church Parish Room, Knaresborough Road, Harrogate, tomorrow, starts at 7.30 p.m.

There is a part of North Yorkshire known as Flying Saucer Alley because of peculiar sightings over the years.

REGINALD BRACE joined investigators in search of UFOs but sadly only managed to intercept a wink from Jupiter.

3128



Operation Skywatch: from left, Graham Birdsall, President of the Yorkshire UFO Society, Paul Chaplow, Investigator, Mark Birdsall, Research Co-ordinator, and Philip Mantle, Overseas Liaison Officer, on the lookout for UFOs at Carleton, near Skipton.

Picture by BRUCE ROLLINSON

**Something bright
was winking
through a cloud,
but it was only
good old Jupiter,
on the blink as
usual**

ONE of the ironies of Ufology is that few, if any, of its disciples have actually seen an Unidentified Flying Object.

Graham Birdsall, 31, founder and president of the Yorkshire UFO Society (motto: Seek And You Will Find) has been involved in UFO research for 18 years and is still waiting the first sight of anything that defies explanation. "That's the worst thing about it," said Mr. Birdsall, who was drawn into the world of aerial phenomena at the age of 13 when he saw a ball of light skimming over a Leeds roof top. He now accepts it was probably a passing aircraft.

"I have interviewed hundreds of people over the years who have told me about sightings. I would have given my right arm to share. That's typical of every UFO investigator in the country. Jenny Randles, one of Britain's leading writers on UFOs, has never seen a damn thing. Yes it is frustrating — but you carry on."

IN SEARCH OF UFO's CONT

One of Mr. Birdsall's colleagues, Philip Mantle, said: "It's similar to fishing. You go to a river you know is stuffed with big fish, but it's the beggar ten pegs up who gets one. You need patience — and if we didn't think our patience would be rewarded one day we would pack it in."

Our close encounter of a convivial kind took place in a wind jolted caravan on the remote moorland above the village of Carleton, near Skipton, which is serving as the base for the Yorkshire UFO Society's nine day, round-the-clock Skywatch. It is a publicity exercise designed to draw attention to the society's activities but there is always the hope that something amazing will happen. After all, this is the area of Yorkshire known as Flying Saucer Alley or the Warminster of the North because of a number of odd happenings over the years.

So far the Skywatch sightings have been largely routine. A reddish glare last Friday night could have been the work of some local wit bent on confusion, and although several pairs of binoculars were trained on what looked like a tadpole with lights in the small hours of Sunday, the consensus of opinion leaned towards nothing more peculiar than a light aircraft.

The trouble with Ufology today is that there is usually a solution. It was different in the Fifties, Sixties and Seventies when talk of little green men and shimmering saucers caused many a fluttering in extra-terrestrial doves. To some extent the mystery has gone. People are still seeing strange things in the sky but the source could be Venus — the Queen of UFOs — Jupiter, Mars or merely the moon peering through a cloud, fireballs, meteors, satellites, bits of space debris, weather balloons, aircraft with strobe lights, helicopters using night sun searchlights or remote pilotless vehicles.

"Sometimes we upset witnesses with our analysis of what they have seen but we are open-minded and realistic," said Graham Birdsall. "We obliterate 98 per cent. of sightings. This leaves two per cent. unexplained, and it is that two per cent. which keeps us interested. If I thought there was an explanation for everything I would save myself

two or three thousand pounds a year, take more holidays and live a normal life again with my wife and three daughters.

"You can't come up with an explanation for the hovering object seen by two policemen at Cracoe Fell in 1981; the Mexican hat shaped craft and three men in silver suits reported by a miner's wife from Normanton; the woman on the Skipton-to-Clitheroe road startled by a battery of lights over her car; the courting couple disturbed by a similar phenomena; the North Yorkshire farmer driven off the road by a glowing craft suspended over his car.

"Several people came to us and reported seeing a large Blimp shooting purple rays over the Vale of York shortly before the York Minster fire in 1984. They included people at a bus stop, taxi drivers and a tourist from Scotland. When they publicised their sighting they were ridiculed. So were we, but we are used to it. People once laughed at the idea of man walking on the moon. We think our York report is just as worthy of investigation as lightning, particularly when the nearest thunderstorm was several miles away from the Minster."

Several police officers have reported weird sights in and around Carleton and Elslack Moors in North Yorkshire and Mr. Birdsall places great store on their observations.

"Objectivity goes right out of the window when you get policemen talking about noiseless UFOs with nuts, bolts and portholes," he said. "The only logical conclusion to some of the things which have been seen is either a secret piece of airborne craft

or an intelligence unknown to man. The more I see of the latest space hardware the more my leanings increase towards unusual surveillance craft, still in their infancy. But you cannot discount the extra-terrestrial possibility."

When he is not peering at the sky, collating research material, editing the YUFOS magazine Quest and addressing meetings, Mr. Birdsall slaps tickets on cars as a parking meter attendant in Leeds. His companions on the Skywatch include Mr. Mantle, 27, a Batley engineer, Paul Chaplow, 19, an apprentice panel beater from Leeds, and Robert Cherry, 31, a Leeds postman.

They eat ham sandwiches, fry sausages, make coffee and talk UFO language which includes classifications like CE 1, 11, 111 and 1111 (close encounters with varying degrees of intimacy), D/D (daylight disc), N/L (nocturnal light) and LITS (lights in the sky). Around them are the trappings of your dedicated Ufologist: cameras, telescope, video equipment, binoculars and CB radio.

With midnight an hour away we clambered out of the caravan to see if anything was happening in the heavens. Something bright was winking through a cloud, but it was only good old Jupiter, on the blink as usual.

Gaps between the scudding clouds revealed star formations but nothing moving. Not even a satellite tonight, and definitely no chance to echo the immortal words "Beam me up, Scottie." Not that the assembled Skywatchers were expecting too much. As Philip Mantle said, Ufologists have to be patient as they wait for the Big One.



Mr Patrick Hills

Mystery of bright lights in sky

HARTLEPOOL MAIL.

AUG 28 1985

And last night he said today his efforts were rewarded when he viewed a bright, white light approaching from Billingham.

"Ever since I first spotted the lights I have been out every night at about 9 p.m. hoping to see them again," he said today.

"But I had seen nothing until last night when this bright light appeared coming towards me.

"It absolutely lit up the sky, and I only hope somebody else witnessed it.

"I don't know what it is, but as soon as a light aircraft appeared heading towards it, the lights went out and it disappeared into the darkness."

A HARTLEPOOL man has been set a U.F.O. poser after seeing spots before his eyes for the second time within a month.

Mr Patrick Hills, of Spilsby Close, says he first witnessed strange lights in the skies above South Fens four weeks ago.

Since then, Mr Hills, who is unemployed, has spent each night watching the skies for

SCOTSMAN EDINBURGH
AUG 30 1985

Space invaders

UFO enthusiasts in Sweden are speculating that the county of Smaaland is being sized up by extra-terrestrial invaders as a possible site for their earthly base. Smaa chance, cynics might riposte. Nevertheless, there have been flying saucer reports from a number of people in that area recently — from two girls walking home after a country disco, from a policeman and from a couple who had been otherwise occupied in their parked car.

Surely the most amazing report, which could have had interesting consequences, was that of Ante Jonsson (42) who was driving home at night when he found the road blocked by a 200ft wide "mother-ship" topped by a pulsing red light. Naturally he stopped. He was just being dragged from his Volvo station wagon by six aliens when a timber truck came round the bend and almost crashed into the spacecraft.

Question: Would this have led to (1) An illegal parking ticket? (2) A careless driving charge? (3) The real Star Wars?

SALISBURY
JOURNAL WILTS

AUG. 22 1985

Mystery of the moving lights

Sir, — Further to the UFO speculation currently being aired in your paper — may I contribute the following, for what it's worth?

Some three or four weeks ago one evening — about half an hour after sunset we — (my daughter, husband and self) saw from the living room window (facing north) — two very large brilliant white orbs of light, almost merging at their inner edge. Their height was difficult to estimate. They were moving — but only just — from west to east.

Before we could focus binoculars on them they began to fade, and scanning the spot we could see nothing. Half a minute later the same or similar brilliant dual white lights appeared further east.

By the time glasses were brought to bear they were again fading — and left no after image or trace. Skies were crystal clear on this evening. The lights were some 12 to 20 times larger than plane navigation lights at the same height and very brilliant.

They did not "fall" from the sky as they faded. It could not have been a "balloon" or we should have seen it, lights or not — (and of course heard it).

I do not presume to suggest that what we saw that night was a UFO. But only the following Thursday came — in your paper — the first report of the circles of flattened corn at Fonthill, west of us, which certainly gives food for thought.

Could there have been a connection, or was it pure coincidence? Better yet, what was it? Your guess is a guess is as good as ours.

Mrs W. M. Perrett
5 Lampard Terrace,
Wilton.

* * *
Sir, — Could the rings of spirally flattened wheat in various cornfields have been made by a helicopter?

Perhaps you could organise an experiment.

D. M. Scott
Lyburn House,
Nomansland,
Salisbury.

DEWSBURY REPORTER
YORKS

AUG 23 1985

'Something in the sky' 3128 poser for UFO man

DID extra-terrestrial beings visit Chickenley on Saturday night?

Mrs. Audrey Brooke is convinced that something out of the ordinary was in the sky over her house in Chickenley Lane.

"I was watching television near the window just after midnight on Saturday," she said.

"The curtains were open and I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw a bright light coming towards me. I was beginning to get frightened when it suddenly disappeared," said Mrs. Brooke (55).

She said the object had a very bright light in its centre which was surrounded by reddish pink rays in a sort of halo.

FRIGHTENED

Mrs. Brooke was on her own in the house at the time and admits to being frightened and unable to sleep afterwards.

The matter was reported to Philip Mantle, the local investigator for the Yorkshire UFO Society, who said that it was very unlikely to have been an aircraft as Leeds and Bradford Airport had closed for the night.

"I would be very interested to hear from anybody else who thinks they saw something that night but might be afraid of coming forward," said Mr. Mantle. Anyone who thinks they have seen an unidentified flying object can contact Mr. Mantle on Batley 444049.

UFOs

Enthusiasts keep looking up

By DAVID FINKEL
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer



Above is one of two photographs taken on Feb. 6, 1967 in Zanesville, Ohio by an amateur astronomer named Ralph Ditter. Upon examination, says Sherman Larsen of the Center for UFO Studies, the photographs were found to be a hoax. At left is a January 1966 photograph taken in Horseshoe Lagoon, Australia. It purportedly shows where a UFO landed and took off.

Photos courtesy of Center for UFO Studies

For Robert Gribble — resident of Seattle, Washington, U.S.A., Earth — the search for truth is a lonely vigil.

Centuries from now it may be different. After UFOs have been welcomed with parades and the little green men hidden in Air Force freezers have been thawed, historians may look back at him as one of the early heroes.

But for now, Gribble's mission — the pursuit of the truth about unidentified flying objects — is just a matter of his sitting around his house and waiting for the phone to ring.

UFO'S LOOKING UP CONT

It is, he concedes, not the most exciting existence. About once an hour the phone does ring, he says, and about six times a day the calls are from people who have seen . . . something. Dutifully he takes notes. Then he hangs up and waits for the next one.

Once, it would have been the Air Force waiting for such calls. No more. Call the Air Force these days about a UFO, and they'll tell you to call the police. Call the police and they'll suggest the planetarium. Even the supermarket tabloids aren't listening as they used to.

But Gribble, head of the one-phone National UFO Reporting Center, answers calls 24 hours a day. Others might scoff, but he treats this seriously.

It has been 38 years since Americans began searching earnestly for UFOs — ever since a private pilot saw what he said were saucer-like objects skimming above some mountains in 1947. Since then, there have been thousands of reported sightings, hundreds of investigations, dozens of blurry photographs, and, so far, no proof. To the Air Force, to the tabloids, to the skeptics, maybe even to the once-mesmerized public, UFOs have become an old, tired story.

But on stardate 26 August 1985, this much is fact:

They're out there!

Not UFOs, necessarily, but the people who believe in them.

✓ ✓ ✓

Who are they?

To be sure, a quick perusal of headlines in the *National Enquirer* over the years indicates a few might be a tad unreliable: "Vietnam Vet Meets Invisible Alien."

"Brazilian Says He's Father of Alien's Baby."

"Giant Flying 'Light Bulbs' Land Near Moscow."

But along with Robert Gribble, who speaks in an even-keeled voice, many of the people who take the subject seriously seem as ordinary as a bunch of stamp collectors. Consider those who recently assembled in suburban Chicago for a board meeting of the Center for UFO Studies.

Nine in all, they included a librarian, a graduate student in sociology and a retired astronomer who once taught at Harvard and Northwestern. John Timmerman, a savings-and-loan vice president wearing plaid trousers, could have come from any golf course in America. And Sherman Larsen, "Sherm" to his friends, could be anybody's most solid uncle: retired life-insurance agent, married 42 years, two kids, two cars, likes his lawn mowed and his steak medium.

With 1,600 subscribers to its monthly magazine, *International UFO Reporter*, the Center for UFO Studies is the largest such organization in the United States. Its membership includes "all kinds of people," says Larsen, "airline pilots and doctors, politicians and movie stars."

The shared interest? Trying to figure out what people have been seeing all these years. Others may be willing to dismiss all the sightings as explainable (meteors) or hoaxes (hub caps); they aren't. Others might snort at reports from people who swear they've been transported onto spaceships and examined by four-fingered creatures with slits for eyes and a disturbing absence of nostrils; they don't.

"WE LIKE TO think of ourselves as intelligent, critical, i.e. skeptical people," said board member Jerome Clark. "We are not involved in mystery-mongering. We are not chasing after wonders for the cheap thrill. We think UFOs are a mystery that deserve serious scrutiny."

"You *have* to take it seriously," Larsen said. Everything merits at least some investigation. If there's nothing there, you give it up. If there's meat, you keep eating.

"We're talking about science here."

They were also talking about a lull here — here meaning not just Chicago but the entire planet.

For reasons they can't explain, UFO sightings are down these days, way down, perhaps at their lowest point ever.

"We are living in a curious — and I think crucial — moment in UFO history," wrote Clark in the March-April issue of *International UFO Reporter*. "... never has there been a period that has seen so little UFO activity."

To understand what this means, a little history is in order.

UNTIL JUNE 1947, there were virtually no UFO reports; this was a world at peace with its status as the universe's only inhabited planet. Then, on June 24, Ken Arnold went up in a plane.

Looking for the wreckage of a missing aircraft, Arnold was near Washington's Mount Rainier when he saw what were later described as, "nine, bright, saucer-like objects flying at incredible speed." Breathlessly, he made a drawing on the back of an envelope of what he had seen, landed and told a reporter.

And with that, a national obsession was born.

"Flying saucers: spots before their eyes," was the headline in the July 14, 1947 issue of *Newsweek*; "Flying saucers: the somethings," was *Time's*; and at newspapers, expressions such as "flying pies" and "pancakes" became common.

The government also got involved — especially the Air Force, which investigated 12,618 sightings between 1947 and 1969 as part of a classified study that came to be known as "Project Blue Book."

Those investigations, it was learned later, often amounted to nothing more than a couple of sergeants hanging around a room with a phone in Ohio. But during those early years, when the public was concerned that UFOs might be ingenious Russian weapons or blood-lusting aliens looking for an appetizer, the military's presence was reassuring.

Skeptics abounded, of course, and no wonder — contained in those 12,618 sightings were some real doozies.

A photograph donated as evidence, for instance, turned out to be a picture of a light bulb on a black rug. A mysterious object offered as absolute proof was the roll-on ball from a stick of deodorant.

BUT THE BULK of reports, at least according to one government-sponsored study, came from "normal, responsible individuals." And out of those reports are 701 that, years later, continue to defy any explanation.

An old example: In 1957, a shimmering, shapeless blob appeared next to an airborne Air Force bomber. The crew saw it. Radar tracked it. The government investigated it, concluding, "this sighting must be tentatively classified as unknown."

Some more-recent examples:

✓ 1975: For several weeks in October and November, Air Force jets and helicopters tracked — but never caught up with — bright, highly maneuverable objects that showed up on radar when they penetrated the air space over missile-launching and nuclear-storage facilities in Maine, Ontario, Michigan, North Dakota and Montana.

✓ 1976: A brightly lighted object

over Tehran was seen by a commercial pilot and tracked by both ground radar and Iranian Air Force jets that reportedly lost their electronic communications systems as they closed to within firing distance.

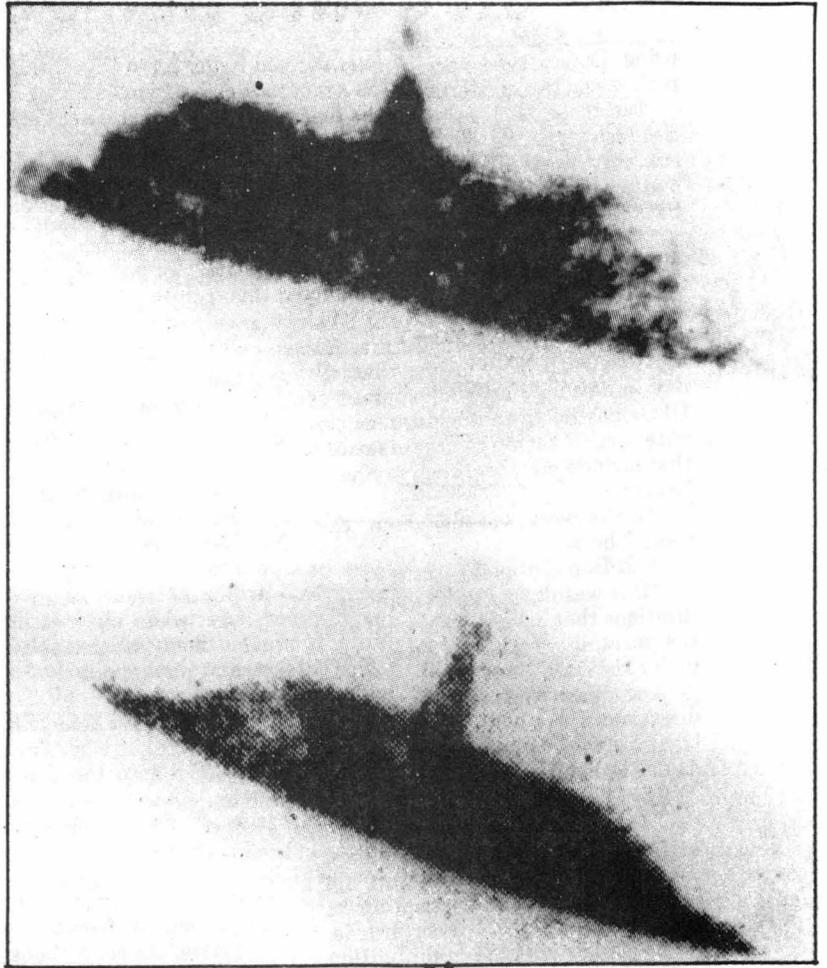
✓ 1978: A 20-year-old Australian pilot and his plane disappeared without a trace after he radioed that he was being pursued by a UFO with "a long shape . . . green light and a sort of metallic light on the outside."

UFO'S LOOKING UP CON'T

✓ 1980: According to a report written by the deputy commander of Bentwaters Air Force Base (a U.S. base in England), a triangular, metallic-looking object with a bank of blue lights was seen on Dec. 27 in the Rendlesham Forest by base security police. "It illuminated the forest with a white light," the report said. "As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees," leaving behind three depressions in the ground in a triangular configuration.

BECAUSE OF REPORTS like those, **UFOs** have been investigated over the years not only by the Air Force, but by the National Security Agency, the FBI and the CIA. According to the *New York Times*, the CIA even considered a plan to control potential public hysteria by infiltrating private UFO organizations and

CON'T NEXT
PAGE



According to the Center for UFO Studies, the above photograph was taken in 1950 by a farmer named Paul Trent in rural Oregon. Seeing an object passing slowly over his yard, he took two photographs of it. This is one of them. UFO enthusiasts say the photographs have withstood all attempts to determine them a hoax, including computer enhancement. Above right is a photograph taken in 1954 by an air marshal in the French Air Force in 1954 while in flight over Rouen, France. The object on the bottom is a closeup of Trent's picture. UFO enthusiasts like to compare the two photographs because of their similarity in shape and because they reportedly were taken four years apart on different continents.

UFO'S LOOKING UP CONT

using Disney-type cartoons to explain away the mysteries.

But those days are gone, the agencies insist. Just as the Air Force presumably washed its hands of the matter in 1969 with the closing of Blue Book, so, finally, have they.

"As far as us investigating UFOs," says the FBI, "gee, I'm not aware of anything."

"No. No. Uh-unh," says the CIA.

Presuming the agencies are telling the truth, this means that the day-to-day, nuts-and-bolts pursuit of UFOs has fallen to a handful of private organizations, organizations that include members such as Sherm Larsen.

"We're very serious about this thing," he says.

And Bob Gribble.

"If it wasn't for the civilian organizations that have stuck with it over the years, it would have been swept under the rug," he says.

And Walt Andrus, international director of the 1,300-member Mutual UFO Network, who says the government recovered alien bodies in the 1950s in New Mexico.

"We just got the drawings from a doctor who did the autopsy," he says. "He said there were 30 bodies. I'll give you some of the description he gave: 3½ to 4½ feet tall, very fragile, the head is quite large in proportion to the body, very long arms, short legs, the eyes are very large with an overhanging brow, no hair, no ears, the mouth is simply a slit like a scar, no teeth, no vocal chords, no digestive tract, no stomach, they have a clear liquid in the veins, there's a little webbing between the four fingers, they don't walk, they float, no genitals."

And Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the 75-year-old co-founder of the Center for UFO Studies who coined the term "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," appeared for six seconds in the movie of the same name, and is often regarded as one of the world's leading scientific UFO experts.

"What we find," he says, "is what we're looking for."

GOOD INTENTIONS aside, there are some problems with this quest.

For one thing, none of these organizations has airplanes, radars or much money. They survive on small budgets that come from selling books about UFOs — books that number in the hundreds but all say pretty much the same thing.

The other thing: Except for a report from China where a jumbo jet reportedly encountered a UFO estimated to be six miles wide, the skies over the planet have been quiet. Maybe it's because of movies like *E.T.*, one explanation goes. Maybe, goes another, after two generations without proof, people are just plain bored.

Whatever the reason, during the Center for UFO Studies board meeting, this was Hynek's rundown on worldwide activities:

"Nothing in Sweden. Nothing in Australia or Spain."

"How about France?" someone asked.

"Nothing," Hynek said. "Maybe the boys have gone home for a while."

On the surface, this made for a depressing state of affairs: little money, few decent sightings and a UFO purported to be as long as two Howard Frankland Bridges.

Yet when the meeting broke up, all of the board members left feeling pretty good about their chosen mission.

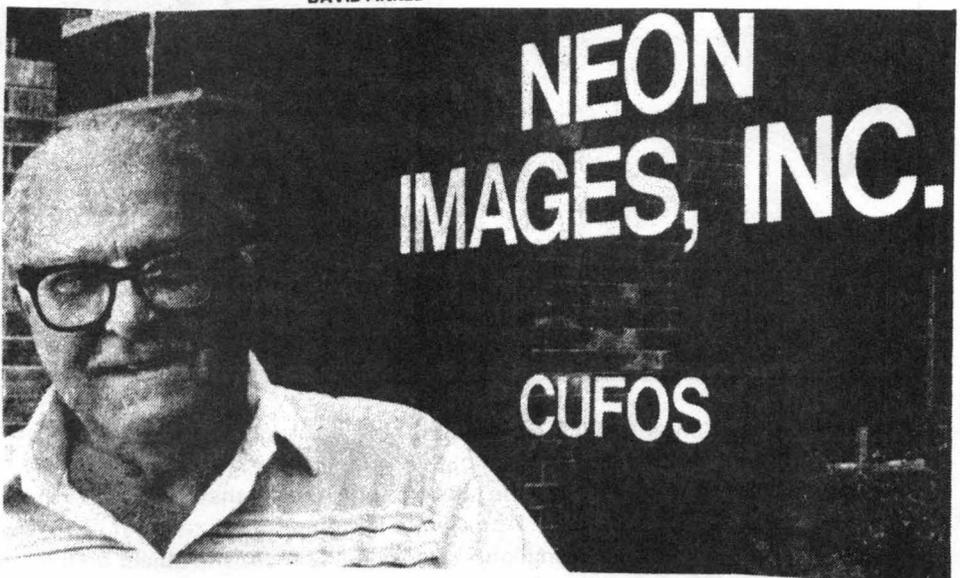
On the drive home, Sherm Larsen tried to explain why. Then, giving up, he pulled into the driveway of his house, went inside, gave a wave to his wife who was on the phone, opened a door and said, "Down here."

Down he went, into his basement. Past a desk. Past a workbench. And into a room lined with filing cabinets.

"Here," he said. "Look in any one you want."

Sherman Larsen, co-founder of the Center for UFO Studies, at the entrance to the center's headquarters in suburban Chicago.

St. Petersburg Times — DAVID FINKEL



There were 24 drawers to choose from, all filled with files, thousands of them.

One was a report of a 1965 sighting by teen-ager named Dotty Patscheider. She was at a drum-corps contest in Massachusetts when she looked up to the stars and found herself staring at eight oval lights that changed from blue to reddish-orange.

Another was a 1959 letter from an airman who wrote, "A mysterious blast at Flagstaff some 50 miles from here might have some connection to UFOs."

THE REPORTS WENT on and on. Florida was represented along with every other state in the union. Reports from foreign countries were in there as well.

And on top of the cabinets, in a special box, was the granddaddy file of them all, Ken Arnold's, complete with his original drawing on the envelope.

Whatever Arnold saw that day 38 years ago is still a mystery, Larsen said. Others may not care, but he does.

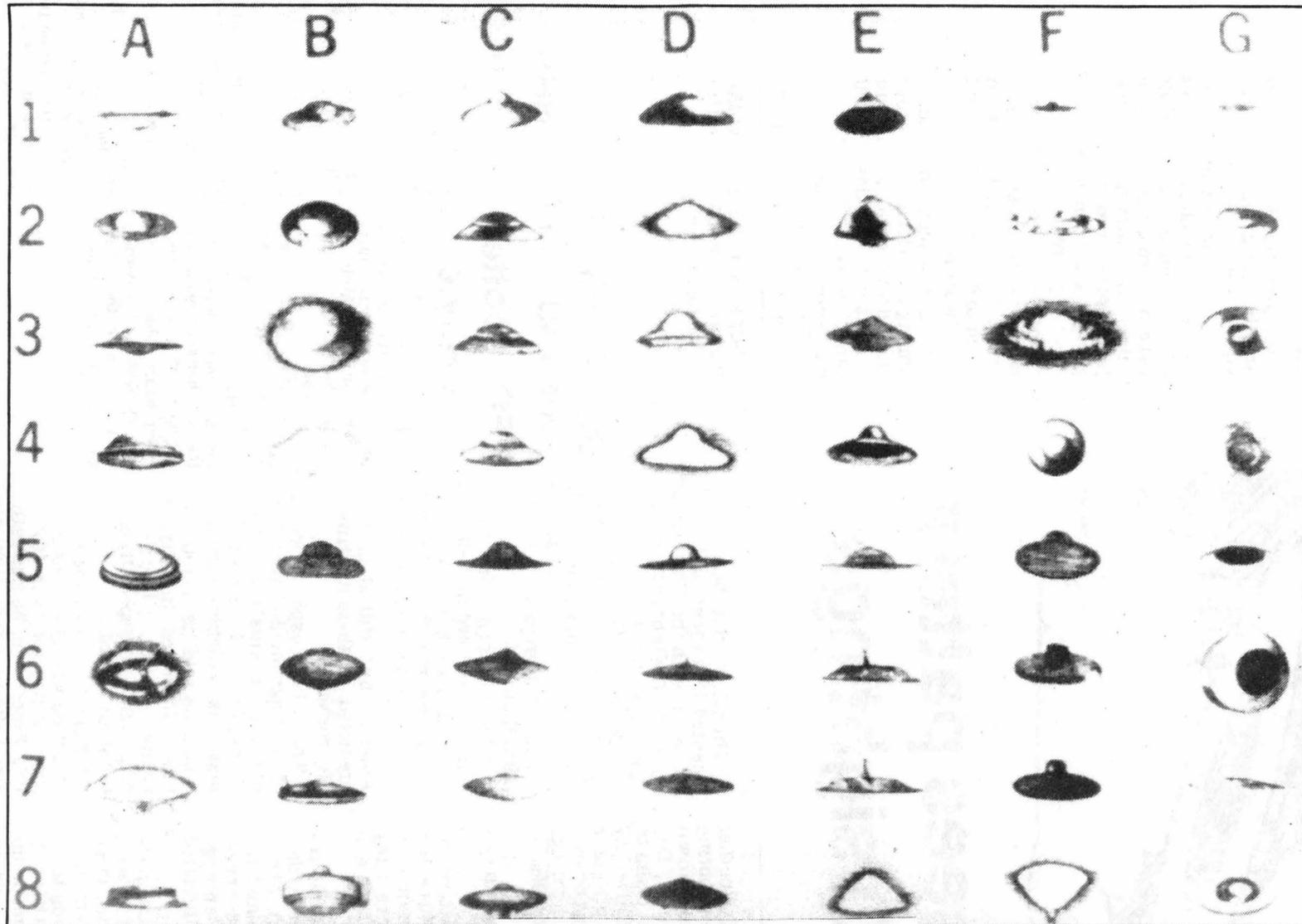
Arnold, he said, saw something. Dotty Patscheider saw something. The same for the pilots over Tehran, the radar operators in Ontario and the spooked-out airman near Flagstaff.

"As long as the doubts are there, you've got something to study," he said.

His name for the stuff in his basement, the jumble of files representing the history of UFOs:

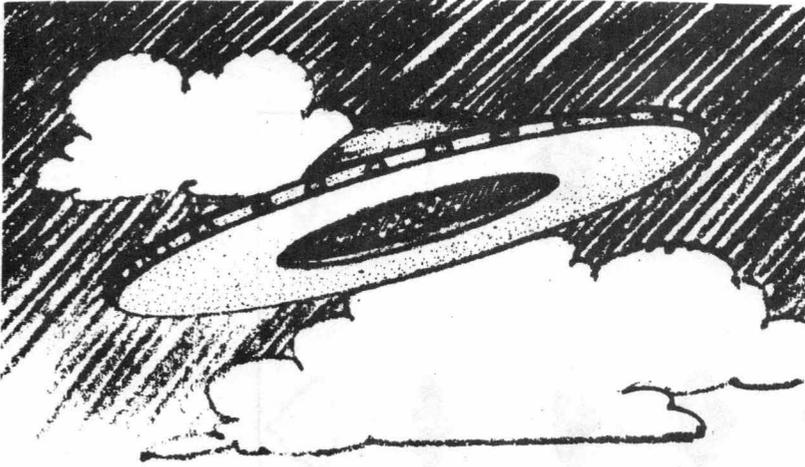
"Evidence."

His advice to the skeptics? Stay tuned.



Part of a congressional hearing into UFOs in 1968, these illustrations show the type of objects reported as UFOs over the years to the Air Force. Some of the illustrations represent incidents yet to be explained, while a few were examples of hoaxes. B-8, for example, is a heating unit used in an incubator for hatching eggs. G2 and G3 were determined to be hub caps thrown into the air.

Photos courtesy of Center for UFO Studies



Prof sees pattern in UFO sightings

By Jeff Yocom

UFOs may be real. Whether they come from neighboring stars or are an unknown natural phenomenon, Dr. Burt Monroe does not claim to know. However, the University of Louisville biology professor has found too many consistencies among UFO sightings to dismiss them as hoaxes or hallucinations.

He believes something is being seen.

Monroe said the patterns of UFO sightings capture his attention more than fantastic explanations of where they come from or why they are here.

Breaking down sighting reports according to time of day, geographical location, other sightings in the area and the experience of the observer, causes patterns to emerge among seemingly unrelated cases, he said.

"Certain groups follow patterns according to time and space," Monroe said. One group follows a 61-month cycle and moves 15 longitudinal degrees east with each cycle. The pattern is made up of groups of sightings spread over a four- to 12-week period, and includes an increased number of sightings each day before a peak and then a rapid decline.

The pattern has been documented for 35 years until 1973. It begins with the first rash of U.S. UFO sightings in the United States which peaked in 1947 on the West Coast. Five years later, in 1952, another rash of sightings peaked, this time in the central states about 15 degrees east of the first sightings.

The pattern continues, moving eastward in 61-month increments—that's five years and one month. Sometimes the sightings were in South

America, but still along the predicted north-south lines, Monroe said.

The last two expected waves of sightings should have taken place over Russia and Red China, but to date no information is available on them.

Monroe said he has always been interested in "flying things—birds, planes or whatever"—and specializes in the study of birds.

UFOs first grabbed his attention when he was a Navy flight instructor from 1953 to 1959. Since then, he has gathered information on sightings all over the world and investigated several local cases. He is a consultant to several organizations, including the Mutual UFO Network.

Monroe said that the lack of radar evidence of crafts entering and leaving the Earth's atmosphere weakens the popular theory that UFOs carry extra-terrestrial invaders.

Photographs taken of UFOs at low shutter speeds have yielded multi-imaged pictures of the phenomena instead of the expected blurred images of something moving at a high rate of speed. "Either these things were moving in quick jerks, or they were coming and going to and from our reality," Monroe offered.

Monroe lamented the fact that most scientists refuse to study UFOs, calling upon them to "see the evidence and investigate it."

"You can pick and choose among the evidence and prove they don't exist, but if you look at all the evidence, you can't," he said. "Something is happening and it needs to be looked at. I don't know what, but something is happening."

Jeff Yocom is a senior at the University of Louisville majoring in psychology.

ST. IVES TIMES
CORNWALL SEP. 6-1985

UFO spotted at Hayle

NO CRANK

The sighting of a possible UFO has led a St. Ives schoolteacher to ask if anyone else saw the large bright object which she watched hover over her home for an hour.

Mrs. Dilly Foster, who lives in Hayle and who teaches in St. Ives, woke up in the early hours of Sunday morning and saw an object in the sky when she looked out of her open bedroom window.

Her house looks over the new by-pass, and according to Mrs. Foster the object gave off a strange radiance.

"I am not a crank or a drunk, and although I am sceptical, I don't say that it couldn't be a UFO. I have not seen anything like this ever before," she added.

Such was Mrs. Foster's interest in the object that she telephoned Culdrose who told her that they had not been flying that night. RAF St. Mawgan said that a weather balloon had been put up the day before but with the prevailing wind it certainly did not reach Hayle.

EGG-SHAPED

After she had watched the UFO for about half an hour Mrs. Foster called her daughter, Deborah, and together they sat on the bed and watched it. Mrs. Foster says that it was occasionally obscured by low cloud.

She described the UFO as horizontal and egg shaped with splashes of sun rays like a child would draw around the sun.

UFO pursuit / Two Menasha women believe,

plead for a ride

BY WILLIAM D. ZAFEROS
Post-Crescent staff writer

MENASHA — There are a billion stories in the naked galaxy.

Judie Woolcott's is one of them.

Woolcott's tale begins with her first UFO sighting.

It was 1958. She was in St. Petersburg, Fla., and she was looking out over the ocean.

Suddenly, something unearthly appeared in the sky.

"It was a ball of flame falling out of the sky," she said. "It stopped, then it headed south. We spent that night chasing it."

She never caught up with whatever it was she was chasing that night, but the morning newspaper was filled with accounts of the sighting, she said.

Woolcott has since spent the last 27 years continuing her pursuit of extra-terrestrials and their craft, a pursuit which she said can begin merely by looking into the sky and waiting.

The St. Petersburg sighting was the beginning of a lifelong hobby, some might even say obsession, with Woolcott, who someday hopes to hitch a ride with the alien visitors.

"Give us a ride," she said hopefully, looking skyward as she spoke to about her adventures chasing unidentified flying objects with a visiting Earth re-

porter. She believes the aliens can hear her, but she isn't sure why they've refused her request.

Bonnie Meyer remembers the first time she met Woolcott.

"I thought, 'This woman is crazy,' " she said with a laugh. "She's not."

A year after she met Woolcott, Meyer had her first sighting. The two have been partners in their search for UFOs ever since.

"After my first sighting, there was no stopping," Meyer said. "I had to get people to understand what's going on."

They're used to the kidding, however. They even get it from their husbands, who buy them gag gifts like "Alien in a Can" for Christmas.

"My husband bought me a T-shirt that says, 'I'm a UFO nut,'" Meyer said. "They understand our interests." Woolcott said a condition of her marriage is that her husband understand that UFOs are a part of her life, and she said he has been with her on a few sightings.

They even kid themselves about some of the more embarrassing moments of their flying saucer chases. "We've followed a lot of radar tower lights and helicopters," Woolcott said, "and felt pretty stupid about it."

Still, since this is "National UFO Awareness

Continued on page 2



Post-Crescent photo by Copper VanderWalker

Judie Woolcott and Bonnie Meyer look at a photo of an UFO trail

Week," Woolcott and Meyer, co-chairwomen of the Fox Valley UFO Discussion and Support Group, hope to make the public less skeptical of the existence of life on other planets.

Woolcott said the group of roughly 15 people meets each first and third Sunday of the month at the group's 64 Racine St. headquarters to discuss recent sightings and other matters pertaining to UFOs.

The office is filled with books on the topic such as "The Flying Saucer Reader" and "God Drives a Flying Saucer," and several newspaper clippings on UFO sightings, including one that appeared in the Post-Crescent, are taped to the walls.

"I think people are coming out of the closet," said Woolcott, who mentions former president Jimmy Carter as one who has reported a UFO sighting. One of the reasons for the group, she said, is to help people deal with

the sightings.

"It supports people who have had sightings and have had the living whatever scared out of them," she said.

But Meyer and Woolcott believe eventually, UFO sightings will become more acceptable as larger numbers of people see the craft. In that case, more and more people will be "coming out of the closet."

Meanwhile, Woolcott, Meyer and the group will continue scanning the skies, binoculars and cameras at the ready, waiting to meet the visitors. There can be little question that they're having a lot of fun.

How does Woolcott respond to people who don't like what she has to say? To those who think her group has seen one too many episodes of Star Trek?

"Turn us off," she said. "They don't have to listen to us."

UFO sightings

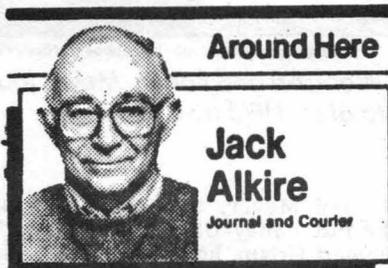
are cyclical: '65, '73 good years

We haven't heard much lately about Unidentified Flying Objects, so we called MUFON - Mutual UFO Network Inc. - down at Seguin, Texas.

"We get that question a lot from the news media, and the answer is that we don't control UFOs: we just investigate them," Walt Andrus, an international director of MUFON, said.

UFO activity is cyclic, and the great years for UFO sightings include 1965 and 1973, Andrus said. MUFON still is conducting follow-up investigations on the outbreak 12 years ago.

MUFON is a worldwide organization, and it has investigators on all continents and in most nations. About a month back, you may have read a short news release about UFO sightings by airline crews in Red China. MUFON



has an investigator there - an engineer - and the organization is awaiting his report.

MUFON was organized in 1969 when the Air Force closed down Operation Blue Book, its UFO investigative apparatus. However, Andrus said the Air Force and other government agencies still are quietly investigating UFO ac-

tivity.

MUFON's directors are mostly scientists - many doctorate holders. A lot of field investigators are ordinary folks who have a deep interest in solving the UFO mystery.

Andrus said he recently conducted a follow-up investigation at a Kansas farm while he was on the way to a UFO conference in Nebraska. Back in 1973 a UFO landed in a hog lot on the farm. "Twelve years later, only some chickweed has started to grow on that circular landing spot. The soil had been really dehydrated - sterilized, so to speak," he said. Andrus retired a few years ago from a 34-year career with Motorola Corp.

MUFON cooperates closely with Dr. J. Allen Hynek, head of the Center for UFO Studies, and the Fund for UFO

Research, headed by Dr. Bruce Maccabee. Hynek was a consultant for the Air Force on its Blue Book operation.

Andrus said HBO, the cable TV channel, will run a special report entitled "UFOs - What's Going On?" later this year. "It's very well done," he said.

One of the problems MUFON encounters, Andrus said, is that the organization gets about one out of 10 reports on UFO sightings because people don't know where to call. We can solve that: MUFON can be reached at 512-379-9216.

You can join MUFON for \$15 a year and receive its monthly bulletin about UFO activity and investigations. Write to MUFON, 102 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, Texas 78155.

UFOs: Where's the beef?

GENETICIST David Suzuki, whose column appears on the page opposite, mentioned a few weeks ago that one of the questions he is most frequently asked is: Do you believe in UFOs?

His answer was the same as mine: Yes. And for the same reason. UFO means unidentified flying object, and certainly I believe there have been many legitimate sightings of aerial phenomena that have remained baffling to the observer. But that does not necessarily mean we are being visited by aliens from the stars.

I delved seriously into the subject of UFOs about a decade ago after I saw one myself.

I was teaching a class in astronomy at a planetarium in Rochester, New York. We were outside identifying constellations when we saw a formation of lights pass silently almost overhead, then veer off and swoop toward the horizon. It was not impossible for an aircraft or

group of aircraft to behave in this manner, but I had never seen this type of formation nor the type of lights we saw that night.

What made this sighting baffling was that I called the Community Relations Officer at the Air Force base responsible for the air space over Rochester and he denied that any of their vehicles were anywhere near the area at the time of our sighting. It was only through persistent sleuthing that I finally found out a few weeks later that what we had seen was, in fact, a fleet of experimental silent helicopters, top secret at the time, a version of which subsequently starred in the film *Blue Thunder*.

The point here is that without the time and effort taken to research this case properly, I would have been left with a lifelong UFO story to tell. Now that's not to say that every UFO ever seen can be explained in a conventional manner, as some debunkers would have us believe. There is a small residuum of

cases that have been thoroughly investigated and remain unexplained, which may represent a hitherto undiscovered phenomenon — perhaps some rare atmospheric electromagnetic effect.

But getting back to the original question — Do you believe in UFOs? — I think what the questioner most often means is: Do you believe that UFOs represent a manifestation of intelligence from beyond the Earth? This is not a trivial question. The search for alien intelligence is taken very seriously by many scientists, particularly astronomers who feel that one way to answer the question is by listening with radio telescopes for transmissions beamed out by other civilizations.

If one assumes that alien intelligences are transmitting messages around the galaxy, it seems to me just as reasonable to assume that they could have mastered interstellar travel and discovered the Earth long ago. So the question becomes: If extraterrestrials exist, are they making their presence known in a fashion that Earthlings report as UFOs?

I suggest the answer is no. If extraterrestrials have the ability to traverse the gulfs between the stars to make a leisurely exploration of Earth, surely they would have the capability of making themselves completely undetectable. It seems to me a black-and-white question. If they want to contact us, they would go ahead and do it in an unambiguous fashion and not play games. If they wanted to remain aloof observers, certainly they could do so.

Over the years, I investigated many UFO sightings and was for a time a consultant for a major UFO study — which forced me to give serious thought to the matter. My conclusion is that investigation of UFOs is not a fruitful avenue to pursue in hopes of contacting our cosmic cousins, although it may prove of value in some other way. However, the current level of debate suggests there is little hope that much of anything will emerge from this subject for some time to come.

Discussions of UFOs have virtually disappeared from the pages of scientific publications and are now almost exclusively limited to sensationalistic supermarket tabloids. UFOs may never go away, but they seem to be doing a slow fade to obscurity.

□ Terence Dickinson is author of the guide to backyard astronomy distributed by Firefly Books, *Nightwatch*.



Who knows?: This UFO was photographed in Surrey, B.C.

Flying saucers broken?

... Sky stays empty for UFO spotter

By **STEVE KINNEY**

Courier staff writer

MOUNT VERNON, Ind. — The beige telephone with the red receiver in Francis Ridge's basement remains silent, just like the siren that's supposed to warn him of unidentified flying objects.

For unexplained reasons, business is slow for Francis L. Ridge, UFO investigator. During 1985, not a soul has dialed 838-3120 to reach his UFO hot line.

Nor have any flying saucers altered the electromagnetic field above Ridge's home on the fringe of town, triggering the MADAR detection system he designed himself. As a local representative of MUFON (the international Mutual UFO Network), Ridge knows that when it comes to extraterrestrial visits, it's feast or famine.

“There's a possibility that they get disgusted and leave. Kind of like the Marines in Lebanon.”

— Francis Ridge

“There's a possibility that they get disgusted and leave,” Ridge said of those mysterious UFO pilots. “Kind of like the Marines in Lebanon.” The 42-year-old oil company employee makes few such attempts at humor. He's dead serious about UFOs.

“We're not kooks,” he said. “If the town drunk calls us we're not interested in it. There are sightings occurring all the time, but they're just not reporting them. We need reports. We need people to call.”

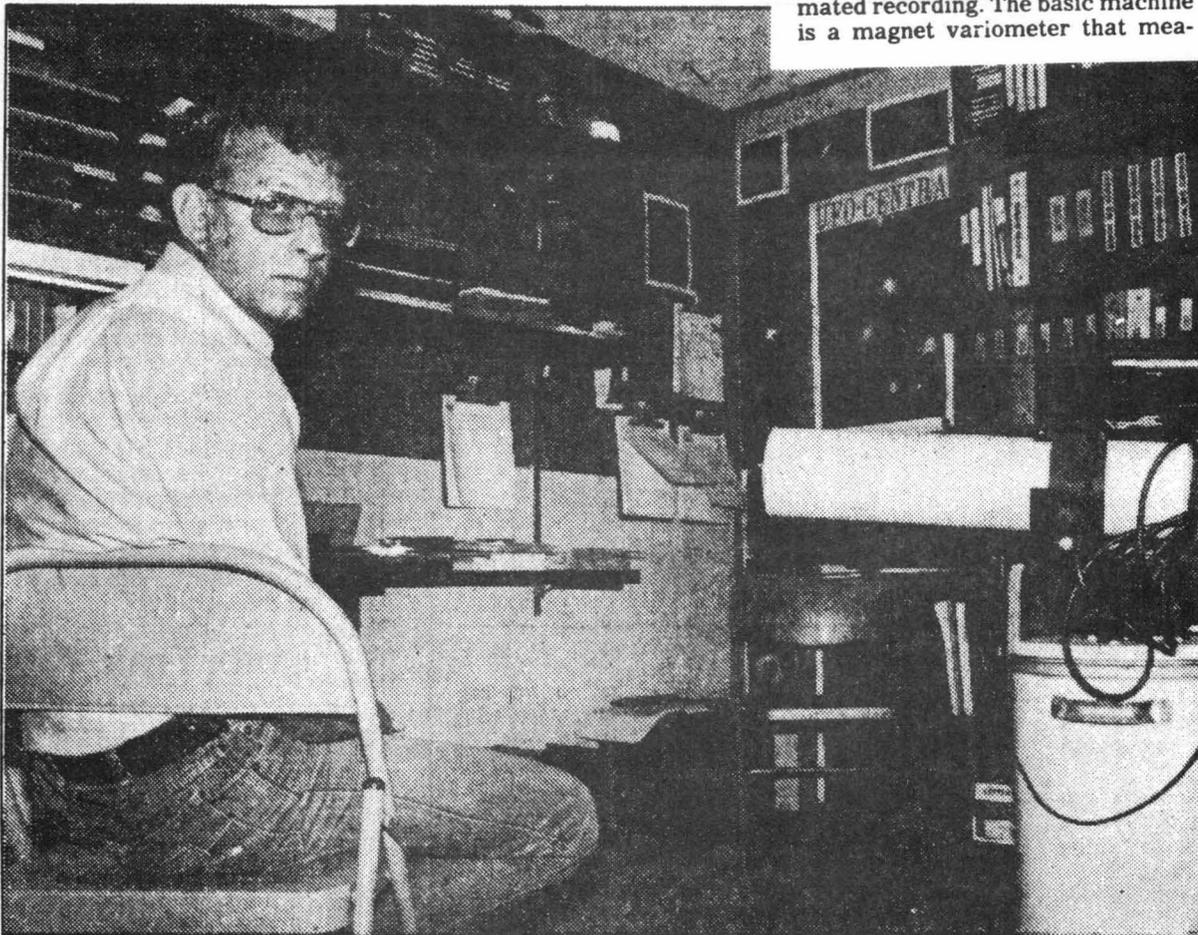
Ridge said the drop-off of UFO reports locally is part of a worldwide trend. That's one of the reasons why MUFON is sponsoring the first-ever

National UFO Information Week Aug. 18-25. Joining MUFON in the observance are the Center for UFO Studies and the Fund for UFO Research.

Ridge, who covers Posey, Vanderburgh and Gibson counties for MUFON, is providing information packets for interested skywatchers who write him at 618 Davis Dr., Mount Vernon. He's also looking for UFO spotters, especially in Gibson County.

Ridge became a member of the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena while a Vincennes high school student in 1960. Ever since his work with a department store brought him to Mount Vernon in 1973, he's been a volunteer for the UFO network.

Since the last two waves of UFO sightings in 1973 and 1977, Ridge has modernized his basement command center. Its centerpiece is the MADAR unit, which stands for multiple anomaly detection and automated recording. The basic machine is a magnet variometer that mea-



Courier photo by Steve Kinney

Francis Ridge watches — and waits — but the UFO business is slow these days.

18 CONT NEXT PAGE

FLYING SAUCERS BROKEN CON'T

tures "electromagnetic events" within a five-mile radius of his house and records them on computer tape.

Ridge isn't quite sure why the equipment works. But he said pilots often report that their gyrocompasses go berserk when a UFO passes near, and regular compasses are also affected when unexplained phenomena enter the electromagnetic field.

Since he first installed MADAR in 1970, Ridge said 19 electromagnetic events have been recorded. The high was seven in 1977. In 1985 — none. Sometimes lightning will touch off the equipment, but Ridge made it clear that some UFOs may not affect electromagnetic fields.

Usually the MADAR goes off "in the wee hours," Ridge explained, so he attached a siren to the equipment loud enough to roust him from his bed upstairs. A police scanner plugged into the system will capture any emergency radio transmissions about UFO sightings, and another device will automatically register the precise time of day when the "event" occurred.

"When I hear the siren, I'll go downstairs and punch a tape into the computer," Ridge said. "Then I'll go outside — usually up on the roof — with a portable phone. I'll call the control tower at Dress Regional to see if they've seen anything. I notify my people and they go to spotter posts."

Two people from Mount Vernon and two from Evansville serve as volunteer UFO spotters. Although Ridge has never personally sighted a UFO from his rooftop after a MADAR warning, he said sightings often come in to his hot line a few days after.

Of the 26 "incidents" reported to him in 1984, he said 11 turned out to be UFO-related, "which is a damn good percentage, really." The other 15 false alarms included Soviet or U.S. spacecraft re-entering the atmosphere, stars, planets, and small rockets launched by amateurs.

Ridge logs every UFO sighting and inputs it into his computer. At the touch of a button, he can call up every Tri-State UFO event since 1947. His last entry is dated Nov. 30, 1984. At 9:15 p.m., two witnesses saw a nocturnal light that looked like an aircraft going down. Explanation: meteor.

Seven days before, witnesses near Monroe City, Ind., reported seeing an unexplained black triangle about 10:30 at night. That was the kind of UFO that makes Francis Ridge's late-night siren worth it.

"The people that report to us, they just want to find out what they saw," he said. "Non-believers don't bother me. Because there's so much data available. We've got so much you still couldn't prove it if they don't want to believe."

Russian hikers attacked by vicious lightning ball

FIVE RUSSIAN mountain climbers had a terrifying encounter with strange forces that left one of them dead and the other four men injured.

And experts who studied the party's chilling brush with the unknown believe the climbers may have been victims of a deadly death ray attack by aliens from a UFO.

A survivor, Victor Kavunenko, told of the bizarre and ghastly night of horror that was later reported in the Soviet press.

Kavunenko and four friends had spent the day climbing in the Caucasus Mountains.

Before dark they pitched their tent, got into their

Was it a UFO death ray?

By DAVID KELLY

sleeping bags and went to sleep.

Suddenly, Kavunenko woke up with an eerie feeling that a stranger had entered the tent.

"I lifted my head out of

● I realized I was
lucky to be alive ●

the sleeping bag," he reported. "And then I froze.

"Floating about three feet above the ground was a bright, yellow blob.

"I'd never seen anything like it before. I was amazed and scared.

"And I was even more

scared a moment later, when the blob vanished into a sleeping bag of a friend.

"You can imagine my state of mind when he gave an awful scream of pain and terror.

"That was just the start of our waking nightmare, a night I will never forget.

"Because the mysterious yellow thing, as if controlled by an alien intelligence, attacked all of us, one by one.

"As soon as it went for me I felt an unbearable pain, just as if I was being burned by a welding device.

"I fainted several times during this torture.

EXAMINER
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FIVE RUSSIAN mountain climbers faced a strange force.

"When I finally recovered consciousness, I realized I was lucky to be alive.

"Our weird visitor had disappeared. But it had left behind an awful reminder of its visit.

"One of my friends had been killed by this thing. The rest of us had suffered serious burns and muscle injuries."

It took the four injured

survivors a long time to descend the mountain and to reach their homes.

Critics in the U.S. cannot explain the vicious visitor that deliberately zapped the five Russian climbers.

But some UFO experts say they are convinced that the bright yellow blob was some type of death dealing ray or energy force from extraterrestrials.

300 UFOlogists unite in search for the truth

By STEVE PATTERSON

MARGE CHRISTENSEN of Beverly had never seen a flying saucer when she put together the biggest set of meetings ever to study UFOs.

"I've never even seen one," says Christensen, "I just happened to read a book on the subject and found it fascinating."

But when some 300 people turn out for a conference on UFOs at the Beverly Golf and Tennis Club today, the 42-year old Beverly woman will be at the center of a weeklong project to show that UFOs are real.

Christensen, Massachusetts director of the Mutual UFO Network, is the organizer of nationwide meetings this week expected to draw thousands of believers and skeptics — for serious examination of UFOs' existence.

"We're not in search of E.T....We're not fanatics," says Christensen, whose 1,500 member group is the largest UFO-sighters' organization in the country.

Support for the group's efforts have come from some leading experts, including Dr. J. Allen Hynek, former Air Force consul-

tant and head of the Center for UFO Studies, and John Schuessler, a top space shuttle technician, both of whom will be in Beverly today.

"A good number of our investigators are scientists. They're not people who appreciate being called flying saucer freaks or UFO buffs," Christensen adds.

They are also reluctant at times to identify themselves with their research, and MUFON's Vermont director says, "I was a closet UFOlogist for years.

"I've observed over 15 kinds of objects," says William Chapleau, a Rutland carpenter and chapter head whose UFO-tracking has taken him to witnesses ranging from Vermont farmers to a New Hampshire police sergeant.

"I was always worried about telling people that I believed in UFOs," adds Chapleau, who says he spotted his first flying object as a youth.

"That's part of what this week is about. We want to bring evidence out so we'll sort of eliminate this stigma."

MUFON is studying a subject ignored by official sources for decades, Christensen says, and the

group takes pains to keep its research exact.

"We try to avoid people who are curiosity seekers. Our investigators have to be trained in...most of the fields of UFO research," including astronomy, aerodynamics and witness-questioning.

The search to identify the UFO has pushed MUFON members to follow leads government agencies have officially ignored, and, Christensen says, finance research from private sources.

"The official stand of the U.S. government is that UFOs don't exist," she explains. "However, what's being released through the Freedom of Information Act shows that nearly every government agency has been studying them."

"None of us wants any American secrets given out," says Chapleau.

"But if we're being visited by a potential enemy or someone who could be beneficial to us, it's our duty to let the public know.

"The problem now is that UFOs are being studied by a group of volunteers with very little money. Everything is out of pocket," he adds, as researchers

pay for trips, buy equipment and test reported UFO witnesses for medical symptoms from their own funds.

"I have two kinds of geiger counters I paid for with my own money," says Chapleau, whose work has included interviewing possible UFO contacts, examining reported landing sites and checking soil samples.

Support for their cause, says Christensen, is growing.

"Every time a Gallup poll has been taken the percentage of people who believe that UFOs are real has risen," she adds.

"People are telling incredibly similar experiences from every part of the country...Whatever this is we may or may not ever be able to comprehend it...

"(But) the next step is to study it. You don't have to have an answer. But you have to examine these things."



HEADS CONFERENCE: Marge Christensen's in the spotlight today. Herald Photo by Michael Fein

Over Three Dozen Newsmen and Two Airline

Pilots Say ...

Our Jet Chased 2 Glowing UFOs

Two dazzling UFOs were seen by 40 stunned journalists aboard a jetliner — and one of the newsmen actually snapped photographs of the incredible encounter.

The strange incident took place on August 18 as a Boeing 737 jet was flying between two cities in Argentina.

Amazing Photographs Taken at 30,000 Feet

"I've been a pilot for 26 years and I never saw anything even similar to this," declared Jorge Requiere, pilot of the jetliner.

"It was about 7 p.m., and at an altitude of about 30,000 feet, we saw an object that had its own brilliant, metallic light.

"We headed toward it after getting authorization from the control tower that handles that area. And in 15 minutes we found ourselves under the object, which was stationary.

"At that moment we saw a second object to our right, lower than the other. It made a movement to the right and downward, very fast, then it stopped."

Requiere asked a stewardess to bring two of the newsmen — who were returning to Buenos Aires after cover-



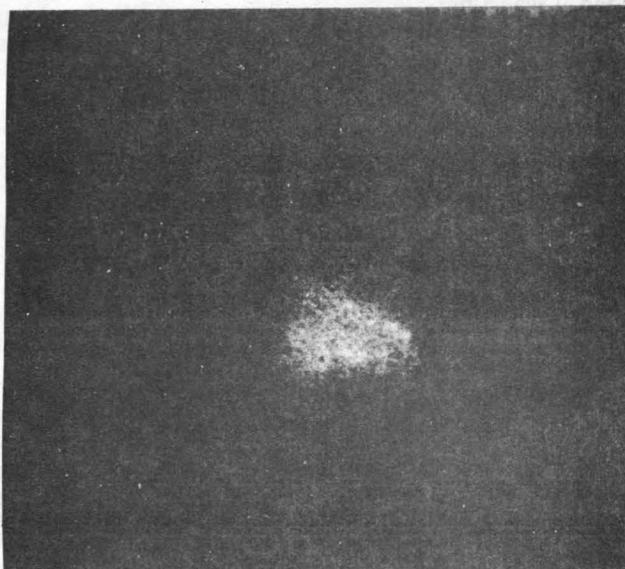
LUIS MARIN
Copilot

ing an auto race — into the cockpit.

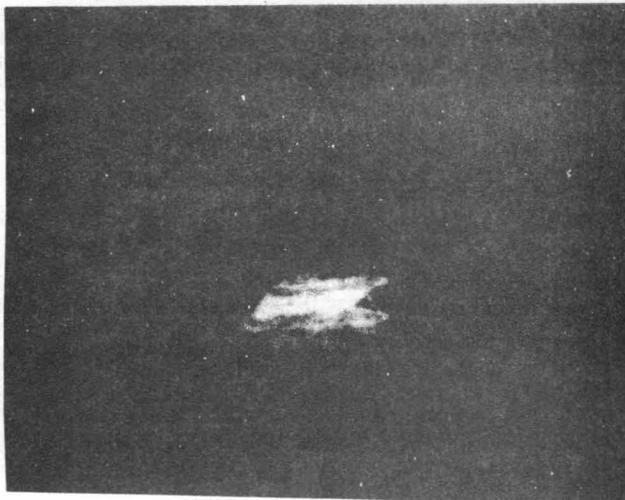
"The pilot told us to look — and then we saw the two UFOs," said Roberto Ruiz, a photographer for the Buenos Aires daily Clarin.

"Using a telescopic lens, I was able to see the objects more clearly. The first object was oval-shaped, had a bright silvery tone and moved to a higher altitude while we were in the cockpit.

"Below it, the second object was broader at its base than at the top, suggesting a triangle or cone. I could make out a



The glowing UFO hovers in the sky . .

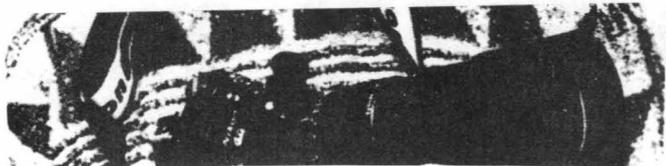


... emits flashing lights ...

CON'T NEXT PAGE



EYEWITNESS: Professional newsman Roberto Ruiz snapped photos of a UFO (right) after being summoned into the cockpit by the jet's amazed pilot.



CON'T

ring of colored lights that flashed at intervals.

"Its rapid zigzag movement made the object difficult to keep in my viewfinder. There were 40 passengers on the plane — all journalists — and we all saw the UFOs.

"Now I realize I was a witness to a spectacular event — and if I didn't have my photos I'd have a hard time believing it myself."

Clarín journalist Miguel Merlo, who joined Ruiz in the cockpit, recalled: "I saw a large oval light that at first was fixed in position, then started wobbling up and down and to the left and right.

"I also saw a triangular object of a bright silvery-blue color. And all of a sudden a host of colors — red, green, orange and blue — started flashing around the object. It moved in a zigzag pattern at a great speed. I was amazed."

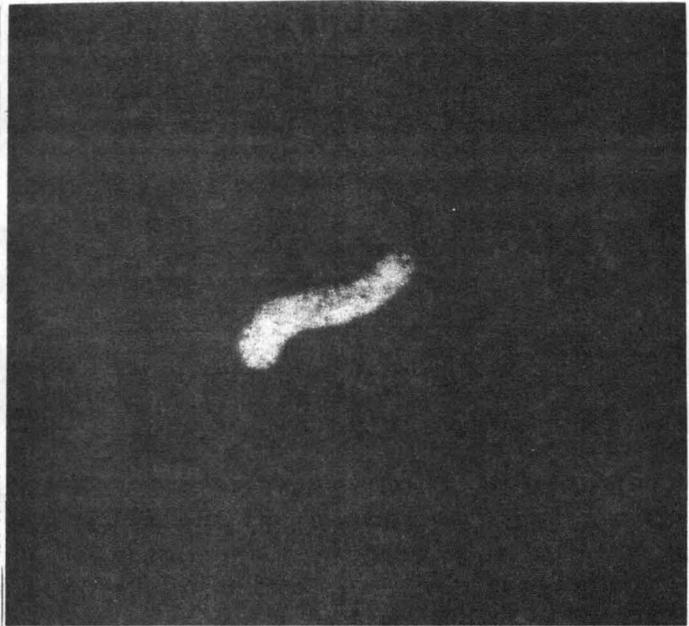
Two other journalists also entered the cockpit to witness the UFO display, which lasted for about 20 minutes. Then the objects disappeared from view and the jet began its descent toward Buenos Aires.

Hilario Valinotti, an official with the airline, Aerolíneas Argentinas, told The ENQUIRER that after the jet landed, both the pilot and copilot made a report of the UFO sighting, which is still being investigated.

And he added that people on the ground in the area where the sighting occurred also reported seeing UFOs that night.

Said copilot Luis Marin: "We saw two bright objects. I don't know what they were. I've never seen anything like them.

"But they couldn't have possibly been military air-



... and moves in a rapid zigzag pattern.

craft. No known aircraft have the ability to maneuver as they did."

Said journalist Merlo: "As difficult as it is for me to ac-

cept the fact, I must admit that I saw two UFOs with my very own eyes."

— ED SUSMAN
and GARY RICHMAN

MA-FITCHBURG SENTINEL + ENTERPRISE
AUG 27 1985

Leominster UFO story to be presented tonight

LEOMINSTER — One of the best documented cases of contact with extraterrestrial beings, which began right here in Leominster, will be the subject of a presentation by a nationally known UFO expert tonight at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 484 Lancaster St., beginning at 8.

Raymond E. Fowler, author of the "Andreasson Affair" and its sequel, "The Andreasson Affair, Phase Two," will host the 45-minute audiovisual show recounting the tale of former Leominster resident Betty Aho Andreasson and her "abduction by 3-foot-tall humanoid creatures, her physical examination on board the UFO and her trip to an alien place."

Tickets will go on sale at 7 p.m. Any profit realized will be donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Fowler promises that the presentation's tape recorded excerpts from Andreasson's hypnotic sessions will "send chills up and down your spine."

From 7:30-8 p.m. and following the show Fowler will be available to answer questions from the public. He also hopes to speak to anyone believing they have seen a UFO, but who has been wary of coming forward with the information.

Andreasson believes she has been studied by alien beings throughout her life. Under hypnosis, she recollected her first alleged encounter which took place at her former home at 77 Howard St. in 1944. She also claims she was revisited by the beings periodically, culminating in an abduction from her South Ashburnham home when she was 30 years old.

Andreasson is currently 48 years old and living in Connecticut. Originally, Fowler hoped she would accompany him tonight, but as of Monday she is not scheduled to appear. Her daughter, Becky, is expected to attend.

Fowler will also be available to autograph his books.