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UFO

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The only good UFO is a debunked one

DONCASTER
STAR
AUG. 27. 1985

SOME blamed the Bishop of Durham for last year's fire at York Minster. The Yorkshire UFO Society have another theory.

"Witnesses said they saw a blimp — some kind of airship — giving off purple rays over the Minster just before the fire," says Graham Birdsall, president of the 130-strong YUFOS. "Was the fire an act of God . . . or something else?"

He leaves the matter teasingly unresolved. For YUFOS, the only certainties about UFOs seem to be the debunked, disproved cases — the flying saucers that turn out to be car headlights, weather balloons, and football floodlights.

There is nothing crankily fanatical about YUFOS — one of half a dozen societies dedicated to investigating lights in the sky, to identifying the unidentified.

The members seem to delight in knocking down excited theories about weird goings-on — none more so than Graham Birdsall, a bluff Leeds fellow who tells mother-in-law jokes and undoubtedly eats his Yorkshire pudding before his main meal. He makes UFO-spotting sound as down-to-earth as train-spotting.

Or Steve Greathead, YUFOS' Sheffield area investigator, who admits: "We don't claim 'This is a spacecraft with little green men in it.' We try to disprove every case."

Birdsall, Greathead and fellow ufologists gave a slide-show lecture in Sheffield the other night. In an upstairs room at the Foresters Hall in Trippet Lane — complete with peeling plaster and an upright Victorian piano — they pulled in an audience

Stephen McClarence

Sheffielder

Some of the reported sightings in the Sheffield area over the past six years:

February 1979: Thurnscoe; March 1979: Chapelton; April 1979: Parson Cross; June 1979: Barnsley; September 1979: Eckington; January 1980: Ranmoor; March 1981: Manor; April 1981: Throughout the area; May 1981: Rotherham; July 1981: Swinton; August 1981: Throughout the area; October 1981: Wingerworth; December 1982: Swinton; October 1983: Treeton; June 1984: Staveley; July 1985: Chesterfield, Foxhill, Wincobank.

of 80 for two hours of pleasant bemusement.

Newspaper front pages were pinned up on the wall ("Did UFO Kill This Man?"). Tubular Bells music bleeped out, and Mr Birdsall opened the evening with a proud declaration:

"Between us, we in YUFOS probably create more hassle for the Ministry of Defence than they've had for the past 40 years. Why? Because we're not put off by bland replies."

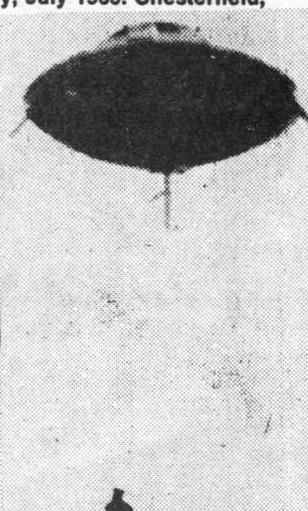
YUFOS are ever-alert for cover-ups — which they certainly believe

occurred after the much-documented events at Woodbridge US Air Force Base on the night of December 27, 1980.

Strange lights were observed in a forest, air-men investigated, and a triangular metal craft was found zig-zagging through the trees.

With touching patriotism, it had a red flashing light on top, gave off a dazzling white light that lit up the whole forest, and hovered on a carpet of glowing blue beams.

The base commander eventually spoke to three alien beings who walked



Steve Greathead spots a flying teapot . . . or is it a hub cap?

out of it — frail-looking creatures between three and four feet tall, who wore flourescent silver suits and spoke in electronic voices.

Repairs were carried out on the craft, it flew off, and a massive alleged cover-up started.

Later, the commander and other participants in this curious drama, recorded a tape describing what had happened. "It's probably the most important tape ever on UFOs," said Graham Birdsall, "And we have it here."

True enough. But unfortunately, they had brought

a cassette machine with flat batteries. So the most important tape ever on UFOs remained frustratingly unheard.

Of course, it's easy to be sceptical even about UFO sceptics. To wonder why the sighted aliens always look like something out of Dan Dare, and rarely bother to communicate (You don't communicate with animals in a zoo when you're observing them, explain YUFOS).

It's easy to wonder if fuzzy blobs on blotchy negatives really can add up to proof, "even if modern

computer-enhanced techniques" confidently confirm that no faking has taken place.

And it's easy to wonder why so many sightings are rarely experienced by more

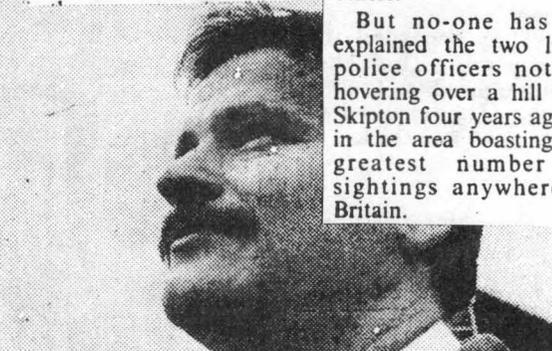
"The authorities may suppress UFO information so not to alarm people," says Steve Greathead. "They might not want to cause panic."

Conspiracy theory or not, UFOs are likely to remain a mystery. Earthly in origin — secret foreign military aircraft? Some of the 15,000 bits and pieces of space debris orbiting the earth?

Or, more romantically, extra-terrestrial craft — flying saucers, to use the term so successfully coined as recently as 1947?

Whichever, YUFOS admit that 99 per cent of sightings can be explained away, that the number of sightings has declined in the last half-dozen years, and that reports of one sighting tend to spark off others.

But no-one has yet explained the two lights police officers noticed hovering over a hill near Skipton four years ago — in the area boasting the greatest number of sightings anywhere in Britain.



than one person — and why so few ufologists, for all their enthusiasm, have actually sighted UFOs themselves.

Steve Greathead, of Rosedale Road, Sharrow, one of YUFOS' ten Sheffield members, is no exception. He's had no sightings himself, but can quote exhaustive details about recent Sheffield sightings — glinting objects zig-zagging over Wincobank, flashing lights over Ecclesfield.

Both are being investigated, and RAF Finningley, with who YUFOS are in constant touch, have already confirmed that they know of no official flying craft that could explain the first sighting.

When the policemen climbed the hill, they found the ground and trees badly scorched and . . . well, the story will be taken up in the next issue of Quest, the bi-monthly YUFOS journal.

"This forthcoming article is one of the most explosive ever to appear . . . trail YUFOS." You cannot afford to miss the full story behind one of the greatest UFO incidents ever recorded on film . . ."

Scepticism does not preclude enthusiasm.

UFO reports prove existence of alien bases in Antarctic

EXAMINER
NOV 5 1985

SAILORS watched in amazement as an immense, silver spacecraft smashed through thick ice and hurtled into the night sky as they patrolled the freezing waters of the Antarctic.

Their stunning sighting has convinced naval experts that unidentified flying objects operate from bases deep beneath the ocean.

The sailors, taking part in the U.S. Navy's Operation Deep Freeze, were aboard a ship in Admiralty Bay.

They recorded in the ship's log that the ice through which the bullet-shaped object sliced was at least 30 feet thick.

By FRANK KENDAL

Huge blocks of frozen water, hurled high into the air, came cascading down around the hole in the ice, in which the sea boiled and spouted steam.

The encounter is only one of hundreds reported between ships and spacecraft in the past four decades.

The sheer weight of evidence suggests something very strange is going on beneath the ocean around Australia and New Zealand, say the experts.

Many captains have reported sighting gigantic, alien craft near their ships.

Captain Julian Ardan-

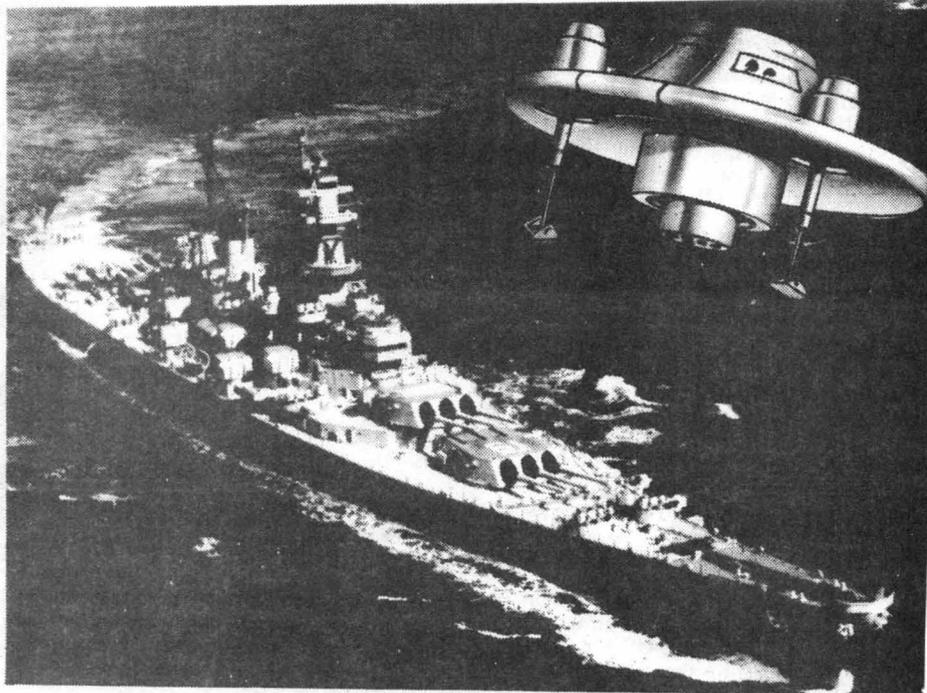
za, of the Argentine ship Naviero, reported a huge, glowing cigar on the starboard side.

"The thing followed us for 20 minutes," said Ardanza. "Then it suddenly dived — passing right beneath us — and

vanished into the depths."

An almost identical sighting was reported by Albert Robins, in Papua, New Guinea.

While traveling in a small coastal boat, he and his crew saw a brilliantly lit object, about 70 feet long, rising silently from the water.



MANY SHIPS have reported sighting UFOs in the icy ocean waters.

EXAMINER
OCT 29 1985

COUNTRY CAPERS

Raven revealed that he has "dealt with ghosts before," and disclosed that he sighted two UFOs near Lafayette in 1976.

At first he thought the two silver objects hovering just above the bayous in the afternoon sky were airplanes. "All of a sudden they started flashing — it was the glitter of the sun. Next they went 'whoosh' and disappeared.

Were UFOs

"That's when I knew they were UFOs."

Raven, who has enjoyed such hits as I Got Mexico and Operator, Operator, is a prolific songwriter whose credits include the Oak Ridge Boys' Thank God For Kids.

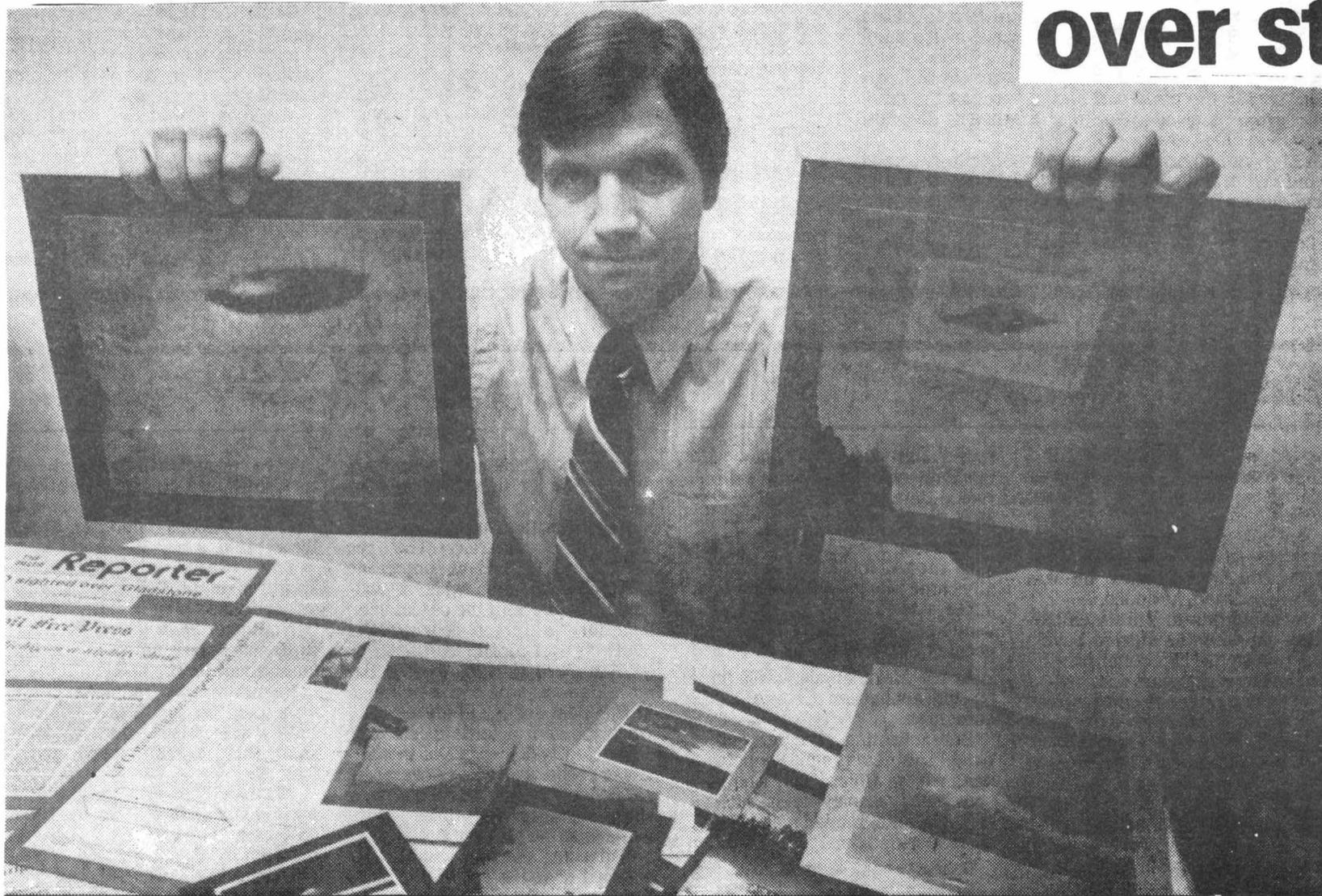
"I write a lot of songs that I get credit for," he confided, "but something a lot stronger than me writes the songs."

His recording successes have enabled him to buy a brand-new tour bus decorated with dark-gray carpeting and burgundy upholstery.

"Every single we've released since I've been at RCA has been top 10, and it's been great," declared Raven, who lives near Hendersonville with his wife and two sons.

"It gives me the opportunity to play the music for more people, and it gets us traveling more."

Lansing man keeps tabs on UFOs over state



MI
LANSING
STATE
JOURNAL
AUG. 12 1985

Lansing State Journal / GREG DeRUITER

Dan Wright of Lansing, regional director of the Mutual UFO Network, says most of the over 100,000 flying object reports in the organization's computer files proved to have earthly explanations.

He holds photographs of two sightings that he said remain unidentified. Between 80 and 90 percent of the reports are explainable and are called IFOs — Identifiable Flying Objects.

He's central states chief, too

By JAMES A. HARRIS
Lansing State Journal

Next to hunting Bigfoot and the Loch Ness Monster, one of the strangest pursuits is the search for the close encounter.

As with Unidentified Flying Objects.

For Dan Wright, Michigan's premier UFO hunter, the pursuit is almost a full-time job. The Lansing man is the central states regional director of the Mutual UFO Network Inc. (MUFON).

He describes his career as a policy analyst for the state Social Services Department as interesting. But his search for that one elusive, proof-positive UFO is "fascinating."

His network is the one to which police stations across the state, in fact, refer the numerous reports they receive annually of something strange in the sky.

For the neophyte UFO enthusiast, close encounters — there are three different kinds — are contacts with those mysterious "things" that from time to time inhabit the sky and don't seem to be from the neighborhood. In short, they aren't supposed to look like any helicopter, airplane or Chevrolet you've ever seen before.

MUFON, Wright said, has over 100,000 such cases logged in its computer files, most explainable.

It was Wright and his network of MUFON investigators and law enforcement agencies throughout Michigan who kept tabs of an errant and doomed Soviet Union rocket booster that fell from space and blazed a path across the Midwestern sky shortly after midnight on June 21.

Dozens of UFO calls were reported to police agencies around the state and Wright, whose network in Michigan boasts 41 members (32 of whom are trained UFO investigators), 63 state police posts and 83 sheriffs' departments, was kept busy for two hours answering his telephone.

"By 2:30 a.m. we had that case resolved," he said.

“I admit (UFO tracking) is an unusual subject and to some extent a person puts his career at risk by being involved because there are people who do not understand the phenomenon and look askance at a person who does. But, for example, the people I work with know I'm serious and many give me the benefit of the doubt or take an active interest.”

— Dan Wright

"We called the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD), which gave us the exact time the rocket booster re-entered the atmosphere," Wright said.

"We perform a public service. The police don't have to send out cruisers on every UFO call, and we also perform a service to the general public because most persons who call do not want us to tell them they are looking at a UFO," Wright said. "And in most cases, we can tell them they are not."

That's because 80 to 90 percent of the cases reported are explainable, Wright said. They are called IFOs — Identifiable Flying Objects.

Other than his unusual interest in the night sky, Wright, 38, appears to be like any other red-blooded American Yuppie.

"I admit it is an unusual subject and to some extent a person puts his career at risk by being involved because there are people who do not understand the phenomenon and look askance at a person who does," he said. "But, for example, the people I work with know I'm serious and many give me the benefit of the doubt or take an active interest."

Searching out UFOs is not the kind of hobby one picks up at local 4-H meetings, Wright admits. His

curiosity, in fact, was piqued back in 1968, when he was 21. His father, a truck driver, had a close encounter on Old U.S. 31 between Hart and Pentwater, he said. "His truck was paced for about 20 minutes by a very large globe which had a pulsating orange light," Wright said. "He eventually stopped his truck and watched it with another motorist."

Wright said he was too busy earning a degree in political science at Western Michigan University to take any great interest, but later, after graduation, he recalled his father's tale and began researching UFO phenomena.

"Initially, I got interested because I had confidence my father was not a BS-er and he was really frightened of something he saw close at hand," Wright said. "After a decade of reading books on

the subject, I saw at last that some of the reports were genuine, and if that were so, the possibilities were awesome."

Wright said he has only had one UFO encounter, and that was back in 1978 when activity in mid-Michigan was at an all-time peak. Dozens of reports of mysterious lights in the sky were received by area police departments.

"I just stood in my back yard

and watched what I can only describe as lights," he said.

Wright said such reports vary from year to year. Also, he said, there are at least 600 recorded sightings of aliens, or encounters of the third kind.

Michigan, he said, has had several significant UFO incidents. The most credible began with the

Nov. 23, 1953, "collision" of an Air Force F-89 jet fighter from Kinross Air Force Base near Sault Ste. Marie with an unknown object over Lake Superior. The jet fighter had chased an object at speeds of 500 mph, when it suddenly merged with the object over Superior. No trace of debris or the pilot was ever found.

TABS ON UFO'S CONT

Then, Wright said, there's the now infamous case of the sightings at Hillsdale College in March 1966, when the civil defense director of Hillsdale County and 87 of the college's coeds, as well as several local police officers watched from a short distance for three hours while an object 20 feet in diameter and flashing red and white lights hovered over the school's arboretum.

The next morning, a deposit of white powder later identified as boron was found on the ground and pond under the object.

The most recent credible sighting in Michigan, he said, was a chase by a KC-135 refueling tanker plane at Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda County on Nov. 1, 1979.

MUFON was able to acquire an official Strategic Air Command (SAC) memo on the incident, which gives an eyewitness description by a member of the plane's crew, Wright said.

Wright said over the last few years MUFON has been able to get more than 6,000 pages of government documents relating to reports of UFOs. The acquisition of government reports, memos and documentation of UFOs and UFO investigations will be the primary focus of this year's UFO Information Week, Aug. 18-25, Wright said.

"This (Reagan) administration, particularly, is tightening the grip on the release of documents relating to UFOs," Wright said. "The press has paid very little attention to this problem which is very aggravating."

The crewman had been ordered to identify the object, which had been reported flying low over the base's weapons storage area, Wright said.

The plane chased what appeared to be two objects with strobe lights flying in close formation out over Lake Huron and over to Saginaw Bay at speeds of 200 knots about 10:30 p.m. Nov. 1.

Each time the refueling plane attempted to get closer than a mile to the objects, the crewman said, they "would speed away from us."

"I know this might sound crazy but I would estimate that the UFO sped away from us doing approximately 1,000 knots," he said.

ANDOVER
ADVERTISER
AUG-30-1985
ENGLAND

Christian comment

Since 24 June 1947 reports have been coming in from all over the world of sightings of strange objects appearing in the heavens. Government investigators have given the name of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) to mysterious craft.

Sometimes strange markings have been found on the ground. I understand that such things have been witnessed near Andover recently.

Sometimes UFOs have been seen on the ground and a number have been picked up on radar screens. Many reports come from reliable observers such as airline and airforce pilots, weather observers, scientists and teachers, etc.

Many sightings have been reported and investigated. Some were easily explained: the UFOs were meteors, high-flying aircraft, weather balloons, occasional hoaxes and so on.

Others were left unexplained, sometimes being witnessed by policemen on duty. It cannot be claimed to be hallucination as sometimes a number of people have seen them at the same time. Radar screens do not hallucinate. Someone has suggested that they could be various military experiments, which are being kept secret. As far as I am aware no government has launched a serious investigation which could explain why.

Whatever the explanation, and whether friend or foe, I am firmly of the opinion that they are subject to the power and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. He did tell us to expect some strange things in the sky before he returned as judge and king of the universe. (See Luke chapter 21.) G. GOULD

ASHBOURNE NEWS
TELEGRAPH
DERBYSHIRE
ENGLAND
AUG 22 1985

BROTHERS CLAIM UFO SIGHTING

With the fifth anniversary of the famous "Ashbourne UFO Event" fast approaching it seems that someone or something has been back for a return visit. 3128

On Monday night at about 9.15 pm two young Ashbourne brothers watched a strange craft pass over their home in Boothby Avenue and silently sink down by the Queen Elizabeth upper school in The Green Road.

Ten-year-old Robert Dawson and his 12-year-old brother Edwin watched from their bedroom window as the object reappeared and flew close by the end of the road.

Robert described is as round with different coloured flashing lights and although it looked small by the grammar school it seemed quite large when it went over head.

At about the same time flares were spotted in the sky between Ashbourne and Belper by a member of Ashbourne News Telegraph staff and later shooting stars were seen overhead.

On the night of August 30 1980, 37 people made 30 separate sightings of a so far unexplained UFO in and around Ashbourne.

Mystery surrounds lights in the sky

By Michael Hanchard
Staff Writer

In Scarsdale, residents lined up at the train station and craned their necks skyward.

Folks in Yonkers called their neighbors, their newspaper, their police department.

On the Saw Mill River Parkway, motorists pulled off the road for a better view.

All the attention was paid Thursday night to a strange group of lights in the sky — lights that Westchester County police said represented a formation of small planes flying in formation.

Many dazed spectators, however, preferred to use another phrase — UFO.

The sightings, made shortly after 9 p.m. from Yonkers to Putnam County, were described most often as slow-moving red and white lights shaped like a triangle.

That description matched those attached to similar area sightings in the past — some of which were later determined to be planes flying in formation.

County police officer Edward Quinn said Thursday's lights represented about seven small planes, but New Rochelle police officer Ann Marie Finney swore it was just one large blimp that later landed at Davenport Park there.

In West Harrison, Marie Shofi was driving with her husband and son when they noticed

several lights in a v-shaped pattern headed southwest toward White Plains. She recalled having "a strange kind of feeling" because the formation appeared motionless.

Dorothy Wyka of Yonkers had the same feeling.

"It was strange and eerie," she said. "If it was a plane, I never knew a plane could move so slow."

Yonkers police reported receiving more than 100 calls about the lights, and police departments in New Rochelle, White Plains and Putnam County also received calls. Sightings were reported virtually throughout the Westchester-Putnam area.

A spokesman at Westchester County Airport said he had no information about any special flight formations.

A number of sightings last year were traced to Stormville Airport in Dutchess County, where four pilots regularly took off and flew in a pattern over Westchester County. Stormville is located about 45 miles north of White Plains.

Officials at Westchester County Airport said they had no knowledge of the flights because when the airport control office closes at night, pilots come and go as they please, using remote control to turn on the landing strip lights.

Staff writer Phil Waga contributed to this report.

But the military says it had nothing to do with the alleged incident Dec. 29, 1980, on a dark, deserted farm road northeast of Houston. And even if there were UFOs, a U.S. attorney now says, the government has no legal duty to warn people about them because the government does not

know whether they are dangerous.

With such straightforward arguments the federal government is urging U.S. District Judge Ross Sterling to throw out a lawsuit filed here last year by former Dayton, Texas, cafe owner Betty Cash, 56, former waitress Vickie Landrum, 61, and Landrum's grandson, Colby Landrum, 11.

Despite investigations by various parties, the opposing sides are at a stalemate as Sterling's ruling draws near. Federal officials, however, stand fast on the contention that the military would have no obligation to intervene.

And even if the government had chased the UFO off with helicopters as suggested, the government lawyer asserts, that would amount to a "discretionary function" and thus the government could not be sued.

The suit claims that about 9 p.m. Dec. 29, 1980, while headed for their homes in Dayton along a two-lane road about 30 miles northeast of Houston, the trio encountered a brightly glowing craft the size of a city water tower.

The UFO hovered at tree-top level, had red and orange flames flowing from its bottom and bathed them in intense heat for several minutes before it was escorted away by at least 23 helicopters.

As a result, all suffered stomach pains, vomiting, diarrhea, radiation burns and deteriorating eyesight, and the women's hair fell out and grew back with a different texture, the suit claims. It says they became highly sensitive to sunlight, suffered blisters and headaches, and that Cash developed breast cancer.

PA, BETHLEHEM GLOBE-TIMES
SEP. 15 1985

Three say government at fault for burns

Ruling near in suit involving UFO

Special To The Globe-Times
And The Dallas Times-Herald

HOUSTON, Texas — The three people suing the federal government for \$20 million say they do not know to this day what it was that hovered far over their heads and zapped them with radiation almost five years ago.

They claim it was was unidentified flying object that was escorted away by military helicopters and suspect it was a secret U.S. military experiment. In any event, they say, the government should have warned residents that a UFO was in their area.

↑
CONT

AL HUNTSVILLE TIMES
SEP. 18 1985

MA PITTSFIELD BERKSHIRE
SEP. 14 1985

1381

An Odd UFO

In perhaps the most bizarre unidentified flying object case in history, three Texans are suing the federal government for \$20 million for damage they say occurred when a UFO, escorted by 23 helicopters, flew over their car and caused them to suffer from radiation exposure and a number of subsequent ills.

What makes the case peculiar, and distinguishes it from the many crank UFO sightings, are the government's defense and motions to throw the case out of court.

The U.S. attorney representing the government told the court that the military had nothing to do with the event, and even if there were UFOs, the government has no legal duty to warn people about them because the government does not know whether they are dangerous. That argument is simply unbelievable.

If the government knows of UFOs, then indeed it does have an obligation to report them, and certainly to identify the objects.

The incident happened five years ago on a deserted road north of Houston. The three people in the car claim that they suffered heat and radiation burns and that they saw as many as 23 helicopters escorting the object from the scene. They suspect, and the government's response must lead one to conclude that something is amiss, that the UFO was a government research project.

For its part, the military and scientists for NASA have issued statements to the court that the UFO "was not owned by or under the control of the government or its employees." The government has not said that it didn't know what the object was, just that it was not under government control and that the government was not obligated to tell anyone about it. That has led the attorney for the plaintiffs to assert that the government did know what was hovering over that highway.

Perhaps the government did, and perhaps it didn't, but the defense the U.S. attorney has offered in the case will only strengthen many people's belief that there really are UFOs, and that the military is not telling as much as it should.

If the craft involved was a research project, the government should have simply settled the case. To throw such a case out of court on a technicality will undermine the scientific assertions by NASA and other agencies that UFOs do not exist.

UFOs are reported by two in Lanesboro

By Ellen G. Lahr

LANESBORO — A Cheshire man claims he spotted an unidentified flying object as he was driving through Lanesboro on Cheshire Road last night at about 7:40 p.m.

Michael Rinaldi, 37, of 7 Richmond St., Cheshire, said he was driving north on Cheshire Road with his mother when he saw a low-flying diamond-shaped object directly above the road ahead of his car. He said there were two white lights on the object that were so bright they lit up the leaves on the nearby trees. It appeared to be about 1,500 feet in the air and about "a few thousand feet" away.

Rinaldi said he is taking courses to obtain a private pilot's license, and that the lights he saw did not resemble any aviation lights he is familiar with. He also said the object bore no resemblance to any type of airplane.

Second witness

Another witness, a Lanesboro resident who requested that his name be withheld, also reported seeing a "white flash" flying at a low altitude across Pontoosuc Lake as he was traveling north on Route 7 at about 10 last night. He said, however, that the flash was so quick he could not get a good look at the object.

Rinaldi said when he spotted the flying object he pulled his car over to the side of the road. Two other cars traveling behind him also stopped, he said, and the drivers got out to watch the object. Then the bright lights on the flying object went out, Rinaldi said, and he saw two smaller pink lights on the bottom of the object. At that point, he said, the drivers in the two other cars drove away.

The flying object then made a sharp turn in an easterly direction over a field, then another sharp turn toward his car, Rinaldi said. He turned off his car headlights, and the flying object's two bright white lights came back on, he said, one after the other. Then the object veered off northwest toward Mount Greylock, he said. When he got in his car and tried to follow it, he lost sight of it, he said.

A spokesman for the UFO Reporting Center, a private scientific agency based in Seattle, Wash., said his organization has had other reports of diamond-shaped objects, but that he had no more specific information about exactly what the object could have been. He said his organization receives about four reports each day of apparent UFO sightings.

Rinaldi said he is not "a science fiction buff."

Is anybody up there?

In Indiana and northwestern Ohio, true believers and skeptics keep an eye out for encounters that defy earthly explanation.

By ALAN DERRINGER
Of The News-Sentinel

"I have talked to people I've known all my life, who swear, 'John that thing was right there in the road ahead of us, or over the field next to us, or moving alongside the plane.'"

Flying saucers, triangles or cylinders are the "things" people report to John Timmerman of Lima, Ohio. The UFO investigator has interviewed hundreds of people in the two-state area who share one thing in common: An encounter with something that defies earthly explanation.

"These are people whose credibility I cannot question," Timmerman notes. "The top CPA in town told me that he and three others were driving north of Lima when they saw something in the road — a strange, metallic-looking craft. It raised off the road and disappeared. He said, 'If you ever tell anybody that, I'll call you a liar.'"

Timmerman, a graying, distinguished-looking man in his late 50s, sits behind a large desk at Lima's South Side Savings and Loan, where he is a vice president. He doesn't publicize the fact that he was named UFOlogist of the Year recently by the National UFO Conference: "I'm not sure the financial institution for which I work would consider that good public relations. But when I went to work here, I told them this was part of the offer."

That's because UFOs are part of his life. The Cornell University graduate is chairman of the board and treasurer for the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), an Arizona-based organization that investigates unidentified flying objects.

CUFOS is the creation of a skeptic-turned-believer. J. Allen Hynek, retired chairman of the astronomy department at Northwestern University, founded the group in 1973 after working as a special investigator 20 years for the U.S. Air Force. The Air Force officially concluded that UFOs did not present a threat to national security, although not all reports could be explained.

"Hynek thought he could explain it all, and he could at first, but he found there

were too many excellent, highly credible witnesses explaining too many details," Timmerman says. "He thought there was something going on that needed more study than what the Air Force was giving it."

The Lima banker arrived at the same question mark earlier — in 1947, when he read of a private pilot who reported nine saucer-shaped objects flying in a chain at an estimated speed of 1,600 mph through the Cascade Range in Washington state. The search for UFOs has consumed Timmerman's off-hours since.

In a tiny, cluttered office across town from the savings and loan, Timmerman runs the international business office of CUFOS. A business call placed there doesn't concern fixed-rate mortgages. It could be from the CUFOS research center out in Phoenix. Better yet, it could be from an ordinarily serious Midwesterner who is at a loss to explain what he saw darting overhead or in the distance.

But Timmerman doesn't find many messages on the answering machine about local UFO sightings these days.

"We are in a slump as far as sighting reports. There are some reports, but there are very few of any consequence over the past three or four years."

The most recent area report that excited him appeared west of Coldwater, Ohio, several months ago: A family saw "a brilliant, white shiny thing" hovering over their barn.

The scarcity of UFOs in Ohio and Indiana reflects a trend around the world: In 1973, CUFOS received hundreds of reports of sightings each day worldwide, including several from the Fort Wayne area (see below). That was when saucers, strange lights and humanoids made headlines in newspapers almost daily. Now, Timmerman says, the CUFOS Phoenix center collects just "hundreds of reports a year."

He doesn't know why sightings come in waves: "If we knew what UFOs were, I could tell you. I'm not suggesting they're extraterrestrial, intelligent beings. But the evidence seems to suggest that."

When Timmerman gets right down to the bottom line, seeing is truly believing.

ANYBODY UP THERE CON'T

And he's never actually seen a UFO.

□□□

Charles Tucker, on the other hand, does believe intelligent beings are at the controls of UFOs. He differs from Timmerman in two other respects. For one thing, he says he has seen two UFOs himself: a boxcar-sized, oblong object while he was a theology and psychology student in the Southeast in the 1960s; and a wedge shape three years ago in the skies over Elkhart, Ind., where he lives.

And Tucker believes they live right here on Earth — beneath the Amazon River and deep in oceans.

Tucker, who is international director of the Nappanee, Ind.-based International UFO Investigative Bureau, says that in 1981 he led an investigative team to an area of northeast Brazil known as the Devil's Graveyard. There, he talked to people who said they had seen saucer-shaped crafts burst from beneath the Amazon River, which is 12 miles wide and 200 feet deep in that area. He also found a hunter who said he had been knocked out by a beam of light from one of the objects.

Although Tucker never found the underwater saucer bases, he believes they are red in color.

"When we put people under hypnosis who say they have been abducted by UFOs, they describe a red city," explains Tucker in a telephone interview from the Nappanee furniture factory he owns. "Why don't they describe it as a blue or green city?"

Typically, those who say they have had "close encounters of the third kind" (a phrase that J. Allen Hynek — not Steven Spielberg — coined to describe meetings with "humanoids"), they report seeing small human-like creatures with large heads and eyes, and frail bodies. Often, they remember being taken into large, lighted rooms and being examined on tables before being released.

Alvin Lawson, an English professor at California State University at Long

Beach, has published theories explaining these common recollections: He believes people are recalling their own birth. Memories of the womb might explain the color red, but Tucker prefers to believe there are red underwater colonies.

Most of Tucker's investigations are closer to home than Brazil: "Last year, we heard there was some activity and a landing in Fort Wayne. But I believe it was meteorites. There were streaks of light."

One of the strangest reports Tucker has investigated happened in 1978, east of Indianapolis on Interstate 70: Three truckers were talking to each other on CBs, when a bright blue light shone down on the trucks.

"They were not able to see beyond the hood," Tucker says one of the truckers from Nappanee told him. "The radios died, and the engines sputtered to a stop."

The blue light turned off after four seconds, and the engines and CBs started working again.

"'Hey, UFO, if you have your ears on I want to go with you,' one of the truckers allegedly said over the radio. The blue light lit again, this time for 15 seconds. Everything was silent. When the radios came back on, a woman who had seen the light from her car hailed the truckers on her own CB and said, 'It looked like a big, blue lampshade over the trucks.'"

Tucker says the trucker told him it took 90 minutes for his battery to completely recharge, and that since then the truck's clock loses an hour a day.

Tucker, who is also Indiana director for the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON), another investigative group, oversees a statewide system of amateur investigators. One of them is Francis Ridge, an oil company public relations director living in Mount Vernon, Ind. Ridge says he has a device to measure any electromagnetic disturbances that UFOs could cause in the five-mile radius around his home. The siren attached to it has gone off 19 times since it was installed in 1970.

Ridge believes the electromagnetic disturbances "have something to do with the power source" of UFOs. "The only other thing that could set it off is an earthquake or lightning," he claims.

Although Ridge climbs onto the roof whenever the alarm is triggered, he's never seen a UFO because of the alarm. As a second alert system, he keeps Geiger counters in his home to measure any radioactivity a UFO might emit. That has also not netted Ridge any close encounters.

But at other times, he's seen "a lot of nocturnal lights," and in daylight, something that looked like a jet fuselage without

CON'T NEXT PAGE

IS ANYBODY UP THERE CON'T

wings.

"We are getting closer to what the facts are," says Charles Tucker. "I think they are advanced beyond us, and that they don't really need us."

□□□

There is something very strange out there, John Timmerman says. And it's either in the sky, or within people.

"If they don't really see these things, then there's something very interesting about people that we should be examining. Are they hallucinating in multiples? If, in fact, it is a mental aberration and four people simultaneously generate the

same images, then science is looking the other way from something that needs more attention. Why worry about the tree frog when we have something like this to study?"

Timmerman is inclined to believe there is really something out there. He hopes he has a close encounter some day to wipe away his lingering doubt.

"I go to a Methodist church. I've taught Sunday School and been a head usher. I've been asked, 'Timmerman, what does this do to your faith in God?'"

"I say, 'Whatever faith I had before, it's been greatly enhanced by the thought that this isn't the only place He may have created.' When people talk about God cre-

ating the universe and all the animals, it could have happened elsewhere at an earlier time."

He may never know whether beings from a more advanced world exist. But he says that every sighting he investigates brings him a little closer to the answers: What they are, where they come from — and what they want.

The evidence, he feels, slowly builds.

In the meantime, finance and flying saucers both breed interest — interest that can cross-compound.

"I'll be helping somebody open an IRA or a certificate of deposit. And they'll say, 'While I'm here I want to tell you about something. I saw one ...'"

A planes at what's been spotted in the sky around Fort Wayne.

Feb. 7, 1955

■ An American Airlines pilot flying over Fort Wayne sees "star-like" objects in the sky. The objects were "stationary, then speeded up and rushed away in groups of twos and threes."

Sept. 3, 1946

■ A Fort Wayne resident reports seeing a "circular object slightly larger than a grapefruit" overhead for 45 minutes. It was "silvery white and was very bright."

May 22, 1964

■ The tower at Baer Field reports receiving many calls about 9:30 p.m. concerning UFOs. One witness describes the objects as "four orange-yellow objects" that "flashed rhythmically with intense flashes."

March 4, 1966

■ A Bluffton girl reports seeing a "cigar-like" object going around the moon at 4 a.m.

Sept. 24, 1973

■ A spherical object, described as having no exhaust or visible windows, is reported sighted between 10:15 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.

The object, at an altitude of more than 1,000 feet, slowly spun, and changed from pinkish-white to bluish-white with each revolution.

Oct. 14, 1973

■ Richard Pape, a Huntington farmer, says a flying object with red and blue lights followed him home. Also in Huntington County, police report a white object zig-zagging across the sky. County police officer LeMoine Drabenstot says the quickly moving object was "bigger than a star" and in view for five minutes.

Oct. 18, 1973

■ At least two UFOs are spotted

near New Haven between 8 and 9:30 p.m. Both are described as having red and white lights.

Oct. 21, 1973

■ A fireman involved in quenching a woods fire near St. Joe, Ind., says he saw "20 or 30" lights in the sky. The lights were greenish-white and circling; one then appeared to plummet to the ground in the distance. The cause of the woods blaze is not determined.

October, 1973

■ A woman and her grandson report seeing a greyish-white object in the sky south of Fort Wayne at about 4 p.m.

WHITEHAVEN NEWS
CUMBERLAND
SEP. 19 1985 (ENGLAND)

UFO's seen over hospital?

3128

A 49-year-old Workington man is convinced that two objects he and friends witnessed in the evening sky last Wednesday were like nothing on earth.

The sighting of the UFO's by Mr Jack Foster, of Harrington Road, are to be officially logged.

Mr Foster and two other men were standing near the main entrance of the West Cumberland Hospital, Hensingham, about 7.30 p.m. when they noticed what looked like two vapour trails in the sky to the south west.

The object on the right grew bigger and Mr Foster said that the second object

had what looked like two lights dangling from it. One of the men also saw what seemed to be a boat shape hanging.

Mr Foster said: "We watched them for about 12 minutes until they gradually faded away from us."

Later the same night Mr Foster reported the sighting to local UFO experts and made a tape recording while the memory was fresh in his mind.

READING EVENING POST
SEP. 17 1985
ENGLAND

Star-gazing Lyn gets the fright of her life

3127

SALESGIRL Lyn Brookes got the fright of her life when she looked out of her window late on Sunday night.

For what she saw struck terror into 24-year-old Lyn. High in the sky she saw a mysterious unidentified flying object with flashing lights.

Lyn, from Sparrow Close, Woollahill, Wokingham, said: "I heard a sort of whooshing noise and went outside. About half-a-mile away something was hovering high above some trees. I could see red and white flashing lights."

"At first I thought it was just an aircraft but it stayed there in one spot for about five minutes and then suddenly it sank down behind the trees before rising into the sky."

"I was really frightened—it was as if it was watching me."

Lyn reported the sighting to the police but a spokesman for the force said they had not been told of any



■ Lyn Brookes... "I was really frightened."

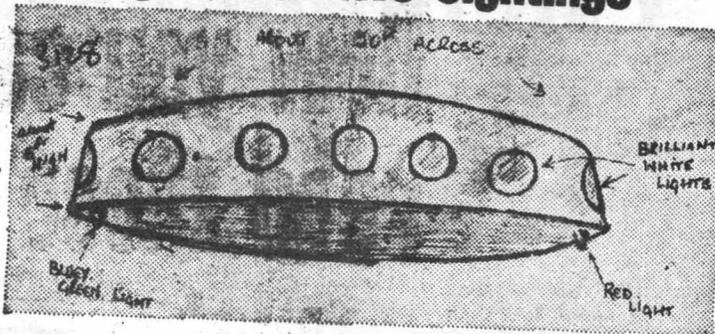
other sightings.

An MOD spokesman said it would take days of research to establish whether the object was a form of military aircraft flying that night.

But he added: "The description of the lights sounds like they were navigation lights. It could have possibly been a Harrier."

Family toll of two sightings

Clouded in mystery—one of the flying saucers as David saw it in his sketch



OUR UFO TERROR

By BILL DAVEY

A FAMILY had a bizarre close encounter on a day out—with two UFOs.

The first flying saucer put butcher David McMurray and wife Susan in a spin when it hovered in front of their car.

Minutes later a second "space-craft" flew into view—and now the strange sightings are being probed by experts.

David and Susan were driving home across Bagshot Heath, Surrey, to Farnborough, Hampshire, with their two children Paul, 5, and Katie, 18 months.

David, 35, said: "I saw something hovering above the road in front of us. I could not believe my eyes."

"It was a huge saucer-like craft about 50ft. long with brilliant lights coming from perches around the centre. Then it sud-

denly took off." When a second craft began to tail the family's car David stopped, got out and went to investigate. But it too, took off.

David said: "The whole family were weak and trembling for days afterwards."

Susan, 25, a hairdresser, said: "When David tried to start his car the bat-



Down to earth—Susan, Katie and David

tery was drained." She added: "I saw the two things with my own eyes. It was an incredible experience."

One UFO was also spotted five miles away by salesgirl Lyn Brookes, 24, of Wokingham, Berkshire.

She said: "It hovered in one spot for about five minutes."

Watching

"I was really frightened. It was as if it was watching me."

Now David has sketched the strange craft and is sending his drawing to the Ministry of Defence who are to investigate.

UFO expert Omar Fowler, 54, has also seen the drawing and said: "I have no doubt this report is genuine."

Heathrow Airport say none of the strange craft could have been planes.

UFO-watchers believe the area is a target for flying saucers.

SUNDAY MIRROR
LONDON
SEP. 29 1985

Phenomena-busters:

South Charleston pair pursues things that go bump in the night

By Nick Adams
News-Sun Staff Writer

SOUTH CHARLESTON — Larry Tillman descends the basement stairs, giving some computer operation instructions as he goes to his friend John Farthing, who is seated before a small computer screen at a desk below.

The dimly-lit basement is lined with shelves that hold sophisticated-looking electronic instruments, meters, gauges, video tape recorders and reel-to-reel tapes. And off to one side, of course, is

Vector — Tillman's robot.

The basement looks more like a makeshift scientific laboratory than Sam Spade's detective office, but Tillman and Farthing describe themselves as investigators.

"I've been an investigator of strange phenomena since 1965," says Tillman. "Since I was in high school."

Farthing also has been investigating unexplained phenomena for 20 years.

Tillman is one of the executive coordinators of the Phenomena Research Organization (PRO). The organization has

about 15 members, says Tillman. They meet once a month, and now and then take field trips together to investigate some unexplained phenomenon.

"We're liable to end up anywhere," says Tillman, a radiological defense officer for the Ohio Department of Transportation. "The last field trip we went to North Lewisburg, O., where there's been some Big Foot sightings. We're looking for answers to these phenomena."

When someone reports a sighting of an unidentified flying object (UFO) to PRO, Tillman and others in the group go to the site and investigate it and try to determine if the sighting can be explained as the result of a natural occurrence.

"If we can't figure out what it is, we put it in the category of 'unidentified' and put it in the computer," says Farthing.

"We keep trying to get everything computerized and catalogued on computer tape," says Tillman, "so that if we have a sighting we can see how it correlates with other sightings the world round."

Tillman catalogues UFO sightings according to similarities with other reported sightings, such as whether they were daylight or night sightings, whether they were dish-shaped objects or other shapes, or whether there was a particular color of light associated with the sighting.

The bumble bee's wings don't produce enough lift to elevate the bee's heavy body, says Farthing. The bumble bee shouldn't be able to fly, but it does, he said.

"Science just ignores it (the bumble bee's ability to fly) because it doesn't go along with their thinking," he says.

We live in an "ocean of energy," says Farthing, but mainstream science doesn't accept certain energy fields, like the "N-motor." The "N-motor" is a "free energy device" that was developed by inventor Joe Newman, says Farthing. The motor is a generator that creates energy without apparently drawing energy from another source.

The government and big business aren't enthusiastic about such devices because the development of free energy devices would harm the economy, says Farthing. But people like Joe Newman are learning how to "tap" into that free energy, he says.

"There's a lot of free energy around — we just need to tap into it," Farthing says.

An energy field, or aura, surrounds all living things, Tillman says. To explain what he means, Tillman often demonstrates the art of "dowsing." He takes two thin metal rods in his hands and walks toward a tree. When he reaches a certain

"There's a side of nature that mainstream science ignores. A point in fact is the bumble bee, which according to the laws of aerodynamics shouldn't be able to fly."

—Jerry Farthing

BUSTERS CONT

"Every time someone reports a UFO the general consciousness automatically thinks 'little green men from outer space,'" says Tillman; "but that's not necessarily so."

Tillman says he sighted and photographed an unidentified flying object once himself. The photographs he took, which he developed in a darkroom in his basement, were published in the CUFOS (Center for UFO Studies) Association newsletter. Tillman also made a videotape reenactment of his UFO sighting. He sighted the UFO on March 21, 1981, on Ohio 665, east of London, O. There were 35 UFO sightings reported on Ohio 665 during 1980-81, he says.

"The UFO appeared as an orange ball of light that streaked across the sky," says Tillman. "The photograph I took shows it going between two trees."

There are 16,000 reported sightings of UFOs every year, and approximately 85-90 percent are explainable, says Farthing, "but that leaves 10-15 percent that's unexplained."

In addition to being a member of PRO, Farthing is a member of the U.S. Psychotronics Association, which investigates, explores and researches mind-matter interaction, he says.

"There's a side of nature that mainstream science ignores," Farthing says. "A point in fact is the bumble bee, which according to the laws of aerodynamics shouldn't be able to fly."

point, he says, the rods will cross. The point at which the rods cross — of their own volition, Tillman says — is the boundary of the object's energy field.

"When people think that it's just us manipulating the rods, we have them try it themselves," says Farthing. "And the same thing happens — the rods eventually cross."

Tillman and Farthing also are involved in phenomena investigation for their own amusement — as evidenced by Tillman's robot, Vector.

He built the robot for his children, and he often demonstrates the robot in operation at schools and libraries. Vector moves by remote control. He also talks, moves his arms up and down, and opens and closes his pincher-hands. He is the third robot Tillman has built.

"Larry is a full-blown genius," says Farthing. "He taught himself Basic computer programming in two evenings, and he hasn't had one minute of formal electronics training."

Tillman and Farthing view themselves as the "ordinary people" who must investigate unexplained phenomena because the government won't. They're not trying to make money through their research, Tillman says, and PRO isn't an organization that recruits members.

"I don't want quantity," Tillman says, "I want quality, like the army says."

"Yeah," says Farthing, "Larry's looking for a few good aliens."

ENGLAND

A not so very far away encounter

Three people who watched in amazement as a UFO hovered over Petersfield asked this week, "Did anyone else see it?"

The RAF, the Army and the Meteorological Office have been unable to shed any light on the mystery.

But two women who contacted the Post separately to report their sightings believe that other people must have seen the object — and that there must be a logical explanation for it.

Mrs. Dorothy Smith, of Woodbury Avenue, Petersfield, said she was woken up by her cat at 3.45 a.m. last Wednesday.

"I looked out of the window to see what might have alarmed him and I just could not believe my eyes.

"There was a brilliantly lit object hovering above the fir trees four gardens away. At first I thought it looked like an enormous gondola lit up with electric lights.

"I kept staring at it and trying to convince myself it was really there. I even went back to bed to get warm, and when I got up again 30 minutes later it was still there."

Mrs. Smith was so mystified that she rang the Meteorological Office at Bracknell to see if they could offer any explanation.

Experiment

"They said it was nothing to do with them or with the military. But I still think it could have been something connected with an experiment of some kind," she said.

The second person to see the UFO was Mrs. Peggy Jones-Parry. She saw the UFO just after returning to her home in Rogate with her husband at about 9.30 p.m. on Thursday.

She described it as pinkish red colour with glittering lights. As she watched, it sank gradually in the sky and suddenly disintegrated.

Mrs. Jones-Parry called her husband, Christopher who also saw the UFO, but neither of them could think of any explanation for it.

"I cannot believe that no one else saw it. I have watched the television news and read the papers to find out if any one had reported seeing the same thing, and I am amazed that no-one did.

"I am glad my husband was there so that someone saw what I did. I am sure there must be a perfectly logical explanation, and I would love to know what it is."

NY-NEW YORK POST
SEP. 27 1985

By DON McDONALD

Watch the skies

MAYBE you haven't seen any UFO's about recently, but maybe you haven't been looking. The Chilean Air Force and experts working with NASA tracking station sighted an object Aug. 17 that was to them an "unidentified flying object." For those who believe, and for those who don't but may want to, there's a UFO Update Lecture and Slide Show at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday at 47 W. 13th St. Antonio Huneeus, an international UFO expert and lecturer, is the guest speaker. His talk will be augmented by more than 300 slides and authentic photos. Admission: \$5. Call for reservations: 212-473-3723.

CAUTION
FLYING
SAUCERS
LANDING ON
HIGHWAYS

Govt. covers up UFO crash

A TOP American scientist astonished UFO investigators when he admitted that the U.S. government recovered the remains of three crashed UFOs over 35 years ago, and has been covering it up ever since.

Dr. Robert Sarbacher, a former Defense Department scientist, recently confirmed one of the most incredible UFO reports in the history of flying saucer research.

According to Canadian electrical engineer Wilbert B. Smith, in September, 1950, Dr. Sarbacher told him that the late Dr. Vannevar Bush, one of the world's most famous scientists, was studying UFO parts secretly recovered by the government.

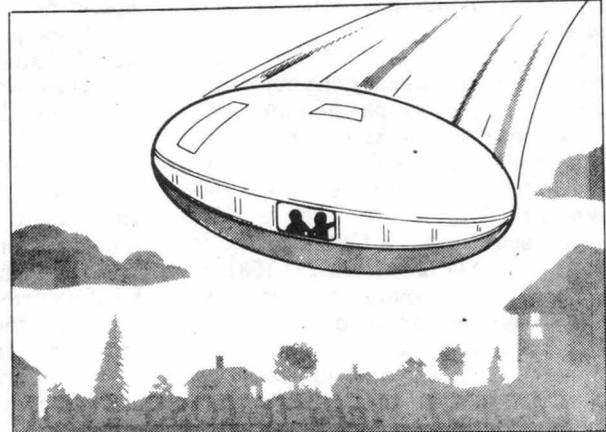
In a recent interview, Dr. Sarbacher confirmed Smith's story. And he added he'd been told the

SCIENTIST CHARGES

By ANSON HEATH

UFOs were made of a mysterious material that was "extremely light and very tough," and were obviously designed to take the enormous stress of space travel.

Dr. Sarbacher, who now heads the Washington Institute of Technology, said that he was invited to attend a top secret meeting to be held at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, where scien-



UNCLE SAM has remains of crashed UFOs, but is keeping the whole thing a secret, says investigator.

tists were to disclose the full results of their investigation of the fallen space craft.

Unfortunately, Dr. Sarbacher was unable to attend the meeting, but he said that two scientists

who did were Dr. Bush and John von Neumann.

Those attending were informed that the UFOs were spaceships from another solar system, Dr. Sarbacher revealed.

Dr. Sarbacher's revelation also confirmed a secret Canadian government document uncovered by UFO investigator Stanton Friedman, a nuclear physicist.

The document revealed that Dr. Vannevar Bush was heading a U.S. government UFO investigation.

Evidence

"This is another startling piece of evidence of a monumental government coverup.

"For years, many highly respected people in and out of government have spoken of a UFO crash in Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947 and charged that remains of the craft were taken to Wright Patterson Air Force Base," a top UFO investigator said.

"Dr. Bush disappeared for a full week at the time, and most UFO researchers insist he was called in to look at the remains of the space craft that crashed near Roswell.

"Dr. Sarbacher's revelation certainly adds weight to that story.

"We will certainly continue our investigation into this matter."

WEST LANCASHIRE
EVENING GAZETTE
SEP 21 1985
LONDON

Encounter of a close kind . . .

AN incident on the way back from holiday in France turned Hazel Shanley into a flying saucer believer.

Mrs Stanley, an assistant at a Blackpool town centre shop, was travelling in a car with her husband when they were followed by a UFO — or Unidentified Flying Object — for more than 50 miles.

After the incident, near Folkestone, 33-year-old Mrs Shanley contacted a number of UFO groups and went to the library for books on the subject.

She believes there are many people in the Fylde interested in knowing more about the phenomenon of UFOs.

She placed an advertisement in the "Evening Gazette," asking fellow enthusiasts to contact her with a view to starting a UFO society.

Mrs Shanley, of Sherwood Avenue, Layton, says she hopes to produce a monthly journal giving the latest UFO information and details of "sightings."

Of her first sighting, she said she saw a bright light in the sky and then saw a "craft." The UFO followed her car for two hours, but she did not mention it to her husband.

She can be contacted on Blackpool 302901.

READING EVENING
POST
SEP. 26 1985
LONDON

Another UFO sighting

FURTHER to the article in the Post (Sept 19) regarding the UFO sightings, I too spotted a very bright, creamy-white light travelling in the sky at Spencers Wood on Sunday.

It was moving fairly fast and I wondered what it was. Your article proved to me that I had not imagined it.

Halfacre Close
Spencers Wood

J. HAVELL

An intense white light that lit up the mountains for 15 or 16 miles around was reported by sky-watchers in the Cantwell area in January.

"It was not an aircraft," said John Wallace, a technician who's had the job of checking microwave sites along the Parks Highway for 13 years. Wallace had stopped at a highway lodge when he saw the light, which he said passed overhead quite fast, about three miles up, and then climbed over the mountain and disappeared.

While Wallace said someone must have tracked the object, public affairs officials at Elmendorf Air Force Base and Fort Wainwright said they had no idea what the light might be.

Pat Young, a spokesman at the University of Alaska's Poker Flats Research Range, said the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" was on Monday night. She told the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* that "We got a whole bunch of UFO calls right after that, because

Venus was really bright." Young suggested the Cantwell sighting may have been a meteor.

Shirley Lawson, who runs the Reindeer Mountain Lodge with her husband Jack, said several people had seen the light.

"I didn't actually see it moving," said Lawson, "but I saw it behind the mountain and the mountain was completely illuminated, as if the sun was rising right then."

OCTOBER
15-1985
EXAMINER

Family of three terrorized on highway by low-flying UFO

ATERRIFIED family was tracked for more than three hours on a deserted highway by a low-flying UFO.

They are convinced the glowing, cone-shaped craft had magnetically locked onto their car.

The dramatic night chase occurred less than three months after the stunning publication of a secret government report revealing massive flying saucer activity over Italy.

The dossier listed hundreds of sightings by Air Force pilots and quoted top air and military personnel admitting they were unable to explain the phenomenon.

Terrified electronics factory worker Ezio Zuliani, however, has no need of an official statement to convince him of what he and his family saw.

1381 IU hosts UFO lecture

"UFOs — The Hidden History," a 90-minute lecture and slide show about a supposed U.S. government cover-up of UFOs, will be presented at 8 p.m. Thursday in the ballroom of Lamar University's Setzer Student Center.

Sponsored by the Forum Committee of the Setzer Student Center Council, Robert Hastings bases his program on previously classified government documents.

Tickets are 50 cents for Lamar students, 75 cents for high school students and \$1 for the public.

Hunted

"We were hunted down by a UFO," he said.

The Italian family's dramatic encounter happened as Ezio was driving north near Venice to spend a weekend with relatives.

With him were his wife, Elizabeth, 36, and the couple's four-year-old son Anthony.

"Everything had gone smoothly until I suddenly spotted a strange light high in the sky behind me," said Zuliani, 42.

Zuliani claims the strange, cone-shaped craft paced his car for nearly 3 1/2 hours, accelerating every time he did and slowing when he braked.

Convinced he was over-

By FRANK KENDAL

tired, he pulled into an all-night gas station.

"But it was then that we got really scared," he added. "The thing just stopped and hovered silently over the station."

Attendant Walter Piccioni, 27, confirmed: "The whole area above the station was lit up like a football field with colored lights. It was amazing because there was no sound at all. In the middle of this massive circle of lights there was this menacing craft. It was like a dream."

Pursuer

Zuliani failed to shake off his unearthly pursuer. It simply vanished as he crested a rise on the outskirts of Bergamo, the home of his wife's sister.

"I felt the car lurch forward, as if suddenly released, and the thing was gone," said Zuliani.

Antonio Chiumento, air consultant to the government, has described the family's experience as "exceptional."

It tallies with dozens of others in the region where a number of key NATO and U.S. missile bases are sighted.

"The huge incidence of sightings in that area alone seems to indicate these craft are particularly interested in our military activity," said Chiumento.

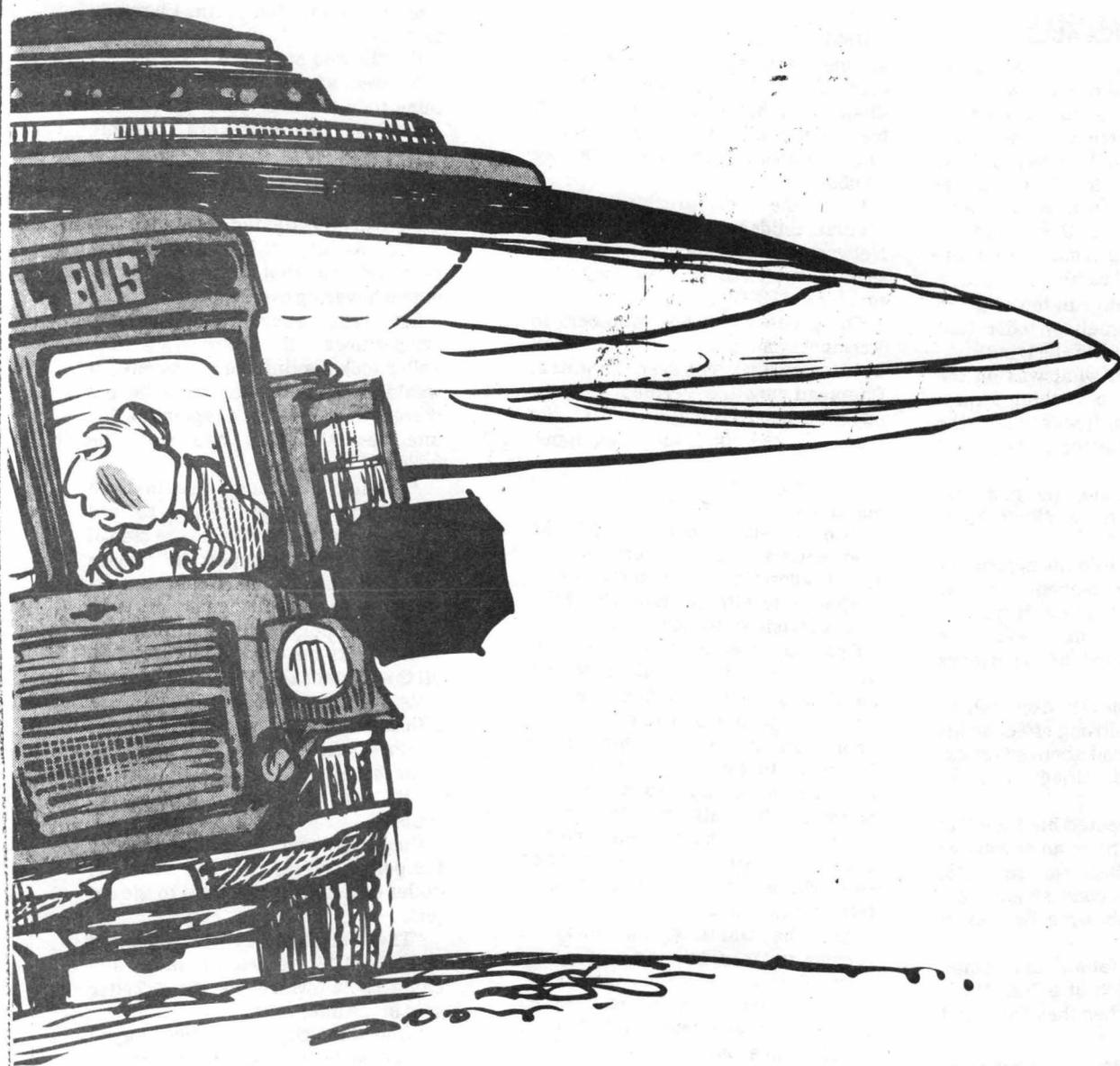
"In the interests of our own national safety the government has a duty to provide some explanation."

UT. RUTLAND HERALD
SEPT. 29 1985



For UFO Hunter,

He watched a strange, lighted craft swoop down close to the airstrip. As he recalls it, he saw the rounded underbelly of a craft that was shaped like the planet Saturn.



Seeing Is Believing

He believes . . . that a being from another planet might make contact somewhere between the established television stations. And, he wants to be ready to receive any transmission.

UFO HUNTER CON'T

By MONICA ALLEN

William Chapleau of Rutland doesn't tell many people about a hike up Pine Hill that he took when he was 13 years old. It was a dark day: It looked like it would rain. Chapleau was alone, and the time was about 11 a.m. when he came to a small rise and saw a glow emanating from somewhere behind a mound of earth.

The curious youth ran towards the glow. He could smell an odor that reminded him of static electricity.

"I can't tell you what was on the other side, but the next thing I knew what was going on, it was 2:30 in the afternoon," Chapleau recalled recently.

Somehow, he said, he had lost hours of time and he didn't know where he'd been.

Chapleau never told his parents or anyone about the incident for fear they wouldn't believe him. It was only recently that the 45-year-old Rutland man spoke of the experience to a friend.

But though he never discussed it, the incident had a strong effect on his life. He began to read about space exploration and unidentified flying objects.

By 1958, he suspected his Pine Hill experience might have an encounter with a UFO. Because in 1958, Chapleau had a second strange experience. Only this time he wasn't alone.

Chapleau and a fellow serviceman were on night watch at a U.S. Navy airbase in Malta when they saw what

they initially thought was a plane attempting to land on the airstrip, but later believed may have been a space craft. The serviceman began to panic.

"No one is ever going to believe us about this, Bill," he said.

But Chapleau was determined to see as much as he could. He hopped in a jeep and drove down to the end of the runway.

Again he smelled something like static electricity. And he said he watched a strange, lighted craft swoop down close to the airstrip.

As he recalls it, he saw the rounded underbelly of a craft that was shaped like the planet Saturn, with a ring around the circular unit. The whole unit was about 300 feet in diameter, Chapleau said.

"That's the event that definitely made me believe," he explained.

...

Unidentified Flying Objects. There are believers and non-believers. And then there are people such as Chapleau, a believer who has turned his fascination with the subject into a full-time hobby — or some might say an obsession.

He is the state president of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, an international organization committed to resolving the mystery of UFO's.

The group has a few members in Vermont, and many connections all over the country who keep the watch. Chapleau runs the Vermont chapter out of his home on Mussey Street. His truck, parked out front, is equipped

and ready to investigate UFO sightings.

Two antennae, one shaped like deer antlers and one more conventional, adorn the top of the truck. A license plate with the letters MUFON lets everyone know he's serious.

Chapleau has a small television and a citizens' band radio under the dashboard. The television channels are found with a dial like radio stations, not a switch. This allows Chapleau to tune in to frequencies between the established stations. He believes, after talking to local radio experts, that a being from another planet might make contact somewhere between the established television stations.

And, he wants to be ready to receive any transmission.

Chapleau is ready and eager to respond to calls. He believes from all that he's heard and read that he should stake out the site of a UFO sighting like a murder scene, and keep people from getting too close.

Although the subject seems fanciful, Chapleau is very serious. He has investigated numerous sightings all over Vermont and New Hampshire in recent years.

The former Rutland police officer handles each case as if it were a murder mystery. He goes to the scene, takes Geiger counter readings for radioactivity and does extensive tape recorded interviews. He also compares descriptions of flying objects with descriptions from other sightings.

Chapleau said he receives about 100 reports a month. He takes about a quarter of them seriously. If there is more than one call about a sighting in one area, he usually does an investigation.

Often people will call with reports and not leave their names. Or a man or woman will call, and suddenly have to stop talking when someone

else comes into the room, Chapleau said.

People who supposedly see UFO's are often afraid their friends will think they are crazy. But sometimes even the non-believers become believers.

Such a conversion occurred on Oct. 15, 1983, following a sighting that Chapleau investigated.

The Keene, N.H., City Police received a call that there was a flying object hovering over the city.

Sgt. Jack Zeller headed out in a cruiser toward the reported sighting. Zeller took his time and "assumed it would be gone by the time he got there," according to a tape-recorded interview Chapleau had with the police officer.

As Zeller was heading south down the highway, a car coming toward him, skidded and pulled to the side of the road. Zeller stopped the cruiser as the two men got out and ran across the street to his car.

The men pointed to red, green and white lights hovering 300 to 700 feet off the ground, Zeller said.

"All you could see was light," the officer recalled. "This object was so terribly still, like it was plastered right there.

"It was absolutely quiet... no sound."

One bystander suggested shining the police spotlight on the UFO and Zeller directed his spotlight to the object.

"The minute the light was pointed directly at it, it started to move and came right toward the car," Zeller said in the interview.

"One of the guys said, 'Jeez maybe you ought to take the shotgun out,'" Zeller said. But, Zeller didn't think that was a good idea.

Zeller said he saw the belly of the long, bathtub shaped craft. He described it as seamless, but with many planes. It was 40 to 50 feet long

and 10 to 15 feet wide, Zeller said.

He said the UFO came within 100 feet of the cruiser, hovered for a period of time, then drifted away towards the hills.

Chapleau said similar sightings were made within the next few days in Lynn, Mass. and Portsmouth, N.H. He surmised the same craft had made a circuit through the area.

...

There have been recent sightings in the Rutland area over the Rutland Country Club, according to Chapleau. In fact, people began calling in to report a strange lighted object in the area last week.

UFO HUNTER CON'T

Around the same time, a group of West Rutland people saw a large creature on a gravel road near Route 4A in West Rutland. Castleton State College Anthropologist Dr. Warren Cook, a specialist on the legendary creature known as Bigfoot, took castings of the footprints which measured 14 inches long.

Chapleau said there have often been sightings of Bigfoots — also known as Sasquatches — around the same time as UFO's are sighted. He theorizes these creatures may be left by beings from another world for testing purposes, as humans might leave a monkey.

Chapleau admits he has "an active imagination" that's gotten more active as he's read hundreds of books on UFO's.

But, his theories appear to conform to those of many scientists in the field.

Chapleau believes beings from other worlds have been visiting earth to study the planet and take samples.

He said there are unexplainable reports of otherworldly surgery on animals out west, and cases where investigators have found animals without any blood.

Chapleau genuinely believes we may meet up with beings and communicate with them at some point. And he also believes we must be prepared.

The chance of a meeting is increasing, he believes.

He said sightings have increased steadily since the 1950s, and that the increase is linked to the increase in missions from Earth into space.

The firing of weapons in space and general poking about may increase the curiosity and fear that other beings have of us, he said. Chapleau also believes the use of weapons in space may anger beings.

There have been a large number of sightings near military bases, nuclear installations and power plants because higher order beings are interested in nuclear activities, Chapleau said.

Chapleau investigated a mysterious cattle-kill in Dummerston, a town near the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant in Vernon, which he concluded may have been caused by a UFO.

On Feb. 15, 1984, more than 23 heifers were found dead lying in a circle in a farmer's barn. They appeared to have been electrocuted.

Chapleau initially thought the animals might have been killed by a radioactive release from Yankee, but he was told that Yankee was shut down at the time.

Upon further investigation, Chapleau speculated the animals may have been killed by a UFO. A UFO in the form of a ball of light was seen that same night in nearby Hinsdale, N.H., by two people at the Hinsdale race track, he said.

No other explanation for the strange death of the animals emerged.

Chapleau has many stories from his investigations. Some are more believable than others.

He's done recent investigations into sightings of purported balls of fire that move through walls, play with toys and chase people in Fairlee.

He's done investigations into sightings in the Arlington and Bennington area of crafts landing in the middle of the road.

He tells a bizarre story of a farmer and his wife in western Vermont who wandered across their cornfield one day when they suspected youths were on their land. According to the story, the couple came across a landed spaceship, and there was a woman standing in the doorway of the ship, beckoning them on board.

The couple went back to their home to alert someone of the sight. When they returned, they were seriously considering getting on board, Chapleau said. But the ship was gone.

Getting people to believe is the hard part. Even Chapleau's family isn't too hot on the idea of UFO's. But, Chapleau is convinced that the many sightings can't all be a hoax. And that people must at least begin to wonder when they look up into the sky.

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Still Up In the Air

ACCORDING TO Peter A. Gersten, what happened on a road 40 miles outside Houston on the night of Dec. 29, 1980, was "not a typical UFO sighting."

Evidently not, considering that most sightings — in Texas, anyway — do not lead sightees to hire lawyers like Mr. Gersten from New York City to represent them in lawsuits against the U.S. government demanding identification of the mysterious apparition.

But sue Mr. Gersten did — for \$20 million in damages — on behalf of Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and Ms. Landrum's grandson.

In the complaint, Mr. Gersten states that intensive heat forced his clients out of their car, and that one of their hands made a lasting imprint on the vehicle as they looked up to find not only a flock of helicopters, but a glowing diamond-shaped object "with flames coming out."

Mr. Gersten, who sometimes sues the government for

"UFO documents" under the Freedom of Information Act, says the phenomenon may have been part of a U.S. military maneuver. If so, he insists, the government is liable for ailments his clients have suffered since the sighting, including second-degree burns, nausea and tooth decay.

But pending before U.S. District Judge Ross N. Sterling of Texas' Southern District is a motion to dismiss filed by the U.S. Attorney's office in Houston.

Meanwhile, the case will remain up in the air, says Asst. U.S. Attorney Frank A. Conforti, noting the complaint didn't fly in administrative proceedings before the Air Force.

Mr. Gersten, however, remains hopeful. "I don't find people think of it as a joke," he says. "I find it upsetting that the government won't come forward and say what it was."

— Amy Tarr

U.S. covering up visits of aliens, UFO expert says

BY PATRICK CASEY
Democrat Staff Writer

UFOs are hovering over the United States but the American government won't admit to any close encounters, claims Robert Hastings, a self-employed researcher.

"There have been secret recoveries of UFOs and corpses of non-human beings," Hastings said, describing the beings as "non-human shaped, about 3 feet tall."

Hastings, who was at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Tuesday to lecture about UFOs, said the U.S. military and federal security organizations, including the CIA and the FBI, have made a concerted effort to refute the existence of UFOs and to ridicule those who claim any sightings.

"They have been downplaying the phenomena," Hastings charged, saying he gathered his information through documents obtained with the Freedom of Information Act. "The CIA is not leaving public opinion to chance. They make overt and covert attempts to ridicule the witnesses."

He supported that contention with a copy of an Oct. 2, 1952, memorandum to Walter B. Smith, then-director of the CIA, from H. Marshall Chadwell, assistant director of the office of scientific intelligence.

The memo recommended that the agency "develop and recommend for adoption by the NSC (National Security Council) a policy of public information which will minimize concern and possible panic resulting from the numerous sightings of unidentified objects."

To back his claims, the former photographer distributed other documents he said were obtained from the federal government.

A March 22, 1950, memorandum to the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover from an agent whose name was censored in the report says "three so-called flying saucers have been recovered in New Mexico."



Arkansas Democrat/Rick Barrett

UFO RESEARCHER — Robert Hastings, a self-employed researcher of UFOs, says the U.S. government won't admit to secret recoveries of alien spaceships. Hastings was in Little Rock on Tuesday to lecture on UFOs at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

The report described the vehicles "as being circular in shape with raised centers, approximately 50 feet in diameter. *Each one was occupied by three bodies of human shape but only 3 feet tall.*"

The document indicated the flying saucers were recovered after malfunctioning while soaring through a high-powered radar installation in the area.

Hastings was at a loss to explain what happened to the carcasses of the space visitors, saying it would be speculation.

"That's the big question. They presumably were autopsied," he said, "but we can only refer to documents we have our hands on. The people in on the recoveries don't know where the bodies were taken."

Another FBI memorandum, sent to Hoover on Jan. 31, 1949, concerned repeated UFO sightings near nuclear weapons laboratories at Los Alamos, N.M.

"During December 1948 — on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 20th and 28th — sightings of unexplained phenomena were made near Los Alamos by special agents of the Office of Special Investigation; airline pilots, military pilots, Los Alamos security inspectors and private citizens. On Jan. 6, 1949, another similar object was sighted in the same area. Up to this time, little concrete information has been obtained," the memo read.

A Sept. 22, 1976, confidential Air Force document indicated the sighting in Iran of a UFO that reportedly disabled the electronic instruments and communications system of an F-4 scrambled to intercept the craft.

VISITS OF ALIENS

"The object and the pursuing F-4 continued on a course to the south of Tehran when another brightly lighted object, estimated to be one-half to one-third the size of the moon, came out of the original object. This second object headed straight toward the F-4 at a very fast rate of speed. The pilot attempted to fire an Aim-9 missile at the object but at that instant his weapons control panel went off and he lost all communications. At this point, the pilot initiated a turn and a negative G dive to get away."

BRIGHTON + HOVE LEADER

OCT 12 1985
ENGLAND

'I went aboard a UFO'

AN American couple will charge £5 a head to hear a "first-hand account" of being aboard a UFO.

They will tell their audience at Hove Town Hall on October 18 that aliens are peace-loving, look almost human and wear metallic jumpsuits.

Michael and Aurora El-Legion say they will reveal an international conspiracy to withhold information about UFOs and alien beings that have been held captive on Earth for years.

Michael and Aurora, who live in Arizona, claim to have made contact with beings from outer space. Michael says he was taken aboard a spacecraft hovering above Earth after he fell from a pier and nearly drowned when he was six.

Aurora believes aliens saved her life when they transported her car several hundred feet to prevent her crashing into five lanes of oncoming traffic.

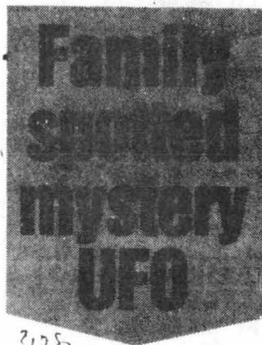
Michael said that although the tickets seemed expensive, they had to cover the cost of travel and books, tapes and film used in the lecture.

CONT

When asked how such information could be withheld from the public for so long, Hastings referred to the Manhattan Project, which developed the atomic bomb during World War II.

"We had one of the biggest technological studies being done then and not one citizen knew," Hastings said.

READING EVENING
POST
SEP 19 1985
ENGLAND



THE mysterious unidentified flying object which gave Berkshire salesgirl Lynn Brookes the fright of her life was also spotted by the Webb family.

Surprised Derek and Pamela Webb and their 16-year-old son Martin, were driving along the motorway towards Wokingham when they noticed something strange in the sky.

Mrs Webb, of Upper Broadmoor Road, Crowthorne, said: "It was about 8.50pm on Sunday evening. I looked up and saw this thing, all red and glowing in the sky.

"At first I thought it was a helicopter or a star. But it kept hovering and then stopped and stayed there for a few minutes before rising up above us. It was really odd."

Sighting

Lyn, aged 24, of Sparrows Close, Woosahill, was scared to death when she saw an object hovering near her home above some woods.

Now, after reading a report in the Evening Post Mrs Webb believes her family and Lyn saw the same thing. The Webbs' sighting was two hours earlier and about a mile from Lyn's home.

Mother of three Pamela, aged 36, added: "I am sure it was not an aircraft. It made me think it could have been a so called 'UFO' and I am not normally that easily convinced. I don't know what to make of it."

Hastings, who claims his lecture fee is one of the lowest on the circuit - "I drive a 10-year-old Mazda" - said he is revealing his information because "the public has the right to know the facts. To say I am in this for the money is too poor a joke to be funny."

"From our reports, it appears there is a whole range of flying saucers - disc-shaped, central domes," Hastings said. "The common denominator is a total absence of sound. They seem to have the ability to accelerate tremendously from a dead speed."//

WHITBY GAZETTE YORKS

OCT 9 1985
ENGLAND

UFO sighting

Another UFO was sighted over Whitby at the weekend.

Two visitors from Middlesbrough staying at the Sandbeck Hotel on West Cliff saw strange lights in the sky above the rooftops as they looked from their top floor bedroom at the back of the hotel in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The sighting occurred at about 2 am when they saw a

large white light low in the sky, which was obviously not a star. Some smaller yellow lights appeared to the left of it, moved to join the main light then left it at another angle.

This movement was repeated at intervals of about five minutes. The couple, who could think of no rational explanation for the lights, were watching for about an hour.

UFO hunters train their eyes on the sky

By DAVID TORTORANO

FORT WALTON BEACH, Fla. (UPI) — They're five average folks living relatively obscure lives in northwest Florida, but they all have an unusual avocation they don't discuss much — at least not with outsiders.

They hunt UFOs in their spare time.

"I figured that by becoming an investigator, I'd find out some answers," says Ralph Dalton, 67, a retired soldier and one of five people in northwest Florida who investigate reports of Unidentified Flying Objects. So far, he's had scant opportunity.

"There hasn't been much going on the last year and a half," says Col. Donald Ware, 49, a former Air Force pilot who trained Dalton and heads the team from his home in Fort Walton Beach. In fact, "ufologists" say overall sightings worldwide declined in 1984 and have been spotty this year.

Despite the paucity of local UFOs, Dalton has his truck packed and ready to go. When there's a sighting, he'll take along a tape measure, camera, magnifying glass and 11 forms to record everything from animal reaction to weather conditions.

UFOs have been around for years. The first were reported in the United States in 1896 as "great airships," then popped up as "foo fighters" in World War II. They gained wide publicity after a 1947 sighting at Mount Rainier, Washington. Alleged abductions, supposed crashes and even rumors that Uncle Sam has alien bodies stored in Ohio hangars have become part of the national psyche.

The Air Force looked into sightings for a while, then publicly dismissed them. The civilian groups that began their own investigative efforts have been called open-minded by some, crackpots by others.

"We don't have a vast radar network, we don't have paid personnel, we don't have laboratories at our disposal," says Raymond Fowler, chief investigator for the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network — MUFON — which has had its eyes on the stars for 16 years.

There are 300 card-carrying MUFON investigators worldwide, including a police chief from a major northeast city and scientists. The organization says its investigators can explain 90 percent of the 20 to 30 UFO sightings it receives daily from around the world. Only two or three a day end up listed as unexplained.

Fowler, of Wenham, Mass., author of several UFO books and the man who developed MUFON's investigative technique, says authorities and witnesses don't always take investigators seriously.

"They take the subject seriously. Sometimes they don't take the investigator seriously," he says. Recognizing that, MUFON's Field Investigator's Manual has tips on how investigators should present themselves for a professional image.

Ware's crew includes Dalton, a housewife, a corporate pilot and a retiree who worked in electronics. Most of the group declined to discuss their interest, and even Dalton said he doesn't go around telling everyone he hunts UFOs.

"If it comes up, I'd mention it. Other than that, no," he says.

Dalton had eight weeks of training before taking a multiple-choice, open-book test with 100 questions about light and optics, physics, conventional aircraft and what's called "the UFO experience."

Among other things, the test asks for the name of the president who claimed to have seen a UFO, the name of the pilot whose 1947 UFO sighting prompted the term "flying saucer," and the year an inauguration shared headlines with UFO sightings.

The answers: Jimmy Carter, Kenneth Arnold and 1952.

Dalton says he saw a UFO when he was a child and for years was haunted by a recurring dream of a mysterious "wheel." Seeing the movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* made him think the "wheel" might be the underside of an alien craft.

It was after a rash of UFO sightings in the Southeast in 1973 that Dalton asked himself, "Is anybody doing anything? Is anybody writing anything? I couldn't find an answer. I had a gut feeling there was more. You couldn't write it off. I figured being an investigator I would find out some answers."

Another MUFON member, physicist Willie Smith of Longwood, Fla., has spent the last 18

months compiling a computer listing of "exceptional" UFO sightings.

"This has not been done before," he says, explaining that only a fraction of sightings are good enough to get listed on his computer.

"What we have been doing is building a database with no conclusions," he says.

Ware thinks it's time MUFON goes on record. The group's charter says it's dedicated to finding out if UFOs are spacecraft controlled by alien intelligence or unknown physical or psychological manifestations.

Ware says published statements by a majority of MUFON board members indicate they would agree that "at least some UFOs are spaceships controlled by advanced intelligence." He thinks it's time to find out where they come from and how they got here.

In light of that, Ware has prepared a resolution noting that millions of people have seen UFOs and that some have fired on them. The resolution says "UFO occupants" have shown no hostility, and resolves "not to shoot at UFOs no matter how strange they appear or how frightened I may be."