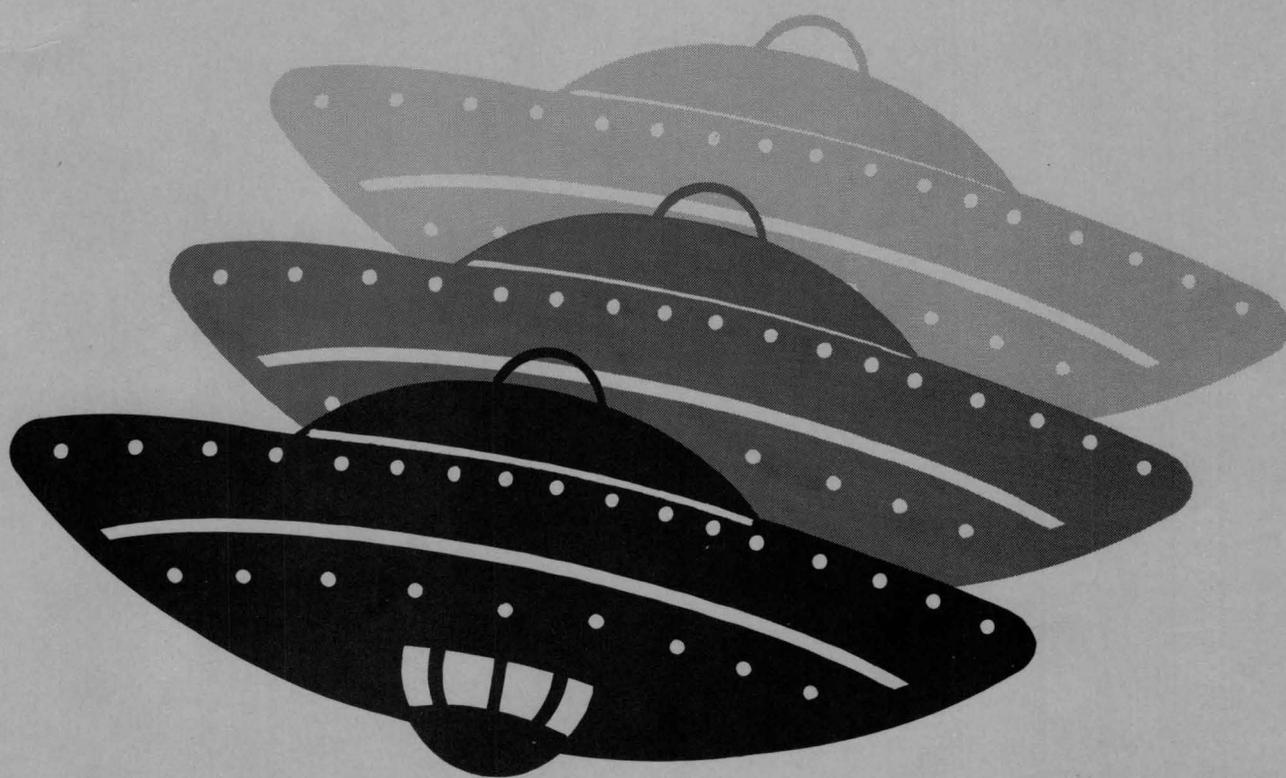


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UFO RETURN ³¹²⁸ SPARKS NEW Report by LYNDEN BARBER MYSTERY

LEICESTER MERCURY
DEC. 2 1985

³¹²⁹ Throwing a light on UFO

The Leicester UFO Investigation Centre, based at 28 Willow Brook Road, Leicester, are conducting inquiries into strange goings on in the sky.

Many people have reported strange flashing lights in the skies above the county and it has nothing to do with Halleys Comet.

Apparently since early August there have been many sightings of a triangular shaped object with unusual lights.

According to the centre among the witnesses who have seen the strange object were two police officers who noticed the peculiar lights at Long Clawson on September 27.

Reported sightings have also come from Kirby Bel-lars and Huncote and the

centre claims that the recent sightings are very similar to the 67 reported sightings on October 23, 1978 over the sky in western Leicestershire and Staffordshire.

investigations have shown that the object could not have been a civilian aircraft or a military craft the public are aware of.

So what is it? And, indeed, where is it? If you have spotted such a craft the people at the Leicester UFO Investigation Centre would like to hear from you, or ET, or whoever.

A winter visitor has returned to the woods near Windley for the third successive year and its antics are alarming and puzzling the nearby residents.

Each night this week a UFO of uncertain size and situation, has appeared on the far horizon to Mrs Marian Thomson, and her husband John at their home at Carr View, Windley. Even Mrs Thomson's father, Mr Taylor of Brook Farm — a self confessed sceptic — has found himself rattling off in his Land Rover in an attempt to investigate the phenomenon.

At about 9 pm the object has appeared above the woods in the glow of the Richard Lees premises at Weston Underwood — but it could be a considerable distance beyond as it makes no sound, says Mrs Thomson.

It shows very brilliant white lights which binoculars reveal as beams coming from an uncertain source and it moves very fast — much too fast for a helicopter or any conventional aircraft.

In recent years, Mrs Thomson reported the object had been seen in the early hours of the morning. During its present visitation it was visible for 20 minutes to half an hour.

Once a year it came at Christmas time but her family were afraid to say anything to neighbours in case they thought they had had too much seasonal spirit.

A spokesman for Richard Lees said that while work continued on site until 10 pm there was no unusual activity which might account for the sighting.

NOV 24 1985

OBSESSIONS

They will come from outer space

Lord Clancarty believes our extraterrestrial cousins will beam down any day, and, as he told David Jones, he looks forward to offering them a drink

under the circumstances, be much more appropriate.

Lord Clancarty has it on the very best authority that when, back in the 50s, a delegation embarked from five spacecraft to confer with President Eisenhower in the desert – not far from where Steven Spielberg subsequently shot scenes for *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* – they were wearing one-piece suits of the sort worn by motorcycle despatch riders. It was as a consequence of this meeting that Eisenhower came to the conclusion, reports the Earl, that the aliens were so far in advance of us that knowledge of their very existence must be kept from the lower orders lest we, like sheep, panic.

Instead, it was decided to embark on a very gradual education programme, so that we might all slowly come to the realisation that our remote ancestors did not, as Charles Darwin had suggested, resemble a scaled-down version of King Kong. This education programme, sanctioned by the US Government and entrusted to Hollywood, would explain some if not all of the trashy UFO movies made 30 years ago and now recycled on Channel 4.

It would also explain *Close Encounters* and *ET*, both brilliant propaganda exercises, the Earl believes, designed to convince us that there is no particular cause for alarm. Of the numerous groups of alien observers, he is convinced, only one has displayed any sign of hostility and it is on the cards that a delegation will sooner or later turn up, on Lord Clancarty's invitation, at the House of Lords. Then, no doubt, these importunate ambassadors from outer space, will find themselves hard-put to fend off the rival claims of the

This planet is hollow. Concealed deep within its bowels are numerous bases containing spaceships vulgarly called 'flying saucers', some containing entire cities. There are similar installations on the moon to keep an eye on us. The wonderful creatures who installed these bases are gentle cousins of ours, whose ancestors colonised earth 65,000 years ago. This news is kept from us by a deliberate conspiracy involving President Reagan, the CIA, the KGB, the Ministry of Defence, the Presidents of France and the Soviet Union, the Pope, and Steven Spielberg.

Lord Clancarty, however, has blown the whistle on them. He has irrefutable proof that extraterrestrials are here among us and when you ask him what it is he gives the quite devastating answer, against which there can be no argument: 'You do see a lot of strange people about, don't you?'

William Francis Brinsley Le Poer Trench is the eighth Earl of Clancarty, Baron Kilconnel, Viscount Dunlo, Baron Trench, Viscount Clancarty, Marquess of Heusden and chairman of the House of Lords UFO study group. A good deal of the ancestry behind this noble roll-call allies the Earl to a dazzling collection of warriors, archbishops and conquerors, but the element of his ancestry which principally exercises Lord Clancarty is the extraterrestrial, which he is able to share with the rest of us. Few among us can sit in the House of Lords, but we all come from outer space.

'The earth,' says the Earl, in those tones of aristocratic weariness which come naturally to a man who has been preaching the obvious for years, 'was colonised by space travellers, and we are all descended from them. We all came from different planets originally. That's why there are different races with different coloured skins.'

Lord Clancarty, who is 74, has, alas, been suffering lately from low blood pressure, which is probably the consequence of his being ill-adapted, like the rest of us, to life on this particular planet, since we must presume that the prototype for European man and woman was designed for another environment entirely. Lord Clancarty's countess, however, is inclined, like many wives, to blame the ills of the flesh on indulgence and not on heredity, even from outer space. 'My wife claims it's the drink,' says the Earl, as he offers some rather excellent sherry in crystal glasses.

His conversation is punctuated with the occasional barked 'What?' which is rather what one expects from an elderly Conservative incumbent of the backbenches of the Lords, and quite foreign from the animal bayings we have all grown accustomed to from the radio broadcasts from another place. The shelves to either side of the Adam fireplace in his Belgravia flat are well stocked with exquisite glass and over the fireplace hangs a portrait of the second Earl, who was HM Ambassador to the Hague. Lord Clancarty invites approval of this portrait of his illustrious forebear and indeed it merits approbation but, still, one cannot help reflecting that an extraterrestrial ancestor toggled out in a one-piece metallic space-suit, and perhaps brandishing a ray-gun, would,

CON'T COME FROM OUTER SPACE

DEC 10 1985

UFO armada planning to invade Earth

Commons, who will be pressing them to take light refreshment in that drinking hole specifically set up for outsiders and known as the Strangers' Bar.

'I know about it, you see,' Lord Clancarty explains. He is passionately but quietly intense. 'It's been going on a long time, this business about UFOs. A lot of people don't recognise them, but some do. I have seen them myself. It is a general thing in the world, this disbelieving, and it is all kept quiet, the whole subject. Always has been, probably because they don't want to frighten the public. The Government doesn't want the people to know that there are such things.'

Lord Clancarty is referring here to the notorious refusal of Margaret Thatcher — and James Callaghan, Edward Heath, Harold Wilson, Lord Home, Harold Macmillan and Winston Churchill before her — to declare to the nation the truth surely passed on by our American allies: that ET has long since landed and is among us, and the even more heinous refusal of the MoD to admit that the glowing lights we are always detecting outside the bedroom window in the small hours of Sunday morning (each emitting the most frightful and painful noise) are, in fact, flying saucers.

He has seen them himself, and so has Lady Clancarty. The Countess has only recently seen her first, but it went a long way to dispel the scepticism she had previously felt, in spite of having been married to the Earl for nine years. The fourth Lady Clancarty spotted the object outside the window of their flat not once but several times.

'I did too,' says Lord Clancarty wearily. 'It was fairly big. Unfortunately, it's awfully difficult to describe. They're all a recognised shape, aren't they? Perhaps saucer-shaped, but you can't tell much beyond that.'

It is, of course, possible that it was at last the visitation of the delegation Lord Clancarty has been so long awaiting. Perhaps they were looking for directions to the House of Lords. Perhaps they had intended offering him a lift there, knowing how difficult taxis are to come by. Perhaps they were simply too shy to come in and ask for a glass of sherry. If so, what a pity.

YOU

MARK BURTON



THERE HAS been a staggering increase in the number of UFO sighting around the world.

A N ENORMOUS fleet of UFOs that lit up the night sky may be the vanguard of an alien invasion, warn ... **WARN EXPERTS**

By PETER BEMIDJI

The air-borne armada, twinkling its brightly colored lights, was spotted over northern Italy, reports Umberto Costigliano, one of hundreds who witnessed the spectacular aerial show near the town of Pavia.

'It was stupendous — and terrifying,' he told a freelance journalist. 'It seemed like there were hundreds of ships up there.'

Secret

'I was never sure about UFOs before, but now I am certain. They're real — and they seem to be planning to visit in a big way.'

'I can't see them coming all that way in such large numbers unless they planned to do more than just fly over.'

The sighting follows the revelation that the Italian Ministry of Defense has kept secret a log of nearly 400 well-documented sightings by air force officers over the past four years.

Senior officers believe a far greater number of sightings go unreported — and acknowledge that this most recent sighting will be investigated.

Says General Giuseppe Sabatini: 'We have stressed the importance of immediate, accurate reports, but many pilots are afraid they will be considered unfit for further duties if they speak out.'

The staggering increase in the number of worldwide UFO sightings — and close encounters with aliens — could be an indication that the space beings are at last ready to land.

Dr. Allen Hynek, director of the Center for UFO Studies, points out that the "strangeness index" for such encounters has risen dramatically.

He and other ufologists believe that this upsurge points to the possibility that man and extraterrestrials may communicate.

The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) has collected 2,300 reports of close encounters from around the world dating back more than 40 years.

MUFON's statistics indicate that there were 300 such reports in 1967 and 1,000 in 1975. By 1981, the number had soared to 2,300.

While some observers are convinced that the aliens plan to invade us, others contend that the E.T.s are coming in peace.

Lydia Stalnakar says she's no alien to close encounters of absurd kind

By Bo Emerson
Staff Writer

Being kidnapped by the aliens from Orion wasn't that bad, but the Hollywood types who want to put her experience on film make Lydia Stalnakar nervous.

"Since I started working with the Los Angeles people, I think they're crazier than I am," said the red-headed mother of two. "If they'll stick to the story, OK, but if they get crazy on me, dadgum I'll have to leave the country."

If they stick to the story, they'll have a tale of a woman seized by a friendly dome-headed creature with blue skin and red eyes who plants a tracking device in her hip and gives her the power to "teleport," to heal people and control weather.

Last week, 34 Atlantans paid \$5 each to hear Ms. Stalnakar's account, and some returned the next night, paying \$25 to get healed with powers Ms. Stalnakar said were a gift from the aliens.

Promoting herself as "one of the nation's most publicized and reliable UFO contactees," she came equipped with "Ready for Contact" T-shirts, cassette tapes, buttons and magnetic crosses, on sale in the lobby of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Church. She rented the church for the lectures.

Ms. Stalnakar, 42, was disappointed with the turnout, saying "We lost money this time," but she was happy with the response. The audience murmured its agreement as she discussed spaceships in the Bible, aliens, angels and the role of flying saucers in the coming Battle of Armageddon.

The kidnapping occurred in August 1974, around 9 p.m. on a moonlit evening, Ms. Stalnakar said. She had just closed up shop at her mobile home dealership and was driving north out of Jacksonville on U.S. 1, to check on a prospective customer.

She and a business partner, a "financial executive," saw a bright white light drop out

See SPACE, Page 8-C



NICK ARROYO/Staff

Lydia Stalnakar with paintings of two of the aliens she claims to have met.

From Page 1-C

of the sky, hover above some pine trees and veer off over a dairy farm. They drove down a secondary road to investigate. In what seemed like the next moment, they found themselves waking up on another road, several miles away, with three hours missing from their lives. (She won't reveal the man's name, she said, to protect his privacy.)

She said she began suffering nauseating headaches, nightmares and waking visions, and received telepathic instructions to wear magnetic jewelry and sleep under a pyramid. She consulted a Jacksonville psychiatrist. The psychiatrist, she says, referred her to Dr. James A. Harder, a professor of civil engineering at the University of California and a member of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO), based in Tucson, Ariz.

Harder flew to Florida for many sessions of hypnotic regression that he said uncovered Ms. Stalnakar's memories of the abduction. In a telephone conversation, Harder said he has interviewed hundreds of individuals who claim to have seen or been contacted by UFOs. Ms. Stalnakar's story, he said, "is true beyond a reasonable doubt."

According to Coral Lorenzen, a founding member and secretary-treasurer of APRO, UFO reports vary from year to year, with about 75 to 100 reported last year, but

LYDIA STALNAKER CONT



NICK ARROYO/Staff

Lydia Stalnakar (right) and a member of the audience during a healing service at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Church.

more than 2,000 in 1975. Only a fraction of these observers claim to have contacted or been abducted by aliens, she said, and the honest reports are liberally mixed in with the fabulous. "We've had one heck of a time sorting them out," she said.

Of Ms. Stalnakar, she said, "It appears that she did have an experience," but added, "We were disappointed to find out that she was capitalizing on the experience."

Through advertisements in tabloids such as the *Weekly World News* and the *National Enquirer*, Ms. Stalnakar has marketed nationally the "Cross of Eternal Life," a Christian cross, glued to three magnets and embellished with designs she says came from the interior of the spaceship.

Mrs. Lorenzen discounts any

claims of healing ability, but Ms. Stalnakar does have some satisfied customers. Marie Elizabeth Murphy, a 69-year-old Wesley Chapel, Fla., woman, says a visit last January to one of Ms. Stalnakar's healing sessions straightened her crooked back, and cured her glaucoma and her arthritis.

"I paid my \$30 and it was the best money I ever spent in the world," she said, in a telephone interview. Mrs. Murphy said she was crippled in an automobile accident 11 years ago and confined to a walker. Now, she says, she walks unaid-

ed. "If you come down here," she said, "I'll waltz with you."

An appearance by Ms. Stalnakar on the David Susskind show in the fall of 1979 won some other fans. "She's a terrific showman," said the show's producer, Jean Kennedy.

The showman's story has been purchased by Penny Price, an independent producer based in Los Angeles, who is showing it around to several studios. Ms. Price, who would like to get Sissy Spacek to play the lead, said the movie would combat the negative stereotypes presented in such movies as "Alien" and the television series "V." Her movie would be a way of "healing ideas that people have had about our space brothers and space sisters," she said.

Concerning aliens, some members of her Atlanta audience remained unconvinced. "I think it's a bunch of -----," said church member Jack Reynolds. One young woman, who refused to give her name, took exception to Ms. Stalnakar's prediction that in a coming time of tribulation, the aliens would gather up those who had behaved well and pack them in a floating city, much like that seen in the television series "Battlestar Galactica."

"I don't like this business of the 'innies' and the 'outies,'" she said. "If Jerry Falwell's going up, I'm staying down."

PA LEBANON DAILY NEWS
SEP. 15 1985

Is Big Foot Near Annville?

There's a Big Foot lurking in North Annville Township, according to a Michigan Big Foot expert and a local man who says he saw the creature.

Edward Kreamer, 22, Annville RD 3, said he spotted the creature on Sept. 6, after his girlfriend thought she saw a prowler in the yard at about 12:15 a.m. Kreamer said he ran out onto the porch of his parents' home on Bates Drive and yelled at the creature.

When the creature didn't turn and run, he said, he realized it was not a prowler.

He said the creature was silhouetted against a white fence about 50 yards from the house.

He said it had long arms and an ape-like head, and stood about 6-4. It had sloping shoulders and a very long stride. He said he had it in sight for about 15 seconds and saw it walk upright "for maybe 50 yards."

Wayne King, director of the Michigan-Canadian Big Foot Information Center, Caro, Mich., called *The Daily News* Saturday night to report the sighting. He said he is convinced that it is an authentic sighting.

King had been notified about the sighting by a letter from Kreamer.

SAY 'CHEESE'



This is a real satellite photo. The dark object inside the ring is reported to be an Unidentified Flying Object traveling at 4,500 mph.

Photograph of a UFO is the real thing

AT LAST. FINALLY. Documentary proof of extraterrestrial visitors. Photographic, incontrovertible, unequivocal proof.

Steady, there. Examine the photograph carefully, make a judicious determination. See it?

Right. That's a UFO, and not just a normal shot of a UFO. What that is is the first documented evidence of a UFO that was photographed by a United States satellite and released to the public.

Sit up and look again. This is important.

Now do you see it? That squarish, black thing that looks like either a '49 DeSoto or a rabbit dropping in the lower center of the photo?

No, not the the pornographic shape at the left or the image of St. Thomas Aquinas at top right. The blob in the low center is what we're talking about.

HEY, THIS IS IMPORTANT. The information came via an overnight packet from Anchorage, Alaska. The packet was slugged "Extremely Urgent," and inside, along with the photographs, were several authentication documents proving the veracity of the evidence.

So we're treating it like urgent news.

According to John T. Smith, who acquired the photo in October 1978 during his U.S. Air Force service as a staff communications officer, the shot marks the first time evidence of a genuine unidentified flying object has been released by the government.

And Smith has gone to great lengths and consulted numerous experts to attest to the photo's authenticity.

Consider this one, from Thomas C. Kind, Ph.D., and professor of Geosciences at Murray



Jim Gosney

PHOTOGRAPH OF A UFO IS THE REAL THING CON'T

State University.

"The image in question appears to be the output of a satellite remote sensing device. To the best of my knowledge the information depicted on the image in question is authentic."

(Translation: It's a satellite photograph.)

OR THIS ONE, from B. Ray Knox, professor of geology at Southeast Missouri State University:

"The background terrain appears to match a portion of irregular coastline and associated islands centered approximately 40 kilometers southwest of Vladivostok, U.S.S.R., in the vicinity of latitude 40 N., longitude 131 degrees, 30 minutes E."

(Translation: The photo was taken around Vladivostok.)

Want more proof? OK. Here's the entire testimony of Stephen J. Robertson, proprietor of Robertson's Creative Photography at Cape Girardeau, Mo.

"On the evening of Oct. 30, 1985, I examined an electronic negative image which appears to be a genuine, untampered, unretouched image. In the presence of Dr. Harley Rutledge, Mr.

James S. Bounds, and Mr. John T. Smith, I made a color contact print from the negative, and several black and white contact prints. The prints were not altered or 'doctored' in any way, and in fact I took careful precautions to ensure the highest quality, sharpest prints possible would result.

"From the color contact print, I then exposed a roll of color negative film using high-resolution equipment and strobe lighting to ensure accurate copy negatives."

(Translation: I developed and printed the shots, and didn't mess with them.)

NO, THE OLD H-R is not the first to run the photo. Turns out the Southeast Missourian got first poke at it last Sunday, complete with an interview with Dr. Rutledge, who described the shot as "the most clearly defined shape" of a UFO ever photographed.

Then Smith, who inexplicably held onto the photo for seven years before doing anything about it, got the floor. "What we have here is a semi-rectangular vehicle with no wings climbing out of the earth's atmosphere. I'm not saying it's alien, but it's not ours (the U.S.) and it's not one of theirs (the Soviet Union)."

Smith then said the craft was flying at about 4,000 miles per hour. He did not, however, explain how he determined that speed from a single photograph. It's usually pretty hard to do.

But enough of doubt. There it is, right there in front of you, the first government satellite photograph ever released of an authentic U. F. O. over Vladivostok and zipping along at 4,000 miles per.

(Looks more like a '52 Studebaker when you stare at it for awhile, doesn't it?)

Space aliens are growing huge vegetables in crater

EXAMINER
SEPT 17 1985

UFO ALIENS are growing enormous vegetables in a series of volcanic craters, say government officials.

Numerous reports by residents of Yuriria, Mexico, led authorities to investigate claims that "creatures from another planet" were tending giant vegetables nearly half-a-mile below the earth's surface at the bottom of the craters.

"There was no doubt about what our men found," says Dr. Eduardo Lalo, a government geographer. "There were beets more than six feet tall, cabbages that weighed nearly 55 pounds and yard-wide onions that weighed 30 pounds.

"This region has never been systematically explored, and the locals have always avoided it, saying it was bewitched. Now we are going to determine exactly what makes the plants grow so large."

Jose Arrupe, a prospector in the mountains of central Mexico, says that he has often seen UFOs coming and going in the vicinity of the craters.



"I have been down in the craters, despite what the people say," he adds. "In some there are pools whose waters make you feel young again.

"I have seen the giant plants, too, but I have never actually seen a creature from one of the spaceships."

Jaime Sandoval-Mendoza, a government botanist, says he has no idea why the vegetables grow so big — or who planted them.

"We are analyzing samples in the laboratory now," he adds. "Neither the soil nor the conditions warrant such huge plants. There must be some other factor the aliens can control. It is a secret that could help feed our poor."

— PETER BEMIDJI

UFOs disguise themselves as airplanes, huts

THE WORLD'S most famous victim of a UFO abduction reveals that aliens can disguise their spacecraft as airplanes, helicopters, and even shacks.

The celebrated incident in which Betty Hill and her late husband, Barney,

By PETER BENJAMIN

were taken aboard a UFO 24 years ago inspired countless articles, a book and even a movie.

But that was not the end of Betty's involvement with UFOs.

She still seeks to make contact with ETs — and claims to have had 80 sightings a night.

A few times a week she looks for visitors from space in a field near her home in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

"The best time for sightings," she explains, "is when the temperature plummets to about 20 degrees below zero."

On one visit to the field with her mother and a friend she discovered that UFOs "can disguise themselves as familiar objects: airplanes, helicopters or even shacks."



TWENTY-FOUR YEARS ago the Hills were abducted by a UFO.

Betty and her companions arrived and found a white shack with a peaked roof and a single window. The structure appeared to be made of wood and elevated on wooden pilings.

But as the three approached the shack, ex-

plains Betty, it turned on its base and walked away. They quickly retreated.

The next day when they returned the shack was nowhere to be seen.

"It was never there before," insists Hill, "and it hasn't been there since."

MAGHULL & AINTREE
ADVERTISER
LANCS
NOV 7 1985

Washing
up-then
UFO is
spotted

A DAILY chore turned into an out of this world experience when a Bisham Green mother looked out of the kitchen window to see a strange flying object.

At 4.45 p.m. last Monday, Mrs. Sheila Taylor believes she saw a U.F.O.

"It was getting on for dusk and the sky was clear," said Mrs. Taylor. "I happened to be at the sink and I looked up and saw this thing in the sky. It definitely wasn't a plane. I think it was a U.F.O."

Comet

"My daughter and I watched it because we couldn't believe what we were seeing. It was the same shape as a comet with a long tail on it. It was extremely high up but it was obviously so big. When I first saw it it looked white then as it travelled across the sky it had this orangey appearance."

The family are following up their "sighting" with a U.F.O. expert when they hope to find out more information.



BETTY HILL, seen with her late husband Barney, often sights UFOs.

Window on Nature

Lights That Go Bump In The Night

By LOWELL & KAYE CHRISTIE,
F47246

There's something mysterious going on in the North Carolina mountains. On a clear, moonless night — preferably during the autumn, although another season will do — people see strange, pulsing lights in the sky. Attributed to everything from St. Elmo's Fire to will-o'-the-wisp, UFOs, and fox fire, the lights appear to be about twice the size of a star. Some nights you see nothing; yet, the next night lights pop faster than you can count. People hereabouts call them the Brown Mountain lights.

As their name implies, you find these remarkable lights only on Brown Mountain, which lies about

12 miles northwest of Morganton and a few miles off NC Route 181. There are several viewing sites favored by local people, but the most available spot for tourists is on the Blue Ridge Parkway, a few miles north of the campground at Linville Falls. The National Park Service has even put up a sign telling you which peak is Brown Mountain and when and how to look for the lights.

Just what Brown Mountain lights look like is subject to considerable debate. Some insist they are stationary, pulsating, colored an orange-red, white, or blue. Others claim that the lights zigzag erratically along the crest of the mountain. But there is general agreement on this at least — you'll see more lights after a good hard rain wipes the sky clear of haze and fog.

We'd heard enough about the Brown Mountain lights to make us

eager for some firsthand investigation. We didn't, however, expect to arrive at a time of frequent fogs and minimum visibility. It took several nights of almost falling asleep at our

*They looked a little
like flares
brightening and
then blinking out.
All were essentially
the same color.*

viewing post before we hit upon the ideal combination — clear sky and a moon not scheduled to appear for hours. We sat in the car waiting for night to come.

The black silhouette of Brown Mountain stood out clearly against the more distant mountains when we began to see the occasional light flash just over the crest of the peak. Dull red in color, each light glowed for maybe half a minute before it disappeared.

The darker the sky, the more lights appeared. They looked a little like flares brightening and then blinking out. All were essentially the same color. At times we thought we detected movement, but none of the fountainlike spurts or sidewise slithers we'd been led to expect.

But we kept asking ourselves, what on earth causes the lights? Phosphorescence? Electrical activity in the atmosphere? Automobile lights, or street lights from valley towns?

Having read up on the history of the lights, we knew of several legends tied to their appearance. Romanticists attribute the lights to the soul of an Indian maiden still looking for her warrior lover who was killed in a battle on Brown Mountain hundreds of years ago. Others credit the fires and lanterns of bootleggers making and smuggling booze. Of course, no one has

ever found the still.

Scientific study of the lights didn't start until E.Y. Webb, a congressman from North Carolina, pressured the U.S. Geological Survey to conduct an official investigation. It took the government geologist but a few days to decide that the lights were nothing but locomotive headlights seen over the crest of the mountain.

That assessment may have satisfied Washington, but it didn't impress the natives. The clamor increased.

In 1922, U.S. Geological Survey geologist George Rogers Mansfield spent two weeks in the field, viewed the lights from three different points, and declared that of them 47 percent originated from car headlights, 33 percent from locomotive headlights, 10 percent from fixed lights, and 10 percent from brush fires.

But, argued some, in 1916 a mas-

sive flood put local trains and automobiles out of business — and at the same time all the power lines were down. Yet the Brown Mountain lights still put in their regular appearance. Silence.

And how do you account for the fact that the lights were first reported long before the age of locomotives, automobiles, and community lighting? More silence.

The government expert discounted the idea of will-o'-the-wisps — no marshes on Brown Mountain, fox fire — such lights are too feeble to be seen from a distance, Andes Light and St. Elmo's fire — both produce a different kind of light. And that left, well, locomotives, automobiles, and public lighting.

CONT
NEXT
PAGE

LIGHTS THAT GO
BUMP
CON'T

NY-D32 NANARONECK TIMES
NOV. 23 1985

UFO sightings are just 'plane' fun

And what about the Brown Mountain lights we saw on that crystal June evening? Certainly we saw nothing that could NOT have been caused by lights, either automobile, locomotive, or street lights. That being the case, we could agree with the scientists who mark the case closed. But that still leaves those early reports, the ones that date back to a time before man could produce light stronger than that of a kerosene lamp.

The Brown Mountain light mystery has at least one counterpart, the Marfa Lights of west Texas. Where U.S. Highway 90 runs between Alpine and Marfa, you find 26 miles of relatively uninhabited rangeland peppered with mesquite and cholla cacti. We've been told that you park your motorhome alongside the road and look south. (You can check this out yourself if you're going to Big Bend National Park, since the town of Alpine is just west of Marathon, the major entry point to the park.)

The reports we've read make the lights in these two highly diverse areas sound much the same — but perhaps those of Marfa do a little more traveling around.

In addition to the same explanations as those given for the Brown Mountain lights, Texans credit those around Marfa to Indian ghosts, supernatural forces, or extraterrestrial visitors. And as in North Carolina, and in a world that has answers to questions we haven't thought to ask yet, no one *really* knows what produces these strange and strangely beautiful lights. ■■■

Thousands of eyes turned skyward in Westchester and Putnam counties Thursday night as an illuminated blimp en route to a football game — or a squad of seven small planes flying in formation — or an unidentified flying object — veered through the darkness above.

Police throughout the area said they received dozens of calls reporting sightings of something dark but lit around the edges, shortly after 8 p.m.

The callers offered varied descriptions and theories about what they had seen, but the police had heard it all before.

"It's the ultra-lights," said Trooper Craig Jorgensen of the Somers barracks.

CRAWLEY + DISTRICT
OBSERVER, SUSSEX
DEC. 4 1985 LON.

HILLSIDE 3128

A VERY thought provoking evening was enjoyed by members of the Hillside Women's Club, when a Mr Peter Wain gave a talk entitled "UFO's and other mystical bodies." Mr Wain emphasised that an open mind on this subject was essential.

He said it was important not to regard all supposed sightings as UFO's, as there were so many other possible explanations for sightings, such as weather balloons, meteors, aircraft, etc, but nevertheless this still left about ten

per cent of experiences still unexplained.

Mr Wain is himself a member of "BUFORA" which stands for British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association, which was formed in 1964 and has meetings once a month in London. The popular term, Flying Saucer, was coined as far back as 1947, when a Mr K. Arnold saw seven shining silver discs in the sky and described them as looking like up-turned saucers. Since then there have been frequent outbreaks of sightings and Mr Wain described two strange phenomena he had himself experienced.

A lively discussion followed Mr Wain's talk, in which mention was made of the report a few weeks ago in a local paper, of two policemen who had witnessed what they described as a large circular object about a mile in diameter, hovering over the car park of the Starlight Bingo Hall.

"They put their lights on and fly in formation, and they get their kicks by getting everybody excited."

"It's a small group of planes flying in formation," a Bedford police officer reported. "It's the same old thing."

Police said many drivers pulled off the roads to watch the "UFO" pass overhead. It was seen in municipalities in all corners of the county, including Ossining, Harrison, Tuckahoe and Peekskill.

Lenny Serratore, an airport coordinator at the Westchester County Airport, didn't know where the object or objects came from. "It didn't take off from here, I can assure you of that," he said.

A Greenburgh police officer reported that, "Some media group called, and they confirmed that it was a blimp — probably going to a football game this weekend." He could not name the media group.

"I was disappointed," the unidentified officer said. "I had hoped it was the real thing. Twenty years on the job, and I've never seen a UFO. I think I'm entitled."

— Keith Eddings

Larry
Bonko



UFO sighting a bonus for Godspeeders

The men who sailed the Godspeed from England to Jamestown this year saw more than frisky dolphins and seamen who shared beer with them.

The crew of the Godspeed spotted an unidentified flying object. A UFO.

Sounds like a story the National Enquirer would kill for.

"Aliens Ambush Wooden Ship on High Seas."

The Godspeed's radioman, Neil Tanner, mentioned the sighting to me the other day, not long after the Godspeed's voyage ended. It took seven months.

Tanner and his colleagues re-enacted the 1607 sailing of the Godspeed I to the new world. We expected them in July. They got here in October.

If the settlers were as slow arriving here as Tanner and the others, we might be speaking Algonkian today instead of English. The Godspeed in 1985 was bedeviled by light trade winds and late-summer storms in the Atlantic.

It was during the last leg of the voyage — from the Bahamas to Jamestown — that Tanner saw the UFO. He was on watch with three other crewmen.

"We saw a flash of white lights in the night sky above the ship's stern quarter," he said. "The lights darted across the sky. Then they stopped and started up again. They moved up and down, forwards and backwards. Revolving around this quick flash of white light was another light, a slowly-spinning red light.

"The sighting lasted for about 10 minutes. Eventually the lights faded way off into the distance and disappeared," Tanner said.

Those who were on watch at the time roused their mates from their bunks. Tanner summoned the ship's doctor, Dr. James Barton, up on deck.

"I wanted a medical man to verify that we were not crazy out of our heads," Tanner said. "We had a classic UFO sighting."

The Godspeed was somewhere off the coast of Florida when the UFO popped up. Was it sailing then in the Bermuda Triangle, that witches' cauldron of queer sightings and unexplained disappearances?

Tanner believes that the Godspeed was well outside the Bermuda Triangle. Too bad. It would have made a terrific story. "Aliens Ambush Virginians Inside the

Bermuda Triangle."

Was it a helicopter, jet fighter or some other military aircraft that Tanner and the others saw on watch that night? "I can't say. I don't know," he said.

"I'm putting it down in my book as a UFO."

Tanner's "book" is a thick one. He kept a log of the voyage from its beginning last April 30 to its finish late in October. Tanner, a Virginia Beach man who today lives with his parents on Gwynn's Island in Mathews County, let nothing pass unnoticed.

His log tells of the time when the heavy breathing of a manatee (an aquatic mammal) gave the watchstanders a fright.

He recorded the day when a Navy frigate, the Robert G. Bradley, pulled alongside the Godspeed and left a few cases of Lowenbrau with the crew.

Tanner noted curious seamen and passengers from other ships that steered a course close to the Godspeed. "Perhaps they thought we were a ghost ship liberated from the 17th century," he said. "They stopped to look at us and then we looked at them looking at us."

The dolphins were interested, too.

"They often turned on their sides and looked you right in the eye."

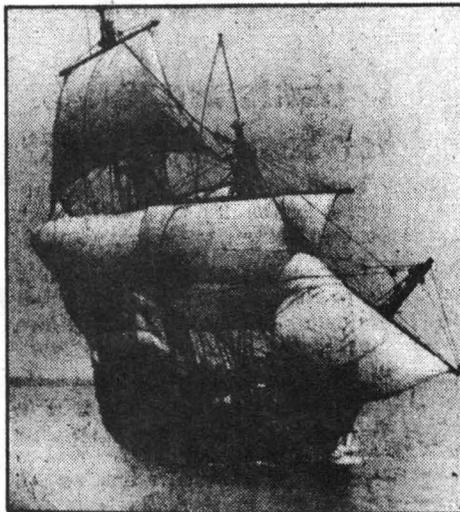
It was a voyage of 6,300 miles. "For the first 6,000 miles, we trolled and trolled and caught nothing," he said. Toward the end of the voyage, the fishing improved. Tanner said that the crew ate well at all times.

Throughout the voyage, Tanner craved steamed crabs.

"And female companionship," the bachelor said.

He was one of four in the crew to sign on in the beginning and stay until it concluded. "I was determined to stick it out," he said. "They would have had to drag me off the ship."

And what of talk of tension between the crew and the Godspeed's first captain, George Salley? "All blown out of proportion," Tanner said, home from a voyage that at times appeared to have been charted in the Twilight Zone.

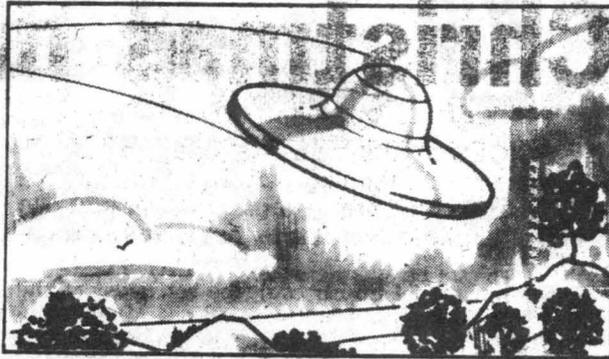


AP photo

The Godspeed under sail

UFO buzzes home of Death Wish star

ACTRESS JILL IRELAND reveals that a UFO buzzed the palatial mansion she shares with her actor husband Charles Bronson.



ARTIST CONCEPTION of UFO that flew over the Bronson home.

Jill was sitting on the veranda with her youngest child, Zuleika, and their nanny when she noticed something in the sky. Charles was away shooting a film

"My eyes suddenly drifted to a bright blue patch of sky," she said in a telephone interview. "Something up there, which had been reflecting the rays of the sun, caught my attention."

The object appeared to be round, with "a dome or tower on top." Jill at first thought it might be a balloon used to take atmospheric measurements and readings, but the object's movements ruled out that possibility.

"It just went up and up — and very fast," explains Jill, "and shortly it simply vanished from sight."

She believes that it may have been a UFO — and her husband supported her claim.

"If Jill says there was something strange in the sky, I see no reason not to take her at her word," said Charles.

Jill's belief in the possibility that UFOs exist — and visit Earth — is not so unusual given her interest in reincarnation. She is convinced that she and Charles were together in a former life.

"One's soul never dies," added Jill. "I believe that we are all reborn. If we have been good, the soul is reborn in the body of another person."

"I believe that we are all reborn. If we have been good, the soul is reborn in the body of another person."

Although Jill is certain that their relationship began generations ago, the possibility that she and Charles would be together in this life seemed very

Charles Bronson's actress wife, Jill Ireland, describes craft

slight when they first met.

Charles was in the process of divorcing his first wife, Harriet, after 16 years of marriage.

Jill was still married to actor David McCallum, who had become Charles' friend when they made the film *The Great Escape* together.

Yet slowly and surely Charles and Jill, who

share a common love of painting, fell in love. Although Charles doesn't share Jill's belief in predestined romance, he knew that he and Jill were meant to be together.

He is reported to have announced to McCallum: "I'm going to marry your wife."

—TIMOTHY GREEN BECKLEY

IL- CHICAGO SUN TIMES
DEC. 18 1985

Hynek screens best of UFO sightings

What happens if you ask UFO hunter J. Allen Hynek to take you to his leader?

He'll show you his IBM personal computer. That's where the 75-year-old scientist analyzes "the best" of UFO sightings as he recuperates from recent surgery for a brain tumor.

The former Northwestern University astronomer has given up

plans to head a new research center and is devoting his time to UNICAT, a computerized file of "kitchen-tested" sightings that he hopes to turn into a book.

"One can defend any one of those cases . . . I'd be able to go to Congress on them," he says from his Arizona home, where he's looking for patterns in the reports with help from Florida physicist Willy

Smith. Only 500 are included so far, out of more than 100,000 on record at the Glenview Center for UFO Studies.

Among sightings in Hynek's data base are two of the best authenticated reports of "boomerang" UFOs reported on the East Coast in 1984.

Any publicity-shy saucers will cross his software at their peril.

Soviets holding starship crew

Soviet researchers rescued nine injured space aliens from the burned wreckage of a starship and are now studying them at a top-secret facility near Moscow, classified documents show.

The smuggled report surfaced in Yugoslavia seven weeks after the fiery crash near the Siberian port city of Nyda, and has been authenticated by dissident scientists in the U.S.S.R., Yugoslavian sources confirmed.

According to the report, the crash and recovery of the alien survivors followed a week of unprecedented UFO activity in Siberia. Crash casualties reportedly were high. But the survivors — though badly burned — appeared to be recovering with astonishing speed.

The creatures were described as looking like human children with three shocking exceptions — they seem to be sexless, are covered with microscopic, flesh-colored scales and have no mouths.

A Yugoslavian biophysicist told reporters that the Soviets were prepared to spend millions on the research effort.

"The documents I received from friends in the U.S.S.R. make it clear that Soviet priorities are, one, to nurse the aliens back to health, and two, to establish some means of communication," said the scientist, who refused to identify himself beyond the code name "Zikovic."

Classified UFO report reveals . . .

"There is evidence, even in the preliminary report, that they were well on their way to accomplishing both objectives. The aliens were said to be both durable and cooperative."

There had been no verbal communication between the Soviets and aliens at the time the report was written, said Zikovic. But the researchers suggested that the creatures were capable of reading minds.

"The report cites two instances in which the aliens

opened doors for members of the medical team simply by looking in the appropriate direction," he said.

"In both instances, the doctors said they had given no in-

dication that they were going to leave the room but had been thinking about it."

Zikovic said several portions of the report had been blacked out, including sec-

tions on the internal makeup of the aliens and their diet.

There was a single paragraph concerning the wreckage of the aliens' spaceship, which indicated the Soviets had recovered and were testing pieces of an incredibly light and near-indestructible metal. Possible causes for the crash were not discussed, Zikovic said.

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UFO sighting reports aren't so far-fetched

By George Hesselberg
Of The State Journal

I know the sister of a woman who saw a flying object, in Madison.

The woman doesn't call it a "UFO" because she certainly identified it as a flying object.

The woman I know is a quiet, somber, serious sort of person — traits she says she shares with her sister, the FO sighter. She is certainly not, to put it bluntly, a crackpot.

But the media have implied as much, sort of, in reporting her sighting. In this newspaper, for example, the brief story of her sighting was coupled with a headline that read: "Oh, oh, UFO: Two are sighted here." And the first line of the story was "Fade in with the tune from Twilight Zone."

So. Not because her sister knows me, but because the story is indeed strange and so detailed, here is the woman's own account of what she saw:

Street Scenes

"It is after 11 p.m. on Nov. 19. The streets are deserted and all the houses dark. The only light comes from my car's headlights and a street light.

"Three lights above a row of trees, next to the East Madison Baptist Church (on Milwaukee Street), catch my eye. I assume they are the lights on a helicopter. The craft is descending towards a house on the north side of the street, and is now 10 feet above the road.

"I was curious, because if the craft continued on its present course it would crash into the house. So I decided to pull over to the curb, never taking my eyes off the lights.

"Surprisingly, it makes a sharp and graceful 90-degree turn just short of the curb. Now moving towards me, it rises slightly in the middle of the block. Ascending straight up, several

feet in front of my car, the craft avoids hitting the powerlines.

"The street light illuminates one side and I can now make out its shape and color.

"The craft is triangular, about 12 feet in length and black. A light shines from the narrow nose. The body gradually widens but remains trim. Too trim for a person to be comfortably seated. A wide silver streak extends from the nose to the tail. The view is partially obstructed by a light. There are no wings, propellers or visible engines, and the craft moves in complete silence.

"It is not an aircraft and I continue to watch in complete fascination.

"Sweeping north, the craft hovers 12 to 15 feet above a house. The rear of the craft, about half the width of

the roof, now faces me.

"Two white lights flank the rear and a small red light is near the light on the right. Rectangular white lights flash on near the top and are blinking in rapid succession. The lights are moving in a seemingly circular motion. The bottom is slightly convex. The motion of the lights and the shape of the craft give it a 'flying saucer' appearance.

"I was frightened, so I left and called the Madison Police Department.

"After giving the description to the officer, he mentioned he had seen something similar about 12 years ago, and he asked me to draw what I had seen.

"A check was made to see if anything had been picked up by radar at

the Dane County Airport. Radar was not in operation at the time of the sighting, and I was told that radar would not have picked up anything at that height and it can easily be avoided."

The woman's story might have ended there, had not a fellow named John, a state employee, been driving on Highway CV near Chase Lumber at about 5 p.m. Nov. 22, three nights later. This is in the same general area where the woman had sighted the FO.

The man saw three white lights hovering 20 to 30 feet above a farmhouse, and he, too, thought he was watching a helicopter.

"Then I realized I didn't know what it was," he said, and described a craft that was roughly triangular, with its bottom sloped into contours.

He said it was noiseless and disappeared when he got out of his car to investigate.

A more thorough description he later provided included details that the woman also saw.

Sgt. Ray Warner, who calls himself a "born skeptic," and who saw a UFO 10 years ago, talked to the woman.

"She was real rational. She definitely saw something, I don't know what, but she saw something," said Warner.

None of the three, the woman, the man or the sergeant, is a crackpot. And the two FO sighters wanted to remain unidentified.

Fade out, to the tune of "Something happening here, just what it is, C ain't exactly clear . . ."

SEARCHING FOR STARMEN

By BILL SMITH

BOULDER — Nov. 10, 1981.

The portrait evolving on Michael's sketchbook never will hang in a gallery, even though the charcoal strokes are those of a talented impressionist. Depicted is a standing humanoid, its nightmarish features clearly alien in origin. The artist draws feverishly — but not from model or memory. Only a deep hypnotic state can unlock that image trapped in his unconscious, haunting him for nearly a year.

If awakened from the trance, Michael could easily retrace the drive with his wife, Mary, to their Longmont home a year past on Nov. 19. The couple also could describe the intense beam of blue light which "locked onto the car," somehow lifting the rear wheels into the night air. However, neither would be able to account for the hour of missing time that followed, nor the odd rectangular mark found later on Mary's abdomen.

Michael's guide in the the hypnosis session, Richard Sigismond, silently observes the artwork from a corner of the dim room. Linda Moulton Howe (the special projects chief for KMGH-TV, Denver) logs on a tape recorder the artist's rambling remarks about what may, or may not, have been a "close encounter of the third kind."

Michael talks of a large dome-shaped object shrouded in mist. By a doorway stands "a strange looking person," wearing gold-colored cloth of some unusual design. The head is "long ... bald, with grey skin." Adding texture to a thin, claw-like hand, the artist mentions the absence of a thumb. His concentration is keen, thanks to Sigismond's suggestion that he only see the drawing and the materials. Nevertheless, the image seems to provoke Michael: one moment, he buries his head in his arms, the next, he shouts at the portrait, "Get the bastard!"

Several other drawings come out of the session, Michael's fourth. One illustrates a long ramp, apparently made of light, which extends from a saucer-shaped object. Another shows an examination table, from which Michael says he lay "naked as a jail bird," as a light floated overhead. He recalls being separated from Mary and then hearing her scream from the far side of the craft's glowing interior. Those surfacing memories merge with his present state of reality. The entity is in tune with his mind, he says, adding, "He knows everything

**Boulder's
Richard Sigismond has
seen grotesque cattle
mutilations, heard the
stories of scared
witnesses and even,
he says, had two close
encounters. That's why
he is considered one of
the country's foremost
UFOlogists.**

I'm doing and thinking. He's *picking* my mind."

The session over, Sigismond guides Michael from the trance only after Howe conceals the drawings, in case the images might prove too shocking. Even so, reliving the experience in deep trance so unnerves the subject, that a year will pass before he returns for a therapeutic program of post-hypnotic suggestions permitting gradual recall.

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Michael never learns that his sketched figure — the first portrait of a UFO-naut by a professional artist, claims Sigismund — bears a marked resemblance to beings in photographs seen only by those “on the cutting edge of UFO research.” Property of Len Stringfield (author of the UFO classic, “Situation Red”), those pictures show burned cadavers of creatures that supposedly died in a 1950s UFO crash at Los Alamos Atomic Energy Commission Center in New Mexico. Rumor has it, says Sigismund, that the bodies are stored in cryogenic cases at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, or CIA Headquarters at Langley.

Extraterrestrials sniffing out our own backyard? Government cover-ups? Such talk is not what one might expect from Richard Sigismund, described by his acquaintances as serene, oftentimes eloquent. Born near Niagara Falls and residing in Boulder for the last 25 years, he looks every bit the philosopher with his bald pate, silver-white beard and tweed attire.

His academic training in psychology and anthropology includes a bachelor's degree from SUNY at Buffalo and graduate studies at CU. Bookshelves lining every wall in his home suggest a life-long process of self-education in fields of quantum physics, geology, political theory, fine arts and metaphysics.

Perhaps it is precisely that eclectic background that has motivated the 55-year-old Sigismund to involve himself with this enigmatic business. For three decades, he has tried to unravel a mystery which — like a crime lacking clear-cut motives — may be unsolvable: the UFO phenomenon. His search for answers demands perseverance, as most cases turn out to be misidentified weather balloons, satellites or lenticular clouds. But what hypotheses can be drawn from the truly anomalous aerial events — the 10 percent not explainable by known causes, or the more than 300 reports since 1970 — like Michael and Mary's — that allege encounters with non-humans? The Boulder UFOlogist claims that UFOs do indeed exist and are piloted by intelligent beings from ... elsewhere.

UFOlogist Richard Sigismund shares his research and his thoughts:

ON THE LOOKS OF EXTRATERRESTRIALS

“There is a one-meter tall entity, hairless, large heads. A five-foot group with features one might call Eurasian is reported only occasionally. Nor is the creature with a long spindly body — like the one in Spielberg's movie — reported very often. One group of 3-footers has thick bodies and pumpkin-shaped heads. The beings we call ‘Swedes’ could pass you on the street without being noticed. Then there are the 4½-foot humanoids. They have a grey skin tone, elongated heads, small

protuberances in place of ears, long claw-like hands. This group is reported most often in close encounters of the third kind, including the abduction cases.”

ON FEWER UFO REPORTS:

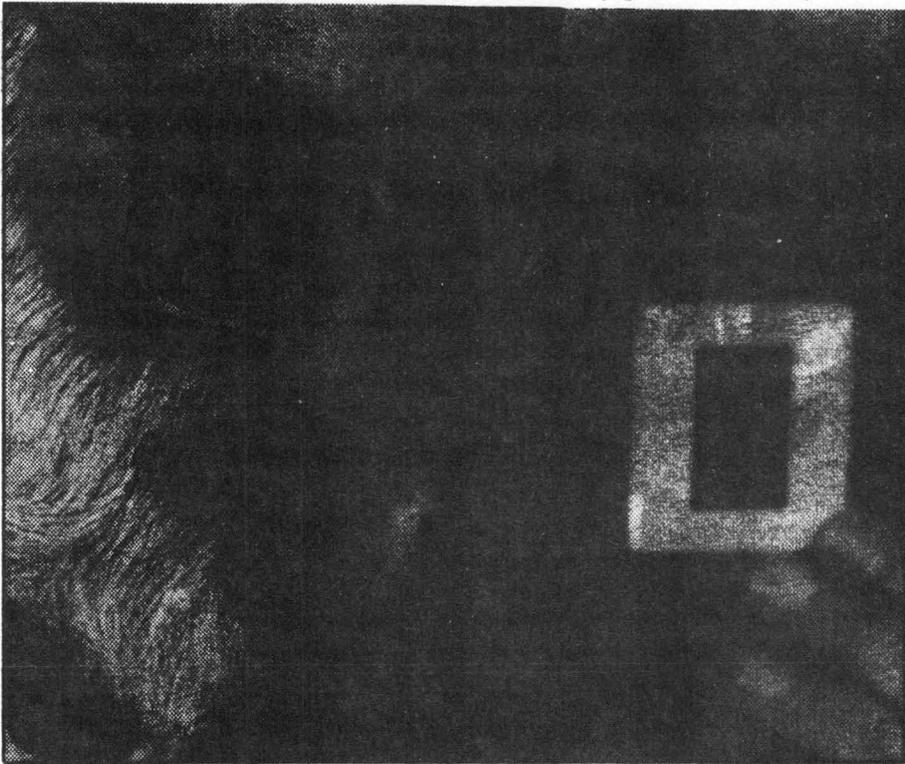
“In the '40s and '50s, the debunkers predicted UFO sightings would be a passing fad. In fact, the phenomenon persists in a most dramatic fashion all over the world, but not in every country at any particular moment. If UFOs are not over Denver where they will make U.S. news, chances are that reports are coming in elsewhere. I have a June 8 report from Antofagasta, Chile, in which hundreds of witnesses saw over their city an enormous disk which caused power outages. In China, the Communist Party newspaper, People's Daily, announced that on June 11, the crew of a Chinese 747 jet encountered a 6-mile wide UFO — which paced them for 2 minutes. Recently, the Soviet Union confirmed a mass sighting on May 30, 1984 of a low-level UFO over the city of Gorki. With credible reports like these, how can you justify the “case for the vanishing UFO?”

“...You don't need thousands of reports a year, if 50 establish the phenomenon's reality. The statement, ‘virtually nothing,’ is the case only if one is monitoring just The Denver Post or Rocky Mountain News. The UFO clipping service might show that a real flurry of activity is going on over Atlanta, but if a local editor doesn't consider it newsworthy, nothing is reported.”

ON THE UTILITY OF UFO RESEARCH:

“Never have we had sufficient researchers, time or money to organize the data to give you a

quantitative answer. Early researchers, trained in the hard sciences, tried to correlate the phenomenon with cyclical patterns, as if they were dealing with inanimate objects like meteors. These attempts to predict (UFO) patterns proved wrong. Today, we can say from the available data that the phenomenon is characterized by waves of activity which cannot be predicted with any reliability. The greatest number of sightings involve lights in the night sky which do



VERN WALKER / Daily Camera

Picturing aliens: Richard Sigismond says he tries to distinguish real sightings from the reports of starry-eyed fanatics.

things lights in the night sky don't ordinarily do, like instantaneous right-angle turns. The computer can tell you the greatest possibility for an encounter is in isolated rural areas. But with all this information, we still don't have a UFO, or an entity to talk to."

ON ALIENS AS REFLECTIONS OF OUR FANTASIES:

"In times of societal stress, humans invent new mythologies in order to find a renewed sense of security; and that, since WWII, this 'myth-making' faculty has given us aerodynamically sophisticated chariots as new forms of gods and angels. The evidence does not support this.

If similar testimony is given by individuals widely separated by

culture, language, religion and geography, then there is an extremely strong scientific probability that what they are reporting is not generated by their own psyches. And UFOs are reported by Australian aborigines, as well as highly trained technicians from France. We have sufficient proof that we are not dealing with modern manifestations of the 'cargo cult.'

Is this a projection of the human mind: a front page Denver Post story, Jan. 19, 1979, titled 'U.S. Reports Visits of UFOs to Bases'? I quote, 'During 2 weeks in 1975, a string of the nation's super-sensitive nuclear missile sites and bomber bases were visited by unidentified, low-flying and elusive objects, according to Defense Department Reports.' Mythologies generally are not tracked on radar, nor are they pursued by fighter planes."

ON GOVERNMENT SECRECY:

"Under the Freedom of Information Act, various groups, including CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy), filed suit against NSA (National Security Agency). We had rumors of 160 top-secret NSA documents on UFOs. Government lawyers filed with the U.S. District Court in D.C. a 21-page affidavit, heavily censored. What was left to

publish in the UFO Reporter were two pages of crossed-out lines, but there was enough to reveal that since 1969, the CIA, FBI, NSA and Air Force have continued to investigate UFOs. Why is the government so secretive about a phenomenon which does not exist? I cannot identify who is responsible, but we seem to have a coverup. The Defense Department is not doing a good job relative to our defense. The problem is the UFOs not only visit Farmer Jones' soybean field, they penetrate our national air space and hover over our military bases."

ON UFOs AS AIR FORCE TEST VEHICLES:

"That is rumored, but unsubstantiated. I would expect attempts to replicate UFOs, since such devices would give us the edge of the Soviets for the next half-century. But no government could produce a device which could do what UFOs do. You would be dealing with radical advances beyond quantum physics, in short, anti-gravity."

ON WHAT UFO RESEARCH NEEDS:

"I am not concerned with outfitting my truck with elaborate equipment so I can race around the countryside in search of UFOs. Give me the full cooperation of the U.S. government, give me time to review their top secret files. Nothing else is needed at this stage of the game."

ON PREPARING THE PUBLIC:

"As a social scientist, I feel it would be unwise to present such information without adequately preparing the public. In our hasty civilization, whenever we contacted a lesser developed society, descending upon them with our sailing ships and sea planes, the resulting cultural shock blew them out of the water. We believe we're so sophisticated that this could not happen to us. That might be so if we are dealing with a society a couple hundred years ahead of us. But suppose that society is 2 million years ahead of us? Education about

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PAGE

GON'T SEARCHING

imminent cultural contact is paramount, but the data must be disseminated gradually so people can assimilate it. Programming of the public should be in the hands of those qualified to understand the effects on a Southern Baptist Minister of irrefutable proof of highly advanced civilizations." ■

— BILL SMITH

EARTH: UNDER SURVEILLANCE

"The minimum hypothesis? UFOs are artifact craft and intelligence-gathering devices created by extremely advanced technologies," he insists. "We speculate the planet is under surveillance by half a dozen societies of unknown origin. Most are extraterrestrial, and some may originate from another dimension or parallel reality."

One person's opinion, to be sure. But he presents a painstaking case for his theories, arming himself with diagrams, sketches and transcripts from his vast files. (Atop his desk is a recent report from an Iranian contact; handwritten in Farsi, it awaits translation.) He is a walking compendium of close encounter investigations, both his own and those documented by other UFO sleuths.

With missionary zeal, he takes his message to any public forum. A popular lecturer, Sigismond relished the chance to speak last year before the National Military Intelligence Association, an organization of returned and active intelligence officers. He is featured in two documentaries, "The UFO Experience" (KPIX-TV, San Francisco) and "Strange Harvest" (Linda Moulton Howe's investigation on cattle mutilations, KMGH-TV, Denver). Peter Boyles has found him a colorful talk show guest, as has Karen Telleen, host of KGNU's "Cabbages and Kings."

"He is spellbinding as an individual, and obviously takes a very scientific approach to his investigations," says Telleen. She recalls that an otherwise good show turned sour for a moment when she made a facetious remark about Sigismond's beautiful gardens. "I asked if the flowers

were arranged as a signal to UFOs, and he shut down quickly, became very defensive."

Nothing can trigger sensitivity in Sigismond as much as when journalists poke fun with him about the "idiot fringe." He refuses any contact with several local UFO clubs. At one group's meetings, you can hear reports of dog fights between Iranian jets and UFOs are peppered with tales of Sasquatch, ghosts and a levitating statue of Blessed Virgin Mary. Another session features Dr. T. Galen Hieronymous, inventor of a "radionic machine," which brings about visits by the "Mother Ship of the Galactic Council."

"Unfortunately, there are a number of quacks in this field," says Sigismond. "Some are simply misguided. Then there are the con artists who

solicit funds from their followers with talks about how our ills will be solved by benign beings from Alpha Centauri. These cults did their damage in the '50s and '60s, but there are very few left."

Just as damaging to the case for UFOs, as debunkers

love to point out, is that 35 years of research have failed to turn up a single physical artifact proving the phenomenon is real. To be sure, thousands of fuzzy photos and film clips have been offered as "incontrovertible proof" of UFOs — so claim banner headlines in the National Enquirer. But the UFO movement's credibility has suffered each time such evidence was identified as nothing more than swamp gas, or when skeptics exposed an outright hoax, as when one publicity hound used trick photography to make a hubcap look like a UFO.

Today, UFO investigators rely on isophotometric analysis to weed out photos that are fakes or IFOs. Even so, the leftovers — pictures of nocturnal lights or silvery objects in daylight that defy explanation — are ignored by the media. Admits Sigismond, it's a dilemma: How can you build an argument for UFOs when the best available evidence involves objects that even scientists can only classify as "unidentifiable?"

Struggling against the UFO movement's public image as a pseudo-science, Sigismond and his colleagues aim to design meaningful ex-

periments and methodology that meet modern scientific standards. An abundance of technical literature and newsletters published by MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) or APRO (Aerial Phenomena Research Organization) set exacting guidelines for UFO research.

While there are no specific prerequisites to join the corps of UFO researchers, says Sigismond, the field includes many scientists, doctors and college professors. "There are many technically trained people like John Schessler, a NASA engineer. His most famous investigation was the 'Cash-Landrom Case.' Two women and a child sustained radiation injuries in a close encounter outside Houston in 1980." Schessler's laboratory analysis confirmed microwave radiation, possibly caused, so he conjectures, by secret military tests of advanced flying systems.

Sigismond is a senior investigator for CUFOS (Center for UFO Studies), founded in 1973 by the "dean of UFOlogy," Dr. J. Allen Hynek. When alerted by the CUFOS Hotline about a sighting, he travels to the location to interview witnesses and examine physical traces. Details of the event — time, duration, location,

weather, trajectory and object description — are documented and forwarded to the Evanston, Ill., headquarters. This data is cross-correlated to detect patterns of UFO activity. (A computer bank at Princeton stores information on over 30,000 UFO cases.)

One CUFOS study, for example, reports that 32 percent of hovering UFOs operate at low level, 45 percent are silent and 17 percent are associated with power disturbances.

"We have an embarrassment of information like this, but we still don't have an entity to talk to," confesses Sigismond. Frustrated by the tediousness of such statistical exercises, but resolute that hard evidence can be returned, he spends up to 30 hours a week on UFO research. Yet he does not earn a penny for his time, and even phone and travel expenses are paid out of his own pocket.

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He earns his livelihood as a mining engineer and President of Aquarius Mining Company, which operates a silver processing plant in Caribou, dormant since the silver crash a couple of years ago. That business provides him with sophisticated equipment for his field investigation of UFOs, including a geiger counter, a magnetometer and ultraviolet black light instruments.

Sigismond has written 25 articles for publications like the International UFO Reporter, and his favorite subject involves investigation in which he has employed hypnotism. Reflecting on the case of Michael and Mary (pseudonyms, the true names and a new West Coast address are on file), he notes the adherence to dozens of classic UFO abductions. The pattern includes seizure of humans aboard a craft, examination by humanoids and telepathic communication with crew members who make assurances of safe return. Invariably, abductees are not reassured, he says. Instead, they are traumatized.

He adamantly denies that Michael or other subjects might be perpetrating hoaxes. "If faked, the individual has to consciously decide to design a hoax and then maintain it under deep hypnosis. It is unlikely that, in this state, an individual can control bodily functions associated with the expression of trauma, including elevated heartbeat, copious tears, body shaking and changes in pallor."

'LITTLE GREEN MEN'

The validity of Sigismond's hypnotism techniques is being challenged by Dr. Alvin Lawson, an English professor at Long Beach State, and Dr. William McCall, a specialist in hypnotism. They hypnotized a person who believed she was abducted and a volunteer who was told to imagine an abduction. Both subjects, in deep trances, described vaguely non-human creatures.

"In general, the imaginary and the 'real' experiences here are identical, which indicates that the narratives aren't real physical experiences," claims Dr. Lawson. "They believe that something happened to them, and I think that something 'real' in psychological terms does happen to these people. But I don't think little green men are doing it."

If so, counters Sigismond, how do you explain separate, but corroborative testimony by two hypnotized subjects?

He agrees, however, that there is danger of contamination of information.

"For example, you've had a close encounter and I place you under hypnosis. You describe this lighted something-or-other in the sky. In my enthusiasm, I say, 'OK, what did this space ship look like?' Notice what I have done. You describe a light. But you are in a suggestible state, and because of my directive question, you reinterpret the light as a space ship. A skilled investigator always uses non-directive questions."

A good case depends not only on the expertise of the investigator, says Sigismond, but also the credibility of the witness. Roughly 11 percent of the adult American population — 15 million people — claim to have wit-

nessed a UFO, according to a 1974 Gallup poll. But how many of those people can distinguish between a UFO and the planet Venus? Sigismond prefers the witnesses who are trained and knowledgeable observers.

A 1976 case near Jicarillo, N.M., involved Sergeant (now Lieutenant) James Bustamanti, then an eight-year veteran of the Highway Patrol. "Highly credible,

held a degree in criminology," says Sigismond. "The officer reported a cigar-shaped craft, 60 to 70 feet long and the size of a submarine, which illuminated the landscape in a brilliant red. The craft played cat and mouse with his cruiser along winding roads, so close that it very much intimidated the officer."

Other cases, no matter how good, simply slip through an investigator's fingers. Sigismond recently interviewed a husband and wife who witnessed a close encounter of the first kind. Driving down the interstate at night, they pulled to the roadbed to study a bright light. He says, "They rolled down the windows and saw an object with bright colored lights at 100 feet elevation. No sound. Barely moving 20 miles an hour. It was the size of two houses." A detailed letter and diagram followed, but the witnesses, both prominent members of a local community, refused to be identified. In an interview with Daily Camera, the husband, a successful businessman, expressed concern that the publicity would make him a laughingstock with his associates.

After 30 years in the field, Sigismond still maintains an intense curiosity, but finds that he functions with a complete sense of detachment about his cases, much like a surgeon conducting an appendectomy for the thousandth time. He has examined grotesque cat-

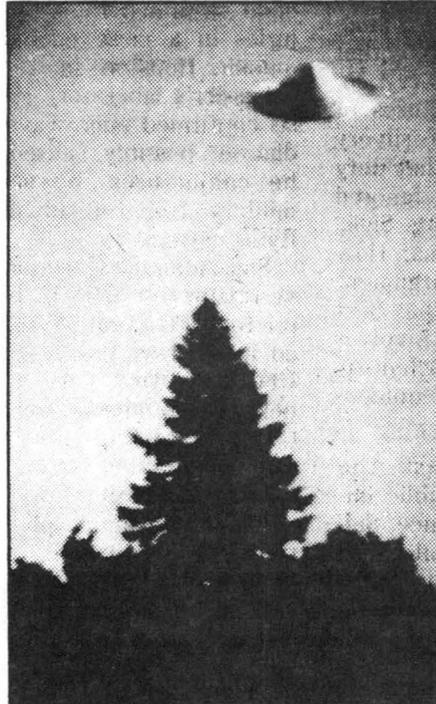
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tle mutilations, listened to traumatized witnesses and even personally experienced two close encounters, yet he denies having "any emotional reactions or feeling or fear, at all." But should he ever meet extraterrestrials, face-to-face, he concedes the possibility that his scientific objectivity might be overcome. He says, "I cannot help but feel that I would be in awe of them, respectful of their advances in physics that we haven't quite yet dreamed of."

That moment of contact might be closer than some people think. After a decade of relative inactivity, UFO reports are on the rise — major sightings involving in some cases thousands of witnesses at the same time. As a result, says Sigismond, "The Soviets have set up a probe on UFOs. France authorized a UFO study under their equivalent of NASA. They recently invited Dr. J. Allen Hynek (CUFOS founder) to Paris to explore an open exchange of data between our countries."

"I would ask them their motivations for coming, how they judge us, or scale us relative to our own change of perspectives since World War II. If mankind can look up to see ourselves as a part of a vaster order of the universe, then perhaps Contact will alter our perspectives. Perhaps this will change human behavior, keeping us from the potential of nuclear catastrophe."

Three cases of uncomfortable encounters



Montana memory: One of Richard Sigismond's own close encounters occurred 45 miles northeast of Missoula and involved a vehicle of some 125 feet in width and 30 feet in thickness.

CASE STUDY: CE-1. Nov. 1975 — Near Sterling, Colo.

Says Bill Jackson, "This was a period of time, in 1974 and 1975, when we had many reports, by ranchers, of strange lights; these were almost always followed by cattle mutilations." Jackson, then a reporter for the Sterling Journal Advocate, and his wife, Cheryl, were returning to their home in Sterling one night, when they spotted a single red light in the sky.

He first assumed it was a small plane, but as it approached, he decided it must be a 747 because of the great number of lights. The craft flew very low to the ground. Jackson stopped the car and got out while Cheryl watched through the windshield. The object made no sound as it closed in and passed overhead at less than 100 feet. The

reporter recalls, "Row after row of lights ... at least a dozen rows ... hundreds and hundreds of lights; red, orange, green, white, all colors ... *that sucker was huge!* I wondered just how that damn thing stayed in the air." The Jacksons covered the last miles to Sterling at top speed.

Jackson, now an editor for the Greeley Tribune, reported the close encounter to Boulder UFologist Richard Sigismond, who detailed the account in an article for the International UFO Reporter in May of 1984.

CASE STUDY: CE-1. July 6, 1967 — 45 Miles Northeast of Missoula, Mont.

Richard Sigismond has had two close encounters, one in Colorado in 1969, and an outstanding case, with corroborating witness, in Montana in 1967. While driving down a mountain road on an overcast day, Sigismond and a friend spotted a fat cigar-shaped object slip beneath the clouds. The craft followed the s-curve of the road and came along broad-side, finally hovering near four large spruce pines. Says Sigismond, "That allowed us to measure its size. It was 125 feet wide and 30 feet thick. We were so close, that we could see there were no welds, no seams, no rivets. It had a soft metal sheen, but I can't say it was metal, because I didn't get a piece of it."

Later, Sigismond and his friend carefully reconstructed what they had witnessed and found that 11 major and minor details of their recollections matched.

CASE STUDY: CE-2. May 1982 — Near Simla, Colo.

Between 1975 and 1981, an estimated 5,000 mutilations of cattle, sheep and horses occurred in the Rockies and the Plains. The phenomenon was already on the decline when Linda Moulton Howe produced her documentary, "Strange Harvest," in 1980. In 1982, the filmmaker was considering an update of the film, when a

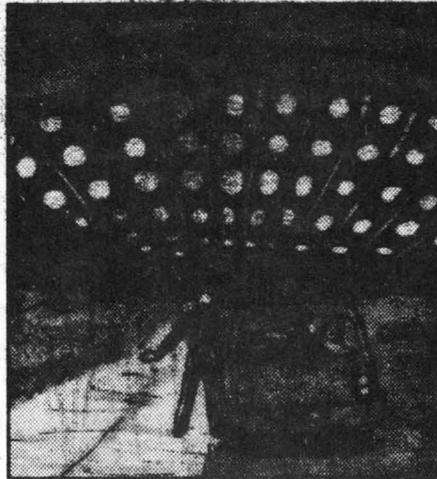
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CON'T

Oh, oh, UFO: Two are sighted here

rancher from Simla, Colo., contacted her about a mutilation of one of his horses. She visited the sight briefly, and then returned six weeks later, accompanied by Richard Sigismond. Conforming to the characteristics of most mutilations, the horse's genitals and anus had been removed, with such skill that the abdominal track had not been disturbed. Says Sigismond, "Decay had begun and maggots had infected one of the haunches. The odor was repugnant. At the same time, the horse was in a remarkable state of preservation." The slow decay was confirmed, both when the rancher cut into the hide with a knife, exposing flesh that "looked like butcher-counter beef," as well as when lab results were returned.

The rancher noted two other unusual factors. The region was full of predators, including coyotes and magpies, yet the horse had remained untouched for six weeks. Also, when the rancher would turn his greyhound dogs loose each morning,



An as-told-to sketch: Reporter Bill Jackson remembers the hundreds and hundreds of glowing lights near Sterling, Colo.

they would race toward the site at top speed, and then "do a remarkable right hand turn to avoid the dead horse."

After a number of years of few reports of animal mutilations, the phenomenon seems to be on the rise again, says Sigismond. According to a recent issue of Ranchland News, serving Elbert and El Paso Counties, four cattle mutilations have been reported in recent weeks. ■



A recent cattle mutilation near Simla, Colo., as pictured in the Ranchland News. Are the mutilations a signal from another civilization?

Fade in with the tune from Twilight Zone.

Two "normal" people have reported seeing triangular-shaped UFOs hovering over homes near the East Side last week.

John, who would like to be described as an emotionally stable state employee, said he was driving home to DeForest shortly after 5 p.m. Friday.

On Highway CV, near Chase Lumber, he said he saw three white lights hovering 20 to 30 feet above a farmhouse.

"At first I thought it was an airplane, then I thought it was a helicopter," he said, "and then I realized I didn't know what it was."

John said the craft was roughly triangular, with its bottom sloped into contours. He said it was noiseless and disappeared when he got out of his car to investigate.

"I'm a little reticent to talk about it — I haven't even told my wife," he said. "It sounds so crazy."

Joe Durkin, a Madison Police spokesman, said his department received a similar report from a Madison woman Nov. 19. Durkin said officers generally don't write reports

after talking to people who claim to have seen UFOs.

"But this woman sounded normal," he said. "We don't see too many reports like this."

The woman said she saw a flying saucer, with a roughly triangular

shape, hovering over a home on Milwaukee Street. She told police it had three white lights below it.

Neither the tower at the Dane County Regional Airport nor an Air National Guard spokesman reported any unusual flying objects.

EXAMINER
JAN 7 1986

Mysterious zone of silence

IT'S CALLED the Zone of Silence — a mysterious area of desert one of the world's top space scientists claimed is an ancient UFO base.

An eerie silence prevails throughout the 111 square-miles of desert, car batteries go dead, and radios won't work.

Bizarre behavior

Mysterious lights dance around, animals display bizarre behavior, weird forms of plant life thrive, and the entire area is littered with strangely shaped objects.

Space pioneer Werner von Braun frankly admitted that it was probably once chosen by aliens from another solar system as the perfect place for a UFO landing site.

Strangely, El Zona del Silencio, — located where the Mexican states of Durango, Coahuila and Chihuahua meet — is on the same parallel as the Bermuda Triangle, and the mysteries that surround it are every bit as baffling.

Take the matter of the *intelligent* meteorite that roared into the earth's atmosphere and came blazing down into the sands of the Zone of Silence in February of 1969.

The behavior of the meteorite astonished scientists all over the world when it actually took evasive actions to avoid hitting a Soviet satellite, and then headed straight for the zone as if it had deliberately chosen it as a landing place.

Researchers who flocked to the area to study the weird meteorite reported that it appears to have

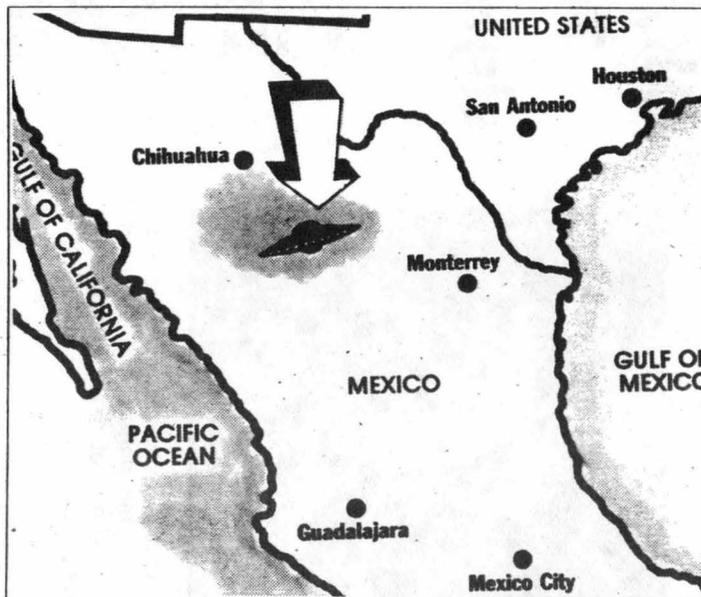
By EDWARD HIRSCH

Top scientists claim it's ancient UFO base

come from far out in space.

It contained "crystalline material older than the solar system," according to Scientific American in its August, 1971 issue. The magazine reported that investigators concluded that it was composed of "virgin planetary material."

The scientists, however,



"ZONE OF SILENCE" borders three Mexican states.

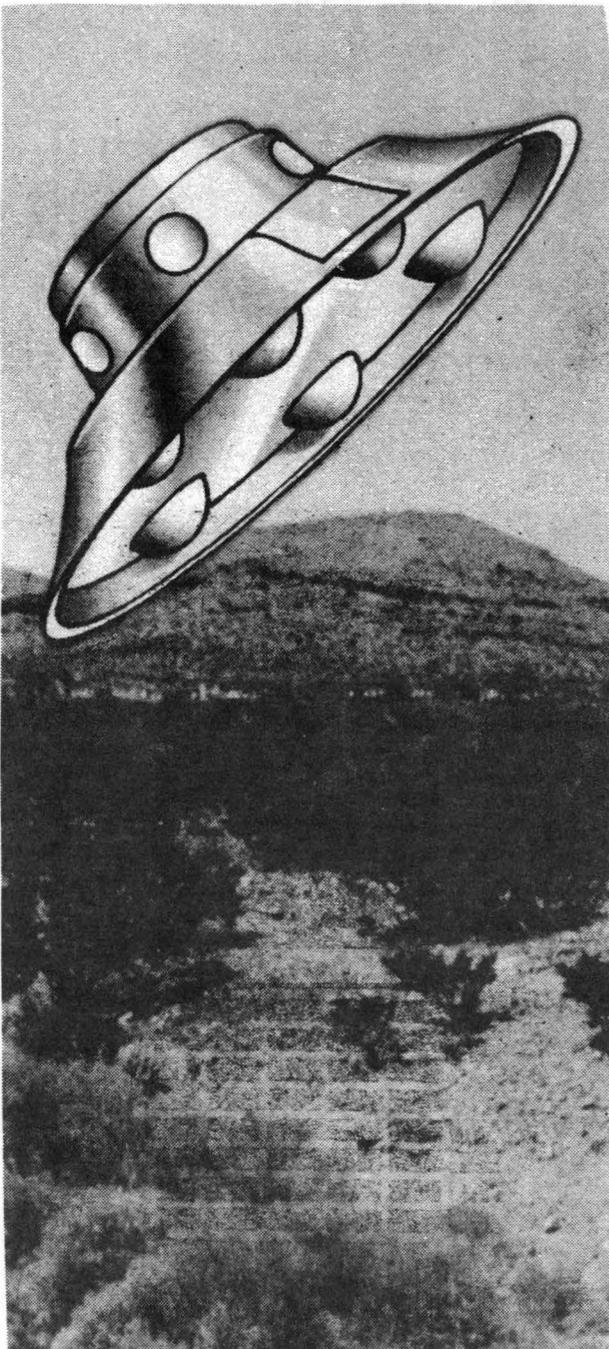
were stumped as to why this mysterious meteorite was, like thousands of other smaller chunks of space debris, drawn to the Zone of Silence, which abounds in strangely shaped meteorite fragments that continually shower the area.

Mystery

Even more puzzling was the strange behavior of a U.S. missile, which on July 11, 1970, inexplicably altered its computer-programmed trajectory by 43 miles and landed smack

in the middle of the zone. Scientists speculate that there is some mysterious material buried in the deep desert which acts like a magnet and pulls in objects from as far away as outer space.

"Famous scientists like Werner von Braun have said that the zone, quite possibly, may have been chosen by extra-terrestrials in the same manner that the United States selected the Sea of Tranquility for its landing base on the moon," according to a one report.



UFOS may have used the zone as a landing base.

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Lectures at RPI—

Investigator Asserts UFOs Worth Concern

By DOMINIC TOM
Gazette Reporter

TROY — Robert Hastings' interest in Unidentified Flying Objects was sparked nearly 20 years ago when he saw five blips on a Montana Air Force base radar screen that seemed to hover over nuclear weapon silos and later streaked away at 5,000 miles per hour.

Since then, Hastings has conducted research into the unexplained world of UFOs and, in lectures across the country, presents his findings and conclusion: that UFOs exist, that they are more than just misperceived natural earth phenomena, and that the American government has carried on a massive cover-up campaign to keep the truth from the public.

Hastings brought his lecture and slide show to more than 200 people at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Thursday night as part of the college's Speaker Forum series.

A self-admitted "Air Force brat," Hastings said he was introduced to UFOs in 1967 when, as a child, he saw five UFOs tracked on radar at Malmstrom Air Force Base, near Great Falls, Mont. His father was stationed there at the time.

"It was immediately apparent these were not conventional aircraft," Hastings said. "They traveled straight up at speeds estimated at 5,000 miles per hour, which is faster than any aircraft in the world — then and now."

And that is the event that piqued Hastings' interest in the unknown world of UFOs.

In 1973, Hastings said he began collecting as much information as he could on UFO sightings. He said his research was made easier in the late 1970s when the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomenon began using the Freedom of Information Act to gather government documents that had been declassified from their original top secret designation.

"These documents indicate that UFOs do indeed exist and that they are neither Russian nor American secret weapons," Hastings said. "The people in high levels of the military were extremely concerned about them."

Hastings maintains that secret investigations of UFOs have been carried out by the military, the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Council but that the results were never voluntarily made public nor did the government even admit it was investigating the unknown objects. Hastings said this was done because government leaders feared that the public's reaction would be one of panic, similar to the wave of hysteria that swept the nation

when Orson Welles broadcast his now famous "War of the Worlds."

To back up his claim of the government's investigation of UFOs, Hastings produced a copy of a December 1952 memo from the then-Office of Scientific Intelligence to the director of the CIA which stated, in part, "At this time, the reports of incidents convince us that there is something going on that must have immediate attention . . . Sightings of unexplained objects at great altitudes and traveling at high speeds in the vicinity of major U.S. defense installations are of such nature that they are not attributable to natural phenomena or known types of aerial vehicles."

The memo included a National Security Council directive dealing with UFOs that called for the CIA to investigate UFOs and to provide information on the program only to "various departments and agencies which have authorized interest."

Another memo, also made public through the Freedom of Information Act and provided by Hastings, detailed a communication between the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the special agent in charge at its San Antonio, Texas, office. The agent, in the 1949 memo, tells the FBI director that intelligence officers of the Army and FBI "have discussed the matter of 'unidentified aircraft,' or 'unidentified aerial phenomena,' otherwise known as 'flying discs,' 'flying saucers,' and 'balls of fire.' This matter is considered top secret by intelligence officers of both the Army and Air Forces." (This latter sentence was underlined in the memo, indicating emphasis on the contents by the agent in charge)

In the same memo, the agent reported sightings over a two-month period of "unexplained phenomena" in the vicinity of the Atomic Energy Commission installation at Los Alamos, N.M. — nine sightings alone during December 1948.

Hastings talked about other incidents concerning UFOs, including military reports of an "aerial dogfight" between American-made jets (piloted by Iranian personnel) and UFOs over Tehran in September 1976 and testimony for UFO researchers from three retired Air Force officers who said the target codes on nuclear missiles stored in silos around the country would become scrambled after UFOs flew over the sites.

NY-SCHENECTADY
GAZETTE

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Perhaps the most chilling evidence of the existence of UFOs presented by Hastings dealt with two memos which infer that the federal government and the military has in its possession at least three UFOs and three alien bodies.

"While these memos are tantalizing," Hastings said, "they also are extremely frustrating because they are so vague. They do not say when the crash happened and give no hint what happened to the craft and the bodies."

One memo, written in March 1950, was sent to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover by the bureau's agent in charge in Washington, D.C. It reads, "An investigator for the Air Forces stated that three so-called flying saucers had been recovered in New Mexico. They were described as being circular in shape with raised center, approximately 50 feet in diameter. Each one was occupied by three bodies of human shape but only 3 feet tall, dressed in metallic cloth of a very fine texture. Each body was bandaged in a manner similar to the blackout suits used by speed flyers and test pilots.

"The saucers were found in New Mexico due to the fact that the government has a very high-powered radar set-up in that area and it is believed the radar interferes with the controlling mechanism of the saucers."

The other document cited by Hastings was a copy of a reply in Hoover's own handwriting to an Air Force request that FBI agents conduct interviews with witnesses of UFO sightings. Hoover wrote that the FBI would be agreeable to such a process if the bureau could see the "recovered discs" and other materials that the Army had previously denied the FBI a chance to inspect.

But there was at least one apparent skeptic in the crowd listening to Hastings; one man sitting quietly in the audience came to the presentation with his face painted green and wore a large pair of sunglasses with a hooded sweatshirt pulled up over the back and top of his head. //

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Did it come from outer space?

Old UFO controversy surfaces in dispute over OC Indian site

By Tom Krattenmaker
 The Register

SANTA ANA — A dispute over Indian artifacts in south Orange County has revived an old mystery involving a San Bernardino County sheriff's deputy, Polaroid snapshots and alleged visitations from outer space.

The photographs — taken by a reserve deputy who since has died — show a saucer-shaped light hanging over an Indian religious site in the Mojave Desert.

They were produced Tuesday by local Gabrielino Indian Chief Jim Velasques to back up claims of his

people's continuing contact with alien astronauts.

On the other hand, sheriff's personnel who remember the episode scoffed Tuesday at that interpretation, saying the saucer shape in the picture is a photographic quirk. And local archaeologists said there is no scientific evidence of such visits to the Indians.

The controversial Indian chief said he decided to go public with "the truth" about his people's religion to prove his point in a developing controversy over an El Toro rock formation.

The 3,000-year-old formation was termed a crude but "brilliant" cal-

endar in an archaeological report released last week. The study was commissioned by a developer constructing homes on the site.

But Velasques, 56, angered that he was not notified when the rocks were unearthed nearly a year ago, says those interpretations violate the sanctity of religious artifacts.

He claims, rather, that the formation symbolizes his ancient ancestors' link to outer space — a link he says is proven by the controversial photographs taken in 1959.

"The reason I brought (the photographs) out was to show the celestial meaning of the (El Toro)

SPACE

FROM B1

archaeology discovery," Velasques said at his Santa Ana home Tuesday.

He said the photographs are his only physical record of contacts with spacecraft, although he claims to have experienced dozens of similar visits at the high-desert site known as Giant Rock, near the town of Landers.

"Had I known the time was coming (to go public), I'd have had my little camera going night and day."

According to accounts by Velasques and a San Bernardino County sheriff's official on duty that day, the pictures were taken in May 1959 by a reserve deputy named Franz Ackerman.

A now-defunct group of UFO hobbyists was holding a sighting conference at Giant Rock that day, said Joe Karr, then a deputy sheriff assigned to help monitor the crowd of several hundred people.

Velasques said he was on hand to address the gathering and request the visitation as his people's ceremonial leader.

"Some people called it a flying-saucer convention, some names not so nice," Karr said from Victorville, where he now heads the sheriff's desert-and-mountain command as a deputy chief.

Karr said he had to leave Giant Rock on a call just before 12:10 p.m., the time the picture was taken. But, he remembers the ensuing controversy over the picture Ackerman took with his Polaroid.

Karr and Velasques said Ackerman denied even seeing the saucer-shaped light, expressing sur-

prise when it appeared in the developing snapshot.

"Franz reportedly took a picture of something," Karr said. "When it developed, there was a little tiny thing in the upper corner. ... If someone has a good imagination, they could say it was a flying saucer." But Karr attributes it to a "flaw in the photographic material."

Velasques, however, calls it plain luck. "The sheriff, he just picked up his camera, focused and as he went to pull the lever, there he got it."

The most detailed account of the episode was printed in the June-July 1959 publication of the gathering's sponsor, an organization called the College of Universal Wisdom.

It, too, said Ackerman never saw the saucer-shaped light, which lasted about 10 seconds. In fact, the article says none of the people in attendance saw the phenomenon except two boys on top of the mountain beside Giant Rock.

The boys, the article said, reported that it came straight down and darted horizontally to the ground "so fast they could hardly follow it."

Annette Ospital, spokeswoman for the Native American Heritage Commission, said from Sacramento Tuesday that she, too, has heard stories about the 1959 pictures.

Constance Cameron, director of an anthropology museum at Cal State Fullerton, said Velasques' explanation of the photographs and El Toro rocks "are not a scientific outlook on life. ... That ancient visitors came from outer space, most archaeologists would say is nonsense."