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Close encounters of the fourth kind?

By Zenia Cleigh
Tribune Staff Writer

THIS IS HOW the former Spring Valley reserve police officer, 29 at the time, told the story:

He was driving home from Alpine about 10:30 p.m. on the night of August 30, 1981, on a lonely road near the Cottonwood Country Club when he saw something that indelibly marked his life.

Hovering 15 feet above the road was a huge, dark, disc-shaped object at least 60 feet wide, about the size of a railroad freight car.

His car came to an instantaneous halt, even though he did not apply the brakes. There was a brilliant glow, as if a continuous flashbulb had gone off in his face. Then, he told investigators, two small creatures removed him from the car.

Not more than 15 minutes later, he found himself back in his moving vehicle. The strange, dark object rose rapidly, shining a beam of white light on the ground around the car in circles. He fired four shots with his service revolver out the left window and drove home wildly at 90 mph, narrowly escaping accident.

He got home clearly terrified, locked the door and grabbed a gun, saying: "They're out there. They're going to get me." Then — the man described by investigators as an extremely stable person with the bearing of a Marine — rolled up on the couch, telling his wife, "I'm crazy. I'm crazy."

But he is not alone.

The telephones have been unusually busy this spring at the headquarters of the country's major organizations devoted to investigating claims of unidentified flying object (UFO) sightings. Both the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) in Seguin, Texas, and the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago have averaged two calls a day from people with experiences they cannot explain.

Said Walt Andrus, international director of MUFON: "Right now we're getting (reports of) so many cases, we can't possibly handle them."

MUFON is an invitation-only or-

THE LATE astronomer J. Allen Hynek, founder of the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, was the man who coined the following definitions of "close encounters" with unidentified flying objects:

- Close encounters of the first kind: sighting of a UFO within 500 feet.
- Close encounters of the second kind: evidence of interaction with the environment — such as burns in a tree branch, scars or burns on a witness, a spooked pet.
- Close encounters of the third kind: sighting of occupants or humanoids in and around a UFO.

And now, UFO researchers have added a new classification.

- Close encounters of the fourth kind: ABDUCTION.

ganization whose 1,500 scientifically oriented members seek to rationally explain UFO experiences and sightings. The group has approximately 40 members in San Diego, headed by a retired chemist for a major aerospace company named Melvin Podell.

Andrus said many of the calls have been sparked by the fact that this spring, three major publishing houses — William Morrow, Atlantic Monthly Press, and Random House — all came out with UFO books, two of which described instances in which human beings say they were abducted by alien visitors.

One such book was the No. 1 non-fiction best seller on the New York Times list for several weeks — Whitley Strieber's "Communion," an attempt by a successful, skeptical author to come to grips with what he claims was his abduction by strange-looking creatures from his remote cabin in upstate New York in 1985.

So far, Strieber has received more than 800 letters from people claiming to have had UFO experiences, some of them similar to his.

A second book, Budd Hopkins' "Intruders: The Incredible Visitations at Copley Woods," is on the best-seller lists of several chain booksellers. It documents stories from "hundreds of otherwise credible people who have described being somehow immobilized in their cars or homes or wherever and then taken by UFO occupants

into landed UFOs for what appears to be a kind of physical examination conducted while the abductee is stretched out upon a table." Extensive tests of a dozen of these people showed a mild paranoia, common to that of a crime victim, to be their only psychological abnormality.

According to Elizabeth Scharlatt,

Hopkins' editor at Random House, "When he goes on radio call-in shows ... the phones start ringing off the hook. There are an awful lot of people who seem to have experienced (encounters with UFOs) — not me, thank God. And for those who haven't, there is maybe a willingness now to consider something that was previously unthinkable."

Of course, the best scientific minds in the country still regard as unthinkable the theory that Earth is being visited by creatures in spaceships from other worlds — the current "take me to your reader" trend notwithstanding.

The fact is, no substantial physical evidence ever has been collected to scientifically justify such a belief. In 1969, the Air Force shut down its UFO investigation Project Blue Book, citing insufficient evidence. From 1947 until 1969, 13,134 UFO sightings were reported to them. Investigators came up with rational explanations for all but 587 of the cases.

CON'T
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FOURTH KIND CONT

But the subject remains endlessly fascinating to many people, so much so that the Federal Aviation Administration began selling information kits through the mail in the wake of an alleged UFO sighting last November by three Japan Air Lines crewmen flying over the Arctic Circle. The packages, available for \$194.30, contained tapes of interviews with crew members, an air controller's statement, four glossy photos of regenerated radar data, and a spaceship drawing by the pilot.

"It's one of the enduring mysteries: Are we alone?" said Jim Landis, Strieber's editor at William Morrow.

And the mystery stays enduring because although there is no concrete evidence to prove the existence of UFOs, there is a large body of shreds of evidence. Not to mention the personal testimony of dozens of otherwise upright citizens, who appear sincerely baffled by what has happened to them.

Said Dennis Myers, manager of HydroClear Water Systems in Santee and a MUFON investigator: "Any court in the land will tell you you can't prove a case without evidence." But, he said, "Those shreds of evidence are enough for us to continue looking at it."

Take the 1981 case of the Spring Valley reserve police officer, who, fearing ridicule, never reported his experience to the local police or press.

His experiences were investigated here by Neil Davis, a successful Rancho Santa Fe physicist, and Eric Herr, an inventor who works for a local electronics firm.

In 1971, Herr, Davis, local MUFON head Podell and more than a dozen other local scientists banded together to develop equipment to aid in the sighting of UFOs. Davis developed a magnetometer for the group, which called itself Precision Monitoring Systems. The device was designed to record unusual magnetic fields six miles away and set off an alarm.

The devices functioned properly, but skies were overcast every time they went off, so no sightings resulted. According to Herr, however, one such unit given to France did result in a sighting, but the film and data taken became the property of the French government and local investigators were not allowed to see it.

Over the years, the group has responded to 150 UFO reports, and narrowed those down to 20 serious investigations. (According to Herr and Podell, there have been no recent local reports.)

When Herr and Davis went to visit the Spring Valley man, he told them that he had made a point of checking his brand new Chevy Malibu before going to bed the night of his UFO experience.

According to Herr and Davis, he found signs of "electromagnetic disturbance" — a phenomenon widely reported by others alleging UFO encounters. The headlamps were dim, the engine was difficult to start, the alternator light would not go out. Magnetic cassette tapes in the car were partially erased. The car had been dirty before the experience, but the front end afterwards was clean. The man's wrists, neck and ankles showed signs of abrasion.

Later, under hypnosis, he refused to describe the creatures or talk about what happened when they took him, saying he had orders not to talk about it. In May, after six years of strained credibility with his neighbors, the man moved to another state for a fresh start.

Herr and Davis also investigated another case that never was reported locally until now. The story goes like this:

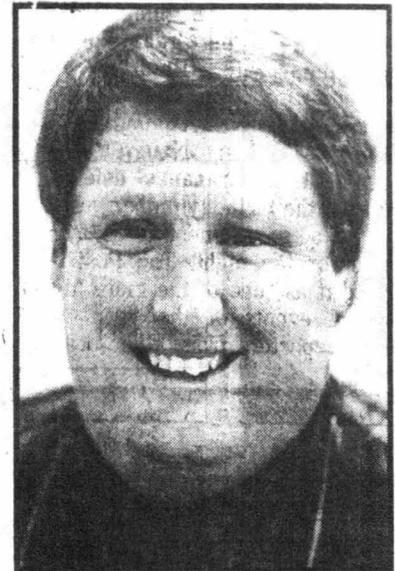
About 7 p.m. on Nov. 16, 1973, two 11-year-old Lemon Grove boys — Daniel Flemming and Richard Thiel — were taking a shortcut through a neighbor's back yard on Crane St. when they came across a dark, disc-shaped object about 12 feet in diameter with a dome on top.

Richard banged the object with his flashlight, and, said Herr: "When he did that, a light came on, brilliant red, and the object, which had been on its legs on the ground, then rose up three or four feet off the ground and a row of green lights began to blink on the periphery.

"The object began rotating and making a whooshing noise. The rate of rotation increased, the red light went out for a moment and came back on, and then the object rose into the air. At this time, the boys tried to run away. One said it was like running under water. The other said it was like running in slow motion. They felt a tingling sensation. Then

the object took off to the south."

Herr and Davis canvassed the neighborhood several days later, and found two adult witnesses who said they had seen a large, lighted object take off to the south from that site. There were nine homes nearby where people reported strong interference with their television sets when the object supposedly took off, around 7:20 p.m.



Dennis Myers
Investigates UFOs

On the site, Herr said, grass was swirled in a circle counterclockwise, and on the ground were two D-shaped holes. According to Herr, the Naval Ocean Systems Center's geomagnetic observatory in La Posta reported an unusual perturbation on its recording magnetometer at 7:20 p.m. that night.

Herr doesn't know where the boys are anymore, but he'd like to find them and ask if they'd be willing to be hypnotized. With the recent blitz of abduction stories — in which those abducted often report losing track of time during the experience — he wonders what went on between the time the boys first came upon the object at 7 p.m. and the time it left at 7:20 p.m.

All of this severely strains normal credulity, of course, especially when Herr, at the request of a reporter, drew a hamburger-shaped object on a piece of paper to represent what the boys said they saw.

But physicist Davis said he was reluctantly forced to this conclusion as the most compelling explanation of the data.

"I'm convinced it's a real phenomenon," he said.

For one thing, both the Spring Valley police officer and the Lemon Grove boys were too sincere for Davis and Herr to write off their experiences as a hoax. "He would have had to be a professionally trained actor" to communicate the level of fright he did, Herr said of the Spring Valley man.

CONT NEXT
PAGE

FOURTH KIND CONT

It could be that those involved in the sightings were victims of some sort of psychological delusion, Davis admits. But this explanation doesn't explain the shreds of physical evidence like the magnetic disarray in the Spring Valley man's car, the abrasions on his body, the swirled grass in Lemon Grove.

"I think these are real extraterrestrial entities that are interacting with our people," said Podell. "I'm satisfied with that."

Said Herr. "I would say that is the most economical observation. ... They are real physical objects — I'm not saying where they're from. Only physical objects produce physical effects."

Myers, who investigated UFO reports in Michigan before moving here, said, "The social behavior of those who've seen a UFO for real is dramatically different from those who are making up a wild story."

"Those who have really experienced something unknown to them, something very traumatic, come off to you that way. You can see it in their eyes, how they talk to you. There's a hesitation, a slow presentation of what they've experienced. Those who are dreaming up a story, it's almost as though they're reading from a script. You can really tell. I find this true about 80 percent of the time."

According to Herr, not every UFO sighting results in such bizarre tales as these. Hoaxes, "the crackpot element," although noisy, account for no more than 5 percent of UFO reports, he said. Eighty percent are "honest mistakes" and misinterpreted natural phenomena. He considers the remaining 15 percent to concern "bona fide alien vehicles — not necessarily extraterrestrial — not our technology."

There are other interpretations. Famed astronomer Carl Sagan, behaviorist B.F. Skinner and biologist Steven Jay Gould formed the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP) several years ago specifically to debunk tales of UFOs and other "fringe scientific claims."

Bill Gray, a philosophy instructor at Grossmont College and a member of San Diego Skeptics, the local affiliate of CSICOP, says he is dismayed at the inability of many people to think critically on the subject of UFOs. He blames people's willingness to believe in the possible reality of UFOs on the media's exploitation of the subject.

Gray said it's not impossible that alien spacecraft and creatures exist. "We're not saying we know it's not true." But, he said, in the absence of any compelling evidence, "It's simply not rational to believe it."

Psychiatrist Alan Bergsma, former head of public affairs for the San Diego Society of Psychiatric Physicians, said he leans toward the explanation that people who report UFO experiences are "prone to a personality disorder that might lend them to this kind of experience. They might be very prone to suggestion or something like that."

Still, Bergsma said, "We can't say these people are wrong. All we can do is speculate on why they might be having that kind of experience. Actually the category this thing falls into is the philosophy of science, what is public knowledge, what is private knowledge and how you can verify disputes about it."

"If a person says God talked to them last night, what can you say? There's no way you can verify it. The only way you can settle disputes in this regard is with a club, not with an argument. That's why it can be dangerous."

Herr, Davis, Podell and Myers are the first to admit they don't have the answers about the UFO phenomenon. They are careful to distinguish between the stories of distraught "abductees" who appear to be normal folks and the semireligious claims of the "contactees."

Local contactees who have aroused skepticism in UFO circles are San Diego's Ruth Norman, head of the Unarius Academy of Science in El Cajon, who has claimed for years that 33 spaceships containing "space brothers" will land on her property in Jamul in 2001.

Also included in this category is the late George Adamski, a theosophist who operated a hamburger stand on Mount Palomar. He entertained La Jolla society matrons in the '30s and claimed in 1952 to have had an encounter in the desert with a

being from Venus come to warn about the ill effects of nuclear radiation. The national UFO community considers his report to have been a hoax.

What the local UFO investigators do seek is careful research and open minds when it comes to the truly unexplainable cases.

"The sightings keep happening.

They don't go away," said Myers.

And they often mark the people who have had them for life.

"I think these people have experienced something very real, something I can't explain, that remains unexplained," Myers said. "And there's a lot of them out there. There are a lot of people who won't talk about it."

STROPSHIRE STAR
WELLINGTON

AUG-25 1987

Documents on UFO find branded as bogus

Widely publicised "top secret" documents supposedly showing that the United States Defence Department recovered a crashed flying saucer and four alien bodies in 1947, are bogus according to a report by a group of sceptics released today.

The report, prepared for the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of claims of the paranormal by Phillip Klass, Washington editor of Aviation Week and a leading debunker of Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) reports, concluded the documents were "clumsy counterfeits."

The committee chairman Paul Kurtz, a philosophy professor said in a statement to reporters: "This represents one of the most deliberate acts of deception ever perpetrated against the news media and the public."

Documents stating that President Harry Truman created a secret unit called Majestic 12 or MJ-12 to study the saucer and dead 4ft aliens, were released to the Press in May by UFO researcher William Moore.

Did the aliens warn Neil Armstrong off the Moon?

THE Americans have captured a crashed UFO (unidentified flying object) with four dead aliens inside it, claims the author of a startling new book about flying saucers, Timothy Good.

American spaceships have constantly been shadowed by UFOs, he says, but astronauts have been forbidden to talk about it. And when astronauts Neil Armstrong and "Buzz" Aldrin stepped on to the Moon in 1969, he claims they were

watched by two huge UFOs that were sitting on the edge of a crater.

Just another flying saucer crank?

Not at all, says Admiral of the Fleet and ex-Chief of Defence Staff Lord Hill-Norton in a powerful foreword to the book.

Lord Hill-Norton denies that Mr Good is "a nut-case" and says he is a thorough researcher whose book is based "soundly upon fact and a great deal of most convincing evidence which I have not seen in print before."

DOCUMENT

Mr Good's claims are so sensational that even he admits at one stage that many readers may "wonder if I have taken leave of my senses." He claims:—

- That he obtained early this year a top secret 1952 American Government document confirming that a UFO crashed in New Mexico in 1947 and that the Americans retrieved the saucer itself and the corpses of "four small human-like beings."

- That each American President is briefed about a secret intelligence group—



Books by **GRAHAM LORD**

Majestic 12—that investigates reports of UFO sightings, then covers them up to prevent public panic.

- That although Neil Armstrong continually denies the report about UFOs on the moon, he has privately confessed that the Americans "were warned off" the Moon by the UFOs and that "there was never any question then of a space station or a Moon city" because "their ships were far superior to ours."

- That in Britain there are so many hundreds of UFO sightings each year that a secret 30-man Ministry of Defence UFO tracking station and research centre at RAF Rudloe Manor in Wiltshire is manned 24 hours a day—and that he was arrested at midnight when he started nosing around the area.

- That Prince Philip believes in UFOs and has told him: "There are many reasons to believe that they do exist. There is so much evidence from reliable witnesses."

Prince Philip is so interested in the subject, says Mr Good, that he regularly receives the magazine *Flying Saucer Review* and ordered a

copy of Mr Good's previous UFO book *George Adamski—The Untold Story*.

His uncle Lord Mountbatten was also fascinated by UFOs and seems to have been convinced that a flying saucer landed on his estate at Broadlands in Hampshire in 1955.

Timothy Good insists they are—and the wild, weird case he argues in **ABOVE TOP SECRET: The Worldwide UFO Cover-up** (Sidgwick, £14.95) includes scores of stories of world wide UFO sightings and contacts (by ordinary mortals, Russians,

SURVIVE

Mountbatten, yet another Admiral of the Fleet and Chief of the Defence Staff, even said of UFOs: "If they really come over in a big way, that may settle the capitalist-communist war. If the human race wishes to survive they may have to band together"—a point that was reiterated two years ago by President Reagan in a conversation with Russian leader Gorbachev at Geneva.

Does Reagan know something sensational about UFOs? Does Gorbachev? Are our leaders hiding something from us all?

Chinese, even President Jimmy Carter) that are sometimes difficult to explain—like the 1984 sighting over Stanmore in Middlesex by no fewer than eight policemen, for as long as two hours.

What to make of it all? I'm still sceptical, but millions aren't. Even Air Chief Marshall Lord Dowding once said of UFOs: "I am convinced that these objects do exist and that they are not manufactured by any nation on Earth."

And as recently as 1985 the Zimbabwe air force scrambled two Hawk jets to try to intercept, in vain, a UFO that was tracked on radar above Bulawayo.

Zimbabwe Air Commodore David Thorne told Mr Good: "As far as my Air Staff are concerned, we believe implicitly that the unexplained UFOs are from some civilization beyond our planet."

POLITICS

Be kind to tricky Dick

HATRED of disgraced ex-president Richard Nixon is still astonishingly widespread, emotional and venomous in America—"the same kind of personal hatred that survivors of Hitler and Stalin in Germany and Russia felt toward their persecutors"—says retired *New York Times* foreign correspondent C L Sulzberger in his serious study of Nixon's place in diplomatic history, **THE WORLD AND RICHARD NIXON** (Simon & Schuster, £16.95).

This rage against the fallen leader is wildly unbalanced, suggests Sulzberger, who rightly believes that despite Nixon's personal and domestic failings he will be judged much more kindly by history as a great foreign affairs statesman, particularly in his dealings with China and Russia.

And he quotes Dr Henry Kissinger's view of Nixon: "He was a great patriot; he deeply believed in America's mission to protect the world's security and freedom."

Secrets In the Saucers

Unidentified Facts Fly at AU Symposium

By Phil McCombs
Washington Post Staff Writer

Shirley A. Coyne says she was only 9 when she was first abducted. "It was the first abduction that we know of. We haven't regressed me any farther than that. I was taken from my bed by two little beings who were two and a half, three feet tall. They came into my bedroom, took me through the living room . . . It was like we were floating, not walking. I had no control. They took me aboard this craft and gave me an examination."

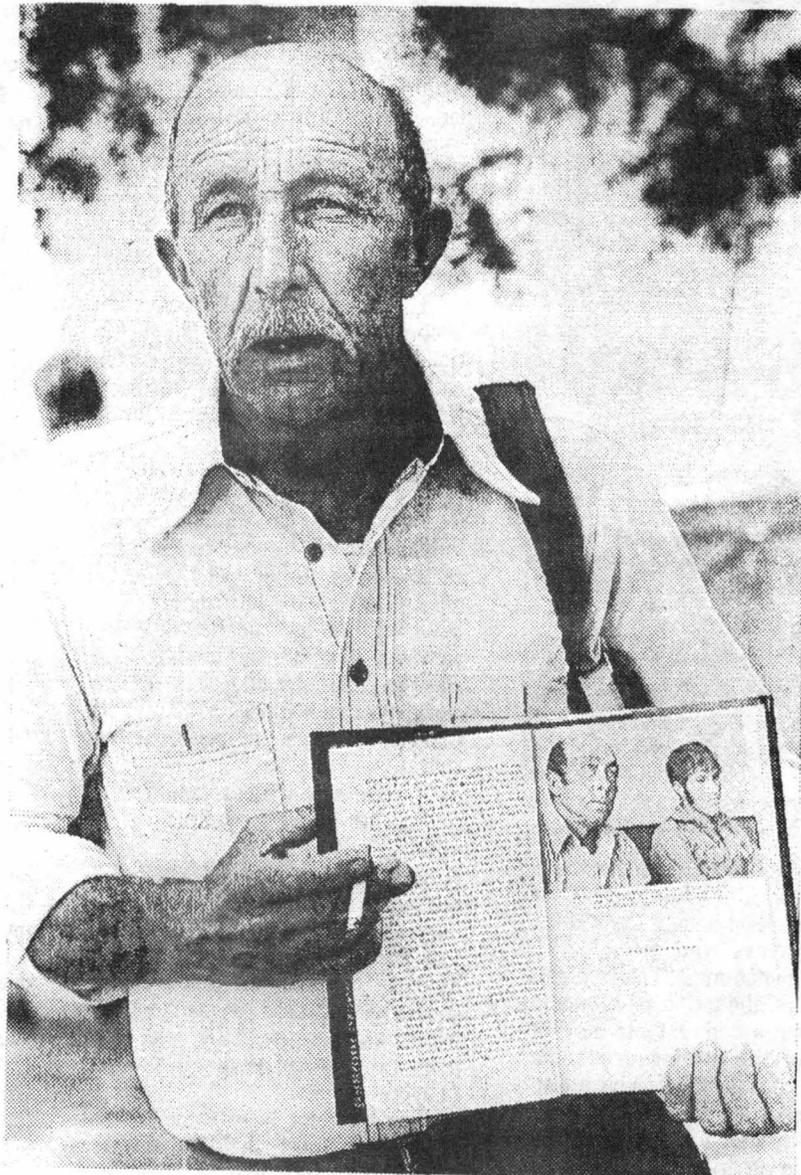
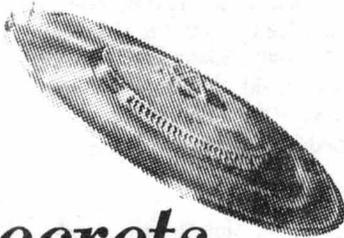
The examination was "very painful. They did all kinds of little experiments on me. They took a sample from my leg. I have a scar on my thigh where they took a sample of tissue. They did something to my back and other things I'd rather not talk about."

Now Coyne, 47, is a Michigan housewife with two children, three grandchildren and a husband, George, who is retired. As they stood talking with other UFO enthusiasts at the Mutual UFO Network Inc.'s 18th-annual International Symposium on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, held at American University this weekend, they seemed pleasant, articulate and sane as any Midwest American couple.

Their experiences seemed a little unusual, is all.

"We're skeptical," she said.

See UFO, D3, Col. 1



ELIZABETH RICHTER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Charles Hickson with his book "UFO: Contact at Pascagoula."

"The first thing we try to do is try to disprove it," he said.

But facts are facts, they said.

Shirley said she was abducted again at ages 16, 17 and 20. She has learned this by being "regressed" through hypnosis, which enabled her to remember the metallic, walnut-shaped spacecraft with flashing lights and the little grayish-white beings with "very very large" eyes. Also she remembers "my mother kneeling at the window in my brother's bedroom and she had a gun up to her shoulder and the gun was pointing out the window."

"She said she was shooting at three 10-year-old boys dressed in white," said George.

"This is the only way my mother could deal with it because she's a very religious person," said Shirley.

The couple "got active in the field" of ufology in 1983, said George, when there were four UFO sightings in their neighborhood. "The first one came up from the lake area," he said, as he and Shirley were driving home at 1 a.m. It was the size of a boxcar and had headlights. "When I saw 'em I slowed the car. It started going parallel to us, just over the houses."

But they were not afraid.

"No, we were not," said George. "I wanted to communicate with it. I wanted to get a message to them. I threw my mind into a blank so I'd be receptive to anything they wanted to send. I'm sure they received my thoughts: 'Come to me. Where are you from? Where are you going?'"

But there was no response from the UFO. It paced them a quarter mile down the road, then disappeared.



BY ELIZABETH RICHTER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Shirley Coyne, who says she has been abducted by UFOs at least four times.

Abduction research is one of the big developments in ufology that was widely discussed among the 450 fervent believers who attended the weekend symposium. "Taking a close look at the abduction phenomenon gave us our first insight into the motivations of the intelligence behind UFOs," said David M. Jacobs, a history professor at Temple University who is considered the leading UFO historian in America, in his address to the group. "It was as if a door had opened and we were able to look inside the phenomenon . . . of extraterrestrial life, motivations, intentions and activities . . . We may be on the threshold of momentous discoveries."

Jacobs said there are well over 100 cases being studied. "In the past, UFO researchers were extremely suspicious" of such stories, "but now there are so many cases of intelligent, non-

publicity-seeking people that we are forced to think that something exceedingly unusual is happening."

Most abductees have submitted to psychological testing that shows they are sane, he said. It also often shows the symptoms of a deeply traumatic experience. He said the abductees "tell specific, definite stories with a consistency of detail that is stunning." While most have to be "regressed" through hypnosis, some have direct conscious memories of their experiences.

Other top ufologists also take the phenomenon seriously. "Some people are being abducted by aliens for purposes decided upon by the aliens," said Stanton T. Friedman, the most popular UFO lecturer in the country. And writer William L. Moore galvanized the group with a story about what he said may be a top secret government document—a relatively new discovery—that mentions four alien corpses found near Roswell, N.M., in 1947.

"There are two possibilities on abductions," said Moore. "Either they're real as reported and we are dealing with something out of this world, or we are dealing with an entirely unrecognized form of psychosis."

Budd Hopkins, author of "Intruders," a new book about abductions, said the stories are "intrinsically almost impossible to consider true [because of] the inability of the human mind to accept the intrinsically unbelievable." But he said he has interviewed 140 "completely credible" people who claim abduction experiences, including three PhDs, a New York City police officer and a government lawyer.

"All the evidence is totally persuasive to me that it's totally true," he said.

At a press conference kicking off the symposium, Hopkins said that during abductions the aliens generally took sperm and ova samples from the humans, then sought to mix "their cells and our cells" in "an ongoing breeding experiment." He said it appeared they were seeking to produce "a hybrid species."

"They haven't been flying around here for years just idly," he said.

The "ova retrieval process" described by women abductees, Hopkins said, has involved a needle inserted into the abdomen.

Why, someone asked, would these superior aliens want to meld with inferior humans?

"We're bigger," Friedman interjected before Hopkins could answer.

Then Hopkins said sensibly, "There's no way we can answer that question for the aliens. All I can say is they have their reasons."

"Something is really flying around out there, and it's about time we began to pay serious attention to it," said Bruce Maccabee, a Navy research physicist and chairman of the Washington-based Fund for UFO Research, which hosted the symposium.

There were a number of foreign experts on hand for the weekend, and a Polish journalist at the press conference asked about the internationalist implications of the ufological movement.

Friedman answered that a "planetary orientation" or an "earthly orientation . . . instead of nationalism is the best way to avoid nuclear war."

Maccabee said that the Soviets hadn't responded to inquiries.

"We tried," he said with a shrug.



During a break, Hopkins was standing in a hallway talking with Charles Hickson, one of the two abductees involved in the famous 1973 Pascagoula, Miss., case. Hickson, a steelworker, was fishing off a pier toward dusk when, he says, a craft hovered down

behind him and some aliens took him in for a physical.

"He's suffered," Hopkins said of Hickson. "Everybody does. One feels frightened, helpless. You look at that face, it's not the face of a hoaxer."

And indeed, Hickson's heavily lined face had a sad, sincere expression that seemed to say he has seen a lot. He smoked a Winston and talked in a deep Mississippi drawl.

Did he ever think he was nuts?

"I wondered about it a few times, I sure did," Hickson said. He said of his fishing buddy, "he's still not himself. He's had two, three nervous breakdowns." But Hickson cowrote a book on his experience, "UFO: Contact at Pascagoula," and has recently produced a home video, "In Touch." He's working on another book based on subsequent abduction experiences.

As the two discussed various cases, George Early, a stringer for a Hartford, Conn., radio station, broke in with this question for Hopkins:

"Any possibility of embedment?"

Hopkins explained that in many cases, the aliens put "a little needle

that has a tiny ball on the end up the nostril. It hurts like hell. Then it comes out with no little ball on the end." Or, he said, it may happen the other way around.

"It's as if they put 'em in and take 'em out," he said. "We are going to find one of these things one of these days. And that's going to be the smoking gun."

CONT
NEXT
PAGE

SECRETS IN THE SAUCERS CON'T

The other big topic in ufology these days is whether there is a "cosmic Watergate" going on. Many experts at the symposium said they think the government knows plenty about UFOs and is hiding it. The government was once intensely interested in the subject, and through the Air Force's Project Blue Book collected reports of sightings and investigated them. Blue Book was ended in 1969 with the official conclusion that no UFO was found to be a national security threat, or of extraterrestrial origin.

Moore, coauthor with Charles Berlitz of the 1980 book "The Roswell Incident," told a sensational story in his Saturday night dinner speech.

The story goes back to July 7, 1947, when the U.S. Army Air Forces announced that a "flying disc" had been found on a ranch in New Mexico. Officials later said the "disc" was just scraps from a weather balloon, but Moore, studying the incident over several years and interviewing dozens of witnesses, concluded it was in fact a flying saucer.

His book became a classic in the UFO field.

Then, in December 1984, Jaime Shandera, a free-lance television producer working with Moore, received in the mail from an anonymous source pictures of what purported to be a top secret briefing document, dated Nov. 18, 1952, and marked "EYES ONLY," for President-elect Eisenhower.

The document, which Moore has released to the press, describes a top secret intelligence operation called "Majestic-12," apparently established by President Truman in 1947 to study UFOs and manned by, among others, then Secretary of Defense James Forrestal and Gen. Nathan F. Twining.

The document details the Roswell flying saucer crash and says that, "On 07 July, 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study. During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded . . . All four were dead and badly decomposed . . . A special scientific team took charge of removing these bodies for study."

The document goes on to say that "although these creatures are human-like in appearance, the biological and

evolutionary processes responsible for their development has apparently been quite different from those observed or postulated in homo-sapiens . . . Since it is virtually certain that these craft do not originate in any country on earth, considerable speculation has centered around what their point of origin might be and how they get here. Mars was and remains a possibility."

"You can imagine our reaction," Moore told the group. "Is it real? Because if it is, then it's the most fantastic thing that's surfaced in the UFO world, ever. If it's not, then what's going on? Is it a joke?"

Moore said that he and Shandera spent more than two years studying the document—names, dates, writing style, typefaces—and found that "nothing seemed inconsistent." Moore thinks the document is either "an official reality or an official fabrication . . . Maybe somebody was out to embarrass us."

Moore said that "if I didn't feel it was real, I wouldn't put it out to the press." He added that "obviously if I was out to exploit it for greenbacks, I'd go do a book." But he said he decided, instead, to put the document out publicly in hopes that "others will come forward" to authenticate it.

Then Moore teased his audience with news that "the document is not all we have. We have some additional information we have not released and which is at this time in a rather delicate phase of our continuing investigation."

This information, he said, is "videotape material" that is "very startling . . . almost incredible . . . Where it will lead, we don't know . . . Maybe we are on the edge of a new awareness of what human life is about and where we stand on the ladder of the universe."

Philip J. Klass, former avionics editor of Aviation Week & Space Technology, was admittedly the "skunk at the garden party." The author of "UFOs: The Public Deceived" now makes a career of debunking the ufologists.

Wearing a smile and with his tape recorder held high, Klass appeared to be enjoying himself.

"I believe every UFO case can be explained in prosaic and earthly terms," he said.

As for the Majestic-12 document, Klass said he's sure it's a hoax. Like, he said, was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on July 7, 1947, and it is inconceivable he wouldn't have known about and remembered four alien bodies.

"If Bill Moore had asked someone to write a document to confirm his Roswell book, this would be it," said Klass. "Moore is a very cagey guy."

SK-D3 REGINA LEADER POST

In Minutes

JUNE 29 1987

Jet dodges UFO

A British airline pilot says he had to take evasive action to avoid hitting a mystery object over the Soviet republic of Kazakhstan.

"It was definitely not an aircraft, of that I am positive," Anthony Colin said in a letter in The Times of London. "None of us had ever seen anything like it before."

Colin and the four other crew members saw it while flying a British Airways jumbo jet from London to Bangkok in April.

The Times said an object with twinkling lights flew directly toward the jet before disappearing at high speed over the horizon.

An airline spokesman said Soviet air traffic control has confirmed that no other aircraft were in the area at the time.

He suggested the most plausible explanation is that the object was a piece of satellite re-entering the earth's atmosphere.

Colin, however, doesn't think it was debris.

"We are all bitter, cynical aviators who like to find a scientific explanation for everything. But this has got us foxed," he said.

UFO followers watch and wait

By Lee Stratton
Dispatch Staff Reporter

When thousands of people have seen the light, why is the government keeping us in the dark?

That is the question UFO believers are pondering as the 40th anniversary approaches of the first modern-day sighting of an unidentified flying object.

On June 24, 1947, private pilot Kenneth Arnold reported that he saw several saucer-shaped objects zip past Mt. Rainier near Seattle. Since his account, thousands more have followed.

SKEPTICS DISCOUNT the sightings as hoaxes, airplanes, helicopters and even swamp gas. Some of the reports, however, have come from professional and military pilots.

The Air Force has abandoned "Project Blue Book," a study of UFO reports, without drawing any conclusions about the existence of flying saucers.

UFO fans remain convinced that space creatures buzz Earth. The believers have graduated from reporting lights and saucers in the sky to tales of kidnappings by aliens and the contention that the government is hiding proof of alien visits.

"I have information that the CIA believes there are four Earth-based colonies which are thousands of years old," said Donald Jernigan, founder of the Phenomena Investigation Committee. One colony is believed to be near Point Pleasant, W.Va., said Jernigan, a Central Ohio Transit Authority bus driver.

"London, Ohio, as well as West Jefferson, seems to be a hot spot for sightings," he said. In 1980 and 1981 many sightings were made near those Madison County communities.

Jernigan has photographs of streaks of light in a black night sky. He said they were taken near London. He told also of a small, mysterious building that was put up overnight and filled with computer equipment, near where the lights appeared on several occasions.

TWO MEN, wearing American Electric Power Co. hard hats, reportedly told members

of Jernigan's group the place was a weather station.

"Why would AEP be monitoring the weather?" he asked. "My source of information said it was the CIA."

Since 1947, there have been 140,000 to 180,000 sightings worldwide. Some are not valid. But many could not be explained, Jernigan said.

Several stories of the recovery of crashed spacecraft and alien bodies circulate through the UFO grapevine.

Jernigan said several saucer-shaped craft were spotted on the ground by people climbing Mt. Shasta in northern California in the 1960s and 1970s. The craft were being hidden and protected by U.S. troops, he said.

"Mt. Shasta is a landing base for their mother ships," Jernigan said. "Our government has made friendly contact with them and is allowing them to use it as a landing base."

THIRTY COUNTRIES admit UFOs are real, he said. The Soviet Union and the United States do not. Jernigan contends the two superpowers are racing to learn the aliens' advanced technologies and to gain them as allies.

"They can run rings around our fastest planes," Jernigan said. "Being thousands of years older, the aliens might contradict what the Bible says about our origins. That would be reason alone for keeping it quiet."

He believes the government eventually will admit the existence of visitors from other planets. "They are going to do it very slowly," he said. "They will spoon-feed the public."

For instance, the government may be influencing producers of such movies as *E.T.* to portray aliens as friendly instead of wanting to devour us and take over our planet, Jernigan said. He said aliens probably are reluctant to reveal their presence after observing our wars and bigotry.

"Man's basic problem is not accepting things that are strange to us," he said. "The aliens would think, 'If they treat their fellow man like that, what would they do to us?'"



Donald Jernigan keeps tabs on UFO reports

Dispatch photo by Kate Rhodenbaugh



Shirley Coyne, a member of the Mutual UFO Network Inc., answers high school students' questions about her experiences with an unidentified flying object.

NEWS PHOTO • JIM JAGDFELD

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Woman recounts childhood experiences of flying saucer

By LILA ORBACH

NEWS STAFF REPORTER

abductions

The dogs had been barking for three nights. But the 9-year-old girl was sleeping soundly in her Arkansas home. Her mother, awakened by the noise, peered out the window to see three bright lights shining in the garden. Grabbing her shotgun, the woman knelt by the window and fired a shot into the night. The little girl woke up.

There were two "beings" in her bedroom. Without opening the bedroom door, the intruders beckoned her out of the room, levitating her through the door. From there, they whisked her past her mother, who was still kneeling at the

window. They took her into the garden, where more "beings" lurked. Then they lifted her onto the spacecraft, a silver disk matching the traditional description of a flying saucer.

In the confines of the control room, the unearthly visitors — who had long faces with one eye and no nose — examined her body, putting objects into her nose, ears and eyes, probing her genitals and scarring her leg in the shape of a triangle, an emblem similar to the one emblazoned on her captors' chests.

The wound, which she discovered the next day back in her bedroom, was deep but without blood. Communicating telepathically, the little girl asked questions. She was told she would one day understand, was assured her every-

OUT OF THIS WORLD CONT

thing would be all right and they would not harm her. But they did.

Shirley Coyne, a member of the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., solemnly told of the above incidents Thursday night to a group of more than 100 high school students from across Michigan who are spending two-weeks at Eastern Michigan University's fourth Michigan State Board of Education Summer Institute on the Arts and Sciences.

Finishing her account of the little girl in Arkansas, Coyne told the audience calmly, "Yes, I believe this story. I know this story is true. I am that little girl."

Coyne, and her husband, George, spent more than two hours speaking to the students, persuading them of the existence of unidentified flying objects and alien abductions.

For Shirley Coyne, now in her mid-50s and living in Flushing, Mich., UFOs and visitors from space are very sensitive subjects. And, in the 40 years since her first abduction, Thursday night was one of the first times she had ever spoken of her experiences.

She maintained that for years she's been bothered by childhood memories and the unexplainable triangular scar until 1985, when,

with the help of hypnosis, the stories of spacecrafts and spacelings unfolded, revealing that she had been abducted on four occasions between the ages of 9 and 20.

"Yes, it did happen," she said emotionally. "And it took me a long time to admit it."

Coyne's own experiences have made her a firm believer in extra terrestrial beings and close encounters, turning her and her husband into loyal members of the UFO Network, headquartered in Seguin, Texas, with more than 60 Michigan members. Together, the Coynes have sighted more than ten UFOs.

Coyne told the young audience that those who claim to have been abducted "are not liars, are not schizophrenics or manic depressives. They have characteristics of those who have been violated like rape victims . . . There is no evidence that they are victims of mental illness," she said. "They feel dread, terror and an aching fear that it can and will happen again and again."

To this day, Coyne doesn't know why she was abducted. "I have no idea why I was chosen," she said, adding that she is not fearful of a recurrence. "There is no need for me to be afraid. If they want to take me, they will . . . You have no control, you do think what they want you to."

Coyne told the crowd that she is not alone.

"Some of you people may have been abducted and don't even know it." There have been more and more incidents reported . . . Michigan is no exception. There have been a lot of people abducted from the rooftops of New York City. They're everywhere"

Coyne's family, none of whom has been hypnotized, has not admitted to any recollections of the abductions. It's as though they were frozen, Coyne said.



Brian Taylor

Polishing up UFOs

More revelations from the Rose and Crown.

There we were, with our elbows on this bar, putting the world to rights . . . everything from blasting the "Economic" part of the EEC title when they cannot get their sums right, to wondering what Benny will do now that he's not stood standing at the Crossroads.

Sam, as an excuse for not buying a round, threw into the conversation "UFO!" Now he is prone to the odd acronym or two but, as we could not readily put a meaning to this one, we gathered that he meant Unidentified Flying Object.

For month upon month, nobody's known what's been going on up there on Skyway Route 1 because the clouds have not got higher than the chimney pots, and when you looked up you got an eye-ful of rain.

He went deaf

But now that it's cleared, it seems that in various parts of Poland pilots have been seeing all kinds of weird things whizzing around.

One of them said that he saw an aircraft passing only 60 yd below him and was surprised that he did not hear the roar of a jet engine. This "aircraft" gave off no sound whatsoever.

In terrestrial terms, this is the kind of collision course regularly experienced by pedestrians trying to walk on pavements overcrowded by cyclists, most of whom seem so intent on saving their tyres that they use only the back wheel.

In spite of her now vivid memories, Coyne said she understands those that are skeptical on the subject, admitting that she herself is at times skeptical. However, with the rising number of incidents reported, she, and others investigating the subject, are increasingly convinced.

EMU sociology professor Ron

Westrum, who has studied hundreds of reports like Coyne's, said there is too much evidence to ignore.

"It's real typical in these cases that the rest of the family is frozen," said Westrum. "I have a lot of respect for Shirley Coyne. She's faced the abduction, investigated it and carried on."

Many of the students stayed long after the presentation, asking Coyne more questions about the "beings" and her experiences with them. Many of the questions she refused to answer, saying, "It's much too emotional and too traumatic for me to talk about."

But the general tone of Coyne's account was positive. "This is a wonderful and mysterious world we live in — and we are not alone."

It's hardly surprising that his pilot heard nothing. His heart was probably pounding so hard that he went deaf.

Then there was a similar sighting — soundless again — by a group of pilots who estimated the altitude of this one at 600 yd.

Now that's a bit of a shaker for anyone living in a block of high-rise flats. It's a bit like living on the flight path of the bombing range off Cowden, but, at least, those lads preface their arrival so noisily that you have time to get the cotton wool from the medical cabinet.

The Polish newspaper which reported these silent invaders said it was difficult to suspect that so many people could have suffered an hallucination.

But the clue to the problem, we felt, rested on the fact that everyone reported jets and plumes of orange flame from these celestial travellers.

It might be, we thought, that these air force Poles, after so long in the shade, meteorologically, had forgotten to put on their shades, optically, and had seen the sun.

We dismissed the alternative that Lech Walsea had sparked off his Solidarity pals to throw their Davy lamps in the air because, in that case, we'd have heard about that from Arthur Scargill and Neil Kinnock — and probably David Owen if he did not have some other high fliers to contend with.

We resigned ourselves to accepting Sam's explanation. It was, he said, Richard Branston having a dummy run to make sure he did not get in a pickle . . . and it was as well that he did.

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Chronicle of UFO 'visit' leaves questions

By Mike Pearson
Sunday Herald-Times

LIGHT YEARS: An Investigation into the Extraterrestrial Experience of Eduard Meier, by Gary Kinder. Atlantic Monthly Press, 1987. \$18.95.

If you are a believer, and countless thousands are, UFOlogy is both a consuming passion and evasive religion: a quest to prove the unprovable.

Since the first North American "unidentified flying object" was documented in 1947, America's fascination with space voyagers has been insatiable. A new batch of sightings are reported daily. Most are hoaxes, but a small percentage remain unexplained, most notably the peculiar sightings reported by American pilots in the years after World War II.

Still *observing* a UFO and coming into *contact* with its inhabitants are entirely different things, and it's the latter we find in free-lance journalist Gary Kinder's case study of perhaps the world's best-documented close encounter of the third kind.

Or is the strange case of Eduard Meier, the one-armed Swiss farmer with a sixth-grade education who claims hundreds of contacts with alien beings, an elaborate hoax?

The reader of *Light Years* is no closer to an answer after completing this 265-page book, which for all its deliberate detail remains rather vague.

Perhaps, as Kinder claims, that's simply the nature of the beast. Certainly the Meier case has provoked scathing arguments from both amateur UFOlogists annoyed at Meier's "cult status," and outside investigators who, when given a chance, refuse to randomly dismiss Meier as a fraud.

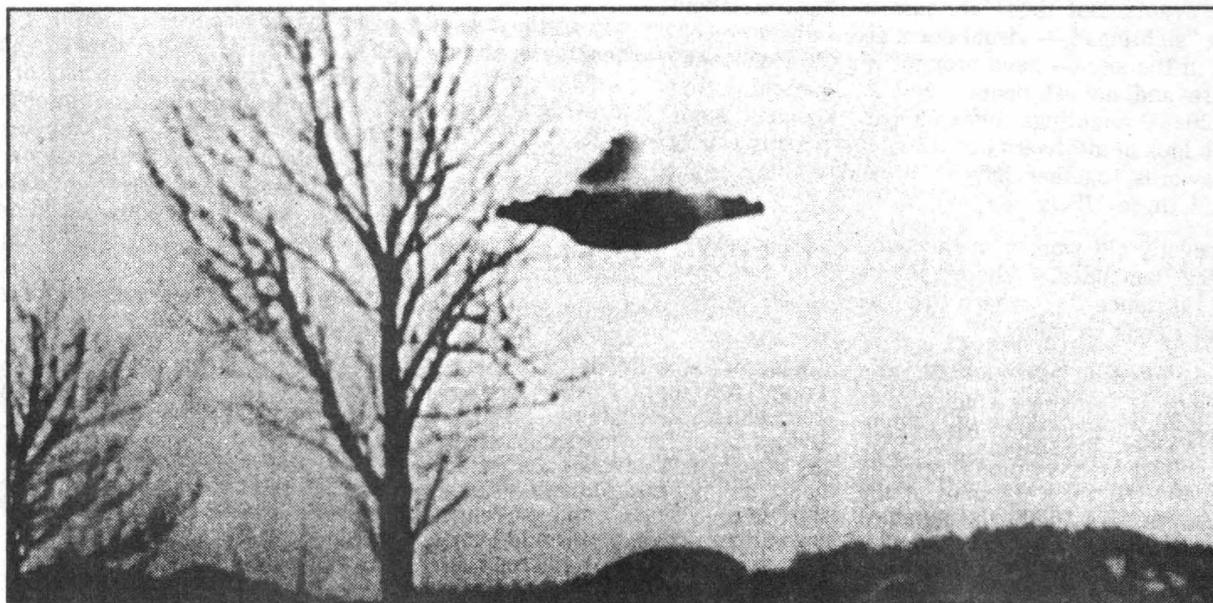
Kinder's book begins in 1976 when Meier worked as a night watchman in the small village of Hinwil, Switzerland, located 30 miles southeast of Zurich in rolling hill country. The Meiers were considered outsiders by the local residents; they kept to themselves with a minimum of bother. But in 1976, Meier suddenly started to disappear in the middle of the

night. Neighbors would awaken to see him ride his little scooter off into the surrounding forest.

Meier would later claim that this is when his visits began with the Pleidians — an advanced race from a distant star system who had come to Earth to find and impart wisdom to one open-minded individual. As proof of these encounters, Meier produced hundreds of photographs of their spaceships and of landing sites. Upon later investigation, the sites revealed unusually high radiation levels, and the grass was mashed into a circular pattern where it continued to grow.

There were also sound recordings of the "beam ship" and 8mm film footage, the validity of which skeptics attacked almost as quickly as believers began coming to the Meier home. Suddenly, this quiet farmer was being hailed as a "chosen" prophet, and as his fame grew, so too did media coverage of his claim.

But the most thorough investigation of Meier was conducted by Americans Lee and Brit Elder and retired Lt. Col. Wendelle



This photo was taken by Eduard Meier and is reproduced in 'Light Years'

CON'T

Stevens. From 1976 to 1982 they made a number of exploratory trips to Switzerland where they interviewed Meier and the other "witnesses," visited landing sites — and even interviewed the owners of the village photo shop where Meier's film was developed.

Much of Kinder's material is taken from the Elders' notes and from later visits to Meier. Kinder's detached, informative style makes for intriguing reading. On several occasions he takes you to the very brink of belief. He's also laced the book with an overview of UFOlogy in general. These

passages are fascinating and all too infrequent.

"After three years of research, I have concluded that UFOs exist: something we can't explain indeed sails through our skies from time to time," Kinder writes in the afterword to his book. "On the other hand, I empathize with scientists who refuse to become involved. Never has there been a more frustrating subject, where questions abound and answers only shimmer in the distance."

Despite its informative, breezy style, *Light Years* fails to bridge the gap between perceived truth and random speculation.

GAZETTE EDITORIALS

JA-DI CEDAR RAPIDS GAZETTE
JUNE 25 1987

Where's the meat?

A NEW BARRAGE of books about the UFO phenomenon — unidentified flying objects — has ever more people all over the world believing visitors from outer space have passed this way. Stories of these aliens' abducting real people or subjecting them to harrowing ordeals shock millions of credulous readers. Close or distant sightings of the craft supposed to bring these beings have mounted into tens of thousands through the years. News reports (Gazette, June 22 and last March 12) turn up the gas. And what's the truth about it all? Ah, that's the nub. Amid all this excitement, trying to judge UFOs' validity still finds the hearsay overpowering hard facts to a ridiculous extent.

First-person tales of experience with what are taken to be extraterrestrials may sound convincing, especially when wrapped in native skepticism. But those are only words out of minds. "Government reports" purporting to discuss investigations and their cover-ups appear to offer authenticity to earlier events. But those are just words, too. About 100,000 UFO "sightings" — visual encounters with unrecognized things in the sky — have brought reports from many smart, sincere and honest people, and analyses have left perhaps 10-20,000 sightings unexplained. Again, though, what is left to look at afterward about it all are mostly words. And all the words together haven't proved a thing about reality behind these UFOs.

As that gravelly old woman in the burger-ad campaign a few years back demanded, "Where's the beef?" In this case, *where's the substance . . . where's the hard stuff?* is what everyone still needs to know.

Among those hundred thousand UFO appearances, not one good solid piece of evidence remains to touch and test. No item of equipment left behind. No fragment of a spaceship damaged while on earth. No tangible gift or piece of gear from any of the personal encounters told of in emotional accounts. No souvenir retained by any of the 100 to 200 persons claiming to have dealt firsthand with visitors from other worlds. Nor documentably authentic pictures and recordings from the dozens who might sensibly arrange to make their own. Without some such material, a personal evaluation of the UFO reality comes down to what each person wants to think; essentially, a point of faith.

Not even "secret government reports" that circulate in copy form provide reliably hard evidence of underlying fact. Such items as a 1952 paper purportedly briefing President Dwight Eisenhower on a UFO crash from which four "small human-like beings" were recovered dead and decomposed are just as dubious as all the rest. And why the government should be presumed to hide the facts forever is another point of UFO discredit.

A governmental fetish not to "panic" people often gets the blame for hush-hush secrecy to screen the truth. That makes no sense. Old Ike was no political manipulator. His hostility against the "military industrial complex" typified both candor and mind to let the public know the score. Now UFO supporter-lecturer and document investigator Stanton T. Friedman upholds crash-thinking with this theory: Concealment took place because "no government wants people to have their allegiance to the planet rather than themselves." Pure fantasy. Illogical regarding motive and deluded as to probable effect.

In truth, the sense of everything one sees regarding UFOs these days suggests that a majority of us would welcome evidence of their reality, not go to pieces in dismay or fear. From countless science fiction novels and from filmings such as "E.T.," "Close Encounters . . .," "Star Wars" movies and the "Star Trek" series, people don't just widely think that sentient life exists among the stars; they downright hope for contact with it in our time. Which probably accounts for much of so ubiquitous a willingness to swallow UFO reports and wish them true. The real article would have it all: Excitement, wish-fulfillment, inspiration, huge importance and the lovely stamp of now.

Still, hope is but the stuff of dreams, and pleasing words are only words. Perception built from yearning doesn't necessarily deliver real goods to touch and hold. The root reality remains that we have yet to see firm proof and take hard evidence in hand. New tons of paper haven't made it possible to do the job. No word-work ever will. Expectantly, observantly, uncertainly, we wait.

New light on those close encounters

EX-PRESIDENT Jimmy Carter has seen one. Astronauts have allegedly encountered them on the Moon. And Winston Churchill asked: "What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to . . . what is the truth?"

Forty years after the term flying saucer was first coined, Churchill's question has still not been answered.

Are all those unexplained sightings — not just by ordinary people but trained observers such as pilots, air traffic control officials and the military — really escaped weather balloons, meteors, freak atmospheric conditions or artificial satellites? And even if 90 pc can be explained away, what about the rest?

In a new book, *Above Top Secret* *, flying saucer researcher Timothy Good makes the sensational claim that astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin saw UFOs on the Moon during the 1969 Apollo 11 mission.

Millions around the world heard a tantalising reference to a light in a crater during the live transmission but Good claims that what followed was censored and diverted to another radio channel, to be picked up by radio "hams."

Mission Control: What's there? Mission Control calling Apollo 11.

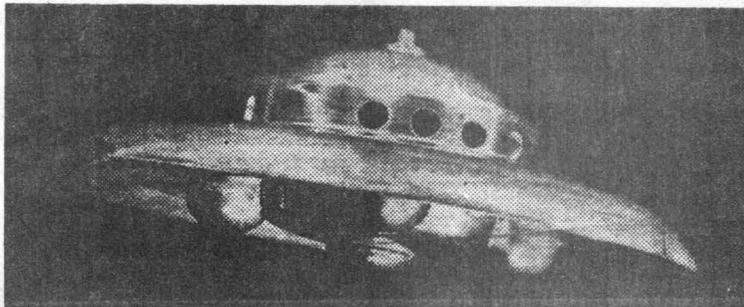
Apollo 11: Those babies are huge, sir . . . enormous . . . Oh, God, you wouldn't believe it! I'm telling you there are other spacecraft out there . . . lined up on the far side of the crater edge . . . they're on the Moon watching us.

Good claims (this word has to be used a lot about his book because much of the evidence is hearsay) that Maurice Chatelain, former boss of the NASA communications system, confirmed in 1979 "the encounter was common knowledge in NASA but nobody has talked about it until now."

Corroboration has come from Soviet sources and, subsequently, from Armstrong, who is said to have remarked in a private conversation that the Moon exploration programme was ended because "we were warned off."

Good says in his 590-page book, given credibility by a foreword written by Lord Hill-Norton, Chief of Defence Staff from 1971-73, that the Russian Voskhod I and II flights were cut short in 1964 and 1965 after being "buzzed"

There have, apparently, been other instances. After the US Juno 2 rocket was allegedly deflected from orbit Dr Werner von Braun, "father" of the American space programme, is quoted as saying: "We find ourselves faced by powers which are far stronger than we have hitherto assumed and whose base is at present unknown to us. We are now engaged in entering into closer contact with these powers."



DO you believe in flying saucers or do you put little green men on the same level as the Loch Ness Monster? MARTIN DAWES has been reading a new book that raises some intriguing questions.

If all this sounds like science fiction the author goes on to claim that a number of flying saucers have been recovered after crash landings in the US and they and their occupants taken away for examination.

These claims have been made in previous UFO books (indeed, much of Good's material is a re-hash of what has appeared in print before), but he reproduces in his book what he says are seven

pages of an "eyes only" briefing paper prepared for President-elect Eisenhower in 1952, referring to a crashed saucer in New Mexico in 1947.

It reports that four dead human-like beings were recovered nearby, apparently having ejected before the crash. From the report, it appears that investigators were puzzled as to what was the form of propulsion.

There is, or has been, a top secret investigation into UFOs called Majestic-12, so what happened when President Jimmy Carter promised in 1976 to "make every piece of information this country has about UFO sightings available to the public and the scientists?"

Carter had seen a UFO seven years before. Good suggests Carter was thwarted, for nothing came of his pledge.

While there have been a number of well-documented hoaxes (Mosborough schoolboy Alex Birch and friends invented a flying saucer and faked pictures to prove it in 1962, fooling the experts for ten years before they owned up) which only serve to reinforce public scepticism, many sightings from all parts of the world share the same puzzling characteristics.

While the shape varies, the self-explanatory saucer or cigar is the most common, and eye witnesses talk of electro-magnetic interference such as stalling engines, fantastic acceleration or deceleration, right-angled turns and other manoeuvres impossible for man-made craft (or physical phenomena such as meteorites) to perform.

They are also frequently seen on radar screens, devices not known to have hysterical delusions. While UFOs are believed by some to have been seen throughout man's history — there are Biblical references to fiery chariots which intrigue — modern sightings date from just before World War Two.

The word flying saucer was first coined in 1947 by an American. It was so apt that it has stuck, even though all sightings are not saucer-shaped.

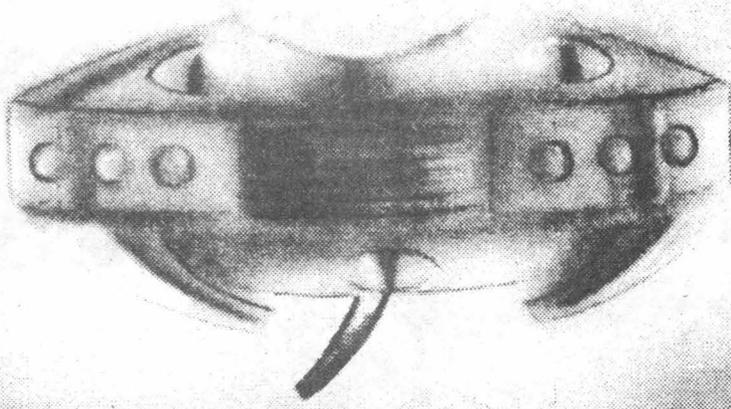
One of the most amazing sightings in Britain occurred in December 1980 when strange lights were seen in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, on the perimeter of RAF Woodbridge, in reality a USAF base.

According to Good, they were investigated by American and British personnel, some of whom saw a triangular object on legs and had the impression it was occupied by robot-like creatures. Pictures and film were taken (which, as in so many of these cases, have disappeared) and a tape made of the search.

Good believes there has been a global cover-up by leading nations to prevent the undoubted shock and the moral and social collapse that would follow proof we are not alone in the universe.

Or perhaps the reaction would be rather different. When people in Detroit were asked how they would react to visitors from space one man said: "I'd teach them to stay on their own planet. We've got enough people on welfare without supporting a bunch of Martians."

**Above Top Secret* is published by Sidgwick & Jackson at £14.95.



Despite his interest, Schmitt has never seen anything unusual himself. "Most of my colleagues, most of the researchers in the field, have never seen anything," he said. He added that his lack of personal contact increased his objectivity.

Schmitt's art jobs support his avocation, although someday he'd like to write a book about the cases he's investigated. He also uses his art skills to illustrate sightings.

"There are only a few people in the field that devote full time to it,"



Don Schmitt

he said. "We're paid honorariums for lectures and public appearances, but it's strictly voluntary."

His intense interest has had some productive byproducts.

"When I had to do a thesis or paper in school, very often I'd write about UFOs. I could stand up there without a note card and give a half-hour talk on UFOs and the teacher would just sit there totally awestruck," he said.

Schmitt was reminded of his early interest in the field when he recently pulled out his old Hartford Union High School yearbook in preparation for his 15-year class reunion.

"I was made very aware of the fact that even as far as people signing my yearbook, it was always to 'the UFO expert' or 'the guy who thinks he knows everything about UFOs' or 'Mr. UFO.'"

It can be a lonely life for Schmitt, who investigates not only sightings in Wisconsin, but also around the country.

"Let's just say that one's social life, especially during periods of UFO activity, is practically nil," said Schmitt, who bears a slight resemblance to a young Sylvester Stallone.

"It has almost become somewhat of a prerequisite for most of the people in the center to be single because of the time involved."

Close encounters

Artist has extraterrestrial hobby

by TIM CUPRISIN
The Journal staff

Don Schmitt has yet another case to investigate after two Waunakee police officers saw an unidentified object and blue light in the eastern sky Tuesday.

Schmitt, one of the directors of the Chicago-based Center for UFO Studies, has been busy during the last few months investigating a series of UFO sightings around Belleville, south of Madison in Dane County.

The center's determination on Belleville sightings earlier this year was that they were legitimate unidentified flying objects. That means no one has a clue exactly what they were.

It's too early to tell what will be the verdict on the sightings at Waunakee, north of Madison in Dane County, where at least three people, including the officers, saw the bright lights in the sky early Tuesday.

UFO investigations are a mostly unpaid career for Schmitt, a 32-year-old free-lance technical illustrator who lives in Hubertus. It began in elementary school days with a fascination that grew into an obsession. But it was an obsession tempered by healthy skepticism.

"I read a number of books at that time that very much argued the case for a government cover-up," he said in an interview. "I questioned whether I had enough evidence to support that theory."

His questioning led to letter writing, which led to contacts with experts and the accumulation of an extensive UFO library. Soon he was

attending lectures and keeping notebook after notebook on his theories about individual sightings. In addition to his art studies, he took criminology classes at Milwaukee Area Technical College to hone his investigative techniques.

"The more people I would meet and the more people I would correspond with, I would slowly start being directed more and more toward the center," he said.

The Center for UFO Studies is the most prestigious of the private groups that study unidentified flying objects. Its founder, the late J. Allen Hynek, was a widely known UFO investigator. He coined the phrase "close encounters of the third kind," which ended up as the title of a movie about contact with alien beings.

"The official stand of the center is that we will only go as far as the term UFO," Schmitt said. "We do not subscribe to any particular theory. We consider ourselves somewhat agnostic in the field. We ride the middle road and are awaiting further evidence, further documentation, before actually making a statement concerning the phenomenon itself."

After earning a master's degree in fine arts at the University of Wisconsin — Milwaukee, Schmitt joined the Chicago center as an investigator in 1979.

**140 'kidnapped
by aliens'**

**'Medical probe
on humans'**

3128

'UFOs want to

study us'

THEY are four feet tall with huge eyes and large bubble-shaped craniums.

They come from across the galaxy — and they may be planning to kidnap you.

Forty years after the first wave of "flying saucer" sightings, the topic of visitors from outer space is heating up again in the United States. Saucer buffs are sure that creatures like these are the advance-guard of an alien civilisation come to study mankind.

Although their claims are branded absurd by many in the scientific community, three respected publishing houses have aired them in Budd Hopkins' "Intruders" (Random House), "Light Years" by Gary Kinder (Atlantic Monthly Press), and "Communion" by Whitley Strieber (Morrow).

"This isn't a kook book, it's serious and responsible," said Elisabeth Scharlatt, editor of "Intruders".

Supposedly official documents citing mysterious "unidentified flying objects" have also been circulated in support of the believers' case in recent months.

Sceptics say these documents are hoaxes, but UFO researchers insist they are evidence of a "cosmic Watergate" in which the US government, seeking to avoid

panic, has concealed visits by space aliens.

Mr Hopkins, the author of "Intruders", told a recent international conference on UFOs that he had interviewed more than 140 people who claimed to have been abducted by aliens and taken into space ships.

They says they had been subjected to medical experiments and returned to Earth after hours of being studied and prodded.

However, science writer Phillip Klass said that months ago he had offered 10,000 dollars to any "victim" who re-

matized by the experience and refused to let their names be used.

She said she was a UFO sceptic herself but was convinced that "something is happening...These people are not crazy. If their accounts are true, it is the biggest story of all time."

Mr Hopkins said that, before publishing, he compiled details from stories of supposed abductees, who had never met except for cases involving families.

Most said their captors had inserted a large needle with a metal ball on the end into their noses — not a detail dozens of people were likely to fabricate independently, he said.

Drawings of the aliens done after hypnosis were also quite similar, he said. Several sketches each depicted a bubble-shaped humanoid head with large oval slating eyes, a tiny nose, and thin, delicate lips — uncannily like the "aliens" millions saw in the film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

He said his subjects reported sperm and ovum samples had been taken from them by the pale, four-foot tall aliens, apparently for interbreeding experiments.

Asked why a race that had mastered interstellar travel would want to interbreed with humans", Mr Hopkins said he could not speak for aliens but added: "They have their reasons."



ported his kidnapping to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, provided the FBI confirmed the claim. No-one accepted.

Ms Scharlatt of Random house said the alleged abductees were not publicity-seekers and most felt stig-

Another source of UFO controversy is a document, distributed at the conference, which refers to a strange aircraft crash near Roswell, New Mexico 40 years ago.

The document, dated November 18, 1952, purports to be a briefing for President-elect Dwight Eisenhower by a

secret government team probing UFO reports.

"On 07 July, 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage for scientific study," it says.

"Aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft...before it exploded...all



four were dead and had badly decomposed...a special scientific team took charge of removing these bodies for study."

UFO researcher Jaime Shandera said he got the document from intelligence sources in 1984.

Science writer Mr Klass said the paper was a hoax, riddled with inconsistencies. For example, he said, Eisenhower was army Chief of Staff in 1947 and would surely have known about and recalled such a discovery.

The army first reported a "flying disc" had crashed near Roswell, then said it was really a weather balloon.

BE PREPARED

EVENING NEWS
LONDON
JULY 21 1987

SKY PORT LONDON
JULY 2 1987

UFO could have been a satellite

BRITISH AIRWAYS remains baffled by an unidentified flying object seen over Russia by one of its Boeing 747 flight crews.

By Nigel Botherway

BA flight 009 from Heathrow to Bangkok changed course to avoid the object, which was not picked up by Russian air traffic controllers.

First Officer Tony Collin, 42, gave a vivid description of the mystery object seen by him and four other crew members.

"We were changing over duties on the flight deck, so all five of us were together," said Collin. "Suddenly we saw what appeared to be another aircraft away to our right. It was displaying two white lights just like an aircraft would.

"We watched it carefully and then noticed that there was a green light where there should have been a red port-side navigation light. It was clear that it was coming towards us at about the same level so we turned towards it to ensure that we passed behind it."

Collin continued: "As we did so it accelerated across our nose, displaying a long line of small lights. They were vaguely phosphorescent and vanished off to our left at high speed. It was impossible to

say exactly how far away it was, but I would guess it was about a mile.

"It was definitely not an aircraft, of that I am positive. None of us had ever seen anything like it before. We are all bitter, cynical aviators who like to find a scientific explanation for everything. But this has got us foxed."

In his report to British Airways, Collin said the object was about half a mile in length, and compared the experience to standing in a field watching a train go by.

British Airways has logged the incident, which took place above the Kazakhstan border on April 22, but plans no further investigation.

An expert from the British Astronomical Association believes the object could have been a Russian satellite re-entering the earth's atmosphere.

Howard Miles, director of the Association's artificial satellite section, said: "It is a standard description, with the greenish glow as parts of the satellite break up. Although they normally burn up about 80 miles up and the aircraft was only ten miles high.

"It must, therefore, have been an optical illusion with the actual lights being much further away."

TO MEET THINE ALIENS!

VATICAN theologians have acknowledged that there could be life on other planets.

Now they plan to train missionaries capable of working in space and meeting aliens.

The strange and historic decision was taken after Vatican theologians decided that future developments would make the training of space missionaries of prime importance.

Jesuit scientists at the Vatican observatory in Frascati, near Rome, have reported moving lights and other unidentified phenomena in the sky.

Starting in September, the Vatican University will have a special UFO section.

Vatican theologian Father Pierre Thorel said that special courses concerning future missionaries in space and first contacts with alien races would be held by Austrian Professor

Evening News Reporter

Resch who was responsible for the new chair at the university's Alfonsian Academy.

Fr. Thorel said: "I am surprised that there should be enthusiasm over missionaries in space or the Christianisation of alien races.

"Their existence is hardly certain. However, the main worry of the Church is to keep up with the times and this means we can neither ignore space exploration nor the possibility of meeting other living creatures."

THE INDEPENDENT, LONDON
JULY 17 1987

Hello UFOs

Most UFOs in these parts disappeared about the same time as the Hillman Imp, but Brazil is still infested with the things, when they are not pestering the Panamanians. However, Brazilians seem to have got used to them, and work is about to start on a UFO landing strip as part of Brasilia's new City of Peace University. Equipped to accommodate flying machines of nearly half a mile wide, the spaceport will boost the country's reputation for warm hospitality.

BIRMINGHAM POST JULY 25 1987
ENGLAND

Unidentified 3128 causes for top secrecy

Fact is certainly stranger than fiction, a thing that was brought home to a couple of musicians in a Birmingham car park who experienced a close encounter of the third kind.

The incident happened in 1981. Graham Nash and Debbie Davis, both flautists and guest players with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, had just finished a Town Hall concert.

They were heading for their car in a nearby car park. Their heads were full of music and they were looking forward to getting home. Suddenly Debbie saw a shape moving at the bottom of the empty car park and guessed that it was probably a child's silver foil balloon.

Disturbing book

She turned towards the car and then felt a sense of panic as the silvery shape moved swiftly and horizontally along the car park perimeter. Suddenly it changed direction again and moved swiftly and smoothly across the car park up to the astonished couple.

It was made from a brilliant silvery metal, with a dull black girdle, and it appeared to be unmanned but observing them. They panicked and fled.

This incident was related to me by Timothy Good, whose disturbing book on UFOs *Above Top*

Disturbing facts about UFOs and alien life are revealed in a new book by Timothy Good. Much of the information is top secret, and published for the first time. RICHARD EDMONDS meets the author.

Secret (Sidgwick and Jackson: £14.95) has just been published. "But there are hundreds of such cases where ordinary people have seen UFOs," said Mr Good, a professional violinist when he is not at his typewriter. "They do not go to the police because of fear of ridicule."

I told him of my own sighting of lights in the sky some years ago. I stood with a friend and watched a pair of lights, moving up and down the sky vertically, and as bright as stars. When they stopped dancing, they sped off in opposite directions at speeds beyond my ken. If I had telephoned the police they might have told me to use eye drops.

But *Above Top Secret* publishes top secret material — much of it for the first time. Among Mr Good's startling stories is confirmation that when Neil Armstrong and "Buzz" Aldrin landed on the moon in Apollo 11 on July 21, 1969, they did see UFOs.

Mr Good quotes a NASA inter-space conversation: "What's there? Mission control calling Apollo 11." Apollo 11: "Oh, God, you wouldn't believe it! I'm tell-

ing you there are other spacecraft out there... lined up on the far side of the crater edge... they're on the moon watching us."

As far as inter-galactic humanoids are concerned, the book has letters to show that the remains of bodies other than those from Earth sources have been found in wrecks of spacecraft.

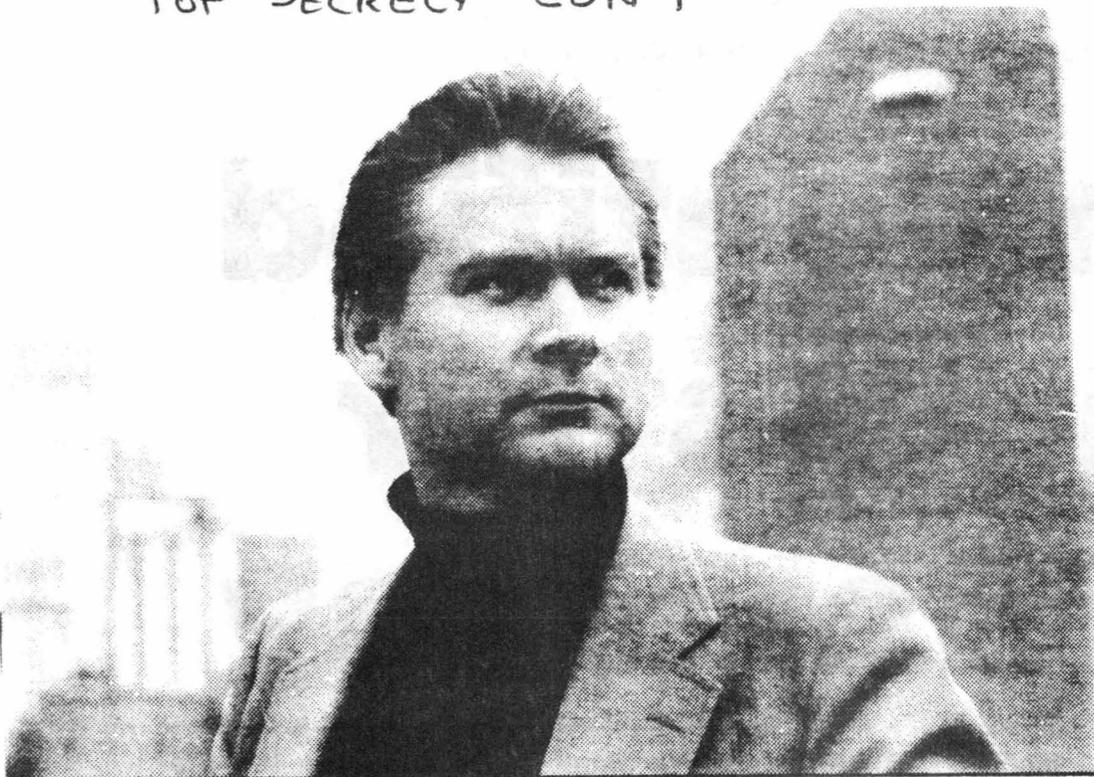
Alien remains

There would also appear to be recorded data that metal parts recovered from wrecks indicate that extra-terrestrial visitors are using space vehicles made from lightweight metal.

A letter from the late Dr Robert Sarbacher of the Washington Institute of Technology, dated November 23, 1983, reads:

"At this time certain materials reported to have come from flying saucer crashes were extremely light and very tough. I am sure our laboratories analysed them carefully."

"There were reports that instruments or people operating these machines were also of light weight. I remember in



Unidentified flying objects in Birmingham? It's not as unlikely as you might think! Our picture shows the author of *Above Top Secret*, Timothy Good with a cod UFO 'spotted' near a Birmingham building. But the book questions military cover-ups and asks how much longer it can continue.

talking with certain people at the office I got the impression that these "aliens" were constructed like certain insects we have on Earth, wherein, because of the low mass, the inertial forces involved in the operation of these machines would be low."

The book also notes that bodies recovered from UFO wrecks are stored at American army bases in Florida and Virginia. At one point Senator Barry Goldwater requested permission to view the remains, but it was refused.

Stalemate

Timothy Good claims there has been a sustained and careful suppression of information, a conspiracy of fear at the highest international levels, because there is every likelihood that there is extra-terrestrial life out there which takes an interest in the doings on this planet.

Questions asked in Parliament of various prime ministers have resulted in stalemate. On July 19, 1966, Sir John Langford-Holt MP asked Harold Wilson if he would allocate reports of UFO sightings to a special department to be created by him. Wilson replied that he would not.

As matters turned out, 1967 was one of the busiest years for sightings ever recorded in the UK. One of the most impressive sightings took place on April 28, when eight coastguards at Brixham in Devon reported a huge cone-shaped object hovering at 15,000 feet. Later a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence suggested the object might be "something like the reflection of car headlights."

Successive prime ministers, including Mrs Thatcher, have taken the same negative stance as Harold Wilson.

Defence problems are an important aspect of the cover-up, since the larger space craft have proved (in the manner of the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*) that their proximity can shut down the energy supply of a whole area.

Not only that, but UFOs seem to be impervious to sophisticated Earth defence systems.

Documents

"But you cannot keep the public in the dark indefinitely," said Mr Good. "It's on the cards that within a short space of time many more top secret documents are going to be released.

"It's one way of casting out fear and helping those who may achieve a random sighting of a UFO. If there is anything out there, it will concern us all — and I believe there definitely is."

MANCHESTER
EVENING NEWS
JULY 24 1987

Totally spaced out

THE alarming news from New York (where else but that fadish city?) is that so many of its people have been abducted by outer space aliens that they're queueing up for UFO therapy to get over the trauma.

"It's not fun," reports one distraught woman who was whisked off her apartment roof to the alien spaceship. "I felt like a trapped animal. The aliens treated me with no respect at all."

What to make of it? Luckily, that fast-talking expert on UFOs and the paranormal, Jenny Randles, has just returned home to Stockport from Washington where she has been giving a paper at a university seminar on the last 40 years of sightings, and can put everything in perspective.

Disturbed by what she sees as American hysteria — "a cult almost like a religion" — she says: "Over there nowadays you're nobody if you haven't been abducted. It's clearly in their minds, but no-one has ever been observed being taken on board a spacecraft."

Now she's writing a new book advising caution on the dangers of all these claims. "There's a whole host of possible explanations," she says, 'between dreams and actual spaceships. Glowing balls of fire over the Pennines could be generated by the earth's geological processes."

Meanwhile (wouldn't you know it?) abduction stories have started to crop up in Britain. Unlike the large-headed humanoid aliens reported by the Americans, the British variety are human-like. Very hairy aliens have been reported in South America.

BIRMINGHAM POST
JULY 29 1987

By coincidence I saw a UFO, too

Sir, — I was interested in the article about UFOs (*Post*, July 25) and it may seem a strange coincidence, but I saw a UFO recently — honest!

Luckily, I snapped it as it took off late on Thursday night.

I think this photo is just as authentic as any of the pictures you showed.

You may print this historical photograph.

JAMES THOMPSON,
(aged 12),

Solihull,
West Midlands.



The UFO spotted by James Thompson, see *By coincidence I saw a UFO, too.*

Circles back again in UFO country

By Andrew Morgan

Unexplained symmetrical circles have reappeared in cornfields near the Westbury white horse in Wiltshire, close to celebrated prehistoric sites and the scene of many a UFO sighting.

The circles were first seen seven years ago and appeared every 12 months in the same fields, near Salisbury Plain, until last year when they were absent. This year, on cue, they are back with a vengeance, confounding any rational explanation.

The most concentrated group is on farmland belonging to Mr Peter Gale and his

wife, Angela. The most prominent circle has a diameter of 25 yards, with four smaller circles around it.

The corn has been crushed flat with the tautness of thatch and it has not escaped residents that the shape resembles an H G Wells spacecraft.

Mrs Gale said: "I suppose it could be a practical joke, with people using ropes, but no footsteps have trodden down the corn elsewhere. It seems a freak of weather is more likely, but families have been here for generations and nobody saw the circles until 1980."

More mystery surrounds the circle on the land of Mr

Geoff Cooper, where a flawless shape has appeared on the north side of the Bratton-Westbury road.

Mr Cooper's circle is particularly special because the grain has been crushed in an anti-clockwise direction.

Mr Cooper, aged 50, used to have several circles each year but he sold the most prolific circle land to the Gale family.

Mr Cooper said: "At first, we complained to the Army because we thought the helicopters were doing it on exercise. But they sent an expert round and he said a helicopter could only make that shape if it was flying upside down and stationary."

Mr Cooper listed local theories: herds of hedgehogs rotating in unison, with approximately 40,000 required; rutting deer, sadly out of season; pranksters who, inexplicably, missed out last year; or a freak of the weather.

Mr Bob Moger, aged 40 and farming adjoining land, has been confronted with a circle for the first time. He remains stumped. "In Africa, they call minor cyclones 'dust devils' but they suck up straw while the forces in Wiltshire are crushing", he said.

"The only safe comment is that little green men are not behind it."

WILTSHIRE TIMES TROWBRIDGE
AUG. 14 1987

Mystery is shared

CYNICISM was naturally shown by local farmers when mysterious circular crop marks reappeared beneath Westbury White Horse.

They and people throughout the country were fascinated when the symmetrical circles first appeared some years ago. "But as it keeps happening you begin to get suspicious," said one farmer, pointing out that the circles were not very far from the road.

The marks have been absent for a couple of years but have always appeared at this time of the year - traditionally the "silly season". Like the Loch Ness Monster, they feed on the imagination, but in this area UFOs immediately spring to mind. Helicopter activity has been denied in the past and in any case the diameters of the circles vary greatly.

A hoax may explain it all - except the way it is done. A swinging chain may flatten crops neatly but it would be a very skilful feat to cover a 25-yard diameter.

And now there is more evidence. A large circle with four smaller adjoining ones has been seen in an escarpment called the Punchbowl just outside Winchester. Others have been recorded in cereal fields in Dorset and Sussex.

Mr Pat Delgado, a design engineer who has studied the circles, has admitted he was no nearer an explanation of how the crops of wheat, barley and rape are crushed taut in a perfect circle without any damage to the stems.

Mr Delgado, from Alresford, Hampshire, says a common topographical feature is a steep hillside which could provide a buffer for winds to form a vortex.

The phenomenon still remains a Wiltshire and wider mystery.

UFOs 'seen in West'

by ROGER MALONE

A NUMBER of UFO sightings have been reported over Plymouth and Cornwall. Strange configurations of lights have been seen in the night sky where no civil or military aircraft were flying at the time.

Mr. Leonard Hall of Penkenna Close, Crackington Haven near Bude, described what he and his wife saw around midnight on Monday as both "exciting and disturbing."

Looking out the door of their bungalow towards the east they witnessed what appeared at first to be two very bright stars. "They took ten minutes to cover an arc of 90 degrees from east to south, flying at a trajectory of about 20 degrees," said Mr. Hall, a retired Civil servant, who noted the time at about 11.20 p.m.

"As they moved towards the south-east each single light became double and as they moved farther to the south more lights appeared to form a triangle shape composed of many lights - mostly white but with some red flashing ones," he said.

WESTERN MORNING NEWS
PLYMOUTH

AUG 6 1987

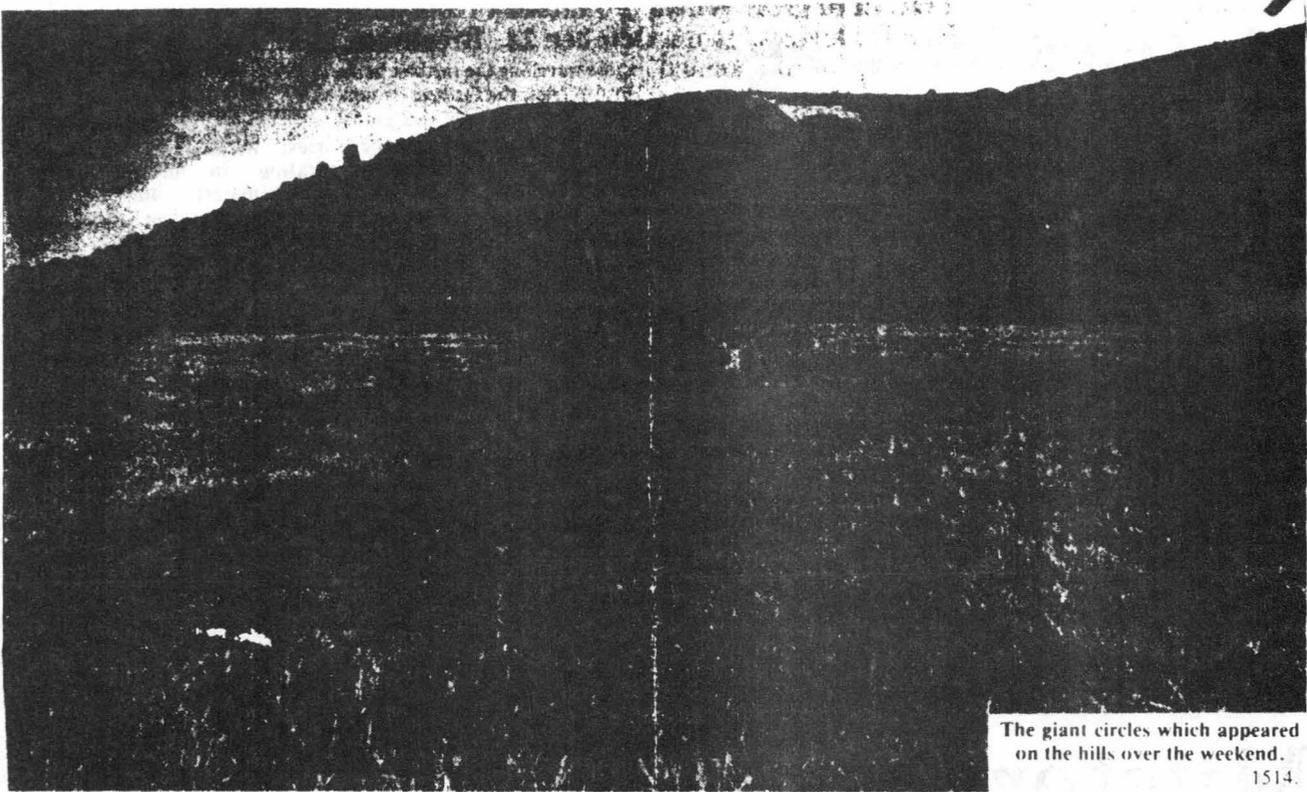
Clear

Mr. Hall, who observed the phenomenon with a number of neighbours, said there was a 45 minute gap followed by a second sighting. Again two single lights became double lights and moved away slowly through 120 degrees gradually disappearing towards the south.

In Plymouth 40 year-old Bob Boyd, chairman of the local UFO Group was awoken by a phone call from someone who saw strange lights over the city at much the same time as the Crackington Haven sightings.

"As I approached the Tamar Bridge I saw a big low light in the sky over Saltash. At first it appeared stationary then it moved slowly towards the bridge and divided into two," he said.

Plymouth Airport said yesterday there were no civilian aircraft in the area at that time. A spokesman for RNAS Culdrose said that, "occasionally night flying Sea King helicopters were mistaken for UFOs." However there were none on exercises in the Plymouth or Bude areas when the phenomena were sighted.



The giant circles which appeared on the hills over the weekend.

1514.

Mystery circles are back

THE mysterious Bratton circles have reappeared, sparking off more rumours of unidentified flying objects.

The circles, this time a large one about 25 yards across, with two smaller ones beside it, appeared beneath the Westbury White Horse at the weekend, to be greeted with cynicism from local farmers.

"This time they aren't very far from the road, and that's an obvious sign," said Mr Bob Moger, of Hillcroft Farm.

"When they first appeared years ago I was fascinated because they were symmetrical but as it keeps happening you begin to get suspicious.

"I can't believe it's meteorological and they are certainly not being made by a helicopter."

Last weekend's circles appeared on land farmed by Mr Peter Gale, who, while hoping that not too much of his corn had been damaged, felt that crows could have been responsible.

The circles have frequently appeared in Wiltshire, and the most popular shape has been a large circle surrounded by four smaller ones.

Lack of a suitable explanation has fuelled speculation about UFOs, particularly as the pattern of the circles coincides with many people's concept of spaceships.

Other, more rational explanations, have included youngsters swinging a large chain around in the fields, although footprints or witnesses have never been found.

WILTSHIRE TIMES
TROWBRIDGE
AUG 14 1987

FACTS ABOUT THE CIRCLES

Dear Sir: May I comment on the recent mystery circles discovered at Westbury, affectionately known as saucer nests to UFO researchers. The explanations that seem to follow in the wake of these phenomena do become after a time rather tedious in their regularity.

The facts are: No tracks to or from these circles have ever been found; surely this rules out human hoaxers.

Meteorological conditions (whirlwinds, heavy rain, etc) also seem unlikely; indeed when these depressions appeared in 1980 the Met Office stated that it was most unlikely the weather was to blame.

The sharply defined perimeter of these circles would certainly rule out a helicopter as the cause.

May I add at this point that these odd depressions are not unique to the Wiltshire area. In recent years they have also been observed in the Winchester area, another place like Warminster where UFO sightings have been reported.

One can only deduce from the evidence that whatever caused these depressions approached from the air and left the same way.

Yours faithfully,
STEWART PAYNE
18 Foresters Park Road,
Melksham

Mystery object spotted in sky

3
1
2
8

A "mystery green and white object in the sky" with a round glowing head and a tail.

Mr S Birdsall, of Reginald Grove, York, claims to have spotted the object on Monday evening while waiting for a bus in York. He said the object just

'I saw UFO flame above the Minster'

The bright light in the sky has been reported for the first time in York.

Mystery Zeppelin

Police baffled by UFO sighting

Police in York confessed they were baffled by a reported UFO sighting last night.

Mr John Raper, of 27 Burton Stone Lane, described them as orange in colour and flying at a considerable height. They were tracking a South, South West, in North York.

UFO spotted over Malton

Police officers in Malton were baffled by a reported sighting of an unidentified flying object was spotted near Billingston.

A person, who wishes to remain anonymous, yesterday reported a sighting of a UFO in a field near his home on the

Couple in York UFO mystery

IT STARTED with one flashing light... then there were three... then there were six.

THE headquarters of the Yorkshire Unidentified Flying Objects Society are situated - quite appropriately - high in the sky overlooking Leeds.

Mark Birdsall, co-founder of YUFOS and tireless researcher into unexplained phenomena, lives on the eleventh floor of one of those massive high-rise blocks of flats so beloved by planners of yesteryear.

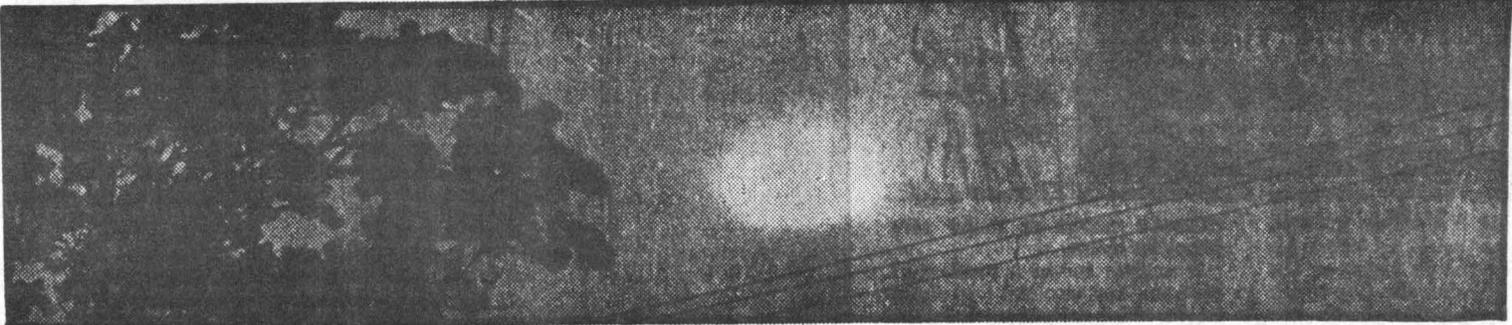
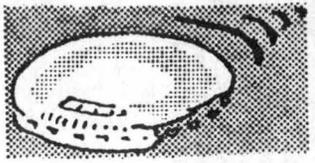
It is here that Mark investigates reported sightings of UFOs throughout the country.

21

During the last few years he has become increasingly aware of the fact that North Yorkshire appears to have a remarkable record for alleged UFO sightings - a record which is out of step with the rest of the country.

The bald facts, collected by YUFOS, are quite revealing. In 1980 there were 34 sightings nationally of which 14 came from North Yorkshire; in 1984, 48 sightings of which 25 came from North Yorkshire; and in 1986, 73 sightings of which 24 came from North Yorkshire.

In the intervening years, the proportion was still remarkably unbalanced.



Do aliens love it here in N Yorks?

Could this imbalance be accounted for by the fact that YUFOS is based in Leeds and was therefore bound to attract more sightings from North Yorkshire than, say, Cornwall?

Mark Birdsall does not accept this. "We are a nationally-known organisation, one of the best-known in the whole country, and we get sightings from all over England."

"North Yorkshire is one heck of a place for UFOs."

So why should North Yorkshire be such a popular place for our friends from other galaxies?

"It is a big, rural county which is bound to be attractive for obvious reasons. There is less chance of being seen."

● Like Americans, visitors from other planets seem to make a bee-line for North Yorkshire...at least according to the Yorkshire UFO Society. Meanwhile a controversial new book claims that there is a world-wide cover-up on UFOs. ROBERT BEAUMONT reports on the latest developments in this intriguing field.

And Mark believes that there are darker reasons.

"I am convinced that there is a lot of military activity going on behind the scenes involving aliens. So it would make sense to take a closer look at North Yorkshire which has Menwith Hill, Fylingdales and other key military installations."

Be that as it may, North Yorkshire does seem to be a fertile UFO sighting ground.

"The police have been very cooperative. They are often out at night, often parked on hill tops and are therefore in the perfect position to observe what goes on.

DO ALIENS LOVE IT CON'T

sightings have been made by the police," he said.

Mark Birdsall is still convinced that the York Minster fire was caused by a UFO. "People may scoff at this theory. But we have a number of statements and drawings from taxi drivers which are remarkably similar. They all saw something very strange indeed on the night of the fire."

"I know the official theory is lightning. But cast your mind back to the night in question. Were the conditions conducive to lightning?; I don't think so."

And Mark makes this pertinent point: What on earth have people got to gain by reporting UFOs? They usually end up by being the subject of ridicule and derision.

One such person is 43-year-old Timothy Good, a freelance writer and session musician, whose book *Above Top Secret* has just been published. It makes fascinating reading.

Above Top Secret alleges that there is an international cover-up on the subject of UFOs and Timothy Good's claims are given added weight by the fact that Lord Hill-Norton, Chief of Defence Staff from 1971 until 1973, has

written a powerful foreward to the book.

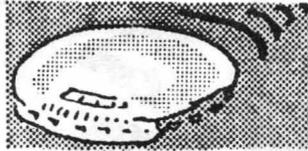
Timothy Good claims that:

- The Americans captured a crashed UFO with four dead aliens inside it in New Mexico in 1947.

- Each American President is briefed about a secret intelligence group that investigates UFO sightings and then covers them up.

- Aliens warned Neil Armstrong off the moon in 1969.

- A secret 30-man Ministry of Defence team tracks down UFOs from RAF Rudloe Manor in Wiltshire.



Perhaps the most interesting of these claims is the last. For when Mr Good was taking a closer look at RAF Rudloe Manor he was arrested and questioned in the middle of the night.

The Ministry of Defence denies that RAF Rudloe Manor is a UFO tracking station or receives UFO

sighting reports from the public.

So I rang up RAF Rudloe and asked if I could report a UFO sighting. They were only too happy to take down all the details.

That does not prove that RAF Rudloe is a tracking station. But the alacrity with which a member of staff took down the alleged sighting makes nonsense of the MOD's claim that the station does not receive reports on UFOs.

Sq Ldr Peter Milne of RAF Rudloe Manor said later: "At the end of the day, the Ministry of Defence is only interested in UFOs as far as national security is concerned. If we were given information about UFOs here, there is nothing we could do with it."

So why on earth did they accept my sighting..?

Timothy Good's book has caused a sensation in UFO research circles and if there is a world-wide cover up, as he suggests, then there will be a number of worried faces in those top secret security circles.

Meanwhile it will be fascinating to monitor the number of UFO sightings in North Yorkshire. For, if UFOs really do exist, the county does appear to be a prime target.

STAINES & ASHFORD

JULY 30 1987

UFO 'seen over town' - claim

A CHERTSEY secretary got a shock last week when she saw a bright light in the sky over Staines which she claims was a UFO.

Diane Cole was driving along Chertsey Lane last Tuesday evening at about 6.30 when she saw the unexplained object.

Mrs Cole said: "I was approaching the Causeway roundabout when I looked up in the sky and suddenly saw this light to the left of me. It was a really bright light, like the headlights of a car."

The "UFO" disappeared but reappeared

after she had gone past the roundabout.

Mrs Cole said: "It was coming towards me. It suddenly started spinning and took on a saucer shape. It disappeared after a few seconds."

Mrs Cole insisted it was not a plane. She said: "I was brought up near the planes and I know it wasn't a plane."

Egham police said that people often report UFO sightings in Englefield Green but not in Staines.

Perhaps Staines will be visited by beings from another planet in the near future. Watch out tonight for a hungry visitor!

Close encounter on the highway

□ THREE young men driving down the Italian super highway on their way home to a small village suddenly found themselves flooded by a circle of reddish light.

The car engine stopped and desperately they tried to start it again.

A round object approximately 25ft across was giving off light and they felt an invisible wall surrounding them.

When they finally started up the car they were in a completely different city 60 miles away.

EVENING NEWS
LONDON

AUG 10 1987

SOUTH WALES ECHO, CARDIFF

ENGLAND

JULY 17 1987

Cardiff the centre of the UFO universe as the Aetherians meet

DID YOU know that:

- Jesus Christ is alive and well and living on Venus where he periodically pilots a flying saucer.
- 60 per cent of the British public believe spacecraft are visiting earth.
- When Eisenhower was president three little green men were salvaged from a crashed saucer and now occupy the space age equivalent of a pickle jar in some American laboratory.
- If all the books written about UFOs were placed on top of each other they'd probably get you to the moon without needing extra-terrestrial transport.

And so it goes. Exactly 40 years ago a gent called Kenneth Arnold, piloting his light aircraft over the United States, spotted some silvery discs keeping effortless pace with his Piper.

They looked, he said, "like saucers." The term "flying saucer" was coined.

Spinning

And tonight, at a meeting in the Royal Hotel, Cardiff, the Aetherius Society, whose hotline for UFO spotters has brought in calls from South Wales and the world, the latest facts will be revealed.

One sighting came from Mr. Colin Webbley. At about nine o'clock one January morning he spotted a "brilliant white light" as he stood outside his Caerphilly home.

It was, he says, a cigar-shaped object, which is not an unusual report. The shapes of the 31 varieties of UFO claimed to have been seen range from objects looking like spinning tops to what might be giant light bulbs. UFO experts suggest that the cigar shape indicates a "mother ship."

In this 40th anniversary year of the first modern sighting — modern because inexplicable objects have been seen in the skies from Babylonian times — the interest, even the obsession with UFOs increases.

The response to the hotline, say the organisers, has been "overwhelming." The line allows people to reveal sightings and an average of 50 a day are telephoning in.

We've had plenty of alleged activity in Wales over the past 40 years, from sightings by scores of schoolchildren in Dyfed 10 years ago to claims that the UFOs actually have a base in West Wales, beneath the sea off Stack Rocks. And the last couple of years haven't seen any decline.

Cigar shape, strange lights, and the hotline

BY DAN O'NEILL

Radio waves

Mr. Webbley, of Caerphilly, who chalked up a 1987 saucer, saw what he believes was another UFO last year — two of them, in fact, bright lights in the sky moving away from each other at high speed. A letter to the Echo brought him replies from people all over the area — while at the same time a survey claimed that two of every three Welsh people believed in life from outer space.

The American Space Agency NASA

has just sponsored a programme called the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI). NASA is using massively powerful radio telescopes to sweep the Universe for radio waves from other planets.

And there's a lot of them about! New evidence suggests that a large number of the 100,000,000,000 stars in our galaxy have planets spinning round them as we circle our own insignificant sun. And our galaxy is only one of 10,000,000,000 others in the universe!

Tonight, the Aetherius Society will sift the evidence, including a UFO sighting from a man in Lisvane, Cardiff, who does not want to be named.

In March this year he telephoned after seeing two UFOs travelling at "moderate speed" towards the Bristol Channel. He watched them, "bronze-tinted and round," for about 25 seconds. When he phoned the RAF at St. Athan he was told the radar was out of use that day...

One of the more dramatic, and credible sightings recently, came when the captain and crew of a Japanese Airlines jumbo jet was accompanied by three UFOs high over Alaska. "They flew alongside for half an hour," said Captain Kenju Terauchi, "while we covered 400 miles."

Colin Webbley saw lights in the skies. NASA dreams of visitors from space — and has science working for it. And the Jesus Christ is alive claim? That comes from the Aetherius Society.

Maybe somebody is up there. Tonight, Cardiff could be the centre of the universe as we know it...

Flying frog spawn?

AN unidentified flying object which looked like flying frog spawn was spotted by Mr Mark Robinson and his wife, Jean, from the garden of their home at Gifford Hall Farmhouse, Broughton Gifford, about 8.10pm on Sunday.

Through binoculars, the Robinsons saw it consisted of three or four round globules linked together, "like flying frog spawn" said Mr Robinson. The objects were creamy in colour and reflected the sun which was low in the sky.

WILSHIRE
TIMES

TROWBRIDGE

JULY 10 1987

UFO author backs old Alf

AN Aldershot pensioner's account of the night he was taken on board an alien spacecraft has been described in a new book.

Leading UFO expert Timothy Good has gone into print with his belief that the experience of Mr. Alf Burtoo is absolutely true.

Mr. Burtoo died in 1986 — three years after his encounter as he was fishing along the Basingstoke Canal.

With the publication of "Above Top Secret" it has been ensured that the "greatest experience" of Mr. Burtoo's life will go down in history with authoritative backing.

Mr. Good's book blows the lid off what he has labelled the "worldwide UFO cover-up."

DETAILED

He sets out on a controversial path to prove international political suppression of facts and sightings and to show that UFOs do exist.

To this end the author has seen hundreds of declassified Governmental papers and interviewed dozens of witnesses.

Singled out for special attention is old soldier Alf Burtoo,

who lived in Pegasus Avenue until he died at the age of 80.

Mr. Good described the pensioner's experience as "an important and highly detailed account which might teach us a great deal about UFO phenomenon."

And as the author relates the story behind the close encounter of the third kind, he remarks: "I am convinced he was not lying."

Mr. Burtoo told how he was taken on board the spacecraft by two "forms."

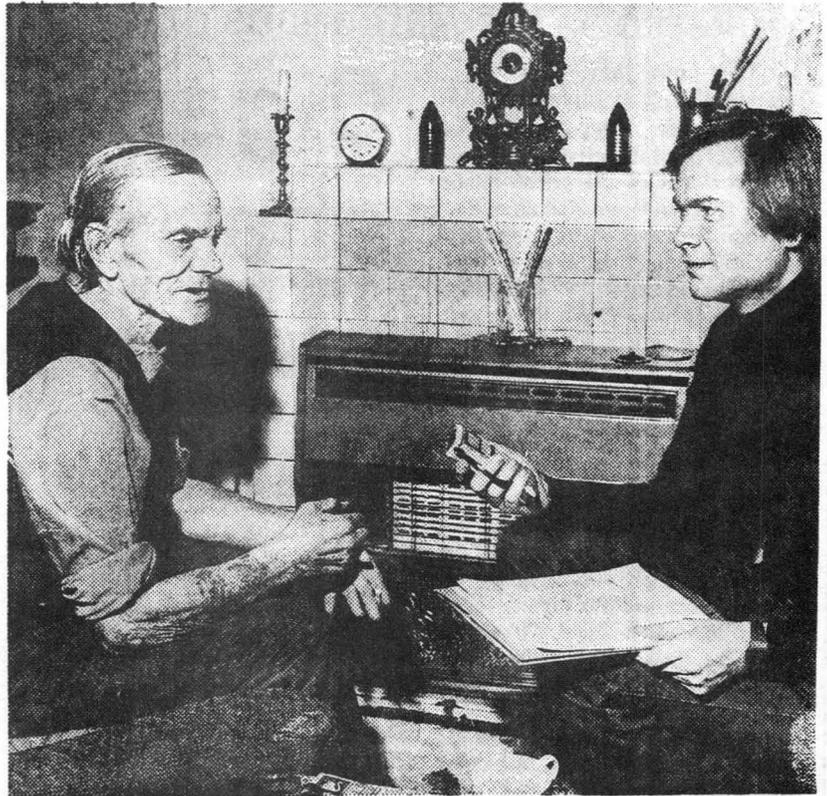
They were literally "little green men," who were about 4ft. tall, unusually thin and wearing green overalls. Visors covered their faces and they spoke with a sing-song accent.

Mr. Burtoo said he was taken into a black room of unburnished metal and told to stand under an amber light.

The one of the forms said: "You can go. You are too old and infirm for our purposes."

The pensioner recalled that he felt no fear and was "mildly disappointed" that the aliens did not want to abduct him.

Mr. Good concludes: "This is one of the most convincing close encounter cases I have investigated."



Flashback to 1983: Author Timothy Good interviews Alf.

LANCASHIRE EVENING TELEGRAPH BLACKBURN AUG 10 1987

Hotline probes East Lancs UFO sightings

A STRANGE fluorescent object spotted flying over East Lancashire is being investigated by the UFO Hotline.

The green object, seen by people in Burnley and Harle Syke, is just one of the hundreds of sightings reported to the Hotline since it was started in June.

And the organisers are anxious

to hear about any other sightings, even if they happened years ago.

Co-ordinator Philip Mantle said hundreds of phone calls had come in since the hotline was opened: "The oldest we have heard about so far was from a Batley man who encountered a strange being while walking back to his RAF camp one night in 1943," he said.

More recent incidents include a sighting by Hotline co-ordinator Rodney Howarth of Harle Syke: "He saw an unusual object moving in the sky about three months ago. There was also a strange, green, fluorescent glow. There was another report from a lady who saw it a few hours later," said Philip.

A few days later a Burnley man

reported seeing a large green circular object moving at tremendous speed over Burnley at 5.30 one morning. The object made no noise as it moved away. "It is very unusual to have three sightings in such a short space of time," Philip added.

He went on to say: "We have received calls from places as far

apart as Blackburn and Birmingham. A great many of the reports were explained away almost immediately as either aircraft or satellites, but we do have a number of UFO reports which are still under investigation because they could not be identified immediately.

"These include a young Morley

couple who were travelling north on the M1 motorway. At about 9pm, somewhere between junctions 22 and 25, near Nottingham, they both saw a large circular object descend low over the motorway, lighting up the whole motorway before it landed in a nearby field."

On another occasion, a

Derbyshire couple, holidaying in Matlock, saw a large triangular object covered in numerous small lights, moving slowly over the fields without making a sound.

Hotline organisers want to hear from anyone with any sightings at all, no matter how long ago. The 24-hour phone number is 6924 447015.