

UFO NEWS

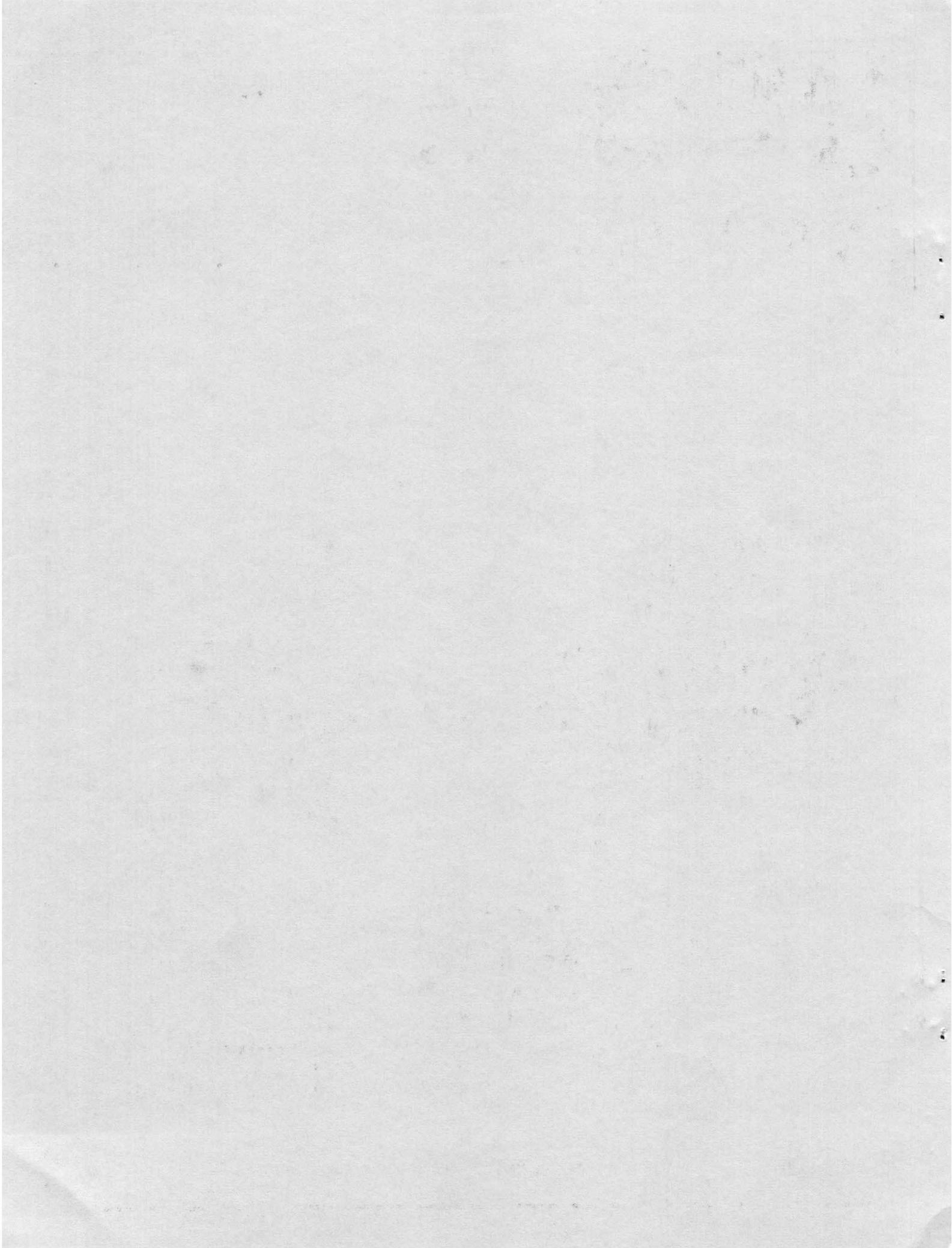
February 1988
Volume 13 No. 2



**AERIAL PHENOMENON
CLIPPING INFORMATION CENTER**

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DIRECT REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED



‘What if they’re watching me?’ — Rose Strand

Bismarck investigator seeks truth about UFOs



What some think an alien looks like.

By STACY HERRON
Tribune Staff Writer

To this day Rose Strand of Regan doesn't like to drive alone. The eerie memory of a strange flying object 10 years ago is still too vivid.

"When I drive home at night or when I drive by myself I look up into the sky to see anything unusual. I always look back behind me. It scares me. What if they're watching me?"

"It's frightening."

To some, unidentified flying objects (UFOs) are just swamp gas, planets, airplane lights and imagination.

Strand doesn't know just what it was that chilled her with terror.

All she knows is that a bright yellowish light followed her and her daughter while they were driving home from a snowmobile race. At the time she thought it was a UFO. Nothing since then has changed her mind.

UFO investigator Don Johnson of Bismarck says Strand — and all of us — are not alone.

There have been many reports of UFOs in North Dakota — not as many as in more populated states, but some that in his opinion may include abductions.

People abducted usually recall a blackout of some kind

but little else, unless put under hypnosis, Johnson said.

He said North Dakotans in small towns, farmers and ranchers who work in fields at night, are most likely to spot UFOs.

Strand recalls her experience vividly.

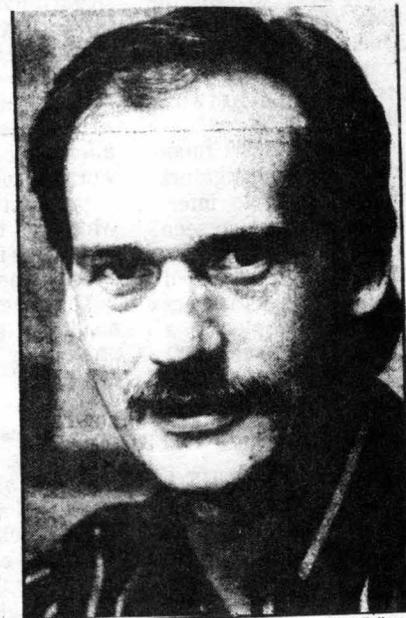
"In my view it has to be an object investigating us or watching us. Why would a light like that just pick and follow us? It scared us to death. It came up from behind and then came up beside

us ... It followed us home. I told my daughter to get out of the pickup and run inside. We drew the drapes. The thing just hovered in the yard like it was watching us. I didn't want to call in case the phone was tapped or they were listening. We were so frantic. I watched it with the binoculars.

"Everybody said, 'Oh, you're crazy, it was just a yard light.' I know it wasn't. I hope I never have to go through something like that again. I can't say it haunts us. But I think about it. When I'm driving alone."

Since Strand's first encounter with the UFO her husband has seen a similar light, and she has seen what she calls other strange lights in the skies.

North Dakota's most recent UFO sighting was in March near Devils Lake when several



By DOUGLAS VAN TASSEL of the Tribune

Johnson got hooked on UFOs at 9.

residents, including two off-duty police officers, saw a diamond-shaped, mult-colored object hover about 500 feet above the ground.

Although most UFOs are reported in rural areas, sometimes they are seen in large cities.

Bismarck police officer Mark Buschena said he and fellow officer Mark Thompson spotted a flying object about a

BISMARCK CONT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

year ago near the Holiday Inn.

"It wasn't aircraft or a weather balloon," Buschena says. "It was a grey mass. It was moving slowly across the sky and all of sudden, BANG, it was gone."

Buschena never reported the case. "We figured people wouldn't believe us anyway." He still doesn't know what to think of UFOs, whether they represent extra-terrestrial life.

"I don't know if you could say that. But I think it would be pretty self-centered of us to think that out of the whole cosmos we're the only life form. Look how many different planets there are, how many different universes."

About 10 calls every day come to the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, a spokesman said. Most come from California.

North Dakota's meager population is thought to be the reason for its few reports. "You don't have the people to see them," the spokesman said.

About one in 10 of the calls are classified as actual UFOs. The others can be explained as aircraft, weather balloons, satellites, planets, meteors or stars.

Bismarck police and sheriff departments tell people to call the center's hotline number 1-206-722-3000 if a UFO has been spotted.

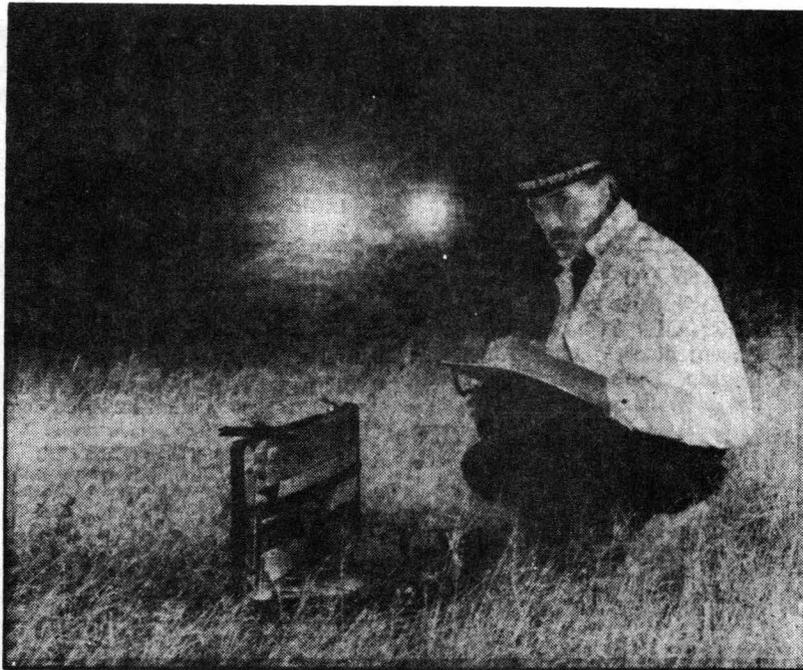
Another group that tracks UFOs is the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) out of Seguin, Texas.

MUFON, with some 1,500 members worldwide, sends investigators like Bismarck's Johnson to interview people who think they've seen UFOs.

Armed with a heavy dose of skepticism, MUFON investigators interview, take soil samples if a UFO has landed and trace UFO reportings.

"You can waste a lot of time on a UFO report," Johnson says, because so many come up empty.

Johnson has never seen a UFO for himself, but he thinks they are for real. The thousands and thousands of unexplainable reports are enough to convince him there is life out there. Maybe not E.T., but some kind of life.



By DOUGLAS VAN TASSEL of the Tribune

Johnson's investigations take him many places.

A native of northern Minnesota, Johnson, 32, has worked at the Amoco Refinery since 1979 when he moved to Bismarck. He's a reserve officer with the Bismarck police department and has been interested in UFOs since he was about 9 and heard about cattle mutilations.

He remembers news reports of "mysterious" butchering of cattle. At the time, it was speculated aliens aboard UFOs had done the work, Johnson says.

His brother and sister also saw what was believed to be a UFO at their farm in Fertile, Minn.

Johnson was hooked.

This summer he finally became an investigator, after being approved by the MUFON board of directors.

Friends and others laugh and make jokes, but to Johnson UFOs are serious.

"A lot of people don't want to believe," Johnson said.

Two books that hit the market this past year, "Communion," and "Intruders," maintain that scores of people have been abducted and experimented upon by aliens.

The most common type of entity people claim to have seen is a dwarf with a balloon-shaped head, large round eyes and disproportionately long arms.

There are four kinds of encounters with UFOs, Johnson said. They are:

■ Close encounter of the first kind. This is where something unidentified is seen from a distance of 500 to 1,000 feet.

■ Close encounter of the second kind. The object hovers or lands or damages vegetation. A distance of 500 feet.

■ Close encounter of the third kind. Entities are seen from a distance of 500 to 1,000 feet.

■ Close encounter of the fourth kind. A person is abducted by an entity.

Does Johnson want a close encounter of any kind?

"I believe there will be a time when I see one. It's like I'm after something out there. And I have to get it. I'm not interested in where they come from. I'm interested in finding out what they do. I want to see what is there."/>

Utterly Far-out

OH-DI AKRON BEACON
JOURNAL

NOV 8 1987

Organization

Flying saucer panel keeps eyes on the sky

By Christine Maly
Beacon Journal staff writer

Unidentified flying objects always tend to draw a crowd — at least initially — so it's not uncommon that a local group takes its research on the subject seriously.

But Saturday night? Instead of going to movies, nightclubs or restaurants, 22 members of the 26-year-old Flying Saucer Investigating Committee spent three hours mulling old cases, reading new literature and reviewing a new book. The group consists of Summit and Medina County residents.

The group meets the first Saturday of every month at First Federal Savings and Loan, 2770 W. Market St., in Fairlawn. The president is Americo E. "Marc" Candusso, a retired Akron teacher who founded the group in 1961.

On Saturday, members saw a slide presentation about a 1971 case in Delphos, Kan., where a family who raised sheep claimed aliens had landed on their farm. The group also looked at fraudulent pictures of UFOs and discussed the Strategic Defense Initiative

("star wars").

"We try to keep up to date on what's going on all over the world as far as sightings, abductions and astronomy," Candusso said.

About 20 percent of the group's members claim to have seen UFOs themselves.

Candusso said the group used to be quite formal, with all the trappings of a parliamentary committee, its own telephone and a mailing list of nearly 800. However, membership has dwindled to between 20 and 40 members.

"It's not because a great many people don't think there's something to it," Candusso said. "They just don't want to be ridiculed and there's some feeling that the people who are in these organizations are a little bit nutsy. I can assure you, we're not."

Candusso, who claims to have seen UFOs on several occasions, said he is often skeptical of UFO sightings.

"It's so easy to be fooled," he said, noting that he spends a couple of hours each night scanning the skies with his telescope. "Of every 10 cases called to my attention, about nine are identified."

He said aircraft, satellites, Venus and Jupiter are most often the culprits for false sightings.

Candusso developed an interest in UFOs while in the military during World War II. He spoke with pilots who claimed to have been followed by "spherical objects with no wings or tail."

He said the pilots thought they were enemy planes, but later found out that the Germans had seen the same thing.

His theory is that the aliens whose ships have been seen, or who have abducted earthlings for examination, are not planning any kind of attack on the planet Earth.

"I don't think there's any invasion force ready to come in here," he said. "They know about us, but they don't want us to know about them."

"They can't be from our solar system, but they could come into the solar system, land on the moon, establish bases there, land on Mars, establish bases there, and then go about investigating the whole solar system."

THE PLAIN DEALER DEC 2 1987

Mysterious lights startle night owls in eastern U.S.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mysterious lights brightened the sky from New York to Virginia early yesterday, but officials and witnesses disagreed on just what the blaze looked like.

Police and emergency operators and Coast Guard spokesmen variously described the display as blue lights, a fireball and a meteor shower.

"What really shocked me was how bright it got," said Maryland State Trooper Paul Keplinger in Easton. "It looked like daylight out here for about five seconds."

Keplinger said he saw a bright yellow light traveling across the sky, trailing a reddish flare. After it disappeared, he said he heard what sounded like thunder.

A boiler room attendant at Wallops Island NASA Flight Center on Virginia's Eastern Shore reported seeing "a big blue light that lit the whole sky almost like lightning."

"After that, I saw two balls of like fire, only not a red fire ... a white fire," said Eddie Quillen.

In Cape May, N.J., Coast Guard Petty Officer Carlos Johnson said he received a radio report at 12:38 a.m. from a ship in Delaware Bay.

"We figure it's a meteor shower," he said. "We just assumed that due to the fact we had so many calls, from Virginia to New York."

Officials at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware said they were not aware of the lights and a security guard at Wallops Island said no rockets had been launched. A Federal Aviation Administration official said no plane collisions had been reported.

No foolin', flying saucers really do exist

There are still people running around loose in this world who contend that UFOs were for real. And I'm one of them.

Yep. I sure am. Unidentified flying objects did exist ... and probably still do. The government to this day insists that those things were a figment of our imagination.

For some reason, our government tried its best to convince us ... all of us who said we saw UFOs ... that we didn't.

As a matter of fact, the government paid people good money to run around the country and accuse us of having overactive imaginations, poor eyesight or trying to stir up trouble.

That was like being accused of attempting to incite a riot, you understand.

One of those dudes came to see me, in fact, after I wrote a column in which I described, in very matter-of-fact fashion, a UFO. its

lighting system, its maneuverability and speed, plus my opinions on them.

My family and I were on our way home from a visit with Mom and Dad in Connersville when I saw my first one.

That was back when the easiest way was to drive old U.S. 38 from New Castle to U.S. 31 in order to get home ... vice versa going down. And that's bad. Every time we made the trip the kids got sick going and coming. What a lousy road!

Anyway, this time we got to the intersection of U.S. 31 and 38 just about the time it was getting dark. It was normal at that intersection, I guess, to glance up in the sky over toward Sheridan.

And there it was. My first glimpse of a UFO.

I'd heard about them, you understand, but I had taken my government's advice and told myself those things didn't exist.

By
**Bob
Ford**



I lied.

I pointed this one out to Nancy and the kids. The outline of this UFO was barely visible in the dusk. It looked very much like one of my wife's pie pans turned upside down with lights ... bright lights ... spaced at intervals all the way around.

I'd seen it and, being the big mouth that I am, wrote about what I had seen. I got all kinds of phone calls. Some people told me about what a nut I was and some

said that ... "Gee, that's about what I saw" ... and then described the setting, time of day, weather conditions, etc., when they saw their flying saucers.

About a week later this guy comes traipsing into the office, walks into the Sports department where I was working then and right up to my desk. There were four of us in there at the time.

But like I said, he walked right up to me. He recognized me. He had to have seen my picture some place, and I figured he'd read the column ... somewhere. He showed me his U.S. Air Force credentials and he and I went over to the conference room where he questioned me about what I had written. I told him, just like I'm telling you.

"You're mistaken," he said. "You didn't see that at all."

I told him, "You asked me ... I told you. I know what I saw. Don't try to make a liar out of me. Now,

hit the road, Buster, and don't let the door hit you in the fanny."

He didn't come back.

But about a week later I saw another UFO out by the Public Service Indiana building. It turned out to be about the same experience ... appearance, lights, movements all the same.

A few nights later, about 2 in the morning, the cows just west of our house started kicking up an awful noise. I got up and took a look.

Sure enough, that dude was hanging up there ... maybe 50 or 60 feet over a barnyard. Pretty soon, it swished up and away at great speed.

A few days later I was out to one of the golf courses and the head greenskeeper got me on a golf cart and told me he had something he wanted me to take a look at.

We rode out to one of the fairways and there was a round spot 30 or 40 feet wide burned in the turf.

"I think that kinda backs up your UFO stories doesn't it Bobby? Maybe it came over here to eat grass."

I told him I figured those little people in that flying saucer had to hit shag balls somewhere and they took a likin' to his golf course."

He didn't laugh, 'cause he probably figured I knew what I was talking about.

(Ford is an award-winning staff columnist who can be contacted in the newsroom.)

UFO sightings in Johnston County are all in the family

NC-D34 THE RALEIGH NEWS +
OBSERVER NOV 2 1987

SMITHFIELD — There was something in the sky that night, something large that had flashing lights and moved soundlessly over Wilma Creech's mobile home.

"I don't know what it was, but it scared me to death," she said. "I couldn't move my arms or legs. I just stood there and looked at it."

What are we to make of unidentified flying objects and the people who see them? Are we to assume that all of the reports that come in each year are fanciful tales? Are all of the people who report them lying? Or is there something really there?

Wilma Creech is 45. She lives up a dirt path behind an auto parts store in a rural area between Smithfield and Princeton. It was a summer night in 1984 when whatever it was came to visit.

"I was in my bedroom when I saw a bright light in the woods," she said. "I walked to the window to look out. I thought it was some people spotlighting deer."

"I went into the yard and watched it come over my house. It was oval-shaped and looked to be about the size of a trailer from a tractor-trailer truck except it was tapered at each end.

"It hovered over the cornfield next to my trailer. It was about 25 feet in the air, just hovering there and making a humming sound. It was about 25 feet up and 25 feet away from me.



Dennis Rogers

"There was a bright light coming out of the bottom, like a spotlight. The spotlight was moving around in a circle and then it shined right in my eyes. It was the brightest light I've ever seen.

"I could see a row of colored lights down the side of the thing. It was so close that I could see what looked like little window panes, the kind you have in old houses. The lights shining through those windows were red, green and blue.

"It hovered there for a little bit and then moved over a row of pine trees, across a pasture and then landed beyond some trees. It scared the horses in the pasture to death and they started running. They broke out of the pasture that night.

"I went along a path back in the woods as far as I could go, but I didn't see anything else.

"It was going toward my daughter's house, so I went back inside and tried to call her to see if she'd

seen anything, but the phone was dead. And all of the lights were off.

"I didn't hear it leave, but the lights came back on by themselves after about 30 minutes, and later the phone came back on. I never called anybody to fix them."

That is what Wilma Creech says happened to her on a summer night in 1984. No, she says, it was not a low-flying airplane or a helicopter.

"Airplanes and helicopters fly over here all the time," she said. "I've seen them all my life, and this was not a helicopter or an airplane. It didn't have any wings like an airplane or a thing on top like a helicopter. And it didn't make any noise."

That could have been the end of it. She told a few people what she had seen and predictably, most of them didn't believe her.

"It didn't matter if they didn't believe me or if they thought I was crazy," she said. "I knew what I saw."

But there was more to come.

A little more than three months ago, her daughter and niece came to her with a frightening story, Wilma said.

They told her they had been driving to a store near Princeton, about eight miles from Wilma's house, when a large oval object appeared in the sky near their car. It hovered over a nearby cornfield and

shone a large spotlight on the ground. They watched, terrified, as the light went out and the craft lifted silently into the night sky. The description of what they saw matched what Wilma had seen three years earlier.

"I don't have any idea what it was," she said. "I was so stunned when I saw it that I couldn't move. It was like my mind was clear but my body was paralyzed."

"People tell me I didn't see anything, that there is no such thing as UFOs, but I did see it. If you don't believe me, that's all right. But lying won't get me nowhere. I have nothing to gain by making it up. But I know I'm not crazy. I know what I saw."

I don't know what she saw, but I have one suspicion.

The military apparently has developed secret and incredibly quiet helicopters that are used for covert operations. They have been used in the Persian Gulf area as recently as last month. A co-worker says he has seen them on maneuvers in the Franklin County area and says they are very quiet and very spooky. They don't make the traditional "whomp-whomp" sound associated with helicopters. He says the sound is more of a quiet hum and that the running lights are not the ones normally seen on helicopters.

Could that have been what Wilma saw?

UFO

IL-M4725
WORRIDGE NEWS
WEEKLY
OCT 29 1987

By Nancy Kluz

Remember E.T., the friendly, gentle, ugly-but-cute alien creature visiting earth until he phoned home? That image is all wrong.

"You might change your mind about friendly aliens if you interviewed someone who claimed they were abducted by one," said Don Schmitt, a ufologist with the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago. (CUFOS).

"You'd see the terror in their faces and hear astounding details of terrible things that happened to them during their abduction. You can't help but believe these people (abductees) are experiencing something real," he added. "We don't know what, but it is a real phenomenon waiting for explanation."

Sitting shoulder to shoulder around a table jammed into a small room of ceiling-to-floor shelves stuffed with UFO books, Schmitt and his colleagues talked about what they believe is a neglected scientific field of study.

"It takes a lot to convince us," George Eberhart said. Jerry Clark added, "And we can safely say we believe these abduction experiences are happening to these people. We are talking about people who are professionals with doctorates, police officers and pilots. They come from all different walks of life."

The center where the ufologists work was founded in 1973 by J. Allen Hynek, an astronomer and professor at Northwestern University. It is financially supported through donations and subscriptions to the center's magazine, International UFO Reporter (IUR).

IN THE PAST 14 YEARS, these volunteers have logged 20,000 UFO sighting reports. "Some of them can be explained as night lights such as other planets, bright stars or military operations," Schmitt said.

"Our purpose here is to keep record of events involving UFOs and abductions," said CUFOS president and scientific director Mark Rodeghier. "Some day we hope those records will lead to a full investigation of the UFO phenomenon."

Rodeghier, Clark, editor of IUR, Eberhart, the center's librarian, and Schmitt, an IUR artist, all believe UFOs warrant a scientific and/or psychological explanation.

"We are dealing with a phenomenon that has so far resisted explanation. We are here to document that phenomenon and to show the scientific community that there is some evidence that human beings are not the only intelligent life forms," Clark said.

The last wish any of them have is to meet these other life forms face to face. Not even for the sake of science.

"We're too spooked by it," Eberhart said. Clark and Eberhart looked at one another and shuddered. "I never want to go inside a spaceship," Clark admitted.

Eberhart quipped, "I guess we're safe because there has never been a report of a ufologist getting captured."

What spooks the group is the eerie descriptions abductees give of their unpleasant experiences with alien life forms. To compound the eeriness, many abductees' descriptions — despite where and when they are abducted — are the same.



"IT'S REMARKABLE. Some abductees give the same descriptions of these spaceships from room to room," Clark said. "There are similarities in the descriptions of the lighting, and what happens once inside the UFO."

"It is extremely difficult and painful for abductees to recall their experiences. I know, I have seen these people. That puts me only one step away from the abduction," Schmitt said, while his fellow ufologists nodded.

"It seems like most abductees undergo some sort of bizarre physical examination once they are inside of the space craft," Clark said. "We know of cases where people have puncture wounds, or scars from where skin had been taken."

"We have to keep most details confidential so that others won't begin some kind of scheme. But in looking at the similarities of the abduction cases we learn that most abductees are punctured and poked in places you'd never want to be punctured and poked," he added.

Most abductees report being put on a small gurney and examined by short (about 4-foot tall) hairless humanoids with grayish skin. These extraterrestrials have large heads, somewhat egg-shaped, with enormous eyes and slits for a nose, according to Thomas Bullard, a writer of UFO books.

In a study of 300 abduction cases, Bullard learned the humanoid creatures often talk about a dying planet. The aliens say they are attempting to combine human and alien forms. According to some published reports by Bullard, aliens have taken samples of human ova and sperm.

"WE DON'T HAVE SET OPINIONS on who these extraterrestrials are, where they are from or what they want," Rodeghier said. "We just collect information that we believe stands up to tough investigation.

"The reason UFOs remains a perplexing question is because the different disciplines don't communicate," Rodeghier said.

Clark interjected. "The problem is that the scientific community is neglecting its duty to UFOs. We are just filling in until someone starts listening to the documentation we have on file here," he said.

"No scientist wants to make a statement about UFOs," Rodeghier continued. "If they do give statements about the topic, the statements are very conservative. No one wants to be profiled as believing in the UFO phenomenon."

Clark listened, then shook his head. "I think we are entering a new era of more optimism. We now know much more about this phenomenon and people are starting to open their minds. We play the role of the educator here," he said. "I think scientists, psychologists are taking a more investigative look at what we have. I think great times are ahead for us."

Clark backs his assumption with the IUR subscription list. "I'm seeing that our magazine is going to biology departments, psychologists and scientists. Maybe people are quietly, privately pursuing this," he said.

The J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies is at 2457 W. Peterson Av., Chicago and can be reached by calling 271-3611.

Government report might confirm UFOs existence



One recent event that may open the door to more UFO study is the controversial U.S. government report on "Operation Majestic 12." The report first surfaced when it got into the hands of two authors and UFO investigators about six months ago.

International UFO Reporter's Jerry Clark explained: "In 1947 a pilot, Kenneth Arnold, reported seeing nine disc-shaped silvery, crescent crafts. That is a good sighting that has yet to be explained. About a week or so after that, there was another sighting of UFOs in New Mexico. During a blinding rainstorm, a rancher heard an explosion. The next day he found all of this material on his ranch.

"The rancher reported his findings to the Air Force. The nearest station was the Roswell Air Force base," Clark continued. "They investigated the remains and announced that they came from a crashed weather balloon. The story was accepted.

"There were 32 people directly involved in seeing this," he said. "Everybody involved said something extraordinary happened. The Air Force personnel swore them to secrecy."

Supposedly, a National Security Council document was written about the investigation on Nov. 18, 1952. Its purpose was to brief President-elect Eisenhower on the government investigation of two mysterious incidents. These incidents involved the crashes of two UFOs in the southwest that were being investigated by 12 advisers appointed by President Harry Truman.

Rumors circulating in the UFO world say that materials from the crashed space craft and the remains of four alien bodies are still being kept secret by the government — and that they still might be on the Roswell base.

"Our position here is to urge further document examination. So far, the document has stood up to the strongest scrutiny. If we are dealing with some kind of hoax, we are dealing with one of a high level of sophistication," Clark said.

"We are hoping this will open up more research," ufologist Mark Rodeghier said. "I think these investigations could put us on the brink of a scientific discovery."

"That's what we are waiting for," ufologist George Eberhart added.

— Nancy Kluz

UFO MYSTERY OF STRANGE LIGHTS IN SKY

Was it a close encounter for family?

ROGER Ford, a part-time fireman, did not know what to think when he saw weird lights in the sky, moving rapidly and sending out laser beams.

But after reading in a national paper that a class of youngsters in Lancashire saw identical lights, he wonders if his family had a close encounter with aliens from outer space.

Roger, 36, of Rosemary Road, East Malling, said: "I got a phone call from my father at about 8pm on Monday. He had seen the lights and wanted me to check he was not seeing things.

NOT MOVING

"There were two lights, one high in the sky and one lower. It appeared as though they were shooting white laser beams at each other." The lights were red, white and green like plane lights, he added.

Roger, who works at Reed International, said his wife Rosemary also saw the lights. His father, Gordon, 64, of New Hythe Lane, Larkfield, reported that the lights shot across the sky, zigzagging, getting lower, disappearing and then reappearing high up again.

"I have a son in the RAF and I am interested in aircraft. But I am sure it was not a plane. It was not moving in the same way," he insisted.



Roger Ford... a close encounter?

Roger forgot about his sighting until he read that a class of schoolchildren at Leigh had seen something almost identical lights sending out laser beams.

It was then he plucked up the courage to report his sighting to the post's sister paper, the Kent Messenger.

A spokesman for the defence ministry was sceptical about the report. He said helicopters with their lights could well fit the description of what the people saw.

NY-039 NEW YORK POST NOV 10 1987

Space priests

THE Vatican is training priests for missionary work in outer space. The Alphonsianum Academy, a Catholic university in Rome, has set up a UFO chair to prepare clerics to convert

whatever aliens turn up. Vatican theologian Pierre Thorel told the London Evening News: "We can neither ignore space exploration, nor the possibility of meeting other living creatures." Michael Luckman, director of the New York Center for UFO

Research, told PAGE SIX: "This is a serious acknowledgment that UFO aliens are real." The move came after Jesuit scientists at the Vatican Observatory reportedly spotted UFOs.

Mystery

UFO activity in the Ashbourne area has again prompted the National Investigation Society to seek more information from local skywatchers.

Sighting co-ordinator Mr Denis Harriman believes there are four incidents which could have an Ashbourne link, the most recent just over a week ago.

This particular one is linked with two other incidents, all of which involve the same Tutbury security officer going home in the early hours after a late shift.

At about two o'clock one morning six weeks ago the Tutbury man saw in the sky a metal object, with red light around the underside, heading in the Ashbourne direction.

Three or four weeks later the same man saw an orange ball, flying at low level, following the contours

of the land, with lights some 200 feet across. Again it was heading for Ashbourne.

Then about a week ago he made a similar sighting, the object following the same course and once more making towards Ashbourne.

Mr Harriman reports that this is the time of year when there is increased activity in unidentified flying objects and would be pleased to hear from anyone within the Ashbourne area who may genuinely have seen anything which ties in with the Tutbury sightings. They may contact him at Draycott on 033 17 4961.

Mr Harriman would also like members of the public to recall Sunday August 16. At about 3 pm that afternoon a matt black egg shaped object was seen making strange manoeuvres in the sky over Derby. Over populated areas the object was seen to slow to about 30 miles an hour, and to continue forwards at the same time as swinging 90 degrees to the left, then

to the right, then to the left and so on. Once over the area of interest the object banked away and accelerated to mach II, which is about 2000 miles an hour, going out towards Ashbourne.

Mr Harriman said the object was not seen again until 10.30 pm the same night when there were reports from Shardlow, Chellaston, Chaddesden, Spondon and Kegworth.

About 70 witnesses are known to have seen the object including 30 in one group.

With Ashbourne having been an active area for UFOs in the past, Mr Harriman wonders if the object was in the Ashbourne area in the intervening period.

The original sighting was made by a person involved in the aircraft industry.

The Ministry of Defence has said the object had nothing to with them.

YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS, YORK
OCT 16 1987

UFO theory

MY ATTENTION has been drawn to your report of an unidentified flying object seen over York at 7.10 am on September 29. It was described (mainly) as a large red semi-circle, "too big" to have been the sun, which appeared for a few seconds (presumably in the east).

In fact, the phenomenon probably was the sun, which rose at 7.10 am. The red colour and the reduced intensity were probably caused by atmospheric absorption.

Because we never look directly at the bright sun, we are not familiar with its real size. In fact, it is the same size as the full moon (also often thought to be larger than usual when near the horizon, due to an optical illusion).

At 7.10 am, because the sun was only half a degree above the horizon, its image was liable to be squashed at the bottom by refraction in the atmosphere.

Steuart Campbell,
Dovecot Loan, Edinburgh.

Mystery blobs

I BELIEVE in unidentified flying objects, but my friend and I also saw the "huge bright red apparition." We were driving in Whenby and were quite startled to see these red blobs in the sky over York.

My friend thought an aircraft had exploded. These "apparitions" happened three times in the space of about five minutes

two weeks ago, at 9pm, during the weekend.

During the sighting of a third "apparition" I could see quite closely what appeared to be a puff of pure-white steam or smoke, in the shape of a hot air balloon. There was a red harvest moon on that night and the reflection of this on the puff of steam or smoke coloured it red.

Perhaps someone could find the source of these intermittent puffs of whatever they were!

Pat Beadnall,
Cromwell Road,
Bishophill,
York.

BURTON MAIL, STAFFS OCT 26 1987

Anybody up there?

Following the *Mail's* focus on the mysterious world of UFOs, Derbyshire expert skywatcher, Mr Denis Harriman, received more than 20 reports of strange, flying objects.

Now 34-year-old Denis would like to hear from anyone who may have seen three, separate sightings of unexplained lights in the sky recently in the area.

The first was two fireballs, spotted going over Burton District Hospital and heading towards the A38. A married couple saw them between 9 pm and 10 pm on October 5.

On the same day a flying object, shaped like a tea cosy, was reported in the afternoon in the Horninglow area.

"As both objects were seen in the same square mile and on the same day, we are investigating whether the two

are linked. It is very unusual to get three sightings on the same day," said Denis, sightings co-ordinator of the National UFO Investigation Society.

Three witnesses also claim to have seen a couple of orange balls over Tutbury in the last three to four weeks, going in the direction of Ashbourne.

The third case, which was reported in the *Mail*, was the egg-shaped object, observed by workers at Derby's Rolls Royce factory.

Two people, returning from a trip to Elvaston Castle, late at night, saw a bright, white oblong shape in the sky with evenly spaced lights, which they claimed were windows. It was seen on the same day as the Rolls Royce sighting in the day.

Fireman's encounter of the light show kind

BOOKSELLER, LONDON
OCT 30 1987

Fortean imprint

The UK journal on strange phenomena *Fortean Times* has launched a publishing imprint, calling it Fortean Tomes. The imprint will reflect the eclecticism of the journal, which is now over 10 years old and carries stories by contributors from all over the world.

UFO 1947-1987 (£12.50) is a large format paperback anthology of reports commissioned by the British UFO Research Association to mark 40 years of research on the subject. *Lost Lands and Silent Cities* (19th November, £12.95/£8.50) by Nigel Pennick examines the evidence for the existence of the lands described in British mythology. *Lake Monster Traditions* (end November, £14.95/£11.50) by Michel Meurger with Claude Gagnon was first published in Canada, and demonstrates that stories about large lake creatures are not based exclusively on Loch Ness, but have a strong tradition in North and South America, central Europe and Scandinavia as well.

For the moment Fortean Tomes plans to publish around four titles a year. The imprint's address is 1 Shoebury Road, East Ham, London E6 2AQ (tel 01-552 5466). Sales and marketing are by Chris Lloyd.

OLDHAM ADVERTISER
LANCS
OCT 29 1987

Mystery from the past

THE UFO spotted by pensioner Olive Marsden could be similar to one seen over the area a few years ago, according to investigator David Bezer.

Mr Bezer visited Mrs Marsden at her Abbey Hills home shortly after reading about her sighting of what she described as a "like a birthday cake only with electric lights which didn't flicker."

He is now hoping to hear for other people who may have also spotted something unusual in the sky on Friday October 16.

Mr Bezer told The Advertiser: "Around 1982 there were a great deal of sightings in Oldham and Mrs Marsden's sighting matches up with something seen before over Alt."

Anyone who can help Mr Bezer with his investigations can call him on 338-6068.

ROGER Ford, a part-time fireman, did not know what to think when he saw weird lights in the sky, moving rapidly and sending out laser beams.

But now after reading in a national paper that a class of youngsters in Lancashire saw almost the identical thing, he wonders if his family had a close encounter with aliens from outer space.

Roger, 36, of Rosemary Road, East Malling, said: "I got a phone call from my father at about 8pm on Monday.

He had seen the lights and wanted me to check he was not seeing things.

"There were two lights, one high in the sky and one lower. It appeared as though they were shooting white laser beams at each other."

The lights were red, white and green like plane lights he added.

Roger, who works at Reed International, Larkfield, said his wife Rosemary also saw the lights.

His father, Gordon, 64, of New Hythe Lane, Larkfield reported that the lights shot across the sky, zig-zagging, getting lower, disappearing and then reappearing high up again.

"I have got a son in the RAF. I am interested in aircraft and I am sure it was not a plane. It was not moving in the same way," he said.



Roger Ford

Roger forgot about his sighting until he read on Wednesday that a class of schoolchildren at Leigh had seen something almost identical — lights sending out laser beams.

It was then he plucked up the courage to report his sighting to the KM.

A spokesman for the MOD was sceptical about the report. He said helicopters with their lights might fit the description.

WESTER MORNING NEWS

Catalogue of UFOs

PLYMOUTH
NOV-5 1987

PLYMOUTH UFO Research Group chairman Bob Boyd is sending a collection of recent Westcountry sightings in a report to political leaders, the RAF and the Ministry of Defence.

The sightings, some of which have been recorded in *The Western Morning News*, are being used by Mr. Boyd to highlight the growing interest in extra-terrestrial matters.

"I have sent copies to the Prime Minister, Neil Kinnock, David Steel, and David Owen because I feel the public should know more about what is going on," he said.

His report was completed after a large number of people witnessed strange lights in the sky in August over Exmouth, Plymouth and North Cornwall which could not be explained.

WORSLEY JOURNAL
BOLTON NOV-5 1987

FLYING SAUCER

SIR - Like the schoolchildren in Leigh I too saw a strange flying object.

On Sept 15 about 5.30am, after visiting the bathroom, I happened to look through the bedroom window and saw a saucer-shaped object above the

house opposite. It had red and white flashing lights and appeared to be hovering a few inches above the rooftop. After about five minutes it began to move away in the direction of Pendlebury. I have never believed in U.F.O.s until now.

Miss M. M. Turner,
Chorley Road,
Swinton.

IN MARCH, 1983, when the UFO researchers arrived at Carleton near Skipton to investigate a strange sighting on the moors, the locals said calmly, as though it were an everyday occurrence, 'Have you come to look for the flying oranges then?'

Two off-duty policemen had seen — and photographed — two mysterious, brilliant orange-white balls of light which had floated over Carleton Moor and then disappeared behind the hill.

To local people in the Embsay, Carleton, Skipton, Grassington areas, the strange lights were very familiar, and thought to be most frequently seen near Cracoe Fell, a huge rocky outcrop.

This incident was only one of hundreds, even thousands, of UFO (Unidentified Flying Object) reports in the Pennine area during the past 10 years. The area which appears most vulnerable to these strange phenomena stretches from Longdendale near Glossop and Bonsall Moor, Matlock, to Malham in Yorkshire. In her book *The Pennine UFO Mystery* (Granada) Jenny Randles, specialist in the paranormal, has written about sightings since 1980 near Burley-in-Wharfedale and Otley, a diamond-shaped UFO near Wetherby, and lights near Low Moor, Bradford, Halifax and Todmorden, which coincided with a mysterious death.

I went to meet two young Yorkshire Pennine UFO researchers, Andy Roberts and Philip Mantle, who have been absorbed for years in the fascinating quest for the meaning of the Pennine lights. At Andy's Brighouse home, they described some of the recent incidents and showed me photographic slides of local sightings and similar ones in Norway and Spain.

'Hold on, not so fast,' I had to keep begging, trying to take in the unfamiliar language of UFOlogy, as they talked with fluent complexity and in baffling acronyms. Andy has written two books and a chapter in *UFOs 1947-1987* (Fortean Tomes), and edits their magazine *UFO Brigantia*.

He and some of his fellow enthusiasts have recently set up a new group, Project Pennine, to co-ordinate and monitor Pennine UFO reports. Philip Mantle, a printing engineer and fellow researcher, has established a 24-hour UFO Hotline at his Batley home, HQ of the Yorkshire UFO Network. They are taking their research project very seriously and have received 'some very good advice', but sadly no funds, from Leeds University,

which they approached for help in setting it up.

Philip saw a light phenomenon himself during the 1984 wave or 'flap' of local sightings, although Andy has never been so lucky. 'Strangely, although most Yorkshire sightings are in mountain or moorland areas, I saw two large luminous spheres of light over South Leeds. During this flap of UFOs, many people sent in reports of similar sightings. They came flooding in via the newspapers, through UFO groups and societies and the police. The mountain rescue teams are often called out when people see strange lights on the moors at night, but when they investigate, they find nothing. Every time there is a report, we check with the police, the airports and the Ministry of Defence in London to see if there is any activity which might account for it, but we always draw blank.'

Classic reports tell of strange blobs of light, often coloured, and sometimes a string of lights. Some people visualise 'flying saucers' — like the two policemen who reported seeing a light in the distance and then a saucer-shaped light which passed slowly over their heads and disappeared.

The amazingly prolific literature of UFOlogy has snowballed since the first report of a 'flying saucer' in 1947. A whole world of reports, investigations, sightings and romantic imaginings, has grown up round the alluring idea of extra-terrestrial visitations and abduction experiences. A huge and impressive mythology has developed, fuelled by the intensely imaginative films *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *ET*.

One major area of discussion among UFOlogists is the conspiracy theory, which suggests that government, particularly the American government, is conspiring to conceal its knowledge of crashed UFOs and their passengers, another that the repeated reports of strange lights are part of a UFO education programme, in which governments seek to accustom us gradually to the idea of visitors from other worlds.

What is pretty certain is that the strange lights, 'spook lights' as they are sometimes termed, are really visible. There are too many reports for them to be merely 'misperceptions' or hoaxes, says Andy. Perhaps there is something in being a Yorkshire UFOlogist, because Andy and Philip both discount any extra-terrestrial explanation for the luminous phenomena.

'There are reports of strange lights going back many centuries,' says Andy. 'In local legend there are stories of fairies on Cracoe Fell, and I think that the mythology of UFOs is just our modern attempt to explain it, just as our ancestors explained the lights as fairies or ghosts.'

Another member of the UFO network, Sheffield University student David Clarke, has written a booklet on *Spooklights. A British Survey* (with Granville Oldroyd), which describes the 'ignis fatuus' or fool's light of ancient times, and the mysterious Will-o'-the-Wisp or Jack-o'-Lantern legends.

Yorkshire folklore names for the mysterious lights which were sometimes thought to lure travellers to their doom include Billy-wi'-t'-Wisp and Jenny-wi'-t'-Lantern. In Scotland they were called Spunkie or Corpse Candle, in Northumberland Kitty-wi'-the-Wisp, in Lancashire Peg-a-Lantern. Attempted explanations include the ignition of marsh gas or methane, and phosphorescence caused by bacteria, fungus or insects which could make barn owls luminous.

The most convincing modern theory is that atmospheric phenomena are produced by some electrical or other discharge of energy when rocks are in stress. Andy Roberts calls this the 'tectonic strain theory', tectonic being a geophysical term meaning 'pertaining to the earth'. It is scientifically known, he adds, that 'earthquake lights' occur before, during and after earth tremors.

The Pennine faults may account for the prevalence of these lights in Yorkshire and Derbyshire, and in August this year, when there were many reports of strange lights in the Pennine sky, a small earth tremor was recorded in Wales.

It's not as romantic as a visit by ET in a flying saucer — something we probably all secretly wish for in the same way as our forebears wanted to see fairies. And some UFO fanciers would probably rather not subscribe to such a literally down-to-earth explanation.

But Andy and Philip and their friends are determined to get to the bottom of the mystery, and if you have any experiences or sightings of the following: ghostlights, spooklights, UFOs, fairies, or poltergeist phenomena, they want to hear from you. Please get in touch with either the UFO Hotline, 0924 444049, or contact Andy Roberts on Brighouse 721993. □

Encounters of a UFO kind

'We are not chasing after little green men,' claims Jenny Randles, director of field investigation at the British UFO Research Association (Bufora).

This modern-day female Sherlock Holmes has now harnessed modern technology to help her identify UFOs — or at least investigate reports and establish whether they are genuine.

Her only personal sighting occurred in September 1980 while travelling up the M4 as a pillion passenger on her husband's motorcycle. She saw three flashing lights in the sky. 'I'm sure they were only parachute flares, though,' she says.

Jenny has always been interested in UFOs and joined Bufora in 1969. After taking a degree in media communications she worked as a writer and teacher in Crewe.

As Jenny was teaching project work on science and environmental science subjects, the children started coming up to her with stories of things they had seen in the sky.

Her interest became so strong she had to choose between her writing career or teaching. She opted for writing, as by then she had already published a book called *UFO: The British Viewpoint* — and in 1981 she got the top investigator's job at Bufora.

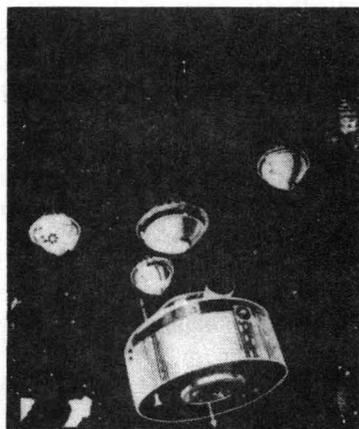
'It's only when I saw how valuable computers were in the research field that I decided it was time for me to know how to use one,' says Jenny. 'I have no inclination for electronics or machines and I really felt terrified.'

But she tackled the task of becoming computerwise with dogged determination, and after a six-month uphill struggle with only the manual to guide her, she finally came out of the tunnel. 'Everything seemed to fall into place and I don't know how I ever did without it.'

Jenny, who is based in Stockport, Cheshire, uses an Amstrad 8256 for

**An Amstrad
is being used
to classify
UFOS.**

**Elizabeth
Michel reports**



word processing, and writing her books and articles, and an Amstrad 6128 for database work using CP/M software.

All cases reported to Bufora are logged, as well as any leads from the media or from police stations when incidents have been recorded. Information also comes from Jodrell Bank, an astronomical research centre in Cheshire which tracks US and Soviet space launches.

'Our job is to find out what people saw. About 90 per cent of cases can be explained,' says Jenny. 'We use

astronomical software programs to do a chart of the sky at the precise time a sighting occurred. We nearly always find that what a person thought was a UFO was in fact a bright star or planet.'

Jack Raleigh, a computer professional in Silicon Valley, has developed a program to differentiate between the categories of mis-identification.

'If the object stays still in the sky for more than one hour, it could be an astrological phenomenon,' says Jenny. But if the object is silvery, slow-moving and hovers in the sky for a quarter of an hour, then it's likely to be a weather balloon.

'Red and green flashing lights would be an aircraft. Then you get a reading which might be like this: 75 per cent aircraft, 50 per cent balloon, 0 per cent star.'

'However, computers are very objective things, and we also need the human element to interpret any findings. Something which could be identified as an aircraft by the computer might look very different to an aircraft engineer.'

There have been clusters of reports concentrating sightings in certain areas such as South Wales, the Pennine hills and the north Yorkshire moors, but Jenny is certain these sightings have a geophysical explanation.

A *Computer UFO Newsletter*, published in English by the Italian UFO Research Association, keeps Jenny up-to-date with the latest software packages and databases available.

Another Jenny Randles book, *Science and the UFOs*, will soon be updated and available in paperback in time for Christmas.

Her latest book, *Abductions*, will be released on April 19 next year. It deals with 300 cases of people worldwide who claim to have been kidnapped by people in flying saucers.

'It's only when I saw how valuable computers were in the research field that I decided it was time for me to know how to use one' — Jenny Randles

AMAZING NEW CLAIMS BY UFO EXPERT

cluded in the talk as was the strange case of Denise Bishop.

Her extraordinary claims, featured in last week's Independent, were that she had been struck by a thin beam of light from a UFO outside her home in Weston Mill, Plymouth, on September 10, 1981.

Laser

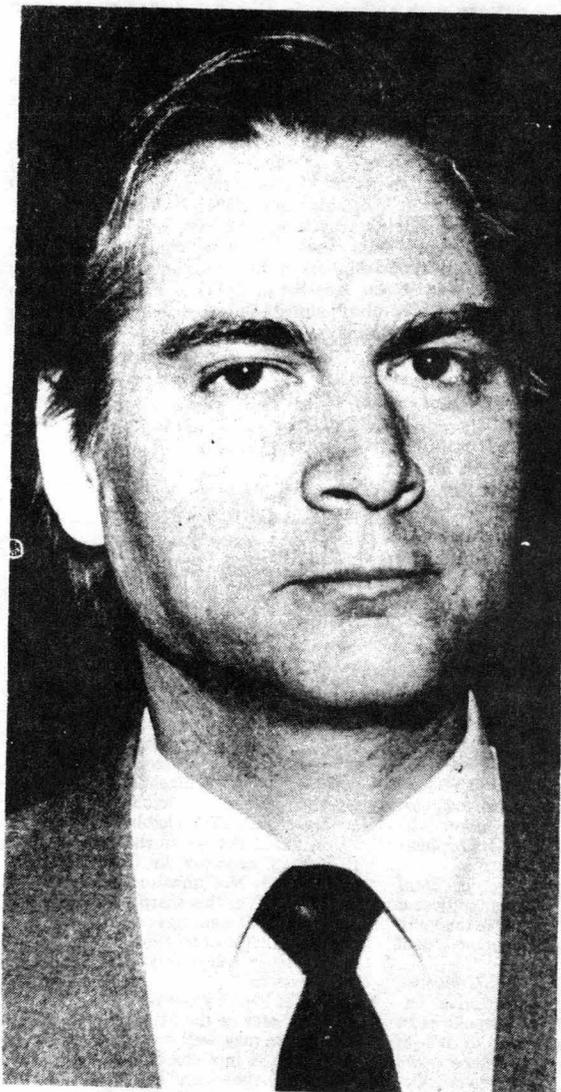
It left a scar on her hand and a doctor thought it similar to a burn from a laser beam.

Mr Good has researched UFO sightings for more than 30 years. His second book, Above Top Secret, was published in July.

Among its startling conclusions is that an alien spacecraft crashed in the desert of New Mexico in 1947, that alien bodies were removed with the wreckage and that the most extensive US Government cover-up of modern times was mounted as a result.

Encounter

The book also claims that in the United States UFO information has been classified two points higher than information on the hydrogen bomb, that Apollo 11 had a UFO encounter on its mission to land the first man on the moon and that there is an official UFO research station at RAF Rudloe Manor in Wiltshire.



Top UFO expert Timothy Good.

ONE of the world's top UFO experts flew to the West Country this week and told a packed meeting that the current spate of sightings in Devon were the most significant for nearly a decade.

Author Timothy Good confirmed that two unidentified delta-shaped objects seen on the night of August 4 this year were spotted by no less than 30 people.

And among those who saw the strange shapes between Exmouth and Plymouth were no less than seven amateur astronomers, normally sceptical about the subject.

'I have no doubt we are living in exciting times,' he told the audience at Kelly College, Tavistock.

'The current spate of sightings is the biggest for years and I am sure we are in for a lot more.'

Fascinating

The writer used slides of Sunday Independent reports to illustrate his talk which covered UFO reports from all over the world.

The sketch of a 'flying fairground' seen by retired Exmouth man Gordon Baker on August 4 was one of the most fascinating sightings for years, he said.

by Mike Beavers

The same shape was seen by the 30 people, mostly in the Plymouth area, between 10.30pm on August 4 and 2.30am on August 5 and he believed the large Exmouth object had split into the two delta shapes as it travelled towards Plymouth.

The three Teignmouth women who told the Sunday Independent they had seen a UFO over the River Teign no less than 20 times were also in-

Time out for ghost hunters and UFOs

Ghost hunters planning to hold a midnight Hallowe'en vigil in the ruins of an Oxfordshire ancient monument could be in for a real shock tomorrow night.

For members of the British Psychic and Occult Society planning to raid Minster Lovell Hall, near Witney, may end up meeting angry guards rather than ghouls.

The society has organised a Hallowe'en visit to the ruined 15th century ancestral home to seek out one of Oxfordshire's best-known ghosts, "The White Lady". The group intends to hold a night-time vigil with the intention of photographing the spirit and plan to make a psychic communication with "the phenomenon" by holding a seance in the ruins.

But English Heritage, which preserves the site, has uncovered the plot and is determined to put a stop to the ghostly goings on.

English Heritage custodian for the Thames Valley, Mr Tom Oman, said he had been shocked by the news of the plan. "We have certainly not granted permission to allow this to happen. We would certainly want to discourage this sort of thing.

"We are now making further inquiries and we will put a guard on duty if necessary," said Mr Oman, who said he had never heard of the society before.

The president of the psychic group, Mr David Farrant, says he has been leading an investigation into reports of the ghost since April. And members had already kept a number of nightly vigils at the ruins where he claims a transparent figure has been seen.



Mr. David Farrant... ghost hunter

by Reg Little

The Rev Donald Thomas has been casting his eyes to the heavens more often than usual this week.

The former rector of Hanborough has had the week marked in his diary for four years, ready for the fifth coming — by UFOs.

Mr Thomas is firmly convinced that late October has become a remarkably popular time for visitors from outer space wishing to see Oxfordshire.

He maintains that his well-kept files show UFOs have been dropping in on the Oxford area in October since 1967. And they appear to stick to a four-yearly pattern with sightings in October 1971, 1975, 1979 and 1983.

Mr Thomas, aged 68, who still lives in Long Hanborough, where he served as rector for 17 years, says October 24 and 28 seem the most popular dates, almost as if they were inter-planetary bank holidays.

"There seems to be an on-going saga of what was seen by police and other intelligent observant people. Not unnaturally one asks will this sharp increase in UFO sightings occur once again in October 1987 to maintain the four-yearly October pattern," he says.

Now more than used to coping cheerily with the incredulity of parishioners, he has made an appeal to anyone who can add to his long list of sightings in the county. So far he has been disappointed. But then the cost of getting away on bank holidays these days...

LITTLEPORT GAZETTE
COMBRIDGESHIRE NOV 5 1987

Have you had a strange visitor?

Sir,
It is a strangely mysterious fact that October 24th to 28th seems to be remarkably popular with visitors, whom most of us happily never encounter! Some of course do have an encounter and may write to a newspaper to say so. For 95 per cent or more of the population the UFO phenomenon is pure fiction.
Yet on the night of October 26th/27th, 1952, a customs officer at Marignane airport in the south of France was frightened out of his life.
On October 26th, 1967, a British Airways Administrative Officer, Mr J B W Brooks had a remarkable story to tell of what he saw on Moigne Down in Dorset, and between October 26th and 28th both police and prison officers on Dartmoor had a series of most unusual sightings.
But there was real tragedy in 1978 when on October 21st young Frederick Valentich and his small Cessna 182 disappeared halfway between Melbourne and King Island when in full radio communication with those on the ground, and no one in Australia or anywhere else has heard of him since. As his Cessna engine spluttered, the last words of

the pilot (carefully recorded) were: "— that strange aircraft is hovering on top of me again—it's not an aircraft."
In this Oxford area from which I write there seems to be an on-going saga of what was seen by police and other intelligent observant people in October, 1967, October, 1971, October, 1975, and if not so much in 1979 then certainly in October, 1983. Not unnaturally one asks: "Will this sharp increase in UFO sightings occur once again in October, 1987, to maintain the four-yearly October pattern?"
Special files kept by the police, the Air Force or the Ministry of Defence may well be bulging a little in October, but little may be seen in the national press. The provincial press frequently proves to be more helpful. Any reader kind enough to put pen to paper to describe what he might call an entirely inexplicable sighting occurring in October would have the genuine appreciation of the writer of this letter.

Yours,
DONALD THOMAS
7 Marlborough Crescent,
Long Hanborough,
Oxford OX7 2JP

WALSALL OBSERVER, STAFFS

Light in sky was UFO — drivers

NOV 6 1987

TWO Aldridge ambulance drivers say they had an encounter with a shimmering UFO.

Clive Pearson and Brenda Coyne, of Aldridge Ambulance station, were on duty at about 10.30pm last Wednesday night — October 28 — when they saw a large bright light in the sky.

"We watched it for about five minutes. It wasn't very high — it was hovering low over the trees out the back, then it shot off to the right.

"It was a brilliant light, but it couldn't have been a bright star, it was much too big," said ambulance driver Brenda Coyne.

"We're used to seeing aeroplanes — this wasn't a plane. It didn't move for about five minutes," said leading ambulance-man Clive Pearson, who has been in the service for 25 years.

The startled drivers telephoned Birmingham Airport to ask flight controllers to check their radar.

They reported seeing just two planes which the ambulance crew could see, said Clive, who ruled out it being a helicopter, as it was silent.

"I've never seen anything like it."

● Aldridge Police said they had no reports of sightings.

Close encounters in Putney Bridge Road

A report from a Wandsworth UFO Investigator

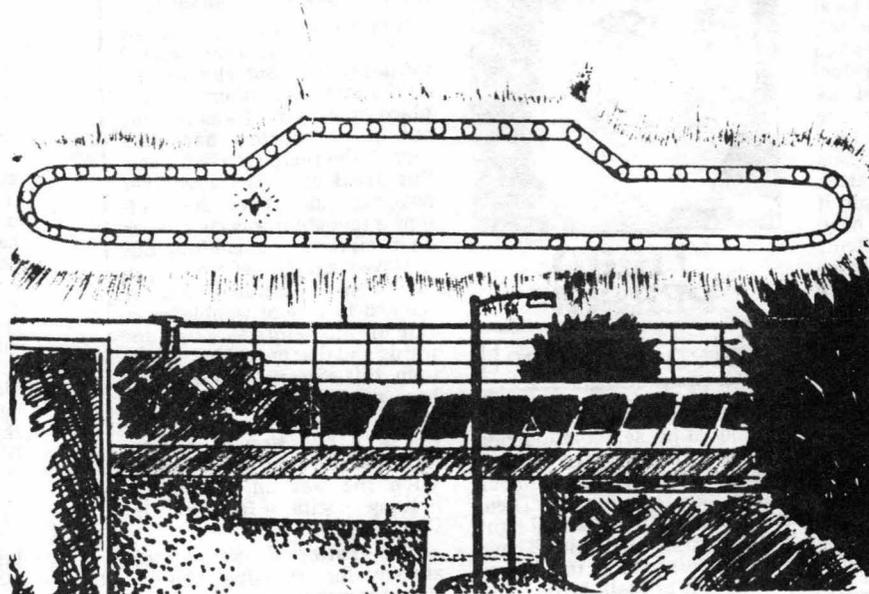
WANDSWORTH has had more than its fair share of sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects over the past years, says Accredited UFO Investigator Albert Budden, who lives in the area. He personally has sighted a diamond-shaped object over Merton Road one evening, and he has conducted investigations into other sightings for the British UFO Research Association, to which he belongs.

One of the most extraordinary of these occurred in Putney Bridge Road. Albert Budden describes it:

'A young footballer, John Loughrey, was walking to the bus stop near the railway bridge in Putney Bridge Road late at night when he saw a strange yellow light hovering high in the sky. Almost as soon as he noticed it, it came hurtling down and came to a sudden halt over a small railway bridge and hovered there. The usually busy road became still and eerily quiet. Both astonished and frightened, John could see that it was a glowing cigar-shaped object of enormous size which filled the sky and was outlined by dozens of round yellow lights. It had a vast turret or dome on top, and a bright star-like light twinkled within the main body of the object. John then remembers nothing until he "came to" and found himself half way home on the top deck of a bus. On getting off at his stop in Earlsfield, he looked up and could still see the object as a yellow light high up in the sky once more. It turned towards him and he ran home in panic without looking back.'

Most of us may be inclined to scoff at this type of tale — and ask whether young John Loughrey had just come from the pub!

However, those in authority take these phenomena seriously, and many countries have set up teams of scientists to collate and investigate sightings. In the Ministry



of Defence, Defence Secretariat Eight is reputedly a special department set up to deal with reported sightings from both civilians and the military. The French have a team of scientists known as 'GEPAN' who conduct research in this area. In the United States six major research projects into UFOs are funded by the Air Force, the CIA, the FBI and the National Security Agency. And in Russia, the Commission for the Investigation of Abnormal Atmospheric Phenomena is a tongue-twisting name for another official UFO-watching group.

As well as the Ministry of Defence's Secretariat Eight, in Britain there are dozens of voluntary study groups spread across the country. Most well known of these is the British UFO Research Association based in London. Members of such groups attend lectures, and eventually take part in investigating the hundreds of UFO reports throughout the British Isles each year.

In June this year Albert Budden reported another sighting in Wandsworth:

"I was walking along Merton Road one evening with my daughter Verity, when we both spotted a small white diamond-shaped object which glided slowly down from tree-top

level and then vanished."

However, Albert Budden is not convinced that such sightings are visitors from another planet.

Recent research has shown that people who see UFOs are often the same people who see ghosts and have other psychic experiences. This is not to imply that UFO sightings and other psychical phenomena are purely imaginary. Instead it shows that these mysterious objects in the sky are not simply some kind of sci-fi 'nuts and bolts' machine, but that UFOs are in the same family of strange events as other well-documented phenomena such as telepathy and poltergeists. It could be the human mind

has some part to play in them being here.

"Some people prefer to opt for the easily understood idea of beings from another planet," says Albert Budden. "However it is becoming increasingly evident to many of those who have studied UFO witnesses that the human mind and the UFO are closely linked in some way."

Further research may solve such mysteries one day. But in the meantime, any sightings should be reported to the British UFO Research Association. Your local investigator can be contacted on 947 7887.

And remember — Wandsworth has been UFO active in the past. It could be again!

Here's the spooky bit

"I'M USED to being told I'm a complete nutter," says Nina Patten with a rueful smile. They tell her this in her office where she works as a local government officer. They tell her at parties and discos when she has been persuaded reluctantly to tell someone what she has seen and, just in case she should forget, her sister tells her so whenever Nina babysits for her. Nowadays, Nina Patten only talks about it to people if she is convinced they have open minds. She has a difficult time because she has had three separate UFO sightings in the last two years.



THIRD PERSON

Helen Chappell

unlocked the car door, lifted him out of his seat and touched him all over. There was a strong smell of burning rubber but no pain (or pleasure). Then, two bright eyes like naked light bulbs stared into his. There was a rushing sound in his ears and he felt himself falling. The next thing he knew he was slumped back over the wheel in his car on the side of the road.

The windscreen wipers were working and the radio had been switched on very loud.

There's no way to avoid the awkward question. But no — it seems the lad was as sober as a judge. He'd been on antibiotics at the time and had been forbidden to touch a drop of alcohol. Had he reported his close encounter? He phoned the police but they were unimpressed by the story. How had it affected him? "He wouldn't stop telling me about it," Nina Patten said. "I listened to the whole thing over and over again. I got really fed up in the end but now I understand how he felt. Nobody else would listen to him, you see." Finally, the strain proved too much for the relationship and they split up. The boyfriend left town to take a job in computers in Stevenage. She has tried writing to him but he never answers her letters. "Since I've

had these experiences of my own I feel guilty about not believing him. I'd like us at least to have a chat about it."

Was Nina Patten groped by visitors from another world? Certainly not. But she has no doubt that such liberties take place every day. "I was looking out of my window here one night," she recalls, "when I saw this streak of pinky-mauve light hovering just above the rooftops. I thought it was my eyes or an aeroplane or something but it stayed exactly where it was for about a minute. Then it seemed to sort of wobble from side to side before shooting upwards and disappearing." Since then, this celestial blancmange has appeared to her twice more; once while she was waiting at a bus stop in nearby Neasden and once again in May when she was on a camping holiday with friends in Cornwall.

Nina Patten doesn't blame anyone for thinking she is stupid or paranoid or both. But, as she points out, she has an A level in physics, does not drink heavily or take drugs, and otherwise leads an active and contented life. She had her eyes tested after each UFO sighting and her vision was perfect. She does not suffer from migraines, nightmares or mental feebleness. She has taken a lively and sceptical interest in the subject, borrowing books on UFOs from the library and attending lectures given by the British UFO Society whenever she has the time.

What worries her most at the moment is the news that Britain may be letting its end down by economising on space research.

"I can't believe nobody thinks it's important," she says, truly baffled. "We must find out what is going on out there in space, not try to hush it up. The survival of the planet might be at stake. If not, at least people like me will know we've only been seeing mirages."

Was this a UFO?

Sir, — I thought you might be interested to know about an experience of my girlfriend's and mine on September 27 at 9.50 pm. Before I relate the

events I must preface my remarks by saying that I am not normally prone to hallucinations. I am not seeking any publicity with this letter but I would be most interested to hear if anyone else has reported a similar incident to that which I witnessed.

I was walking across a playing field in Framlingham and I looked up to the sky to identify the Plough (the only group of stars I can identify).

There were few clouds over Framlingham that night.

While I was watching, a bright light appeared, which was clearly visible. The light was a yellowy, green colour and had a blurred edge to it.

This light disappeared and reappeared three times moving in a zig zag direction away from me. There was no noise and the movement did not match that of an aeroplane.

After less than fifteen seconds the light disappeared for good.

It may well have been a UFO.

ANDREW CHOTHIA

Framlingham College,
Framlingham.

WORTHING HERALD

OCT 8 1987

Moon UFO

ON READING the Gazette and Herald last week. I was quite amazed to read the story about the 'weird UFO siting'. Amazed because of the siting? No, not at all amazed because I thought everyone had seen the moon before.

On the same evening between 9.00 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. four of us were travelling by car from Brighton to Worthing when we commented on how nice the moon looked.

It was very low that night over the sea and it was red in colour. As the wind blew the clouds across the sky its shape changed!

Need I say more! —
L. McGrath (Miss), 74
Lincoln Road, Worthing.

3124

NO KIDDING, SIR WE DID SEE A FLYING SAUCER

UFO 'hovered over school'

A CLASS gave its teacher an unearthly shock when they announced: "Please Sir, we've seen a flying saucer."

At first deputy head Bruce Nutter shrugged off their out-of-this-world claim.

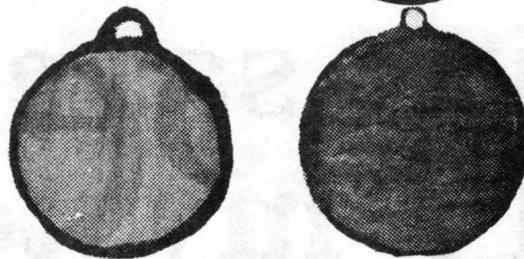
But last night he was having second thoughts of a serious kind about the "heavenly" visitor to St. Joseph's junior school.

● **Is there anybody out there? These pupils say there is after claiming a close encounter of a scary kind.**

Picture:
ROBIN JONES

For when the class of 10-year-olds were told to produce a painting of what they had seen all 20 came up with almost identical drawings.

Now UFO investigators are probing two sightings of a mysterious object which is



Two of the paintings . . . all 20 were almost identical

By TONY BROOKS

said to have hovered over the playground.

Sighting **NUMBER ONE** was during midday break when the round red and silver object about 80 feet across and glowing brightly, appeared to buzz a helicopter above the school at Leigh, Lancs.

Sighting **NUMBER TWO** came two nights later. Youngsters at a youth club

next door saw a similar visitor hover above the school and shine red, white and blue "laser beams" onto the playground.

Then it roared off "like thunder" at an amazing speed.

Mr. Nutter, 43, said: "I have questioned the children closely and there is no chance that they are involved in some kind of conspiracy."

Pupil Claire McIlroy, 10, said: "It was really scary."

WORTHING HERALD OCT 9 1987

Puzzle of odd light in sky

Mark Green, 18, of Torridge Close, told workmates at Excess Insurance he had seen something like a supernova as he put his bike away last Thursday night. Then he saw a report in the next day's Worthing Gazette and Herald, telling how two joggers were confronted by a glowing, shape-changing object over the Downs at Long Furlong that week.

Stretched

Mark had seen a swelling yellow light just after 11 p.m. over the Downs. 'It sort of stretched as if it was trying to break apart,' he said.

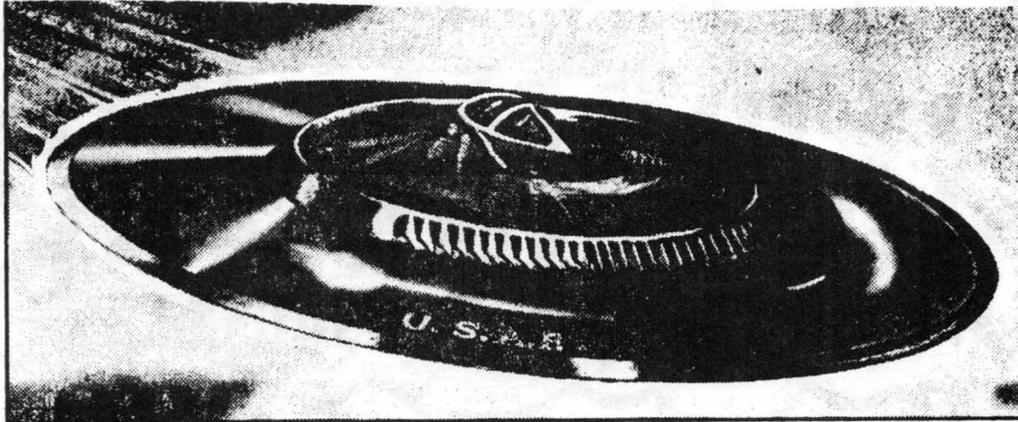
'It was as though some invisible hand was playing with Plasticine,' Mark added. 'I assumed it was a supernova.'

After a couple of minutes the strange light disappeared. 'I'm a perfectly sane 18-year-old insurance clerk,' assured Mark.

Several mysterious incidents have been reported in the Clapham and Downs area over the last 30 years. These include weird lights, 'flying saucers' and disappearing dogs in Clapham Woods.

A DURREINGTON insurance clerk spotted a strange yellow light over the Downs two days after a similar UFO sighting.

IT IS the year's oddest, most controversial milestone — the "official" 40th anniversary of the flying saucer, in Earth terms, that is. The phenomenon is still tantalisingly with us...



Flying saucers are still a mystery

FORTY years after they first hit the world's headlines, flying saucers are back in the news.

It was in June, 1947, that American businessman Kenneth Arnold, piloting his light aircraft near the Cascade Mountain Range in the State of Washington, spotted nine huge, gleaming objects flying at an estimated 1200 m.p.h. — an unheard-of speed for any aircraft in those days.

Upon landing, Arnold described the motion of the objects as similar to saucers skimming over water. The Press headlined them as flying saucers and the name has stuck ever since.

The latest sighting occurred early in January, when the crew of a Japan Airlines Boeing 747 freighter, flying from Iceland to Japan via Alaska, was shadowed by a mystery object for 30 minutes.

The 747's captain, Kenju Terauchi, described the object as huge and walnut-shaped — "very big, about twice the size of an aircraft carrier".

He said that it closed to within five miles of the aircraft, and asked US air traffic control for permission to take evasive action if necessary.

Controllers confirmed the existence of a large

‘ UFO specialists are convinced that 98% of sightings can be explained away. But that still leaves 2%... ’

By ROBERT JACKSON

"blip" on their radar screens and said it might have been composed of three separate objects flying close together. The US Federal Aviation Administration have launched an investigation, so far without result.

Flying saucers — or Unidentified Flying Objects, to give them a more scientific title — have intrigued and sometimes terrified mankind for centuries.

In the 1950s, when the dawning space age gave impetus to the notion that other intelligent beings might have the technology to cross light-years of space, flying saucer fever reached its peak — with the result that serious investigators have since found it difficult to sort out hard, documented facts from the mass of nonsense and trickery surrounding the subject.

Books claimed that the far side of the moon — which nobody had then seen — was a base for

UFOs. Then Soviet and American probes photo-mapped the far side and showed that it was pretty much like the Earth side, except with more mountains — and not a UFO base to be seen.

At that point, the authors of the "authentic" flying saucer books quietly disappeared from the scene.

Nevertheless, there have been many well-documented sightings of UFOs throughout recorded history. The Bible itself contains a number of references that might apply to UFOs, if one's imagination stretches far enough; the most famous appears in the Book of Ezekiel, describing how "a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire enfolding itself, and a brightness was about it".

In recent years, there have been many UFO sightings by pilots and air traffic controllers — people not given to flights

of fancy. Unexplained objects are treated very seriously by the staff of RAF Fylingdales and other ballistic missile early-warning stations around the world, but usually there is a rational explanation.

Falling satellite or rocket-booster debris, for example, can produce a brilliant display as it burns up on re-entering the atmosphere, and rocket launches can produce the same effect.

Some time ago, a series of glowing lights in the night sky caused near-panic in parts of South America until it was realised that they were caused by expended boosters from Russian space launches.

In England, a USAF colonel at Woodbridge, Suffolk, was convinced that he had spotted a UFO in nearby woods. The local papers picked up the story and made headlines out of it. Then it dawned on the colonel that all he had seen was the rotating beam of Orford Ness Lighthouse, flickering eerily through the trees.

UFO specialists are convinced that 98% of sightings can be explained away. But that still leaves 2% — including warship-sized walnuts that chase Japanese airliners.

Earthling, take us to your leader

By FLOYD MURRAY

Special to the Daily Times

Aliens have landed on earth. Just ask the U.S. military — because they have proof.

According to nuclear physicist Stanton T. Friedman — military authorities confiscated an unidentified flying object after it crashed on a New Mexico ranch in 1947.

And that's not all.

Friedman said military authorities also retrieved the bodies of four alien occupants along with the flying saucer.

Friedman related the details of the Roswell, New Mexico, UFO sighting to a packed house at Immaculata College's Alumnae Hall last week.

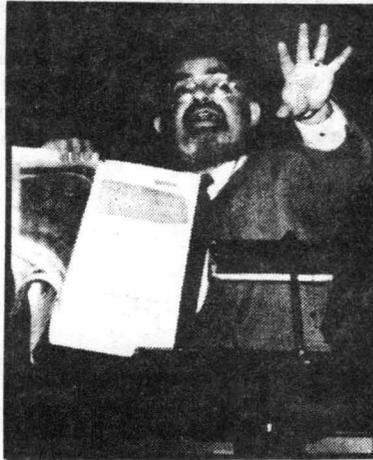
His speech, "Flying Saucers Are Real," kicked off the fall schedule of events at the college.

Friedman, 53, is a nuclear physicist who has worked on a wide variety of nuclear and space projects, many of them classified, for firms such as General Electric, Westinghouse and General Motors. He has also been investigating the controversial UFO subject since 1958.

And he is convinced that UFOs do exist. Furthermore, he is convinced that the reason most Americans are still in the dark about aliens is because the government covers up incidents involving alien spacecraft.

"After 29 years of search and investigation, I am convinced that the evidence is overwhelming that planet Earth is being regularly visited by extraterrestrial beings," he said.

For close to 10 years, first with author Bill Moore and later joined by TV producer Jaime Shandera, Friedman has been devoting most of his attention to the reported UFO mystery on the remote ranch near Roswell and now says there is further evidence of the event in the form of a controversial document apparently prepared as a briefing paper for then-President-elect Eisenhower in 1952.



UFO Expert Nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman claims that flying saucers have landed on planet earth and the U.S. government has proof, but covers it up. Friedman spoke recently at Immaculata College.

"It's probably the most thoroughly investigated UFO case around," he said.

The basic facts of the Roswell case are easily traced, Friedman said.

On July 8, 1947, the public information officer at Roswell Army Air Base, no longer in use today, sent out a press release stating that a "flying disc" had landed on a ranch near Roswell the week before.

The release went on to say that the disc was picked up at the rancher's home, inspected at the air base, and subsequently loaned by Major Marcel to "higher headquarters."

On the same evening, July 8, Brigadier General Roger Ramey, commander of the 8th Air Force District in Fort Worth, Texas, held a press conference stating that the object was actually just a weather balloon and radar kite. A cover-up, Friedman says.

There the matter rested, with UFO believers giving little credence to the Roswell story until the late 1970s when Friedman was put in contact with Marcel, who retired from the Air

Force as a Lt. Colonel many years after the Roswell incident.

Marcel not only contradicted the weather balloon story, but also testified that at the time Ramey was talking to the press in Texas, the material was transported to Wright Field.

Intrigued, Friedman sought out other witnesses to the event and ultimately, along with Moore, "talked to 92 people in conjunction with that one day," he said.

Including Marcel, many of those interviewed said they had handled pieces of the wreckage which they described as a foil-like substance, extremely thin but extremely hard. It couldn't be cut or torn. They also described small, lightweight balsa wood-like beams covered with hieroglyphic-type writing.

"We talked to media people from the same town who told us that the air force took hold of that rancher who first found the wreckage and kept him incommunicado for a few days, and later released him with the weather balloon cover story."

He also said, "We found an

engineer in the area who apparently had seen the bodies, which were found at some distance from those pieces."

They were described as four-foot tall alien humanoids.

Friedman also talked with Col. Thomas Jefferson Dubose, then Ramey's adjutant in Texas, who admitted taking the call from Washington ordering a cover-up.

After "very extensive research on Roswell," Moore, using the evidence he and Friedman had gathered, published "The Roswell Incident," with noted author Charles Berlitz in 1980.

Berlitz went on to other things, but Moore and Friedman, joined by Shandera in 1982, continued researching the Roswell case, updating the story each year in a series of papers.

LEADER CONT

It was while this investigation was ongoing that the focus of the story shifted to a plain brown envelope that their associate Jaime Shandera received at his Los Angeles home in 1984.

The envelope, with no return address, contained a roll of 35mm film which, when developed, showed six pages of a document purporting to be a briefing paper, dated Nov. 18, 1952, for President-Elect Eisenhower.

Labeled "Top Secret-Eyes Only," the document was prepared to inform the new president of the existence of an intelligence operation called Majestic 12, established by executive order of President Truman in September of 1947 to study the Roswell crash.

The document stated the group was headed by Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter, then head of the Central Intelligence Group, (later the CIA).

Other members of the group were listed as Secretary of Defense James Forrestal, General Hoyt Vandenberg and astrophysicist Dr. Donald

Menzel, who later became a noted UFO debunker. All 12 members have since died.

After discussing the Roswell crash, the document states "during the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small humanlike beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site." The document said a scientific team had removed the bodies for study.

The documents were made public last May.

However, the authenticity of these documents has been questioned, most recently in a report released August 24 by the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, an organization of scientists specializing in debunking reports of UFOs and other strange phenomena.

Friedman maintains the authenticity of the documents.

"We know the document talks about symbols on the crashed material and we've got five different people who observed these symbols."

NC-050 WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

SEPT. 20 1987

Interest in UFOs Takes Off Again

'A Lot Is Coming Out of the Closet,' N.C. Investigator Reports

By Joan S. Rodgers,
JOURNAL REPORTER

What's all this fuss about UFOs?

Clubs for enthusiasts and newsletters, movies, lectures and books about UFOs are bringing in the bucks at a pace outdone only during the wave of UFO sightings in the 1950s, according to a recent report by the *New York Times*.

Part of the hoopla surely can be attributed to three books that have come out recently: *Communion* by Whitley Strieber (Morrow), *Intruders* by Budd Hopkins (Random House) and *Light Years* by Gary Kinder (Atlantic Monthly Press). All three deal with alleged encounters between humans and aliens.

Some believers say that for 40 years, the United States government has been hiding evidence of extraterrestrial creatures, including their corpses and damaged spacecraft. Reports of such evidence, dismissed by skeptics and government officials as a laughable hoax, are contained in what purport to be top-secret government papers from the Eisenhower era, according to the *New York Times* story.

In the *Times* story, psychologists, historians, philosophers and science-fiction writers said that belief in alien encounters

Dr. Richard Pinneau, a therapist in stress management and biofeedback, says that information gathered under hypnosis is not necessarily more valuable than information recalled consciously.

is rooted in such things as the need for secular messiahs and the search for explanations for terrestrial troubles.

But others, often respectable scientists who have studied UFOs for years, said that the skeptics were missing the biggest story of the times, the *Times* story says.

Ask anyone interested in UFOs around here for an expert in North Carolina, and they will probably point you toward George Fawcett of Lincolnton. Fawcett, 58, is the assistant state director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) in North Carolina. His job is moving heavy equipment in a textile factory, and he is a former newspaperman and YMCA executive director. He is a college graduate and a Mount Airy native.

MUFON sends out investigators to people who report sightings, but it does not have enough investigators, according to Fawcett.

Among the many files he holds at his house are reports about humans abducted by aliens in two cases that allegedly occurred in North Carolina. He told the stories, based on investigators' reports:

□ Pat Eudy (now deceased), a 46-year-old car salesman who worked in Charlotte, was driving home to Monroe from Charlotte at 3 a.m. on March 9, 1979. He saw a blinding light on a deserted stretch of the Sikes-Mill Road. The next thing he remembered was that he was on a spot of the road about eight miles away, and it was 6 a.m.

Later his eyes burned, and he had a stinging rash on his wrists and ankles. He also suffered some mental confusion and began to have nightmares. He sought help.

When a therapist placed him under hypnosis, he remembered that he and his car were loaded into an area that resembled the cargo bay of a large airplane. The aircraft was oval and about 100 feet in diameter.

He remembered standing in a cockpit with a being about 5 feet tall who wore a

1371 CT
ABDUCTED

Continued From Page E1

silver suit and had two arms and two legs. He could not see the being's face because the creature wore a helmet with a dark visor.

Eudy was taken to a room with white walls and strapped around the wrists and ankles into a seat that resembled a dentist's chair. He remembered feeling intense pain in the fingers and thought that the being was taking blood and skin samples. He thought that the being communicated with him telepathically.

□ The second case Fawcett described is that of a woman in Raleigh. When she gave her report to investigators, she asked that her name not be used. She has since moved out of state, Fawcett said, and he does not know her address. She consciously recollected her experience without hypnosis.

She was a 31-year-old college graduate who was trained as a keypunch operator but was a homemaker at the time.

At 12:32 a.m. on April 24, 1979, she went out on the patio to take out the trash and throw some scraps to the hunting dogs. About 60 yards

from the house, she saw a craft with a brilliant glow.

It had three or four lights on it, a transparent opening in the center, two slits for windows, some protrusions as if for gas or exhaust, railings around it and a cone-shaped top. She saw beings in the windows.

The craft moved like a falling leaf. It gave a whirring sound and extended three tripods as it neared the ground.

The woman did not recall going aboard but remembered being examined by probes and something she said was like a CAT scanner.

She recalled seeing three or four creatures and felt that one was the leader. She made a sketch to depict them — a creature with a large cranium, no facial hair and large, slanted eyes that she described as being of a color between blue and lavender and having a slit rather than a pupil. "I can still see those eyes," she told the investigator.

The creatures were 3½ to 4 feet tall, she said, had claylike complexions and wore silver suits. They communicated with her through thought. She recalled being told that no harm would come to her and that she should be calm. Her first reaction was intense fear, she said, then, later, complete serenity.

She reported that the hunting dogs howled the whole time and that the house dog was agitated. Her husband and children, in bed asleep, never awoke, she said.

An hour and fifteen minutes of her time were unaccounted for, though she did not realize it until she talked to investigators.

The investigators did not think there was any collusion between the woman and Eudy, Fawcett said, since neither account had been published, as far as the investigators knew.

North Carolina alone has had 36 reported cases of occupant encounters — that is, sightings of the space beings themselves, according to Fawcett. Close encounters of the third kind are encounters in which the person sees the being outside or inside the craft, he said. Close encounters of the fourth kind are abductions, usually accompanied by physical examinations.

Fawcett knows of 600 reported abduction cases, he said.

"There are probably tens of thousands worldwide."

And 143 nations have had UFO activity, he added.

In more than half the known abduction cases, people recall their ex-

periences consciously, he said. Others have resorted to hypnosis and other techniques.

Is hypnosis appropriate in such cases?

Dr. Richard Pinneau, a local therapist in stress management and bio-feedback, said that he does not think hypnosis is valuable as a means of gathering evidence.

"Whether it is helpful therapeutically depends on the individual case and the person doing the regression work." The hypnosis, he added, should not be done by just anyone.

If the information recalled under hypnosis is different from the information recalled outside of hypnosis, Pinneau said, the information recalled under hypnosis is not necessarily more valid.

He suggested some possibilities about a person who says he has been abducted by UFO aliens: One is that the person is deeply disturbed and hallucinated or fabricated something, in which case he has serious problems. Another possibility is that he had a unique and rare experience and that he is suffering tremendous stress by being doubted, much as a rape victim suffers stress.

At any rate, Pinneau added, he should be dealt with in a professional manner.

Abductions by aliens have been reported since the 1930s, Fawcett said. The famous case of Betty and Barney Hill is supposed to have happened in 1961. The Hills' story came out in book form in 1966 — *The Interrupted Journey* by John G. Fuller (The Dial Press). The couple supposedly was abducted on a country road late at night in the White Mountains of New Hampshire on their way home from vacation.

Since the publication of the Hills' story, many other cases have surfaced.

"A lot is coming out of the closet," Fawcett said.

"Whether or not the abductions are true reports or not, at least the reports are coherent. They do agree with one another on a worldwide basis."

But the more controversial or complex a case is, he added, the more the person tends not to report it.

Fawcett called the government's secrecy on the subject "a cosmic Watergate." Through field investigation and the review of case histories and documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, Fawcett said, he has determined that the government has recovered 30 bodies of alien beings. He has copies of 400 government reports, he said.

A UFO organization for the Southwestern Piedmont area of the state met for the first time a month ago, he said, and will continue to hold meetings, probably in Hickory and Charlotte. The first meeting drew 80 people from 20 North Carolina cities, mostly professional people, according to Fawcett. "There's a great interest in this area."

From 1973 to 1985, he added, a UFO study group met in Winston-Salem.

Fawcett has a dream of founding a UFO museum and building it in North Carolina but has not tried to raise the money for it yet. The building itself would be shaped like the traditional image of a flying saucer.

He is now working on a mapping project with Danny Barger of Lincolnton, he said. Barger is placing pins on a map of the state — different colors of pins for different types of UFO encounters — to see whether there is a pattern.

Does he believe that the strange creatures exist?

He feels that the alien aircraft are under intelligent control, he said, and that the beings — some friendly, some hostile — give every indication of being real.

"If the taxicabs are real, why not the drivers?" he asks.

LOST IN TIME

He Hardly Believes It Himself

By Joan S. Rodgers
JOURNAL REPORTER

GREENSBORO

ONE SEPTEMBER night in 1966, when David Oldham was 16, he and two other boys were riding around about 8 o'clock killing time.

For some reason, he says, the boy who was driving, Ned, turned onto an isolated road in Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. As soon as he turned off, he adds, the boys saw a huge light "sitting right on the trees."

"It was as though you could just climb up on the trees and reach and touch it with your hand. It felt that close.

"The set of circumstances at that point froze. Everything was put into a suspended state, and we just sat in the car and observed. And then one of the comments came up out of the car — I don't know who said it, whether it was me or one of the other guys — they said, 'Let's get the hell out of here.' And then we said, 'God, that's a UFO.'"

They drove on to a nightclub outside of Greensboro but did not talk to one another about what they had seen. At the door, they asked what time it was. It was 10:35.

That is when they realized, Oldham says, that they were missing 2½ hours of their evening. What had happened when they saw the UFO?

He says that he eventually found out what happened during the missing 2½ hours.

"It's so far-fetched that even I can't believe it."

SIMILAR REPORTS THAT are surfacing all over the country seem to have in common a mysterious gap in time.

Oldham has serene, bright blue eyes and a salt-and-pepper beard. He seems to be a gentle person and describes himself as a man who is not afraid

Creatures from UFOs are generally said to have large craniums, gray-white skin, and large, wrap-around eyes. The skin texture is usually compared to the texture of marshmallows or clay. This composite picture is based on reports by many people who say they have seen the creatures.

to show his emotions. Outdoors, he appears to love the earth and enjoys the sighting of forest animals.

AS HE WALKED the grounds of the park where he says the event took place, and with his terror showing through at times, he told the Journal his hair-raising story:

He did not give the UFO event much thought until nine years after it occurred. He was in an automobile accident, almost died and was in the hospital for quite a while, he says.

Then he started having nightmares. He began a spiritual search and also began to study UFOs and investigate reported sightings.

Once on a visit to New York, he looked up Ted

Bloecher, a well-known UFO expert. They talked about the subject, and Oldham eventually told Bloecher his story. Bloecher arranged for him to see a psychologist for hypnotic regression.

Oldham had tried hypnosis with a therapist in Guilford County, he says, but would always reach a point in the recollections at which he would cry. He could never get past that point.

Dr. Aphrodite Clamar, the psychologist in New York, induced hypnosis, and Oldham had a breakthrough, he says. The information that emerged was terrifying.

He recalled the events that he feels happened to him during the lost 2½ hours:

He found himself outside the car in the park but does not remember getting out of the car.

"All of a sudden, out of the distance, I see a shadow of a person, and, naturally, I freak out." When he turned to get back into the car, he could not move. A human-like being approached him. The sight of it terrified the living daylights out of Oldham.

"You turn the corner, and immediately you're under the control of something. . . . The being — he came at me without me being able to move.

"He looked me in the eye, and I was freaked. I didn't know what to do, and he, through telepathy, told me to close my eyes and relax, that I was frightened and that there were other people that wanted to see me."

Oldham was taken — he does not remember by what means — aboard a craft. He remembers lying on a table in a cylindrical chamber, surrounded by smoke, and having difficulty breathing.

The light in the room was like light in a movie theater, he says, where you see the light but cannot determine its source.

"All of a sudden, out of the distance, I see a shadow of a person, and, naturally, I freak out."

— David Oldham
Business consultant

A group of beings stood over him as an instrument passed over his body. The instrument did not touch him, he says, but might have been shining a light on him. It was like being X-rayed.

The beings took him off the table and moved him to another room, but they did not carry him, and he did not walk.

"There's no way, physically and verbally, that I can tell you how it feels to levitate."

IN THE SECOND room, a group of the beings sat in a semicircle in a corner of the room, staring at him. When they blinked, they all blinked in unison.

He finally determined, toward the end of the ordeal, that a blink seemed to signal the end of a thought process and the beginning of a new one.

"The weird thing about it is that they all had large-shaped heads, and they had these tremendously big eyes. I mean it reminded you of a cat eye." The iris filled up the whole eye socket, he says.

Oldham did not dare to look below the shoulders, he says, because he was terrified.

"Would you?"

He did not have a sense of male and female beings.

And they showed no emotion.

"These guys were just neutral," he says. "If you played poker with them, you couldn't call their bluff, because you wouldn't be able to read their eyes."

They "spoke" to him without words. It was like telepathy, he says, but somehow beyond telepathy — it was energy.

ONE OF THE beings handed him a small box the size and shape of a remote-control device, he says. It bore symbols like the ones used in ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics.

The being who handed him the box blinked. When Oldham looked over, the others were gone. In their place was a screen that showed him images, as a slide show would. He remembers one picture of fire.

"The guy kept saying, 'Remember this,' and I said, 'I won't.' He said, 'Remember this,' and I said, 'No.' It was like a battle of the minds."

Finally, the being told him that he was going to leave the room and that Oldham would be alone, he says.

"I knew that was a set-up. That's the oldest trick in the world."

He felt that they were going to watch him as scientists might observe a subject in an experiment, he says.

Left alone, Oldham did not know what he was supposed to do with the small box. He held it for a while and eventually laid it down.

He noticed a larger box in the corner on the floor and felt something tell him not to touch it. He touched it and received a jolt like an electrical charge.

"It was like I was shocked out of my skin — like touching a live wire."

Finally, he was taken down out of the craft and set free. At the moment of departure, Oldham was crying. The being who had communicated with him asked, "Why are you crying? Why are you showing this emotion?"

And Oldham said, "Because I've never felt love like this before. . . ."

"It was like, at one point, we connected in unconditional love."

The being seemed indifferent but did acknowledge the statement about love with a blink, Oldham says.

The next thing he remembers is getting back into the car with the boys.

"They were in the car like robots." He got into the car without their being aware that he got in, or, for that matter, that he had ever left, he says.

"I don't know if we went separately. In 2½ hours, they (the beings) could certainly have done anything they wanted to."

NOT ONLY DID he see images during the hypnosis, he says, but at times he felt as if he could not breathe, and at times he felt paralyzed. His heart was racing, he sweated, and he felt panic.

"I was shaking so hard that it felt like I was really being rattled up out of my body," he says.

"It was horrendous. . . . 'Oh, man, just hold on to your body,' is what I kept thinking, because it feels like they are going to electrocute you. . . . Oh, man, it was unbelievable, unbelievable. I can't even describe the fear. It was the most horrifying fear."

The part that terrified him the most, he says, was the abrupt stopping of all motion at the beginning,

when he was outside the car, and seeing the being approach.

There are some lapses in his narrative, parts he did not recall.

"I'm disappointed in my detail, but I'm satisfied that I was strong enough to get through it," he says of the hypnotic regression.

He has always recalled consciously that on the night of the event, on the way home, the three boys did not talk about the UFO sighting. And they never discussed it after that night, he adds. At home that night, Oldham went to bed and cried himself to sleep. He did not know at the time why he cried, he says.

He compares his abduction experience to rape. Being manipulated beyond your will is rape, he says, whether it is sexual, emotional or physical.

He says he would like to see a group organized for people to get together who feel that they have had similar experiences so they can talk it out.

OLDHAM IS 37 and still lives in Greensboro. He is a college graduate and a business consultant to a company, but he does not want to use the company's name in this article.

He knows that he may receive letters and phone calls as a result of this article, but he feels that it is time to go public.

He actually has gone public once; his case was written up in a book, *Missing Time*, by Budd Hopkins (Richard Marek Publishers, 1981). The book is about alleged abductions of humans by UFO occupants. He signed a release for his story to be told in that book, figuring that few people around here read books about UFOs. And he received only one phone call from this area, from a

woman in Greensboro. Thus far, he feels that his privacy has not been invaded.

With this newspaper article, he says, "It's going to be different, because I know I'm going to get a reaction."

OLDHAM WANTS to make it clear that he is not a publicity hound, that the reporter went to him — he did not go to the newspaper.

He says that he is not a fanatic and that he is aware that there is no evidence to confirm his abduction.

It is his memory of the terror he felt under hypnosis that reminds him that the abduction happened, he says. "That was my only form of verification."

But there are some possible confirmations that society does not look at, he says, such as the strange phenomena in his yard in 1982: One day, he says, he found a tree bowed over and splintered, a conduit knocked off the house and an oval depression in the grass.

The depression was about 13 feet in diameter, according to Oldham, and the grass was discolored — darker than the rest. The mark stayed there about a year, and he took pictures of it.

He checked with the county's Agricultural Extension office about lightning. That office told him that a tree as small as his would probably have shattered if it had been struck by lightning, he says.

If this destruction was a prank, Oldham says, someone went to a lot of trouble.

"I'm telling you, I'm not crazy. I know what's out there, and it's a lonely place out here. And I simply don't have any messages or wisdom to tell the people about what they've

NEXT PAGE

LOST IN TIME CUN'T

come to do and what they're trying to do for us. All I can tell you is that there is something there."

IN HIS VIEW, there is a three-judge panel on UFOs: the government, the scientific community and the media. These three groups reinforce each other's skepticism, he says. "They're not giving it a fair shake."

He exercises some skepticism himself. He has heard other people tell of their abduction cases, and he does not believe all of them. Many cases have been proven fraudulent, he says, and that will continue.

Oldham says he does not think the alien beings are after anything. "I think they're just experiencing."

He says that he believes there is a reason for everything that goes on. And he says that he thinks change is coming around that will call for unconditional love.

"One day I think we'll walk in harmony together."

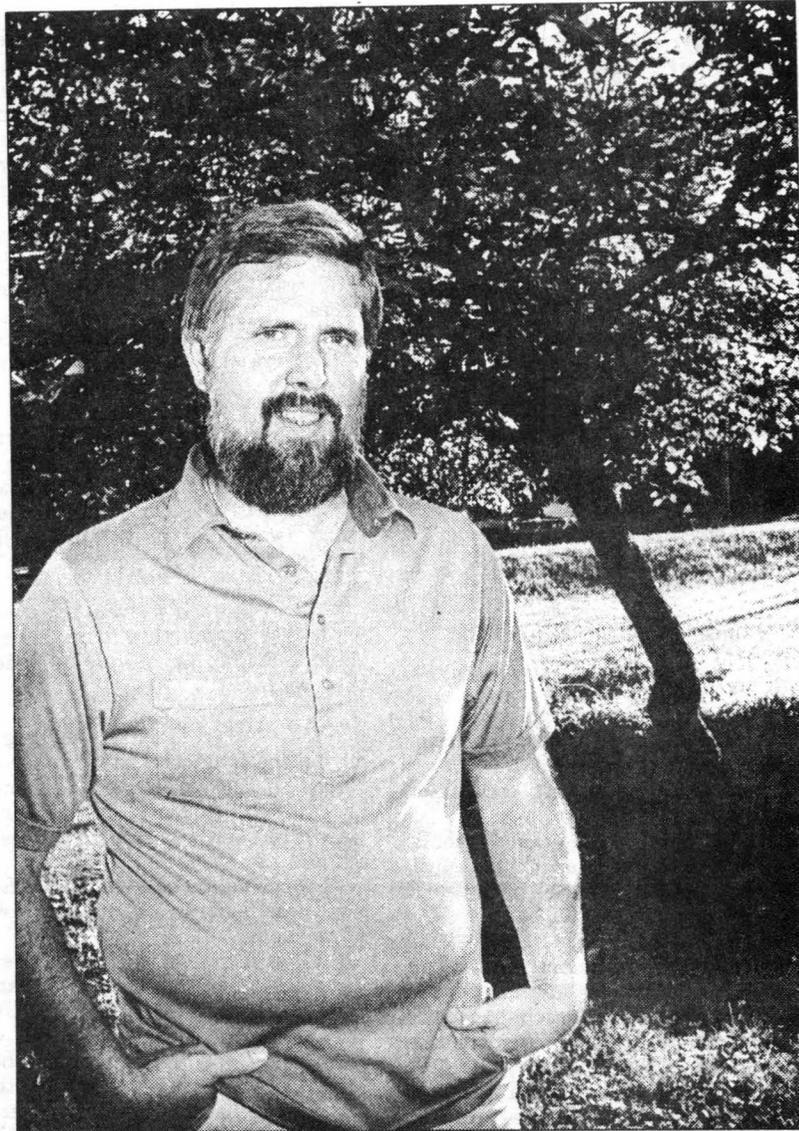
Everyone is searching, he says.

"I searched for a long time. I've walked a lot of spiritual paths. I've studied Eastern teachings, Western Christianity, New Age thought. I've covered the gamut, because I am in search, and I guess I'll always be in search."

Oldham says he gave his life to Jesus Christ when he was 15 years old and also recognizes other religions. He calls himself a universalist and a modern-day mystic.

"I'm not out to sell you on this," he says. "I'm not out to sell the world. All I know is that something happened to me. I don't totally understand it. I probably never will."

"I'm sure one day I'll come at peace with it. And until I do, I'm going to keep searching." M



JOURNAL PHOTO BY ALLEN AYCOCK

David Oldham stands in his yard in Greensboro next to what is left of a tree that was splintered unexplainably several years ago.

STAFFORD NEWSLETTER STAFFORD OCT 2 1987

Mystery sighting prompts UFO hunt

UFO experts are sifting through radar traces in a bid to explain a mystery object sighted in the Midlands.

The Birmingham office of UFO investigations was flooded with calls from people claiming to have seen an 'oval orange object with a green band, travelling at great speed.'

One of the calls was from a retired police officer in Stone.

The group's chairman John Hurley said: "There were about 130 calls all within an hour of each other."

"Virtually all claimed to have seen the same thing. There was an oval, orange object with a green band. It hovered above the ground

before shooting off at great speed."

One explanation put forward for the sightings was an expended fuel tank from a Russian satellite.

But Mr Hurley said: "That must be wrong as the thing was seen to hover. It seems very strange that so many

people saw it."

Mr Hurley has asked RAF bases in Shropshire and Humberside to provide radar traces for the night the sightings were reported.

"When they come back we should have a better idea of what the object actually was," he said.

UFOs buzzing Hudson Valley?

*Sightings, new book
fuel debate on skies*

By Paul Grondahl

Staff writer

Doo-doo-doo-doo; doo-doo-doo-doo.

If there were a narrator for this story, it would have to be none other than the clipped, smoky, resonant voice of Rod Serling.

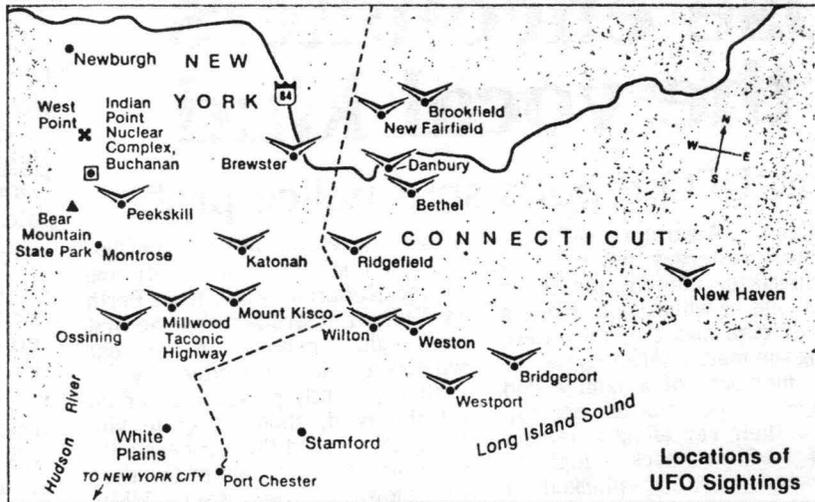
Scientifically speaking, we are dealing here with paranormal phenomena of the aerial variety — unidentified flying objects, better known by their acronym, UFOs.

Before you discount this as the sensational imagination of a *National Enquirer* headline writer ("Elvis Presley Fathers UFO Baby!"), read on.

During the past five years, there have been hundreds of reports of sightings of a formidable UFO in our own backyard, from people you wouldn't consider kooks: attorneys, pilots, engineers, physicists, even police officers.

Scores of witnesses from Albany to Ossining have reported seeing a V-shaped object in the sky larger than a football field that hovers noiselessly at low altitudes and shines brilliant, pulsating, multi-colored lights.

One of the witnesses was Danbury, Conn., Police Chief Nelson Macedo. Contacted by telephone at his office last week, Macedo said he saw the massive V-shaped object the night of



'WESTCHESTER BOOMERANG' — This map from the new book "Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings" shows where unidentified objects have been reported in recent years.

July 14, 1984, while fishing with four buddies on Candlewood Lake.

"This huge, lighted object the size of a football field moved across the sky quite low and made no noise," Macedo recalls. "Some of my officers saw it that night, too. It was something none of us could explain."

‘This particular UFO, whatever it is, is staying in the Hudson Valley.’

**— Philip J. Imbrogno,
author**

Three researchers have followed up with an investigation of this unusually prolonged and voluminous cluster of sightings of a particular UFO — which has been dubbed "the Westchester Boomerang" because many of the sightings came from that county and its vicinity.

The result of their research is the recently published book, "Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings" (Ballantine Books), authored by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Philip J. Imbrogno and Bob Pratt.

Such is the public's fascination with the topic of UFOs that "Night Siege" — which is a rather dry and exhaustive series of interviews with eyewitnesses — has in two months sold out the 15,000 copies of its first printing and gone into a second.

"This particular UFO, whatever it is, is staying in the Hudson Valley," says author Imbrogno, a high school science teacher, by telephone from his home in White Plains.

"The bottom line is there's a mystery here. Whatever's behind it, whether it's a top-secret government experiment or a well-planned hoax or life from outer space, I don't know. But so many well-educated people, and even aviation engineers, have reported seeing it that they couldn't have been fooled with a blimp or airplanes. Something strange is definitely up there in the sky."

Hundreds of books, thousands of research dollars and numerous reports of close encounters later, that is about the only claim all the various scientists who come under the umbrella of UFOology can make: that there is something strange in the sky.

Even without any empirical evidence, by sheer volume, if nothing else, UFO study is catching on.

See **UFOs / C-4**

THE PLAIN DEALER
4A JAN 23 1988

Police spot UFO over London

Close encounters of the vocal kind

Twin UFO reports spur police probe

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Police said yesterday they received two reports of unidentified flying objects, one of which looked like a huge egg cup, and that they were treating the matter seriously.

Four members of a family said the object shaped like an egg cup pursued their car along a remote stretch of outback highway Wednesday morning, plucked it from the ground and covered it in ash, police reported.

Faye Knowles told police that her speech and that of her three sons changed during the encounter on the highway.

Crewmen of a tuna boat 50 miles away said a UFO buzzed their vessel a few minutes later and their voices become unintelligible.

"We were a little bit skeptical at first, but after investigating we are treating the reports very seriously," said Jim Furnell, a police sergeant in the state of South Australia.

He said forensic scientists would examine the black powdery ash

found inside and outside Knowles' car. She told police she was driving on the Nullarbor Plain from Perth in Western Australia when she first saw a glowing object in her rear window at 2:45 a.m. Wednesday

"It apparently picked the car up off the road, shook it quite violently and forced the car back with such pressure that one of the tires was blown," Furnell said. "While this was happening the family said their voices were distorted and it was as if they were talking in slow motion."

He said the crewmen of the tuna boat could not have known about Knowles' experience when they reported a UFO sighting in the Great Australian Bight.

Keith Basterfield of UFO Research Inc., an international organization that records such sightings, said "it will certainly be the most physical of encounters ever recorded in Australia" if the reports are confirmed.

LONDON - Scotland Yard, too busy with down-to-earth crimes like murder to investigate "lights in the sky," declined to probe a reported sighting of a UFO over London, a spokesman said.

Three policemen, summoned by a teenage girl who spotted a bizzare object in the sky, reported back to their stationhouse that they too had seen it, a police spokesman said Tuesday.

"What I saw was a flat, gray-green saucer and as it turned I saw lights," Zena Sfei, 16, an astronomy buff, told the British Broadcasting Corp. "That's

when I realized it couldn't have been a star."

Sfei said she saw the saucer-shaped, brightly colored object early Sunday and viewed it through a telescope mounted on the doorstep to her family home. She called police to verify the sighting.

Sfei said the UFO hovered high over the west London neighborhood of Kensington before disappearing two hours later.

She said the officers at first did not believe her but "they soon changed."

"Police officers saw an unidentified object after a call

from a member of the public," the spokesman confirmed. "We are unable to say what it was."

He said the officers entered it into their stationhouse logbook but there would be no further investigation.

"It's a minor matter although it's something unusual," he said. "We have enough trouble dealing with murders let alone investigating lights in the sky."

He also said the object was routinely reported to the Ministry of Defense but a ministry spokesman, echoing the police decision not to investigate, said it was not a defense matter.



Brothers Sean, left, and Wayne Knowles say their car was chased by a UFO on a rural Western Australian road.

HUDSON VALLEY CONIT

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are natural phenomena that occur when the observer is not aware of the real environment."

Story, who teaches the courses "Contemporary Astronomy" and "Space Exploration" at SUNYA, concurs.

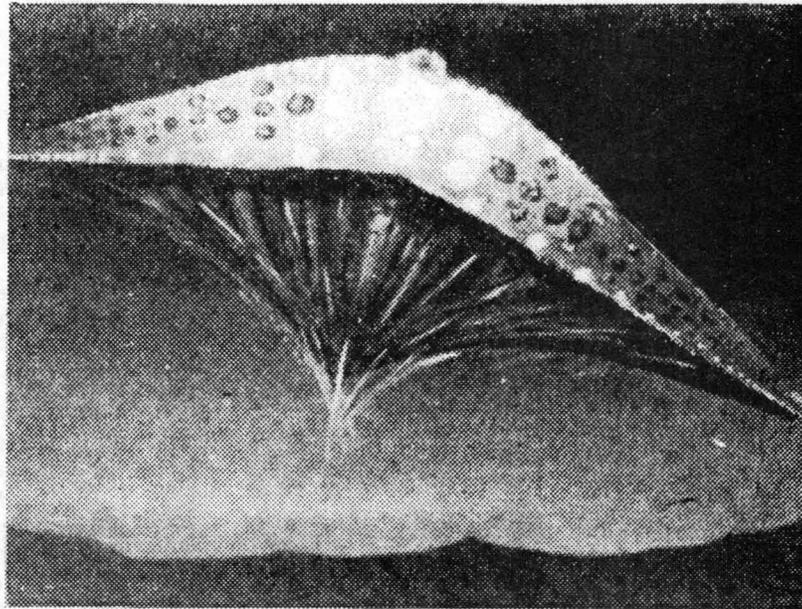
"Most scientists do not believe that UFOs come from alien worlds or anything like that," Story says. "Scientists would be wildly excited if we ever found a piece of an alien spacecraft. But there is nothing yet to study. The sky is monitored so thoroughly by the government, professional scientists and amateur observers that it would be very difficult for something to get by.

"I don't doubt that those people in the Hudson River Valley saw something," Story adds. "But untrained observers tend to make wild conclusions as a first guess. Scientists are always looking for the simplest, most reasonable way to explain things instead of the most bizarre and far-out explanation."

Tom Esposito, assistant air traffic manager for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in Albany, puts it this way: "People want to believe in extraterrestrials, but here we're too busy to worry about them. A lot of things that occur out in the atmosphere are hard to explain. But our business is a real one and we have to deal with what's real, not guess at what could be."

Esposito says he is not aware of any UFO sightings reported to the FAA in Albany in the past two years, although about a decade ago there were a spate of them centered around Saratoga Springs. It was then that the *National Enquirer* came calling on the FAA in Albany. "They tried to get a story out of us and twisted things around so it looked like something big was going on here," Esposito says.

Something strange is going on; 1987 was the year of a UFO renaissance. A new survey for the National Science Foundation found that 43 percent of Americans believe that it is likely that some of the unidentified flying objects that have been reported are really space vehicles from other civilizations. The same survey found 48 percent reject the theory of evolution and 40 percent give astrology some scientific credibility.



Illustrations from "Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings"
THEY'RE HERE — This drawing of a UFO reported on July 12 and 24 in the Hudson Valley was prepared from the description of 35 witnesses.

If you want to take the pulse of public interest, look at the *New York Times* best-seller book list. You'll find in the current No. 1 spot Stephen King's "The Tommyknockers" (Putnam's Sons), a UFO horror story.

Earlier 1987 best-sellers included "Communion" (Beech Tree Books/Morrow) by Whitley Strieber. Strieber tells in "Communion" of a Dec. 26, 1985 incident that occurred in his upstate New York cabin: he found himself in a small, gray room full of humanoids and one of them inserted a hair-thin needle into his brain and probed his mind. Then there were the non-fiction books: "Intruders: The Incredible Visitations at Copley Woods" (Random House) by Budd Hopkins and Gary Kinder's "Light Years: An Investigation into the Extraterrestrial Experiences of Eduard Meier" (Atlantic Monthly Press).

There is a brave new world for UFOology — the cutting edge is research into an increasing number of reported UFO abduction cases. Peter Gersten, a Peekskill attorney and founder of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CUFOS), who began a UFO Hotline in Westchester County, is putting together an organization in his community called CONTACT for those who have been involved in UFO abduction

experiences (contact between humans and non-humans).

"There are more and more psychologists and psychiatrists studying the UFO abduction phenomena through hypnosis of the people who have had the experience, which seems to be legitimate for them," Gersten says.

Although reports to the UFO Hotline have dropped off about 90 percent from the 300 phoned in weekly in 1984, Gersten says he still gets regular reports about the so-called "Thursday night sightings" that have been occurring regularly in Putnam County since 1984.

As for the "Westchester boomerang," both Gersten and author Imbrogno now believe it is some kind of top-secret experimental aircraft the government is testing — a contention the government, of course, denies and deems ridiculous.

Before he died, however, Hynek, the dean of UFOology, left Imbrogno a cryptic message *a la* CIA Director William Casey to reporter Bob Woodward in the best-selling book, "Veil."

Says Imbrogno, "Dr. Hynek knew more than he could tell us. The last thing he said to us was, 'You're on the right path. Keep on digging. The government is going to have to admit sooner or later these things are real.'"

HUDSON VALLEY CONT

UFOs

Continued from C-1

"More and more scientists are getting involved with the study of UFOs," says Mark Rodeghier, an astrophysicist and scientific director of the 1,000-member Center for UFO Studies in Glenview, Ill. "UFOology has gained semi-respectability."

This year, the same that gave us the summer's Harmonic Convergence observances, marks the 40th anniversary of the first sighting of a UFO.

On June 24, 1947, Kenneth Arnold, a businessman-pilot flying near Mount Rainer in Washington state's Cascade Mountain range, saw nine disk-shaped objects flying around the summit. Upon landing, Arnold told his story, the media ran with it and a newspaper headline the next day trumpeted the arrival of "flying saucers."



BRIGHT LIGHTS — This boomerang pattern of lights was seen over Brewster, Putnam County, on June 10, 1984. No aircraft were cleared for the area that evening.

Public interest in UFOs has not waned in the ensuing decades, despite any verifiable proof that these objects have anything other than a natural and logical genesis — stars, planets, unusual weather patterns, experimental government-operated aircraft.

Many scientists take a dim view of UFOs, close encounters and other extraterrestrial phenomena.

Says Harold Story, a State University at Albany physicist who teaches a course in astronomy, "Scientists are extremely frustrated with all this garbage that comes up over and over: astrology, UFOs, New Age crystals. It's all baloney, pure and simple."

Despite the outcries of debunkers like Story, the most ambitious reference book ever on the topic of UFOs was published this year.

George Eberhart's two-volume, 1,300-page tome, "UFOs and the Extraterrestrial Contact Movement: A Bibliography" (Scarecrow Press), includes listings of more than 5,500 books in English, 2,200 books in other languages and magazines such as *The Flying Saucer Review* and the international *UFO Reporter*.

Much of the material seems reasoned and responsible. However, some of the listings are truly bizarre. Such as the book, "UFOs: Nazi Secret Weapon?" which says Adolph Hitler and other Nazis escaped from Germany in 1945 and have survived in a colony at the South Pole, their base for an air force of flying saucers.

Then there is the 1957 record album called "Music from Another Planet," on which Howard Menger played songs he said were taught to him by a man from Saturn.

Eberhart, an editor for an American Library Association magazine in Chicago and UFO buff, says people reported many sightings of UFOs in the 1960s and 1970s, but there was a decline from about 1981 until a year ago when things began picking up again.

According to the Center for UFO Studies, reported sightings reached a peak rate of about 2,000 a year in the 1970s, but that had fallen to about 200 in recent years.

That's what makes the sudden boom of sightings in the Hudson River Valley between 1983 and 1986 so noteworthy.

The investigation for "Night Siege" was begun by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, professor emeritus and former chairman of the astronomy department at Northwestern University, founder of the Center for UFO Studies in 1973 and dean of UFOologists.

Hynek, author of such books as "The UFO Experience" and "The Hynek Report," was technical consultant to Steven Spielberg for the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." For 20 years, Hynek also had been the scientific consultant to the U.S. Air Force's Project Blue Book, an investigation of the UFO phenomenon, before his death in April 1986 at the age of 75.

"I had no thoughts of doing this book," Imbrogno says of his work on "Night Siege." "I did it because of an obligation I made to the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek to finish it."

Yet when Imbrogno had finished — dozens of extensive interviews with witnesses and 210 pages of text later — he found himself with reams of accounts of the same "Westchester boomerang" and a list of questions he couldn't answer. "The bottom line is I still don't know what it was," Imbrogno says.

Harry Hamilton, an administrator and professor of atmospheric sciences at State University at Albany, might be able to shed some light on Imbrogno's quandary. "I think most of my colleagues believe, like I do, that these UFOs are explainable if we know all of the conditions," he says. "That would place them all as terrestrial in origin."

Back in April, 1966, Hamilton and many others living in the Ravena area reported seeing an aerial "Easter egg" — a glowing, reddish, oval object low in the sky. The story was carried in the *Times Union*.

Like the rest of the observers, Hamilton was startled by the strange sight and at first thought it might be a UFO from outer space. After following it and getting a better view, however, Hamilton determined this aerial "Easter egg" was nothing more than a portion of the moon shining through a small cloud cover. The motion of the cloud cover appeared to give motion to the object.

"The observer of a UFO is not hallucinating, but he is seeing an optical illusion of a sort," Hamilton adds. "For the most part, I feel these