

UFO NEWS

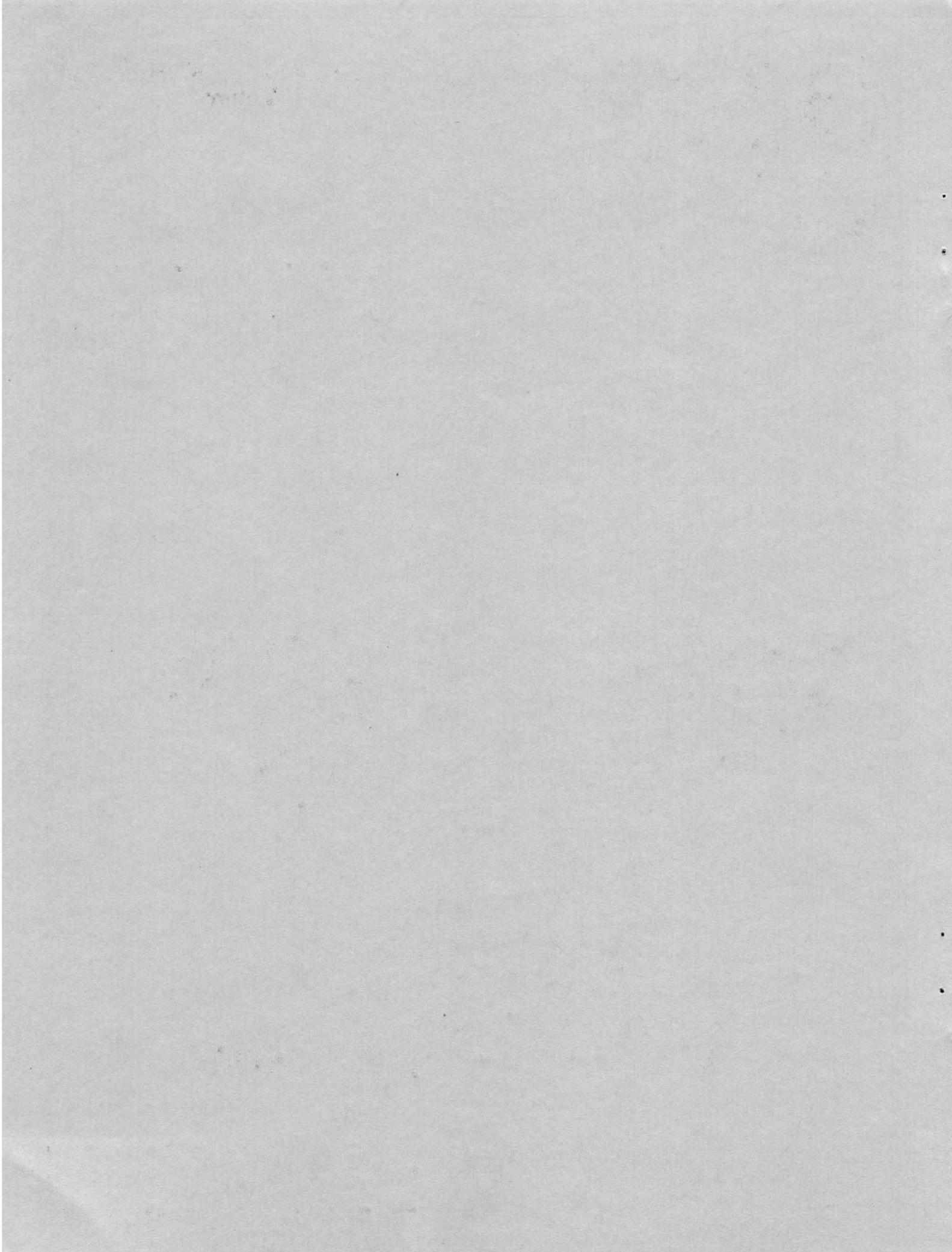
March 1988
Volume 13 No. 3



**AERIAL PHENOMENON
CLIPPING INFORMATION CENTER**

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'WE'VE SEEN UFO

3128

20 TIMES'

THREE West Country women this week told the extraordinary story of their 'close encounters' with a UFO.

The shop assistants say they have seen the strange craft an amazing 20 times and even claim that on one occasion it followed their car.

So mesmerised are they by their weird experiences that they regularly stay up until the early hours of the morning waiting for the object to return.

And they are not alone. No less than 11 other people in South Devon also claim to have seen the UFO during the past few weeks.

Stranger still is that none of the people who say they have seen the UFO says it has any defined shape. And all of them say it is totally silent.

The women, aged 20, 25 and 27, agreed to talk to the Sunday Independent on condition we did not reveal their names.

One said: 'People will think we are crazy.'

But the women, who live in the Teignmouth area, were anxious to tell their story.

It starts about six weeks ago when they were returning from a

trip to Torquay. They were driving through Shaldon when they spotted a strange object in the sky. It had red, green and white lights which flashed intermittently and hovered above the area for about an hour.

'We were simply curious. Not surprisingly when I got home my mum just laughed,' said one of the women.

A week later one of the three

by MIKE BEEVERS

was driving alone towards Teignmouth when she saw the 'thing' again. This time she flashed her car headlamps and indicators and she was certain the object flashed back.

'It had about 20 lights of different colours and I am sure it was answering me,' she said.

Another week passed with the three patiently waiting for the UFO to return a third time.

Then it re-appeared in the sky over Stokeinteignhead and, since that third visit, they claim to have seen it about 20 times.

Three weeks ago they were parked in the Point car park when 'we saw the lights, like great big stars moving. It was sort of round with flashing white lights and was

hovering above the water.

'When he headed for home about two hours later one of us was really suffering from shock. And it seemed to follow us home.'

The three are almost matter - of - fact about all the other sightings. One said: 'We have got to carry on waiting for it. In a funny way it has almost become part of our evenings out.'

Disappeared

'But at the same time it petrifies us. We are upset by it all and still can't really believe it.'

One of the women recently bought a new car. When they saw the UFO yet again the transmission suddenly refused to work. Yet when it disappeared the car was back to normal.

Women claim: It followed our car

OTHER SIGHTINGS SO FAR

THE current spate of UFO sightings over South Devon is the biggest since 1980.

Most of the recent reports started on Tuesday September 15. With a total of 14 people saying they had seen a UFO during the past few weeks the sightings rival June, July and

August 1980 when a similar number contacted local newspapers with their strange tales. The best-known UFO sighting in the area was in 1966 when dozens of people saw a cone-shaped object hovering over Torquay harbour.

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NEW TWIST IN BIG UFO MYSTERY

On another occasion they were waiting for it in two cars. When it appeared over the Shaldon area both temperature gauges shot up.

None of the women drinks and all described themselves as 'non-believers' on the subject of UFOs.

They have tried to get proof of their sightings. On Tuesday this week they took 10 snaps of the object from Bishopsteignton. But when the film was developed not one came out.

During the first few weeks of their sightings they took friends with them in the car. But each time they had a fourth person with them the object failed to appear.

On Tuesday they stayed out all night, each taking a day off work on Wednesday to catch up on some sleep.

Meanwhile they are determined to continue their vigil. 'We have no idea what will happen, nor do we really have any idea what we want to happen. But we will carry on whatever happens,' said one.

by Mike Beevers
THE three West country women who last week told the amazing story of their 'close encounters' with a UFO have reacted angrily to reports that the craft were Navy helicopters.

And their extraordinary tale has been backed up by no less than 30 people who also claim to have seen strange objects in the sky, at exactly the same time.

UFO enthusiasts are so excited by the recent sightings that they have compiled a 16-page dossier which they intend to release today. They claim it is the most comprehensive proof of UFO's in West Country skies yet.

The three women, who agreed to tell their story to the Sunday Independent on condition that we did not reveal their names, were enraged by the claims after last week's issue that their UFO's were only military helicopters.

'It's just a big cover-up', said one.

'Those reports are a load of junk. There is no way what we saw were helicopters. They don't flash back at you. We know what we saw and



FLASHBACK: last week's front page

Story backed up by 30 others

we've seen the lights again since.

'They don't make the slightest sound so how can they be aircraft or helicopters? I can only think the Navy fear mass panic if people really find out what is up there', she said.

The dossier is a collection of eye-witness accounts of a number of UFOs seen between Exmouth and Plymouth between 10.30pm on August 4 and 2am the following day.

Mr Bob Boyd, chairman of the Plymouth UFO Research Group, said that only now had the full extent of the

sightings become known.

Among those who saw the strange craft were seven amateur astronomers, all out that night studying the stars, an ex-RAF navigator and an officer at the Ministry of Defence.

The Plymouth group has received 15 completed report forms from 10 different locations.

All the reports describe two huge delta-shaped

objects, occasionally merging into one mass of lights.

But the most extraordinary sighting was from retired Exmouth man Mr Gordon Baker who described the UFO as like 'a flying fairground' and who has drawn a detailed sketch of the craft.

Vague

According to the UFO group, military, civil airport and Ministry of Defence explanations of the sightings have been vague and contradictory.

According to RNAS Culdrose there were no night-flying Sea King helicopters in the sky on the night of the majority of the sightings.

But a spokeswoman did say there were Sea Kings in the Teignmouth area four of five nights a week over the past two months.

A spokeswoman for the Royal Naval base at Portland denied reports that they had dismissed the sightings as naval helicopters.

Mysterious booms keep experts guessing

By Paul Jennewein
Star-News Correspondent

What causes the mysterious booms that have been baffling and rattling coastal residents for more than 100 years?

Is it UFOs, large hunks of the continental shelf breaking off, gas escaping from underwater garbage or underwater explosions?

The rumblings have mystified people living near coasts or lakes for hundreds of years. Blasts, such as those heard two weeks ago in New Hanover and Brunswick counties, have puzzled people from Connecticut to South Carolina in recent years.

The blasts have been blamed on sonic booms. They are often reported as a double-thud, similar to aircraft breaking the sound barrier.

National weather service records, however, show the blasts occurred before the turn of the century — long before the time of jets. Weather observers called the phenomenon "Seneca guns" or "zee-fahrts," the latter term contributed by seamen from Holland.

The U.S. Geological Survey has had reports down through the years from the Finger Lakes region of New York (from where the Seneca guns term came), the Midwest, New England, Florida, Australia and the Middle East.

Coastal dwellers in the 1800s reported the sounds to the weather service, wondering whether the Navy was having gunnery practice offshore or ships blowing up. Most incidents occurred in cool or cold weather.

Weathermen noted that in all cases high atmospheric pressure was present.

Booms heard in the area Oct. 20 and 21 rattled windows. Such blasts have led to speculation of minor earthquakes, but Geological Survey scientists in the past could find no correlation.

Scientists made a comprehensive study in 1977 and 1978, as a result of five blasts that seemed to come from a point

off the New Jersey coast on Dec. 2, 1977. The final boom sounded like a clap of thunder to one scientist, but he noticed no lightning preceding it.

A former naval officer said it sounded like an eight-inch gun. But the Pentagon said no naval activity was involved. An accidental military detonation seemed unlikely in view of repeated occurrences.

Supersonic entry of a meteorite into the atmosphere was also ruled out because of the repeated occurrences. The director of the Center for UFO Studies said no reported sightings were connected with the occurrences. Allen Hynek of Northwestern University, the center's director, said it was "apparently a perfectly natural phenomenon that has been reported for centuries."

The microbarograph (an instrument that can detect fluctuations in the atmosphere) at the Columbia University Geological Observatory recorded the final Dec. 2 blast. Seismic stations in New England and one at the Brunswick Nuclear Plant in Southport also recorded the effect. They noted the recordings at the times it would have taken the atmospheric shock waves to travel to those points from a point off New Jersey.

Evidence pointed to the blasts occurring in the atmosphere. This discounted the theory that the bombs were caused by pieces of the Continental Shelf falling off and landing 200 or more feet down with a thud.

A recent Public Broadcasting Service film on underwater volcanic action may have solved the mystery. At least one scientist suggested a cause in 1978 that coincides with the solution suggested by the film.

Thomas Gold, director of Cornell University's Center for Radio-physics and Space Research, in 1978 attributed the booms to methane gas venting from cracks in the earth's surface.

These giant gas bubbles burped into the air could ignite by static electricity or other means to produce the explosions, he said. Cornell researchers found that every earthquake is accompanied by these gas releases and in some cases preceded by them.

"We have evidence of hundreds of those episodes occurring over the earth, recorded for hundreds of years," Gold said. "These events seem more likely to make explosive noises over water than over land, where luminous displays seem more common than over water."

He discounted a related theory that the booms came from flammable gas generated by water treatment sludge deposits and garbage collecting on the ocean floor.

Recent development and discoveries of volcanic rifts and fissures beneath the sea floor have added

fuel to Gold's attributions. The recent PBS film depicted in cartoon form how one of the gas bubbles vented from a volcanic crack along the Atlantic Rift traveled upward. As it rises from the sea floor, the gas expands, the water being less dense as it nears the surface. When the bubble reaches the atmosphere, like an expanding balloon, it bursts, causing an explosion.

At sea, the gas travels faster and faster as it nears the surface, so the explosion and the resulting shock wave is in the atmosphere, not the water surface. Because of its size and its proximity to the water, a double thud is heard — from the front of the bubble to the back, or from the sound, through the water and then from the air.

It need not be flammable, just big; probably a mile or more by the time it reaches the surface. Its expansion at tremendous speed as it broke the surface would be sufficient to create the shock wave in high atmospheric pressure that would be felt or heard for miles. The sound would also travel faster and faster in water near the surface.

Dutch seamen in sailing craft before the turn of the Century may have witnessed the giant bubbles bursting on the surface, thus giving the phenomenon the name of zee-fahrt, or sea-burp.

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Author recounts tales of visits aboard UFOs

By AMY La ROCHE

Staff Writer

NORTH HAVEN — "Oh, no. Not again."

"Leave me alone."

"Get away from me."

The voice on the tape seems so full of fear, it's chilling. It belongs to a Minnesota man in his 50s. He is hypnotized and supposedly reliving an encounter author Budd Hopkins said many people have experienced: abduction by aliens.

Hopkins and a handful of other experts appeared here over the weekend for a two-day conference called "The UFO Experience." Hundreds of people from around the country registered for the \$100 event, which featured topics like "How to Report a UFO Sighting"

and "The UFO Abductee and the Psychiatrist."

For the past 12 years, Hopkins, author of "Missing Time" and "Intruders," has chronicled the experiences of people who feel they've been used in experiments by aliens. Those people come from all walks of life, he said — one is a tough New York City detective, another is a psychiatrist, still another is a homemaker.

Hopkins said the same people are often abducted repeatedly after being "tagged" with microscopic devices that are inserted into the body, often through an ear or nostril.

A woman Hopkins interviewed said she got a "sick" feeling one day while watching a nature program that showed a polar bear being tagged by a group of scientists. She said it reminded her of the time she was "tagged" by aliens.

"I think all we are is a bunch of animals to these beings," she wrote in a letter to Hopkins.

Hopkins said Sunday that a sample of amniotic fluid drawn from an English woman contained a minute chip. It was created with technology beyond the range of humans, he said. The baffled doctor who found the chip asked in a technical journal that any computer expert or scientist who knew what it was or how it was made, write in with the answer, Hopkins said.

The chip could be "the world's tiniest smoking gun," he said. A new procedure that registers foreign bodies in human tissue may further assist UFO researchers who believe that

aliens implant devices into their human subjects, Hopkins said.

Many people are unaware that they've been abducted, said Hopkins, who drew up a questionnaire on the topic that will appear in a future issue of "Omni" magazine. He called that lack of awareness "The Skeleton Key Effect."

People who have unexplained, "odd phobias" discover the cause only after being hypnotized and allowed to remember the painful experience of abduction, Hopkins said.

One woman Hopkins interviewed recently said one day as a child she was digging up an anthill when she came upon a cluster of eggs.

(From Page One)

She "hated" those eggs, he said. Under hypnosis, she learned that the eggs resembled the shiny, grayish-white heads of three aliens she saw standing outside her window one night, Hopkins said.

That woman allowed her name to be used, but Hopkins said most people want to be anonymous; of the 160 he's interviewed or written about, only six let their names be used.

He showed slides of sketches by people who say they've been abducted. The sketches all show creatures with big heads, large, black eyes and small, almost non-existent mouths. The pictures were drawn by people who never met each other, he said, yet they show striking similarities. The aliens are short, coming to the chest on an average adult, he said.

A woman who attends a support group in New York City for people who believe they've been abducted made a sculpture of one alien she said she's seen more than once. The alien in the sculpture is looking up. Hopkins said he asked the woman why she depicted it that way. The answer she gave was simple, Hopkins said: The alien is shorter than the woman so it's always looking up at her.

The abductees also report similar experiences: they "float" to a craft, where they are put on an table and

probed by the aliens, which communicate with their human subjects telepathically, Hopkins said.

The man whose voice is on the tape that Hopkins played to the large, attentive audience at the Ramada Inn on Sunday, was compelled to walk into his back yard one night.

At first he sounds calm as he relates the experience; suddenly his breathing becomes rapid and he is in a panic. When Hopkins asks what he sees, the man responds: "The little guys."

He seems familiar with them and says at one point, "I don't want to go again."

Hopkins said he doesn't know why aliens would abduct people but it's possible they're using human cells to bolster their own genetic systems, which have "evolved to a dead end." He said 21 people he's interviewed reported seeing "hybrid" babies. Those people said they'd been abducted earlier and had sperm or eggs taken from their bodies, Hopkins said.

Hopkins said people who've been abducted suffer partly because no one else believes their stories. But that's changing, he added.

"There are now stirrings around the country" that UFOs are a "phenomenon that must be examined."

STRANGE LIGHTS SEEN IN SKY

Reports of strange red and green lights being seen in the sky northwest of Marquette, Ia., were made Sept. 25, according to Prairie du Chien police officer James Rider. He said a Prairie du Chien citizen had seen the lights, which

were verified by another officer and a dispatcher on duty. There were no planes, weather balloons or military aircraft in the area at the time of the sighting.

Boscobel (Wis.) DIAL
Oct. 8, 1987

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Seen and
Heard in

Our Neighborhood

RECENT REPORTS of sightings of UFOs (unidentified flying objects) by residents of an area southeast of Muncie have confounded and frightened some, but a Muncie man believes he might have an explanation for at least a portion of the reports.

In a 7-page typewritten letter, Ervin Davis of 3625 N. Miami Ave. says he has spent considerable time analyzing reports of mysterious objects in the sky in the Parker City-Selma area during daylight and night hours, and he offers a possible explanation.

"Let's look at one report I've encountered several times in the past 3 or more years, as told to me by residents living in the Parker City-Selma area," he writes.

"Each report was about something flying real low to the ground, real slow like it had to crash because no airplane could go that slow and still stay in the air. Then it just stopped dead in the air for awhile, and then turned to the right and went in a straight line over to my neighbor's house where they saw it. Then without turning like airplanes do, it just zoomed off to the right again, but at a faster speed and without leaning. It just made a square turn instantly and zoomed off so fast it was out of sight in a couple of seconds.

"Both observers said they saw this UFO several times over a 3-year period and reported no sounds coming from it, even when it was overheard at an estimated distance of less than 50 feet. They did note a slight humming sound when it was closest to them.

"A man I work with heard me talking about a new military aircraft design I had read about and took me aside, asking me not to repeat this to other co-workers as he didn't want to be teased about it, but was most interested in finding out what had been flying over his farm for several weeks.

"He said the UFO looked like maybe one or two people could fit inside. It has two small wings in the front near the nose and something like wings along the side that are thin and don't look like wings — in fact it doesn't look like it could fly at all. He said it passed low over the barn while he was feeding his



Floyd
Creech

animals, and his dog barked at it. It didn't have propellers and no jet engines were visible, and it made only a humming sound, maybe from the wind coming off it.

"I noted the time of this flight," Davis reports, "and contacted our local air controllers, Selma and Reese airports, the National Guard, Bunker Hill [Grissom Air Force Base] and even some friends in the military, including one who works on new aerospace designs, all of whom reported no experimental aircraft or other flights in that area at that time."

Davis said he ruled out frequent low-level flights by A-10 jets from Grissom AFB and National Guard helicopters he said were used by state and local police to search for illegal drug (pot) growing, then turned to other considerations.

"One thing is for sure — if UFOs originate outside our earth, what the hell is around here worth their interest? Just tuning into our TV or radio frequencies would seem enough to ward off even the most earnest visitor from any far-off location; in fact, if I were a UFO occupant and noted all the hostilities on earth, I'd just place a detour sign out in space to alert other space travelers to find a more peaceful study group. So let's rule out UFOs for the moment."

Davis said he also ruled out pranks that had been played on county roads at various times by

teenagers — in one case, they wrapped a large rubber doll in foil and attached fish lines to it so it would hover over a road. When the headlights of cars would shine off the foil-wrapped doll, they let it ascend into the sky, leaving motorists scratching their heads as to what they had seen.

After eliminating all other considerations, Davis said he was convinced the unidentified objects must be experimental aircraft, and he describes one in particular that seems to fit many of the descriptions.

It is called the MP-18 Dragon and is made by a West Coast company, the Phalanx Corp. Davis said this aircraft was featured in the November 1986 edition of Air Combat magazine, published in Canoga Park, Calif. In his letter, he included copies of artists' sketches of the strange-looking craft.

One, enhanced by artist Gary Thomas for The Star, appears today on Page 5.

The magazine article reports the craft costs \$1.5 million to build, weighs 2,230 pounds empty with a gross weight of 5,830 pounds; is 20 feet long, 6 feet high; has a payload of 3,600 pounds; a range of 2,600 miles; rate of climb of 50,000 feet per minute; a noise level of 88 decibels, and accelerates from zero to 60 mph in 2.7 seconds.

Davis said the craft is of the "stealth" type, making it invisible on radar beyond a quarter-mile. It can hover, fly backwards, forwards and sideways, up or down and zoom off at 2.5 mach at 60,000 feet with an 80,000 foot operational ceiling. It is a take-off on the VTOL (vertical takeoff and land) aircraft that have been in the military inventory for several years, he said.

"Could this possibly explain some of the UFO reports in that area?" Davis asked.

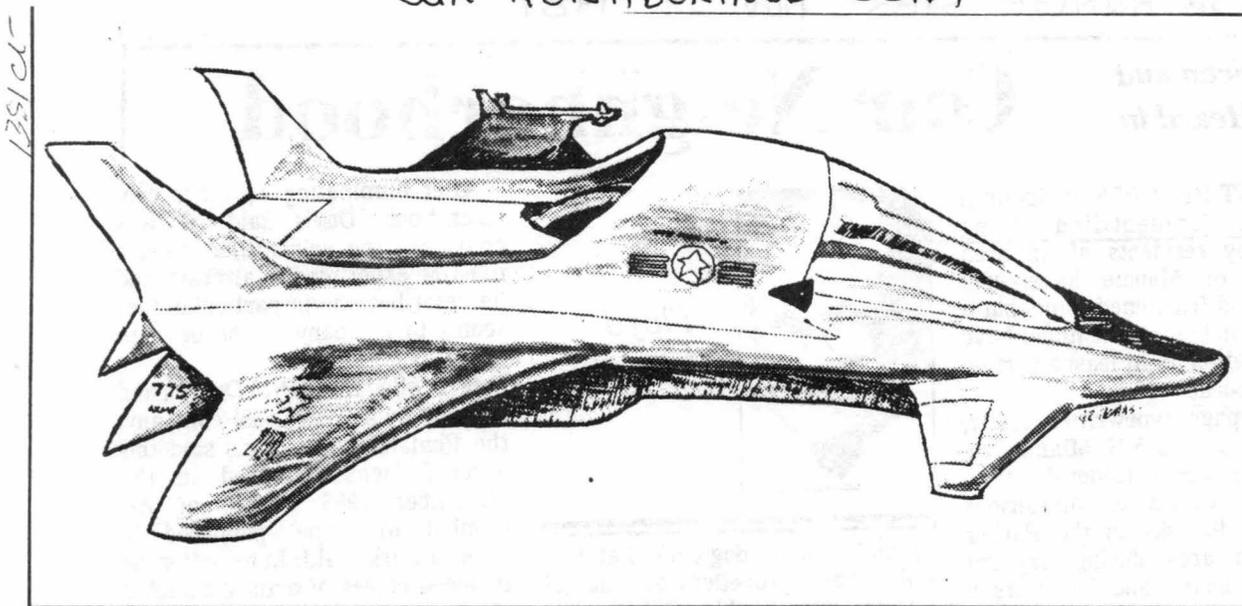
Maybe so, Mr. Davis, maybe so. But it's hard for me to visualize an aircraft that can hover, then zoom off at 2.5 mach. And why hasn't the military grabbed it up if it can do all these things?

And finally, why would anyone select the Parker City-Selma area over all other areas of the globe to test such a craft?

It's an interesting speculation — as worthy of consideration as any other. But let's keep our options open and continue to look for more logical explanations, OK?

Floyd Creech is a contributing writer to Our Neighborhood.

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Sketch for The Muncie Star by Gary Thomas

Have You Seen This Aircraft?

This sketch of what is supposedly an experimental aircraft is offered as a possible explanation for persistent reports of UFOs in the Parker City-Selma area. The sketch is

based on material contained in an article about the aircraft in the November 1986 Air Combat magazine. The aircraft is described in Our Neighborhood on Page 4 today.

UFO research deals in human frailties

By TIM NORRIS
of The Journal staff

SEEING, WHEN IT comes to UFOs, is not necessarily believing.

Lacking undisputed physical evidence, nearly every UFO account made public is based almost entirely on eyewitness accounts. And eyewitness accounts, says a man who has made them his life's work, are notoriously unreliable.

"People are prone to all sorts of optical illusions and can be deceived quite readily," says Steve Penrod, an associate professor of psychology at the University of Wisconsin — Madison, who specializes in eyewitness descriptions of crimes.

"We can misjudge distance and scale, size and speed, color and shape."

When people do not know what they are seeing, Penrod says, they borrow from their preconceptions. With UFOs — unidentified flying objects — experience offers plenty of them. Through films and books, fiction and non-fiction, UFOs have become part of America's everyday life.



A UFO was reported near Union Grove a year ago

MI-D21-MILWAUKEE
JOURNAL

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"I suspect that most people are not eager to see an unidentified flying object," Penrod says, "but whenever an anomalous sighting comes up, there are people prepared to interpret it in that way, gather observations together and see something systematic happening out there, even without any compelling evidence."

Most alien sightings show a pattern: people in cars on lonely roads encounter bright lights. In abduction stories, people sometimes report blacking out and losing time, several hours or more. Through a technique called "hypnotic regression," UFO investigators have helped witnesses "recall" events from this lost time.

These events often involve aliens taking them into saucers and conducting bodily examinations.

But hypnosis itself can be faulty. Penrod says the detailed abduction stories may come, like dreams, from the subconscious.

"There are very strong indications that hypnosis can prompt people to recall things that they did not see or experience," he says. "If those hypnotic procedures have been conducted by people who believe that these

subjects have experienced an abduction, that approach would have to be viewed with great suspicion."

UFO researcher Don Schmitt agrees that hypnosis presents problems, but he points out that fully one in three people claiming abduction have a full waking memory of it. He adds that his group, the Center for UFO Studies based in Chicago, carefully monitors the use of hypnosis to avoid suggestion.

"There have been so many cases with nearly identical descriptions," he says, "that you're either talking about a worldwide psychological problem or people are describing what they saw and experienced."

As for cases involving multiple witnesses, both Schmitt and Penrod agree, natural phenomena such as bright stars or planets, light diffracted by ice crystals, mirages, meteorites or falling satellites would offer the same images to one person or a hundred. They are less certain about multiple abductions.

Penrod does not dismiss claims of UFO experiences, but he questions whether they reflect inward or outward realities.

"It's very difficult to come to terms with these stories," Penrod says. "It's as though you have to engage in several levels of trust. The question is, where do you invest your trust?"

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UFO pictures prompt calls

GULF BREEZE — Pictures of what was labeled a glowing unidentified flying object published in the Nov. 18 edition of *The Sentinel of Gulf Breeze* have prompted a half-dozen residents to report similar sightings.

Duane B. Cook, editor and publisher of the weekly, said Wednesday the photographed object looks like the top of the Space Needle in Seattle, but he hopes it's an alien spacecraft.

Cook said an investigator from the state's Mutual UFO Network will examine the three photos taken the night of Nov. 11 near town that appeared with a letter written by the anonymous photographer.

Bright lights, dark puzzles

UFO accounts put credibility on the line

By TIM NORRIS
of The Journal staff

ALONE. JUST PAST 11 p.m., on a moonless October night a year ago along a deserted stretch of US Highway 45 between Union Grove and Bristol, something unexplained happened to a husband and wife driving wearily home to Waukesha from a bingo game in Antioch, Ill.

Traffic had died away. Their late-model sedan mounted the crest of a hill just past Spring Willow Farm, and, as they later told Don Schmitt, an investigator from the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, they saw in the distance what they took for a massive car wreck: red and white lights flashing around a dark, vehicular mass.

Imagine their confusion, they told Schmitt, as they surmounted the next rise and realized that their "accident," arrayed 40 or 50 feet between a pasture on one side and a soybean field on the other, appeared to be floating about 10 feet over the highway.

Their tires crunched on soybeans spilled from harvesters as they pulled the car to a stop on the right shoulder, directly underneath the pulsating mass, and...

Hold on a minute. This sounds like another one of those word-of-mouth UFO stories, served as fact by the mass media for gobbling by a sensation-seeking public.

Since citizens — even trained observers and public officials — first reported cigar-shaped "mystery airships" over the South and Midwest in 1896-'97, UFOs have provided a feast for popular consumption. No fewer than four new books deal with UFO sightings and abductions, with one of them, "Communion" by Whitley Strieber, reaching the best-seller list earlier this year.

These are the beneficiaries of UFO mania. The real victims, UFO researchers suggest, are the people who see something they can't explain and find themselves doubted and ridiculed.

The term UFO (unidentified flying object) itself, coined in the late 1940s, says nothing about outer space. But, thanks to a host of books and movies and a preoccupation with space and national security in the 1950s, it has become synonymous in public thinking with flying saucers and little green invaders from other planets.

It also implies that the objects are hand-made (or tentacle-made), and UFO investigator Schmitt, for one, balks at the notion. "In the term UFO," he says, "the U should be underlined three times."

Still, accounts of sightings and abductions nearly always are detailed and heavily suggestive. The Waukesha couple, for instance, spoke of staring up at an immense, diamond-shaped object with an underside crosshatched like a waffle iron. If they had stood on the car, they said, they could have touched it.

BRIGHT LIGHTS CONT

UFO witnesses may be victims, too



Journal photo by Benny Sieu

UFO authority Don Schmitt says a UFO was sighted in this rural area near Union Grove

After a minute or two, the presumed object moved silently and swiftly away, disappearing beyond the treetops to the southwest, leaving the husband and wife shaken and disoriented.

The pair, professional people concerned for their reputations, wondered whether they should report the event. Maybe they had dreamed the whole thing. Maybe their subconscious minds were crying for help. Maybe the whole thing arose out of a bad experience with a pizza.

Don Schmitt and other investigators from the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago didn't think so. They are people with other full-time jobs — Schmitt works in Hubertus as a com-

mercial artist — whose sideline is investigating UFO cases that have at least two credible witnesses, and they like to set themselves between scoffers and true believers.

Because fewer than two dozen of more than 200 "UFO contactees" reported by the center have been publicly identified and because the hypnotism used to retrieve most of the accounts of contact may unearth fantasy as well as fact, mainstream scientists question the center's results. Most popular accounts are less critical, especially in picking up UFO stories from police reports.

Since pilot and businessman Kenneth Arnold first described silver, crescent-shaped objects darting among mountain peaks near Yakima, Wash., in 1947, UFO stories have found a ready market. Several saucer-viewers have made careers of their experiences, most notably the late George Adamski, since exposed as a fake, and Betty Hill, who with her late husband, Barney, became the most celebrated — and, possibly, the

most bewildered and persecuted — of alleged UFO abductees.

Outside the issue of truth or fiction, the popular appeal of UFOs is clear: the reassurance of identifying a "greater power," the outlet for concerns about environment and war and helplessness and boredom, the sometimes sex-spiced appeal of bug-eyed-monsters and adventures in outer space, the thrill of a good mystery, and the chance to attack government as secretive and to indulge in a favorite American pastime, conspiracy theories.

The hottest of these — revived again after a raging controversy in the early 1970s — is the reported crash in 1947 of a saucer in the desert near Roswell, N.M. Believers contend that the government recovered parts of an alien craft and four bodies and stored them at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, conspiring ever since to hide the evidence because the human race could not deal with feeling inferior.

The Air Force says, in effect, "Space twaddle."

Beyond the quarrel between the "absolutists" of science and religion — between barkers of reason and hawkers of faith — the UFO debate does show clear sets of arguments. The pro-alien arguments, as set forth by British author John Rimmer in "The Evidence for Alien Abductions," include:

■ Most eyewitnesses among the thousands who have reported sightings are found to be sane and normal, represent a rough cross-section of society and many of them suffer genuine trauma.

■ Reports from independent witnesses show a consistency: People describe events consistent with the idea of a superior civilization visiting Earth unobtrusively to study life forms.

■ While some 80% of cases can be explained, 20% remain mysterious, and some of the physical evidence — photographs, animal reactions and the like — has not been explained.

■ Our own space program proves that a civilization can send probes and passengers into space, and even conservative scientists estimate that some 1,000 planets in our galaxy alone could contain intelligent life.

Among the anti-alien arguments, far more numerous, are:

■ No one denies the possibility of life on other planets, but noted astronomer Carl Sagan, among others, estimates that even if there were 1 million advanced civilizations in this galaxy, they would each have to send 10,000 missions a year just to find Earth among all the other possible landing places.

CONT NEXT PAGE

BRIGHT
LIGHTS, DARK
PUZZLES
CONT

■ Not one piece of conclusive physical evidence has been offered for public scrutiny. Fuzzy photographs (why are they nearly always fuzzy?), shared visions, scorched earth, even odd surgical scars don't prove alien visitation.

■ Although reports are similar, details on home planets, spaceship design and alien appearance and accounts vary too widely to come from one set of visitors, and the notion of visitors from multiple planets seems even less credible.

■ Many accounts seem related to centuries of myth and rumor and to human preoccupations rather than to the interests of an advanced, non-human civilization.

Like every other alleged UFO sighting and abduction in history, the case near Union Grove produced no verifiable physical evidence. No smoking ray gun. No real facts.

Since it wasn't officially reported, it didn't become a media event. But it and other recent Wisconsin cases illustrate the painful dilemma of "witnesses," investigators and even reporters who associate themselves with UFOs.

Police officers Scott McElroy and Kevin Plendl of Waunakee had neither monsters nor other planets on their minds about 2 a.m. last July after responding to a local woman's report of "bright lights" over her house.

They saw nothing unusual at first, they reported, but then a huge light flashed on above the house, crescent-shaped and as bright as "five or six North Stars put together" and with smaller lights on it blinking red and blue.

"At one point, while watching the object," they reported, "a part of it appeared to break away and move at an extremely high rate of speed."

They never expected the report to go public, they said, but a dispatcher relayed it to the press during a routine telephone check and soon the young men faced a press conference and found their pictures on the front page of the Waunakee Tribune under a banner headline.

"We took a lot of flak off it, mainly from people we'd meet in the street," Plendl says. "It's kind of funny because, for instance, last week I

stopped these guys in a stolen car who had just committed a felony, a strong-armed robbery, in Madison. Well, that got about half a paragraph on about the third page of the paper, and it wasn't even the [Wisconsin] State Journal or anything, it was our local paper. Then I look back at the UFO thing and I see our pictures on the front page, and I wonder where people's priorities are."

The saucers might be popular, but those who see them can suffer. Eyewitnesses want to hide their names, Don Schmitt says, because those who testify to seeing UFOs are judged by prevailing rationalists to be at best moonstruck and at worst outright fakes. But Schmitt, who has spoken at length in the last 10 years with more than 2,000 eyewitnesses to some 400 cases, says he has come to believe that sightings are caused neither by tight shorts nor by loose brains.

The controversy over UFOs still rages, stronger this year — especially in Wisconsin — than at any time in the last decade. In it, one side seems to need the other. By calling believers "the lunatic fringe" and people such as Don Schmitt "untrained amateurs," mainstream science reassures itself — and its public — of the certainty and superiority of its methods, of its model of college-based, progressive understanding, of its victory over superstition.

By referring to skeptical scientists as a clique of narrow-minded "debunkers," UFO believers and those caught in the middle reassure themselves of the value of individual experience and intuition and keep alive the excitement of mystery and new discovery.

Why can't we just say that we don't know? For starters, it's not as much fun.

The best conclusion might be the one drawn by author John Rimmer. After suggesting that UFO experiences have earthly causes, he writes:

"Above all, I am quite sure that the abduction reports are important. They do contain a message, and I believe it is a message about ourselves and the kind of world we live in. It is a message given to us by the hidden parts of our being, and it is a message we should listen to carefully."

Those who see unknown objects in the sky, with that in mind, might ask what scientific hard-liners seem unwilling to give: the benefit of the doubt.

The invasion of the gene snatchers

The chromosomal closeness of apes and humans coupled with advances in test-tube fertilization, embryo transfer and recombinant DNA technology have caused some people to wonder if genes aren't secretly being spliced by scientists trying to create a race of ape-man slaves.

The scenario implies breakthroughs that would make the Nobel committee drool. But it's mere monkey business compared with the alarming premise of Budd Hopkins' book, "Intruders: The Incredible Visitations at Copley Woods," which is being marketed and receiving respectable reviews as a work of popular science, not fiction.

Hopkins, an artist and investigator of UFO reports, presents the compelling story of an Indiana woman he calls Kathie Davis, whom the aliens just won't let alone.

Since adolescence, Davis says she periodically has been floated up to UFOs and forced to submit to a vast, ongoing genetic experiment.

Her testimony, revealed under hypnosis and supported by hundreds of (equally pseudonymous)

others—all eerily similar in detail—may suggest a desperate attempt by the aliens to perk up their fading gene pool with fresh human DNA, speculates Hopkins.

Judging by victims' drawings, it couldn't hurt. All the aliens have huge heads, big hypnotic eyes, and fragile-looking bodies. Oddly, they're unaware of what a modern molecular lab virtuoso supposedly can cook up with a petri dish and an incubator. Men victims are forced to donate sperm or to mate with female aliens. Women undergo egg retrievals or are impregnated, their embryos removed in a few weeks.

Most shocking of all, reports Hopkins, four human mothers (including Davis) have been shown hybrid children they are convinced are their own.

Evolutionists may wonder how the aliens learned to improvise on the unique human genetic code with the wild abandon of the old Count Basie band, but Hopkins asks only that we keep an open mind. "The true skeptic cannot, at the beginning, accept the impossibility of anything," he writes.

Peter Gorner

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Seen and
Heard in

Our Neighborhood

WHETHER ONE is a skeptic or a believer in unidentified flying objects, there was considerable food for serious thought in a recent presentation on the subject at Ball State University by Robert Hastings.

Hastings, an intelligent, earnest-appearing young man, explained he had his first UFO experience in 1967 when he was 17 and an Air Force "brat" (dependent) at Malmstrom AFB, Montana. He said he was in the control tower with friends when they observed five UFOs for about 30 minutes. He said they were tracked on radar, and fighters scrambled in an effort to intercept them. When challenged, however, they climbed straight up at a speed estimated by radar operators at 4,800 miles an hour and disappeared.

"This program," he said at the start of his talk, "is presented on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. I'm not a missionary and am not trying to convert skeptics. The only price of admission is an open mind."

In his 2-hour presentation, Hastings, who has spent 5 years researching the phenomena of UFOs, offered a host of governmental documents, obtained through the Freedom of Information (FOI) act. They revealed, among other things:

■ Since April 1947, when the first wave of UFO sightings was reported in all but two states, Georgia and West Virginia, the Air Force, FBI and CIA have conducted campaigns to discredit UFO reports, contending they are based on hoaxes, misidentification of natural phenomena and hallucinations.

However, in numerous classified documents, certain high-ranking government officials and military officers have concluded that the UFOs are real, are extraterrestrial, are observed most frequently in the vicinity of atomic energy, missile and research and development installations, do not appear to be belligerent and seem to be observing us for reasons unknown.

■ In February 1948, the Air Force conducted a secret, intensive 6-month study, code-named "Sign," of UFO reports. The Air Force concluded that UFOs were interplanetary ships engaged in a study of Earth for reasons unknown. The report added that its conclusions should be kept secret to avoid public panic. The public was told that UFO sightings were probably lights reflected by low-hanging clouds, small meteors or clumps of hail stones.

■ In 1953, the CIA took charge of UFO investigations and adopted a policy of debunking all UFO reports

to avoid public panic. One document indicates that policy is still in effect today. Throughout the 1950s, governmental agencies scoffed publicly at UFO reports as "utter nonsense."

■ In the fall of 1961, the first of hundreds of reports of abductions of humans by space creatures was reported by a couple who said they were driving on a lonely New Hampshire road when they saw a UFO descending in front of their car. About 2 hours later, they found themselves driving several miles further down the road with no memory of how they got there or what had happened during the intervening time.

Troubled at this experience, they later contacted a psychologist who hypnotized them. They then told of being taken aboard the spacecraft and examined by its occupants, described as small, humanlike figures who communicated in broken English and telepathy. One, asked by the women where they came from, showed her a space map and a star on it which he said was their home base.

■ In 1965, the largest number of sightings to date was reported. On Aug. 2, hundreds of reports poured in from four Midwestern states describing large UFO formations. Pictures were taken and published later in Life magazine. On Nov. 9, hundreds of UFO sightings were reported over nine northeast states and parts of Canada. During that time, a massive power failure and blackout occurred in the northeast. Later, a governmental agency blamed the blackout on a broken relay in Canada, but further investigation by civilian researchers revealed the relay was tripped by a massive surge of power.



Floyd
Creech

■ In 1973, more than 50 contacts by humans with spacemen were reported. Most heavily publicized was that of two Mississippi shipyard workers who said a UFO landed near them while they were fishing and "floated" them inside the spacecraft, gave them a medical examination and released them.

■ In 1978, large numbers of UFO sightings were reported around the world. In New Zealand, UFOs were tracked on radar, then flew alongside a plane while being observed by its crew.

In January 1978, several high-ranking Air Force officers swore in a document that they had been involved in the recovery of two UFOs that had crashed. They speculated that powerful radar had interfered with the UFOs' navigational systems, causing them to crash. In both cases, they reported, the bodies of dead aliens were recovered.

■ On Sept. 19, 1976, a teletype message from the U.S. Embassy in Iran (while the Shah was still in power) to the White House and major governmental agencies in Washington described the only recorded dogfight between military aircraft and

UFOs. The TWX said an F-4 fighter was sent about 1:30 a.m. to investigate a hovering bright light several miles away.

The F-4 pilot said his plane experienced a complete electrical power failure as he approached the UFO. As he turned away to return to his base, the power returned. A second F-4 was sent and observed on its radar a large object the size of a 707 tanker. It appeared to have white strobe lights as well as blue, green, red and orange lights that rotated rapidly. As he watched the large object, a smaller object seemed to exit from the large one and headed for the F-4. The pilot said his electrical power failed, and he turned toward his base with the small UFO in pursuit. After a short

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CONT

time, the small UFO broke off the pursuit and returned to the large UFO and disappeared inside. The F-4 pilot said his electrical power returned at once.

This report, according to Hastings, is still classified.

HASTINGS SAID there had been numerous reports and rumors of a place called the Blue Room at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, which is said to contain debris from crashed UFOs and the remains of dead UFO crew members, but these reports have never been confirmed.

He said former Sen. Barry Goldwater, a brigadier general in the Air Force Reserve, tried for years to obtain information on the so-called Blue Room but without success.

In summary, Hastings said, the UFO situation is described by some as a "Cosmic Watergate." He prefers to believe it is a case of high-ranking officials concluding that we should be protected from the truth to avoid panic. "I believe about 90 percent of all UFO reports are the result of misidentification," Hastings said. "However, the other 10 percent represents a very large number of reports which appear to be accurate."

Floyd Creech is a contributing writer to Our Neighborhood.

MI-D18 FLINT JOURNAL

DEC - 3 - 1987

UFO alert

Ufologists urge folk to

'fess up to close encounters

By THERESA COTY
Journal staff writer

It was August 1985 in Glacial National Park in Montana. Some rangers, their spouses and children gathered at a ranger's cabin to make homemade ice cream. Nearing the end of the tourist season, temperatures were in the mid-40s and a full moon illuminated the valley.

One woman noticed six red lights, approximately a half-mile away and pointed them out to the others. It moved but it made no sound.

UFO ALERT CONT

"Have I ever seen a UFO?" asked Richard D. Seifried, state director of field investigations for Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) Inc. of Ohio, speaking at University of Michigan-Flint Wednesday night.

"The answer is yes."

Seifried, a park ranger who was among those who saw the UFO that night, spoke and showed slides to 50 people in the University Center's Michigan Room. The lecture, sponsored by UM-Flint's student entertainment association, focused on the scientific approach to UFOs.

"Most of the stories you hear about UFOs today

are jokingly recorded in your daily news — or, as you go through the supermarket line, you may see them in the tabloids. That doesn't help our cause at all.

"Our (MUFON's) responsibility is simply to keep ufology (The study of UFOs) alive, to keep the interest of the people in ufology."

THERE'S NOT enough interest in UFOs in the United States, Seifried said, so information on the subject is scarce.

MUFON is an international scientific non-profit organization that seeks to answer the UFO enigma through concentrated scientific study.

As a field investigator, Seifried has researched several UFO sightings in which people have claimed close encounters of the first kind (visual sighting within 500 feet of the witness) to close encounters of the third kind (some form of intelligent contact with foreign beings).

With slides, he illustrated natural explanations for the sightings, including a lenticular cloud and the Northern Lights, as well as some photographic hoaxes, detected by photometric analysis and photo en-

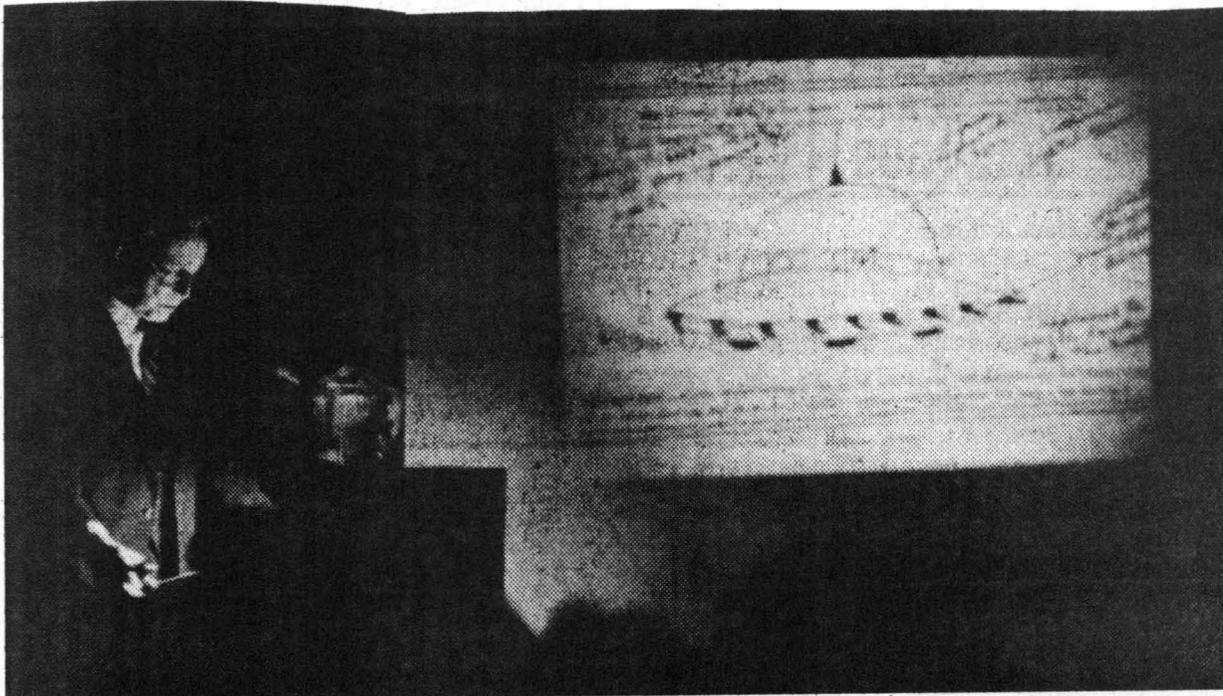
hancement to analyze the actual distance of the object from the camera lens.

One phony photo was of a peanut butter jar lid tossed in the air immediately after a jet had passed, leaving a stream of smoke. Photo enhancement discovered the lid was only 4 inches from the camera lens. It was an ingenious photo, he said.

Despite some logical reasons for UFO sightings, a great percentage of the more than 800,000 reported sightings in North America each year go unexplained, Seifried said.

In the majority of reported sightings, people describe an object shaped like a saucer, hat or hamburger that emanates a red-dish-orange light, he said.

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PHOTO/JIM CHEEK

Richard D. Seifried talks about a slide of a sketch by a person who sighted a UFO.

"THE FIRST thing we do with all reported sightings, is try to discredit them."

People who claim to have come in direct contact with a foreign being generally describe it as small (3½- to 4-feet tall), well-proportioned, with a large head and no facial hair, he said.

Most people have more than one sighting, Seifried said. Only one woman in the hundreds of cases he has researched appeared to be unbalanced.

Also present at the lecture were George and Shirley Coyne of Flushing, co-directors of the 80-member Michigan MUFON chapter.

"We've documented plenty of sightings in Michigan," Coyne said, citing a June 21, 1985, sighting on Dort Highway by two ministers

and a woman. A sting-ray shaped, dark gray craft with red and white lights was seen heading southeast at 10:30 p.m.

Minutes later, Jennifer Jordan, an employee of The Flint Journal, her sister-in-law and nephew claimed to have seen the same craft near Thompson Road and M-23 in Fenton Township, as it hovered off the side of the expressway over some trees, he said.

"The craft was about 30 feet long and 15 feet wide," Jordan wrote in the June 22, 1985, Journal. "It resembled an elongated helicopter body, but there were no blades and we didn't hear a sound."

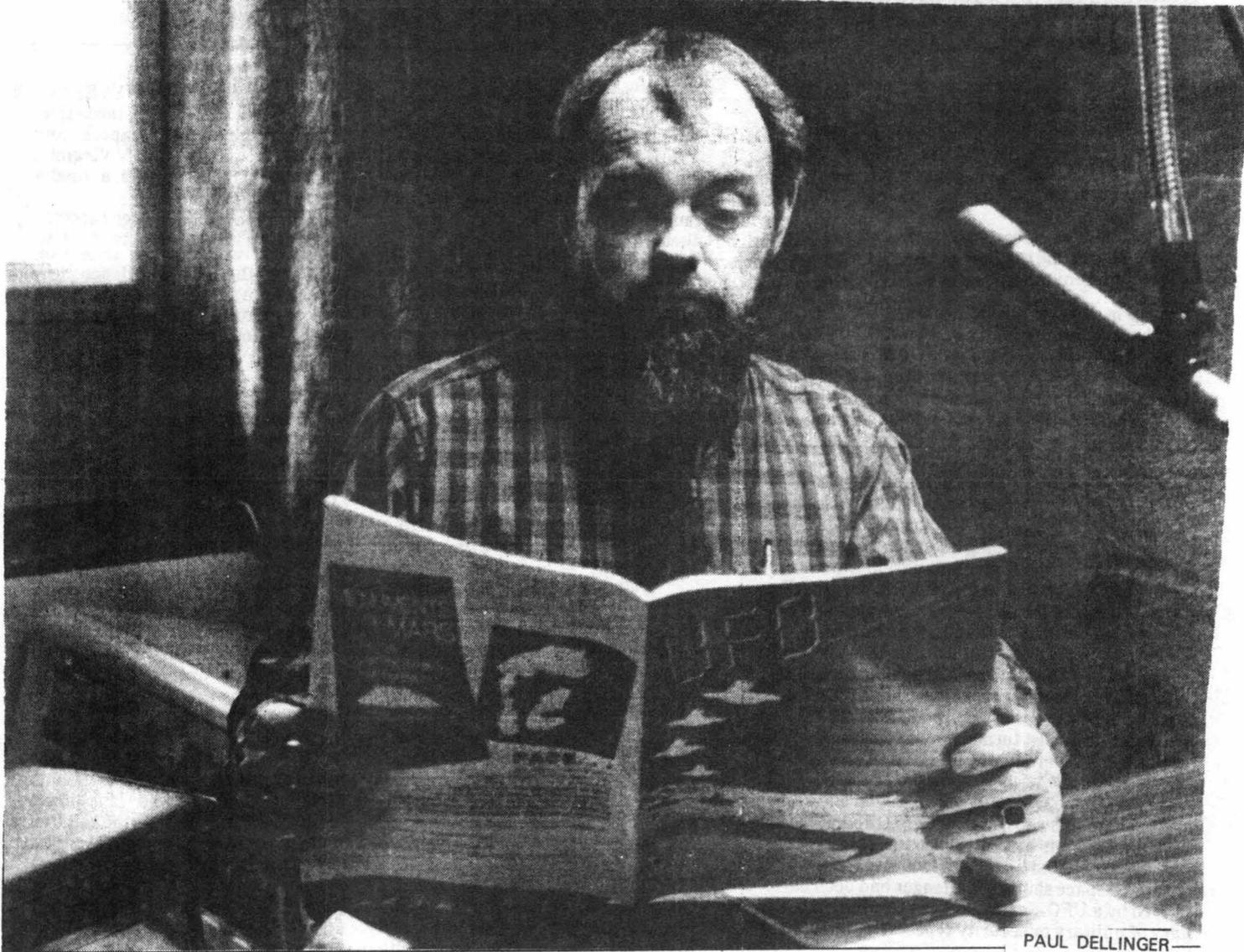
NO EXPLANATION was found for the sighting.

The Coynes have sighted 10 UFOs in the Flint area since 1983. He said often people are afraid to admit they have seen anything for fear of being criticized.

"We are interested mainly in getting the word out to people in the area so they know they have a sympathetic ear," he said.

The local MUFON Hotline for those who suspect they have seen a UFO is 659-3340.

"One of the first things we tell people who call," Coyne said, "is that there has been no proof that anyone has ever been hurt by a sighting."



PAUL DELLINGER

Danny Gordon has been losing sleep and money over the UFOs case

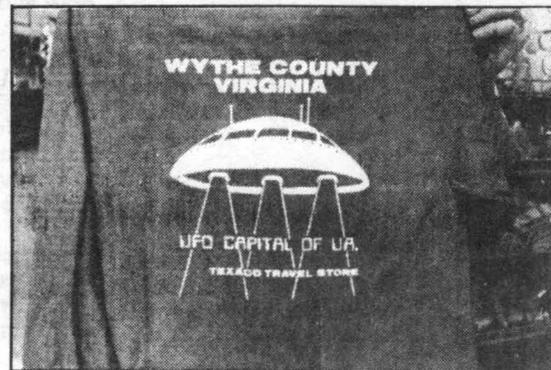
By PAUL DELLINGER
Southwest bureau

WYTHEVILLE — Danny Gordon is finding that UFOs can be hazardous to your health. Gordon has been putting in overtime on what has become almost an obsession with him — to solve the riddle of the unidentified flying objects that have been appearing over Wythe County for more than a month now.

The radio broadcaster has found himself skipping lunches and eating dinner as late as midnight because of time spent with out-of-town reporters who pump him for information or want him to take them to spots where night sightings have been reported.

"I've got a story, I can't get to an end, and it's eating at me," said Gordon, news and sports director for WYVE radio. "I've lost weight, I'm not sleeping well . . . I seldom see my children anymore. I go to sleep at night and I dream about UFOs, and I wake up in the morning thinking about it."

How UFOs changed his life



Wythe capitalists are capitalizing

CONT NEXT PAGE

Gordon's association with UFOs started in early October when he did a news story on WYVE, one of the county's two radio stations, about local law officers seeing strange aircraft they could not identify. The craft were characterized by bright lights, slow speeds and, recently, by buzzing sounds.

That little story became the equivalent of a Frankenstein monster for Gordon. It made him the focal point of the longest-running UFO craze since the late Kenneth Arnold described seeing "flying saucers" in the late 1940s.

Some of the professional UFO-chasers who have come to Wytheville say the more than 1,000 reports to date represent the longest sustained period of

sightings in one area since Arnold's.

The law-enforcement agencies did not give names of deputies or police officers who saw UFOs, so when other reporters picked up the story they fixed on Gordon, who had been rounding up the various sighting reports. By the time folks who had seen UFOs were giving their names willingly, Gordon was thoroughly identified with the topic.

Before he knew it, he was getting calls from almost everyone, from the Pentagon to the National Enquirer.

Suddenly, he was being quoted in newspapers and television stations from this part of the country and beyond. Radio stations from as far away as Canada and New York called him for comments. Wire services and networks began quoting him as Wytheville's UFO expert.

The calls came at work and home, at all hours, from people across the country who had picked up his name from news reports.

"It's totally just turned my life upside down," Gordon said. "There for a while, my phone never stopped ringing."

A California woman with a national UFO magazine told him to try to recall his UFO dreams, as they might be attempts by aliens to contact him. A Tennessee man wanted Gordon to look into the possibility that the space shuttle Challenger had been destroyed by a UFO. Several callers told him to be wary of military or security types who might harm

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him to stop his investigation.

He even began getting magazines from an organization that sees UFOs as a divine manifestation and has formed a religious cult around them.

It all has had a cumulative effect on Gordon.

"It's really hard to explain," he said. "It's kind of like the UFO experience has consumed me."

Local entrepreneurs soon got into the act. The Texaco Travel Store here imprinted hundreds of T-shirts with UFO illustrations and the caption "Wythe County . . . UFO Capital of Virginia." The Millwald Theatre booked the 1953 film "War of the Worlds" for Halloween weekend and built a reproduction of a UFO from the movie — complete with a flashing heat ray — atop its marquee.

Wytheville motels have benefited from the brigades of reporters who descended on the area. So has the store selling the UFO shirts, because every reporter seems to want to wear one — or at least be photographed with one.

The UFO magazine writers and other UFO specialists became visitors in Gordon's home in Rural Retreat, along with some of the reporters. One reporter told Gordon's son that he bet Gordon was making a killing off the furor.

"If anything, I've lost money," Gordon said, considering the telephone calls he had to return and gasoline burned on UFO hunts with the media. He did it, he said, because he figured it was good exposure for both the station and his native Wythe County.

Finally, Gordon decided to go out at night and look for UFOs himself.

And he saw one.

He saw it again on two other nights on U.S. 21 a few miles south of Wytheville. It was a slow-moving craft with what seemed like a strobe light in front and windows in the rear. That one was seen also by two of the UFO enthusiasts who had come to Wytheville to seek out Gordon — John Stember, a professional photographer from New York who has traveled all over the country trying to capture UFOs on film, and Andrew Convery, a Virginia Beach computer analyst who investigates UFOs as a hobby.

"I was a skeptic about unidentified flying objects until I saw one," Gordon said. "Until it happens to you, you don't know."

He had Stember, Convery and two county residents who had seen UFOs as guests on a live news con-

ference broadcast over WYVE, covered by two wire services, three television stations and newspapers from throughout this part of Virginia. "And from there it was a media blitz," Gordon said.

The National Enquirer reporter told Gordon later he doubted that his publication would do an article on the Wytheville UFO experience after all, because it was not sensational enough. Although there were a few people who got upset when they thought aircraft were following their cars, most of those reporting sightings were calm, down-to-earth types who did not blow whatever they saw out of proportion.

There have been no abduction reports, no little green men and none of the far-out stuff that is the hallmark of UFO hysteria elsewhere, Gordon said — "much to the chagrin of the Enquirer."

Most local residents assumed that the craft were military. Gordon phoned the nearest bases of the various services, but was told they had nothing flying over Wythe County like what was described.

Gordon called the office of U.S. Sen. Paul Trible, which promised to make similar inquiries of the armed forces. An officer from the Pentagon called Gordon to see if he had learned anything new on the subject.

Recently, a Tennessee Air National Guard technical sergeant suggested that some of the reports — of lights in the sky that came together and then split up — might be in-flight refueling maneuvers that his unit started about the time the Wythe sightings began.

Gordon calls the idea ridiculous. "Refueling is not what I saw," he said. "If it was refueling, it was Luke Skywalker getting more fuel."

Gordon is trying not to become paranoid from all the warnings from UFO conspiracy buffs or the magazines highlighting UFO abduction stories. He is also frustrated — after nine years in the news business — at not being able to finish a story.

At first, he leaned toward the theory that the UFOs were military aircraft, but now he's not so sure.

"I'm trying not to let my imagination run away with me, but the more I study it the more it seems like something beyond our technology," he said.

But he wondered whether his shift in thought was due to the barrage from the UFO buffs.

"The people in Wythe County have seen something. It's not a conventional aircraft," Gordon insisted. "I will pursue it in my own way, on my own time, and hopefully one day will know what it is."

UFO expert hopes his life's work has ghost of a chance of surviving

By FRED D. CAVINDER
STAR STAFF WRITER

Donald L. Worley of Connersville has devoted two decades to investigating ghosts, goblins, spacecraft and aliens. Now, slowed by age and arthritis, he figures he may be out of this life before he sees any solution to some twilight-zone puzzles.

"With me will perish all the incredible things that I know and that so many other citizens don't have the faintest idea about," said the 66-year-old Worley.

What Worley knows about is Unidentified Flying Objects, extraterrestrial beings, apparitions, extra-sensory perception and related mysteries.

He has spent the last 22 years trying to prove that certain eerie events and otherworldly activities — some evil, some benign — are a real part of our environment and not just offshoots of hysteria or overworked imaginations.

Since 1965, Worley has investigated UFO sightings and related activities in Indiana and the Midwest for national organizations which have sprung up as clearing houses for these phenomena. He has traveled countless miles and spent a lot of money recording the seemingly unbelievable.

Like most of the people who report on UFO creatures, and come to believe in them, Worley has accumulated mostly tolerant smiles for his efforts.

"I'm used to the ridicule," he said.

What is more difficult to accept is that the time is not right for all things to be explained.

"I think if everything goes together, by the middle of the next century maybe they'll get on to these things," Worley said.

Meanwhile, arthritis in his back seems to be spreading, the willingness of people to report strange goings-on is fading and authorities continue an official veil of disbelief. Worley called it a defense against something too monumental to confess because "it would completely disrupt civilization."

"If it ever broke and they found out I was correct, I'd be besieged. It would be indescribable. I think a lot of people would jump on the bandwagon and probably push me off," he said.

"But I'm about to have my last hurrah. I'll give my stuff to my daughter and try to keep it from deteriorating too much, because I know some day it's going to be really amazing news."

Ghosts and goblins, more common an experience than UFOs or bigfoot-like creatures are for most people, also supersede them in one sense, Worley declared.

"It involves our final destination, what we go to, what happens to us," he said. "In a way it's more important to us than the UFO phenomenon."

Although Worley said he has observed only one ghost, he has "seen them through the eyes of more than 300 other witnesses in my time."

Worley's ghost was the little girl who glowed in secluded Williams Creek valley a few miles southwest of Connersville. Worley and a nephew parked near a lonely iron bridge to watch for the ghost of a troubled child who lived in the valley before dying in the Richmond State Hospital. They were there to investigate reports of others who had seen the apparition.

Both men suddenly felt they had been touched by a ghostly finger. Then, Worley said:

"At about 1:30 a.m. the dim figure of a person appeared on the bridge. My pulse went into high gear.

The ghost "passed diagonally about 40 feet in front of us. There was no mistaking the skirt of large squares. The blouse seemed transparent. Ours didn't fade like a TV picture like the others said it did, but just vanished on the other side of the road."

The ghost was that of a girl, he came to believe, who had lived an unhappy life before being committed to the mental hospital. After her death, her sister seized the urn of ashes and, instead of buying the urn, scattered the ashes on the hillside.

Worley has talked to a witness who claims to have seen the Crying Woman of the bridge at Dublin, Ind. He has talked to the woman who tells of moving to seven homes in 15 years trying to elude a ghost, documented the frightening redhead of Three Mile Road and observed the magic chifferobe. This antique dresser would crack and pop before a member of the family or a friend died, he said.

"Unfortunately, I am only an investigator, not a ghostbuster," said Worley. "But we're more than flesh and blood."

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EXPERTS HOPES CONT

Worley, a patternmaker for Dresser-Roots Division of Dresser Industries Inc. in Connersville 32 years before retiring in 1983, had a longtime interest in the sky and psychology. He had built his own telescope before the wave of UFO sightings hit in 1965-66. Somewhat skeptical, he determined to find out if "these people are crazy, liars or what."

"In eastern Indiana I have investigated more than 300 such reports," Worley said.

He has written more than a dozen articles on UFOs and related phenomena, discussed the topic on Indiana radio and television stations, and in 1977 gave a paper on his research at the Center for UFO Studies convention in Chicago.

The UFOs, Worley said, are linked to ape-like entities resembling Big Foot. Some of the apes have large glowing red eyes which aren't attached to their bodies.

At least 14 sightings of ape-like entities have been investigated by Worley in Indiana. Galveston, Sharpville, Thorntown, Elwood, Roachdale, Abington, Waterloo, Williams, Belmont, Scipio, Rising Sun, Petersburg and French Lick are communities where "Big Foot" has appeared.

"At Waterloo after midnight (1975) a farmer watched a hulking form walk toward

a red light in his soybean field. The light turned brilliant white and the form vanished. There was no residual magnetism, radiation or footprints remaining when I got there several weeks later," recalled Worley.

"At Sharpville the huge hairy one returned four times over a two-year period.

"At Galveston as a fisherman sat in twilight at a lake's edge, he felt a hand on his shoulder. He turned and found himself eye-ball-to-knee with a towering black specter. It took off and fled into the woods. Shortly thereafter a glowing bronze light ascended and quickly faded into the sky," Worley related.

Besides black ape-like specters, there are the men in black, MIB in Worley's parlance. He believes they are extra-terrestrial.

He cited the case of a South Bend divorcee who reported a MIB arrived at her home after she reported on a UFO in 1968.

"The MIB's face was white as death," Worley reported. His suit was silky black. His eyes glassy. He walked with a funny gait like one leg was longer than the other. He direly threatened the lives of the woman and her three children. They were not to mention the UFO incidents to anyone."

Worley contends the MIBs are "into our environment more than we can conceive. They've got more to do with us than we realize."

Equally eager to suppress UFO and ET information, Worley has concluded, is the government. His reasoning:

"Government cannot confess that it faces a cosmic or parallel reality technology that will forever be its superior. The strain on the intellectual and spiritual areas of life would be disasterous, not to mention the far-reaching effects upon all human knowledge."

Worley admitted he has no theories on why UFOs and aliens visit earth or why the wave of sightings has moved out of this hemisphere to China and Russia.

"Why is beyond me. That's something for the original creator," said Worley.

But he has noted alien characteristics.

"They're cunning and secretive. There's a large group that seems to be bad and a very small group that seems to be good. Just like everything else in nature — there's love and hate, darkness and light. They seem to have some animal nature to them. I don't know why."

Worley spent two years putting his 22 years of investigations into a book, without success in getting it published.

"No one will pause long enough to give it more than a passing glance," he said.

The fact that Worley himself never has seen a UFO and has spotted only one ghost, one suspects, is another disappointment.

But humor has not deserted Worley. A Big Foot could serve a useful purpose now in Indiana, he pointed out.

"If only the Colts could acquire just one of these ape entities for their backfield . . ."

WA-D19 VANCOUVER COLUMBIAN

NOV-8 1987

Will any bright, unusual lights or objects be seen Sunday above the studios of KATU-TV, Channel 2? The station's "Town Hall" discussion program at 6 p.m. features a discussion of unidentified flying objects or UFOs.

Included will be a discussion of the recent spate of reports and books alleging that people have been kidnapped in flying saucers.

Guests will include a prominent debunker of UFO reports, Philip Klass of Washington, D.C., who has been investigating such claims for more than 20 years. Before retiring, he was a senior editor of Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine.

Flown in to represent the other side will be Stanton Friedman, a nuclear physicist from New Brunswick, Canada. He has been investigating UFO reports for 25 years and is convinced that strange things are happening.

Stay tuned for more UFO news

Schluuuuuuuup!

If you should hear a loud, sucking noise like that, better rush outside and see if your kids and dog are still playing in the yard. Also, if your neighbor's car is still in the driveway.

If not, scan the sky for a UFO because the latest word is there are flying saucers manned (?) by space creatures going around sucking up people, animals and objects and moving them around or doing weird experiments on them.

Oh, and if you should go looking for these aliens, be sure to wear an asbestos suit with a gas mask. They are reported to have hellish halitosis that can be fatal.

This is the latest news from the world of unidentified flying objects, which, as some of you know, we sum up for you periodically as just another valuable reader service.

We're indebted for such news to the super-market weeklies, which sort of specialize in such reports. Unfortunately we lack our own worldwide network of UFO correspondents.

The latest issue of Weekly World News reports that three Belgian vacationers and their automobile were sucked up into a flying saucer and taken for a 60-mile ride in Italy.

According to WWN, the two men and a woman told Italian authorities that a fiery-red UFO swooped down over a mountain road near Venice and disabled their rented car with an intense reddish light. Then, according to the story, the spacecraft used a green beam of light to suck them and the car up, like metal shavings drawn to a magnet, into the belly of the ship. They were deposited gently on a country road about 60 miles away some 10 minutes later, the story goes.

And I'll bet you skeptics out there thought the transporter on *Star Trek's* starship Enterprise was far-fetched!

Well, just listen to this now:

Who knows but what the spaceship that sucked up the Belgians wasn't the same one — or just another from the same alien fleet — that earlier reportedly landed near Manchester, England, and played havoc with a terrified farmer's cows and pigs?

The Nov. 10 Sun reported that the farmer said he was awakened during the night by the landing of a humming spaceship with blinding lights. Hiding behind a tree, he watched two "monstrous-looking beings," which were yellowish-colored and had large eyes and pointed ears, herding his cows and pigs aboard the spacecraft with laser-type prods, according to the report.

While the farmer ran to call the police, he told the Sun, the aliens apparently conducted bizarre experiments on the animals, because after it took off and disappeared, he found a dozen of them left dead on the ground.

"Authorities remain baffled," the Sun reported.



Felton West

AUSTIN

"What if they want people next?" the frightened farmer asked.

Well, it just so happens they may, because a month later Weekly World News not only has the news about the kidnapped Belgians, but also reports some interesting predictions were made by a physicist at a "select scientific gathering" in Rotterdam.

According to the weekly, the scientist said space aliens in the future will want only three things from Earth: water, booze and "strong, healthy women who can bear children to populate new worlds."

Even more alarming news, however, is that concerning space aliens' halitosis.

WWN reports that according to a "top-secret document that surfaced in West Germany," a UFO crashed in southeastern Russia last July and a space alien, injured but still alive, was captured by the Soviet military.

WWN says the secret document further revealed that a Soviet scientist died three days after the captured alien blew "a strange red vapor" in his face and caused "a fever and respiratory infection that literally burned his lungs and brain to a crisp."

Wow! Talk about bad breath!

The alien itself, described as 6 feet tall and humanoid, died about 15 days later, WWN says. Its body and those of "as many as three" other aliens recovered from the crash site are being kept frozen for future study, the newspaper says.

Be sure to read us regularly, because when there are other significant UFO developments, we'll alert you to them, too. //



OH-D82 TOLEDO BLADE
DEC. 3 1987

...links Saucers
This World

A
... 2 Other
Unidentified Flying

— Blade Photo by Luke Black

Projected news clippings illustrate Robert Hastings' talk on UFOs

UFOs

Researcher: Government Hides Their Existence

By MARY-BETH McLAUGHLIN
Blade Staff Writer

The Federal Government has engaged in a "high level . . . [policy] of secrecy" to hide the existence of unidentified flying objects, an independent UFO researcher and lecturer says.

Robert Hastings told an audience of about 100 at the University of Toledo last night that the Government's secret came to light when UFO researchers received 400 documents under the Freedom of Information Act.

These documents show that while government agencies have dismissed reports of UFOs since the 1940s as "hoaxes, hallucinations, and misidentification of the . . . objects," they were making the study of UFOs a "priority project," with the CIA directing the Government's overall policy since 1953, Mr. Has-

tings said.

According to one document, the knowledge about UFOs was downplayed "to minimize concern and possible panic," he said.

He said U.S. citizens have a right to know about the existence of UFOs.

To support his claims, Mr. Hastings displayed copies of a number of the government documents, including:

▶ A Jan. 31, 1949, letter to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover from the special agent in charge of the San Antonio, Tex., office. It detailed repeated UFO sightings near nuclear weapons laboratories.

▶ Listings from the logs of various command directors, recording the sightings of a variety of objects over or near nuclear missile sites.

▶ A teletype from the U.S. Em-

bassy in Iran, with copies to every high-ranking official in Washington, D.C. It details a Sept. 19, 1976, aerial "dogfight" in Iran between an F-4 Phantom jet flown by an Iranian pilot and a UFO.

▶ A March 22, 1950, letter to Director Hoover from Guy Hottel, special agent in charge of the Washington, D.C. office. It says "an investigator for the air force stated that three so-called flying saucers had been recovered in New Mexico. They were described as being circular in shape with raised centers, approximately 50 feet in diameter. Each one was occupied by three bodies of human shape but only three feet tall, dressed in metallic cloth of a very fine texture."

Mr. Hastings admits that last bit of information "is a very tantalizing document for which we can find no corroboration."

HOTLINE

Mushrooms in the sky

HELLO, HOT LINE: Standing outside on Monday night I saw a very bright star moving across the sky. Through the binoculars it seemed to be mushroom-shaped. It was moving north, high up in the sky. Do you know what this was? I.P.

Dear I.P.: Shooting stars move too fast for binoculars, but you may have seen a satellite, said Steve Danford. Danford is an associate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

"We've got two real bright objects in the sky now," he said. "One of them is Jupiter, and Jupiter is very, very bright and could easily be mistaken for a plane or a UFO."

At sunset, Jupiter is high in the eastern sky, Danford said.

Venus, appearing low in the western sky, is the other bright object noticed at this time of year, Danford said. But neither planet moves across the sky in just a few minutes, although satellites do.

"Satellites are fairly common," he said. "If you stand out on a clear night 15 minutes, you will surely see one."

If you think neither of these possibilities explains what you saw, report your citing to

George Fawcett, state public relations director of the Mutual UFO Network. Call (704) 735-5725 or write George Fawcett, 602 Battleground Road, Lincolnton, N.C. 28092.

The sooner you call, the better, Fawcett says. He wants to speak to you while the facts are still fresh in your memory. No collect calls, please.

DC-D18
GREENSBORO
NEWS RECORD

NOV. 27 1987

— Was mystery figure from another planet? —

On trail of UFO's over Charnwood

by
Paul Grinnell

A MYSTERIOUS humanoid figure has been seen floating over the rooftops of Loughborough houses.

With the posture of a motorcyclist and wearing dark uniform type outfit with a net effect, the figure was seen one dismal evening early last month.

This is just one of many strange sightings that have been reported recently in the Charnwood area — and which some believe could prove that there is life on other planets.

Other sightings include glowing orange globes in Kegworth and similarly coloured lights over Swithland Wood. All have been reported to the National UFO Investigating Society which was set up 24 years ago.

But as its sighting co-ordinator, Mr Denis Harriman points out, enthusiastic amateurs are not the only ones who keep a record of such sightings.

He said the Ministry of Defence are also believed to have their own UFO

Glowing orange globes spotted over Kegworth

department — something the ministry constantly denies.

Sightings of unidentified flying objects are not just confined to one type of person.

"All kinds of people report them, from landowners to dustbinmen," said Mr. Harriman.

"We get a lot of sightings from policemen and aircraft engineers and occasionally we get reports from pilots, although for some reason they seem to be discouraged from coming forward."

Once a report is sent in, checks are made with airports, the Ministry of Defence, astronomical societies, weather centres and even ornithology groups in an effort to find a natural explanation.

If, after several weeks, the group cannot say what the object was, it is



listed as 'unidentified'. The group then waits to see if other similar reports come in.

"It can be as long as 10 years before we get another report or discover that the object was not from outer space," said Mr Harriman.

But there are many similarities between reports which come from as far away as Australia, Poland or Fiji.

"What is most amazing, is that we can get reports from people in Africa, who can't read or write, which match reports from people in the west."

Mr Harriman said "there were

numerous theories about all these sightings. Some psychologists say that it's people reliving their time in the womb. Others say it's people in our future coming back into the past.

There are even those who say that there is a separate race living under the earth's surface, and they have set out to find the holes, believed to be in the North Pole, which form the entrance to their subterranean homes.

Archaeologists will argue that there are links between drawings found in ancient buildings and descriptions given by people who claim they have

seen a spacecraft or been taken aboard one.

One such link is the flying serpent found on the walls of the Aztec temples on South America and recently claimed to have been seen on the uniforms of beings from another planet.

But there is some hard evidence which points to the possibility of life on other planets.

"We still don't know what existed millions of years before life on earth evolved," said Mr Harriman. "But in

Uniformed 'alien' seen over town rooftops

the 1930s a meteorite crashed into the Society Union. Among its remains were fossils dating back some 10 million years — older than anything we know about on earth."

The movement of these spacecraft have also given rise to the idea that they might be intelligently controlled.

Mr Harriman explained that they often seemed to frequent farms, military bases and airports, staying clear of densely populated areas.

On farms in the Americas and Africa there have been reports of cattle being killed in a rather bizarre manner.

He said that on each animal a tiny hole had been found placed in the same spot, but so small that it could only be seen with a microscope. Vital organs and blood had also been taken.

But more evidence is still needed to prove the case. If you have seen any objects in the sky that might not be of this planet then Mr Harriman can be contacted on Draycott 4961.

Close encounter was it a 'saucer' or one of ours?

3128

THE light seemed to come out of the sea.

Or so it looked to the man on the hill. Eric Spanner could see other twinkles appearing in the deepening dusk from his perch on Rew Down, but none like this.

The Down, towering up from the Isle of Wight coast, had magnificent views over Upper and Lower Ventnor and the great sweep of the Channel beyond.

Spanner knew the scene well. Six foot and still athletic at 43, he loved to take to the hills after a day working as a packer in the plastics factory down in the valley.

Today was a Sunday—May 19 1985—but he had spent it indoors and craved fresh air. Pausing on his climb, he surveyed the fading day.

At around 9 p.m., there was now an almost airless tranquillity and sea and sky had gelled into an unbroken grey.

Unbroken except for that light. Brighter than anything else, low on the horizon. A star maybe? More like a flare. But he could see no ship that could have fired it.

COURSE

He judged it to be half a mile out to sea. The light was too constant, he thought, for a flare. Soon he realised it was moving gently north-west, roughly towards him, approaching the shore.

Ascending to follow the contours of the rising ground from Lower to Upper Ventnor, it climbed inland at about 60 feet above ground level on a steady course at the speed, it seemed to Spanner, of perhaps 30 mph.

But after a minute or so it came down in slow motion, and hovered at gutter height over a small terrace of red-bricked houses in Down Road.

Although it had stopped nearer to the far side of the valley than to him, Spanner began to discern the object as disc-shaped, about the size of



RALPH BARKER

concludes his report on the baffling sightings of U.F.O.s

a tractor wheel, eight feet or so in diameter. It had two diffused fluorescent lights on top and an aura or halo of brightness round its rim. It seemed about to land. What was it? What was it up to?

Suddenly, as though it decided where it wanted to go, it soared vertically before continuing up the valley.

And as it progressed it began curving more west than north-west, tilting towards him so that he could see the blurred top-lights more clearly. The aura, too, was brighter, yet transparent.

The object itself was a dark colour, probably black, and as it veered in his direction, to within perhaps 200 feet, he heard for the first time a faint whining.

He thought the thing was rotating but he couldn't be sure. Suddenly it seemed to swerve towards him. "My God!" he thought. "It's seen me! It's coming towards me!"

He was relieved when the object passed within a hundred feet of him and disappeared behind a boundary hedge, about 12 feet high, that cut off his view to the west.

Running downhill, hoping to resume his surveillance, he finally crawled through the hedge to the next field. But the object had vanished and, subsequently, he could trace no one locally who had shared his uncanny experience.

A month later he wrote to

the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association (Bufora).

Bufora investigator Paul Fuller, of Romsey, appealed in the Isle of Wight County Press for witnesses, but the only fruitful response came from the secretary of the local Astronomical Association, Mrs Kathleen Smith.

From her Fuller learnt that no astronomical objects or phenomena had been visible that evening to account for the sighting, while other possibilities excluded were hang gliders, model aircraft, or kites. The local airport, too, gave a negative.

Kathleen Smith also established that there was no Coastguard exercise that evening, and that no vessels were reported firing distress rockets or flares.

RADAR

But a letter from Ventnor Police, in answer to Fuller's enquiry, opened up a fresh avenue of research. In it they said:

"Nothing unusual was reported during May 1985. However, during this time the Royal Navy were engaged with special radar tests on St Boniface Down, Ventnor.

"This involved a Naval helicopter at times flying from the sea to St Boniface Down, sometimes at night."

These tests must, indeed, have been unusual for the police to have been warned of them.

But from Eric Spanner's description the object could hardly have been a helicopter, nor could it have hovered a few feet above a residential area without causing annoyance.

How reliable a witness is Spanner? His story, and his manner of telling it, certainly carries conviction. And it is significant that those parts of his account which can be checked seem accurate.

His estimate of the object's speed, 30-40 miles an hour, agrees very well (but not too precisely) with his estimated duration of the sighting—about three minutes—and the progress it made.

KEY

Equally persuasive is his description of the weather. It agrees exactly with that recorded by H.M. Coastguard at The Needles for that period of the evening: sky overcast, cloud-base high, visibility good, calm and windless.

Spanner himself does not believe that what he saw was a space-craft, but ventures no alternative theory.

Like other chance witnesses of credibility, he simply maintains that he saw what he saw.

But ufologist Paul Fuller believes that the object, like over 90 per cent of so-called U.F.O.'s may eventually prove to have a rational explanation.

The key could well lie in the police report of special radar

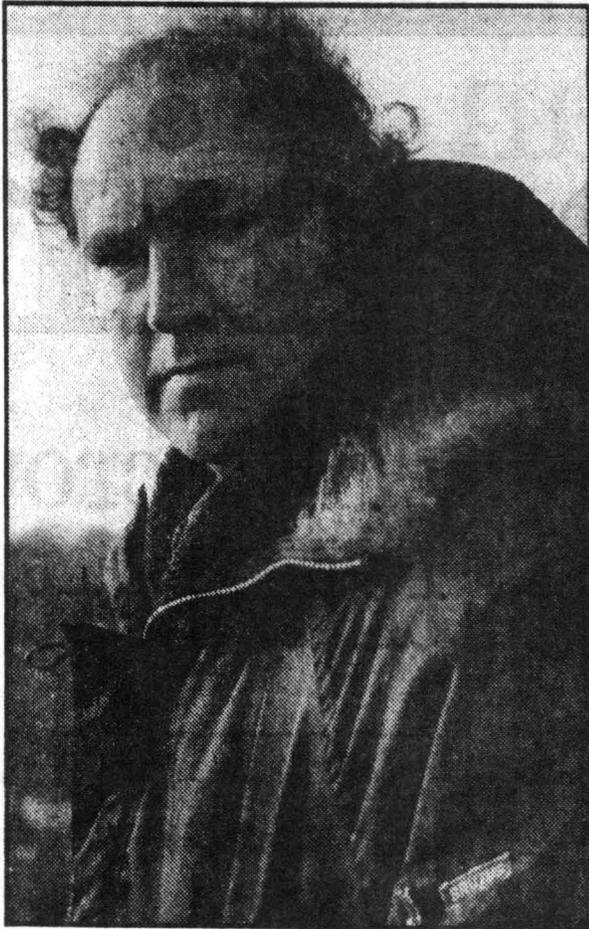
HAVE YOU HAD A SERIOUS ENCOUNTER OF THE UNEXPLAINED KIND?
LETTERS TO: SUNDAY EXPRESS, FLEET STREET, LONDON EC4P 4JT

CONT NEXT PAGE

SAUCER ONE OF OURS?
CONT

WOLVERHAMPTON EXPRESS STAR
NOV 21 1987

'Mystery of 'Concorde ³¹²⁸ shape UFO'



Eye-witness Spanner . . . puzzled by a 'saucer'

tests around St Boniface Down during that month, in which the two Ministry of Defence radar stations on that part of the island—both within two miles of the sighting—would have been closely involved.

On November 13, 1985, Fuller wrote to H.M. Naval Base at Portsmouth posing a number of questions.

TESTED

The Secretary to the C-in-C Naval Home Command at Portsmouth replied by return regretting he could not answer Fuller's questions "because the activities you enquired about are not the responsibility of this command." He did not deny knowledge of them, nor that they existed. He suggested that Fuller write to the Head of the Naval Staff Secretariat at Whitehall.

Fuller immediately did so.

Today, more than two years later, he has received neither acknowledgement nor reply.

Our own queries had no better luck. "The department concerned," we were told, "has no record of any of these sightings in its files."

Fuller believes that what Spanner saw was a Remotely-Piloted Vehicle (RPV) or "drone," possibly launched earlier by one of the helicopters of which the police were warned, or by a submarine.

Such devices are known to be manufactured—and presumably tested—in the south of England. Low-flying and virtually noiseless, they are constructed of substances designed to give the faintest of radar echoes.

The secrecy that shrouds these experiments would account for the reticence of the authorities.

It could even be that the U.F.O. cult sometimes provides welcome cover for this clandestine work.

A large UFO, shaped like Concorde, has been spotted over the Wombourne and Codsall areas of Wolverhampton.

Airport, airforce and police officials have been unable to provide an explanation for the sighting.

Businessman Jim Dawes, from Telford, claims he saw the low-level UFO just after 7pm as he drove along a lane at Swindon, near Wombourne. "I thought the lights were small aircraft arriving at Halfpenny Green airfield.

"When it got closer it looked like two planes flying side-by-side. But there were too many different lights in a triangle shape. It looked like the outline of Concorde," he said.

"It just glided overhead. I

am not prone to seeing strange things, but this was certainly weird."

Codsall teacher Pat Whitehead also witnessed the strange flying object at about the same time.

"I saw the lights," but realised it was not an ordinary plane or helicopter.

"I could not see its shape properly, but the lights seemed to be in two groups close together.

"It was rectangular and made no sound and disappeared in clouds going towards the M6 motorway," she said.

Air Traffic Control at Birmingham International said there had been no reports of unusual aircraft in the area.

A spokesman at RAF Shawbury said there had been no night flights involving military aircraft on Thursday.

SPALDING
GUARDIAN
NOV 27 1987

Did they ³¹²⁸ see UFO?

THE Spalding Guardian has had another report of mysterious lights over the area.

Mrs Ruby Head, of Gosherton Clough said she was expecting visitors on Thursday, November 12 when she saw what she thought was a search light.

The light was white and later went blue. It was around 9.30 pm to 10 pm.

Other people have reported seeing the lights over Spalding and Surfleet. One explanation put forward by one of our readers is that it could be the Northern Lights, or aurora borealis.

Anyone who knows of a different explanation should contact the Spalding Guardian newsroom, telephone Spalding 5021.

BURTON MAIL
STAFFS

NOV 9 1987

Was it a UFO?

Regarding recent reports of UFO's in the Mail. I mentioned my sighting to various friends, they convinced me it was a balloon as it was Statutes Fair (October 5).

I am convinced now it was a UFO. After reading the report in the Mail on October 26. This thing passed over Victoria Street about 5.30pm, towards Horninglow moving slowly. A dark colour like a light on the side, it kept the same straight course but turned sideways twice still on the same course. I watched it for 2-3 minutes. — Mrs Bullock, Vernon Terrace, Burton.

Close encounter a Whitehall man wanted kept secret

THE two teenage girls burst into the house panting, blurting out their words... "We've seen this object!"

"It were some flying thing! It landed right near us! It weren't a helicopter, and it weren't an aeroplane!"

Still breathless and incoherent, the two 14-year-olds, Lynsey Tebbs and Susan Pearson, tried to explain.

The grown-up trying to make sense of it all was Jean Passmore, Lynsey's aunt. She thought the girls were fooling around, having her on.

Mrs Passmore ran her own art class, and her reaction was swift: Separate the two girls, give them pencil and paper, and get them to draw what they'd seen. Unable to put their heads together, they would be sure to give themselves away.

Their adventure had begun at half-past six that icy evening, Thursday November 22, 1979. Lynsey had been called on by Susan to go sledging on the Woodhouse Ridge on the outskirts of Leeds.

LIGHTS

Up on the lonely ridge, suddenly they were conscious of a bright luminosity and saw a cluster of lights that appeared to be little more than a hundred feet up.

A closer look disclosed three green lights in a line, shining directly downwards, with a much larger crimson one underneath; the colours strangely fluorescent and metallic.

Half-blinded by the lights, the girls could just discern an oval shape, with fins at either extremity. It was making no sound at all and was quite unlike any aircraft they'd seen. For the first time they began to feel fear.

Suddenly the object emitted a shrill whine and began spiralling down like a leaf. It seemed to have sensed their presence and they were too frightened to move or speak. Then it slowed down, straightened, the high-pitched whine gave way to a hum, and the object settled itself on the ground only 30 feet away.



Sketch impression of the sighting at the time

About the size of a small car, it still seemed to be watching them. Without a word they began edging along the ridge

in the shadow of a wall before breaking into a run.

Fifty yards along the ridge towards home curiosity overcame fear and they stopped to look back. Suddenly the object rose, slowly and uncertainly, lights flickering, as though undecided what to do next.

Humming softly, it again seemed to be approaching the girls, aware of their movement, seeking them out.

Then at about 100 feet it banked sharply round and descended, disappearing behind the trees down the slope. Emboldened, the two girls retraced their steps to get a clear view.

The object was perched awkwardly on a steep incline some 30 yards down the slope. Still apprehensive, but tingling with excitement, the girls felt irresistibly drawn to the scene.

PATH

They watched for what seemed about two minutes, and then the object began to wobble before ascending smoothly, as though under much firmer control. Eventually it narrowed into a single speck of light before finding invisibility in the sky.

Not until then did they resume their scamper for the nearest safety: Mrs Passmore's house.

When Jean Passmore examined the drawings made by the girls, she was impressed by their similarity.

She hadn't believed them at first, but she was changing her mind. They must have seen something.

"Show me where it happened," she said.

She walked along the top path with the girls and a neighbour, but there was nothing to be seen. Someone told the Press, and the incident was reported in a Leeds newspaper on the Saturday, with the girls' drawings as illustrations.

This attracted the attention of two experienced Yorkshire ufologists, the brothers Graham and Mark Birdsall of Leeds. They called on the Tebbs family that evening and met the two girls.

For the girls the initial excitement was over, and they were getting bored with answering the same questions—but they talked openly enough and accompanied the Birdsalls on Sunday morning, the first chance the investigators had had of examining the area in daylight.

by RALPH BARKER

The girls led them to what they believed was the exact position astride the path where the object had first alighted.

The cold weather had preserved the snow on the slopes but the path had been trampled. All the Birdsalls found was a half-circular depression in the hard ice on

the edge of the path which might have been anything.

Below them lay the area, about 30 feet square, which the girls had indicated as the site of the second landing.

They began to notice cavities in the snow. And as they sketched them on their notepads, these became recognisable as E-shaped depressions, with a circular hole in the middle.

A few inches from one of these depressions they spotted a conical piece of ice. When they placed it in the circular hole it fitted exactly.

Embedded in this lump of ice were a number of black particles or stones, and they remembered seeing something similar on the first landing site. They retraced their steps

SIMPLE

Just off the path, unnoticed on their first inspection, was the top half of a distinct E-shape, the bottom half presumably trampled into oblivion. The circular piece of ice was missing, perhaps kicked away, but there were black particles nearby.

Could these shaped depressions have been made by the object seen by the girls, or was there a simple explanation? Surely if so, or if they resulted from a natural thawing, they would occur elsewhere on the slope?

The brothers spent the next two hours scouring the area, but nowhere else did they find

CONT
NEXT
PAGE



Scene of the UFO landing near Leeds and (inset), Lynsey today

anything resembling these E-shaped depressions.

Meanwhile two ambulance men in the Pontefract area saw the report of the sighting—and the drawings—in the Yorkshire paper and wrote in to say that later that night they too had seen an object and reported it; only to be met with ridicule by their mates.

They were struck by the similarity—oval-shaped, with fins either end—between their object and that seen by the girls.

It remained for the Birdsalls to deliver their samples to the Department of Agricultural Science at Leeds University for analysis, and await results.

On the Monday the Tebbs family had another visitor: he was, he announced, a Government official. He wanted to question the girls.

Lynsey's father Tony is sure he checked the man's identity, but it's eight years ago and he remembers little of him. What he does recall is the conversation he had with him.

Tebbs was surprised to learn that there was a Government department which looked into reports of U.F.O. sightings. "Have other people seen these things, then?" he asked. "Oh yes," said the

visitor. "I can assure you they have."

"Do you believe what the girls say?" asked Tebbs.

"I can assure you they've seen something."

"What makes you so sure?"

"I can tell by their answers to the questions I asked. I'd have found out if they weren't speaking the truth."

"What did they see?"

"I can't say at this stage what it was, but it'll be best if you and the girls don't discuss it further. We won't be bothering you again."

RADAR

What was it that the girls saw? Why was officialdom so secretive? Was it some remote-controlled experimental machine that went wrong?

Was it the rumoured "stealth" aircraft, silent in flight and with reduced radar image, in some sort of trouble?

Was it a space craft? Analysis of the samples proved nothing. No explanation was ever forthcoming.

Lynsey and Susan are 22 now. Both are married and Lynsey has an eight-week-old baby.

Neither girl has ever wavered from her story.

NOV 13 1987

UFO spotters report in

More people have reported seeing a UFO over Aldridge after the disclosure in the "Walsall Observer" about two ambulance drivers who claimed to have witnessed a mysterious light.

Mrs Heather Leonard, of High Street, Clayhanger, was driving home with her husband, Terry, and her three children when they saw the UFO.

"We saw this big, bright light, and watched it for ages. It seemed like it was moving only slightly,"

she said.

"Then it just shot away," she added.

The Leonards saw it at about 9.30pm — an hour before the two Aldridge ambulance drivers Brenda Coyne and Clive Pearson, saw the same large, hovering light.

And Mrs Pemberton, of Vigo Road, Walsall Wood, wrote to Brenda and Clive saying she had seen the UFO around Birmingham Road and Tynings Lane at about 7.20pm.

CHICHESTER OBSERVER SUSSEX

NOV 19 1987

Did you see it?

Sir, I do not know whether anyone else in the district has reported the sighting of a U.F.O. in the early hours of Monday morning, November 2, but I would like to say that I did.

I went to the bathroom and looked out of the window and in the sky was a large shell-like object covered in about 50-70 red lights and surrounded by blue lights. It was stationary for about one minute and then there was a loud rumbling noise and it flew off.

It was a very beautiful sight and by the size and shape of it I knew it was not a plane. In fact, I had never seen anything like it before.

It would be very interesting to know if anyone else had seen this object.

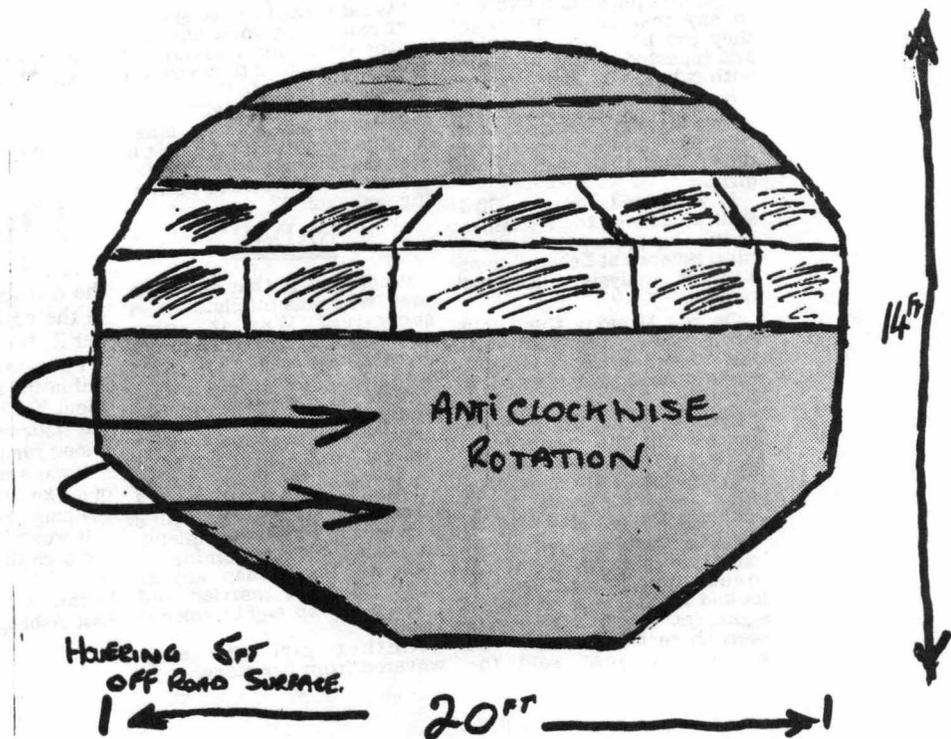
S. M. Harvey (Mrs.)

Birchwood, Lye Lane, East Ashling, Chichester.

Hanging over a country lane, suspicious object that baffled a policeman

A policeman's amazing evidence (left) . . . the sketch Alan Godfrey made in 1980 after observing a metallic, diamond-shaped U.F.O.

‘Your whole outlook on life changes —the whole structure is undermined because of one incident’



HANGING OVER COYT

Unidentified flying objects—U.F.O.s—have fascinated and baffled for hundreds of years, with reported sightings all over the world. But are they really fact or fantasy? The Sunday Express has been talking to eyewitnesses whose experiences are thrilling, compelling, disturbing—and hard to refute...



by **RALPH BARKER**

THE first emergency call reached Todmorden police station at one o'clock on a Friday morning.

Nothing too alarming. One of the folk from the council estate that clung to the lower slopes of the Pennines which encircle this Calder Valley mill town. The caller said that a herd of coys was wandering down the hillside in a very distressed state.

More calls. All similar. A farm gate left open? Worrying by dogs? A spot of rustling? Police Constable Alan Godfrey and a colleague were detailed to take a Panda car and find out.

Maybe the duty sergeant thought Godfrey's Zapata moustache made him specially suitable for cowboy duty. The sergeant was wrong. Though Godfrey and his colleague cruised their white Escort along the Burnley Road and turned up the steep Ferney Lee Road into the estate, they could find no runaway herd to round up.

PATROL

Eventually, tired of squinting through the freezing rain—it was November 28, 1980—they returned to the station. Nothing more was heard of the cows.

Soon after five Godfrey headed out on Panda duty again. It was the night's last, routine patrol of the town, and he was alone.

Outside the Town Hall he spotted Constable John Allen. "I've already done the town patrol on foot," Allen told him. "Everything's okay."

"In that case," said Godfrey, "I'll see if there's any sign of those cows."

"Not long to go to the end of the night," he thought, heading back down the Burnley Road. Exactly how long he wasn't sure, for he hadn't worn a watch since it—and he—were badly damaged in a violent arrest three years before.

Slowing down to turn into Ferney Lee Road, something further along the Burnley Road caught his eye. The rain had stopped by now, and the air was clear.

SHREWD

What puzzled him was that the vehicle in the distance, whatever it was, appeared to be lying broadside on to the road. It looked like a bus, but there was something odd about it. He decided to investigate. The cows could wait.

He was driving along a trunk road, less than a mile from the town. There was still a row of terrace houses petering out on his right. Why then did he suddenly have this feeling of isolation?

At 33, married with two children, Godfrey was no

rookie cop but a balanced, genial yet shrewd professional, highly respected in the force. But now even the street light, reflecting off the rain-washed road, struck him as eerie.

Maybe that was why he stopped a good 30 yards short of the object he'd come to investigate.

Hovering in his headlights was a metallic, diamond-shaped thing that certainly wasn't a bus. Suspended as it was in mid-air he could almost have driven underneath it.

GLOW

The lower tier was rotating slowly. And from the upper tier a bank of panels or windows stared back at him opaquely. At the apex was a spherical crest. And there was no sound at all.

He switched on his Panda's blue flashing beacon. The object reflected the pulsating light. It also emitted a silvery, fluorescent glow.

He pressed the button on his personal radio. "Sowerby Bridge Control from 3961." Three times he called, but the receiver seemed dead.

These valleys were notorious for their radio black spots. But he would surely be able to make contact on his car VHF. For that he would have to go through Bradford Main.

"Alpha Bravo Three to XB Control. I have a message for Sowerby Bridge. Over." Again nothing. He reached for his clip-board and began sketching the object. He

reckoned it was about 20 feet wide and 14 feet high. It had chosen a spot where a drive-in to the car park of the old Mons Mill—a massive seven-storey structure standing back from the road—provided an extended hardstanding.

If what he was looking at was some kind of hovercraft, it must have been manoeuvred over the mill and the engine-room chimney that towered above it, avoiding the hills and the trees, with extraordinary skill. All this in darkness apart from the street lights, on a night when it had been raining. The more he thought about it, the more mind-boggling it became.

MISSING

His incredulity turned to alarm when he suddenly realised that somehow, his car was now a hundred yards further down the road, way past where the object had hovered. And when he got out and looked back... it was gone.

How had he got where he was? Had he been dreaming? He did not believe it. And there was his sketch-board to prove it. He drove back to the station, impatient to report what he'd seen.

He was surprised when he got there to find that the time was 05.30. He didn't realise he had been away so long. He began to wonder what had happened to the missing minutes. Had

he suffered some sort of time-lapse, for which his memory was blank?

He expected his colleagues to be sceptical, but he was unprepared for their scoffing. Even when he took two of them back to the spot, and showed them how leaves and twigs under the object had swirled into a circle, they regarded him quizzically.

They were no more impressed when he pointed out that whereas the road either side was still glistening wet, the site itself was patchily dry. They looked up at the trees and attributed dry patches to them.

He did not resent their ribbing—he knew he would have reacted the same, and he laughed. But rather than attract further ridicule, he went off duty without making a report.

When he took off his nearly-new boots he noticed that the left one was split open across the ball of the foot. On his left instep was a small burn, which the doctor later diagnosed as a skin infection, possibly brought on by shock. He had never had such an infection before. He was to learn that such marks were characteristic of U.F.O. encounters.

Back on duty that night,

he was chaffed by the off-going shift. He was not sorry when he was called in to see the inspector.

"Tell me what you saw," said the man.

Godfrey told him, and the Inspector's reaction surprised him. He didn't laugh.

STOLEN

"I want you to get on to Bradford," he said, "and make an abbreviated report. They'll telex it to the Ministry of Defence." This was the routine with U.F.O. sightings.

Godfrey went back to the outer office and rang Bradford. "I want to report an unidentified flying object I encountered in Todmorden last night."

"This isn't the one at Halifax then."

"Halifax? Was there one at Halifax?"

"We sent a telex last night from three police officers based at Halifax who'd had an encounter. Is this something different?"

"This was at Todmorden." He was beginning to see why the Inspector hadn't laughed.

Three Halifax officers, scouring the moors north-east of Todmorden looking for stolen goods after a tip-off, had seen a steel-

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HANGING OVER CONT

blue ball of light to the north. The time was 04.49. Pulsing in a slow rhythmic throb, it had grown in size and moved in arcs and zig-zags across the sky. It had eventually disappeared in the direction of... Todmorden.

Alan Godfrey reckoned he had first sighted it hovering over the Burnley Road, soon after 05.10.

The cows—they were bullocks—were found next morning across the road in Centre Vale Park. Animal distress, Godfrey was to discover, was typical of the U.F.O. phenomenon.

"Amazing encounter in Calder Valley," was the headline in the local paper a week after the sighting. Godfrey had been encouraged by his superiors to tell his story to the Press. If the intention was to end speculation, it only achieved the opposite.

His brief period of fame was succeeded by years of notoriety. The kindest thing the West Yorkshire force did for him was to grant him an invalid's

pension in 1984, for his injuries in that assault seven years before.

"When you've had an encounter such as I had," says Godfrey, "it changes your whole outlook on life. Not in a religious sense, but you're completely and utterly changed.

"Things happen to you that you wouldn't believe could happen beforehand. The whole structure of your life is undermined. All because of an incident, faithfully reported, which lasted in my case no more than two or three minutes, so far as my conscious memory recalls."

VIVID

What of his subconscious? Efforts to regress under hypnosis have aggravated rather than eliminated his confusion. His conscious memory, however, the moment when he changed his mind about turning right into Ferney Lee Road and drove on to investigate, stopping short of the object and sketching it, remains as vivid as ever.

"All I can say," he says today, happily installed in a congenial job in Todmorden, "is that I know what I saw."

WOLVERHAMPTON EXPRESS & STAR

NOV 1987

UFO sightings dismissed as reports flood in

3128
Reports of sightings of alleged UFOs in the countryside near Wolverhampton have been flooding in.

But today an airport manager claimed that a training exercise was responsible for the sightings last week.

Mr Danny Wardrobe, manager of Halfpenny Green airport, Bobbington, described claims that the strange aircraft were UFOs as "rubbish".

"We do our night training on Thursdays. It must have been our planes. There were certainly no other aircraft in the area," he said.

Witnesses said that they

saw two or three V-shaped craft flying totally silently in tight formation near Wombourne.

Mrs Pat Cropper, of Finchfield, said she saw the craft at Warstones Road, Penn. They looked like two boomerangs hovering behind each other.

"It could not have been aircraft," she said.

Mrs Marian Watson, aged 32, of Enville Road, Kinver, said: "We thought it must be a secret Ministry of Defence plane.

"One flew really low, but there was no noise at all. They were triangular shaped. One was shining a bright light on to the earth.

"We thought that something really weird was happening."

CAMBRIDGE EVENING NEWS NOV 30 1987

Mystery of UFO 3128 seen cruising across the Fens

CLAIMS by a Cambridgeshire man that he spotted a UFO near Ely are to be investigated by a national organisation which collates information on space phenomena.

Mr Leslie Woodbridge is convinced he saw a spacecraft while driving across the Fens to work early on Friday.

"I wasn't dreaming. It was incredible, the most fascinating thing I have seen in my whole life," he said.

Mr Woodbridge, 48, of The Chestnuts, Barway, near Ely, was driving along Main Street, Prickwillow.

He glanced out of the side window of his car just after 7 am and claims he spotted the UFO.

"I thought at first it was an aircraft, but its shape, speed and colour soon convinced me it was something far more strange," he said.

He said the craft was saucer-shaped and glowing bright white, the intensity of the whiteness increasing towards the tail.

He watched it for about 30 seconds as it cruised and suddenly accelerated out of sight.

Details are being taken by the Aetherius Society, a national organisation which is trying to collate UFO sightings.



Leslie Woodbridge... spotted a UFO.

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A member of the society, Mrs Brenda Slattery, who lives at Ashley, near Newmarket, said she would glean as many details from Mr Woodbridge as possible and pass them on.

The two big United States Air Force bases in the area, Lakenheath and Mildenhall, could not shed much light on Mr Woodbridge's claims.

At Lakenheath a spokesman said: "On Friday we did not have any aircraft flying at all."

And at Mildenhall a spokesman said they only had two outgoing flights, but none landed early that morning.