

UFO NEWS

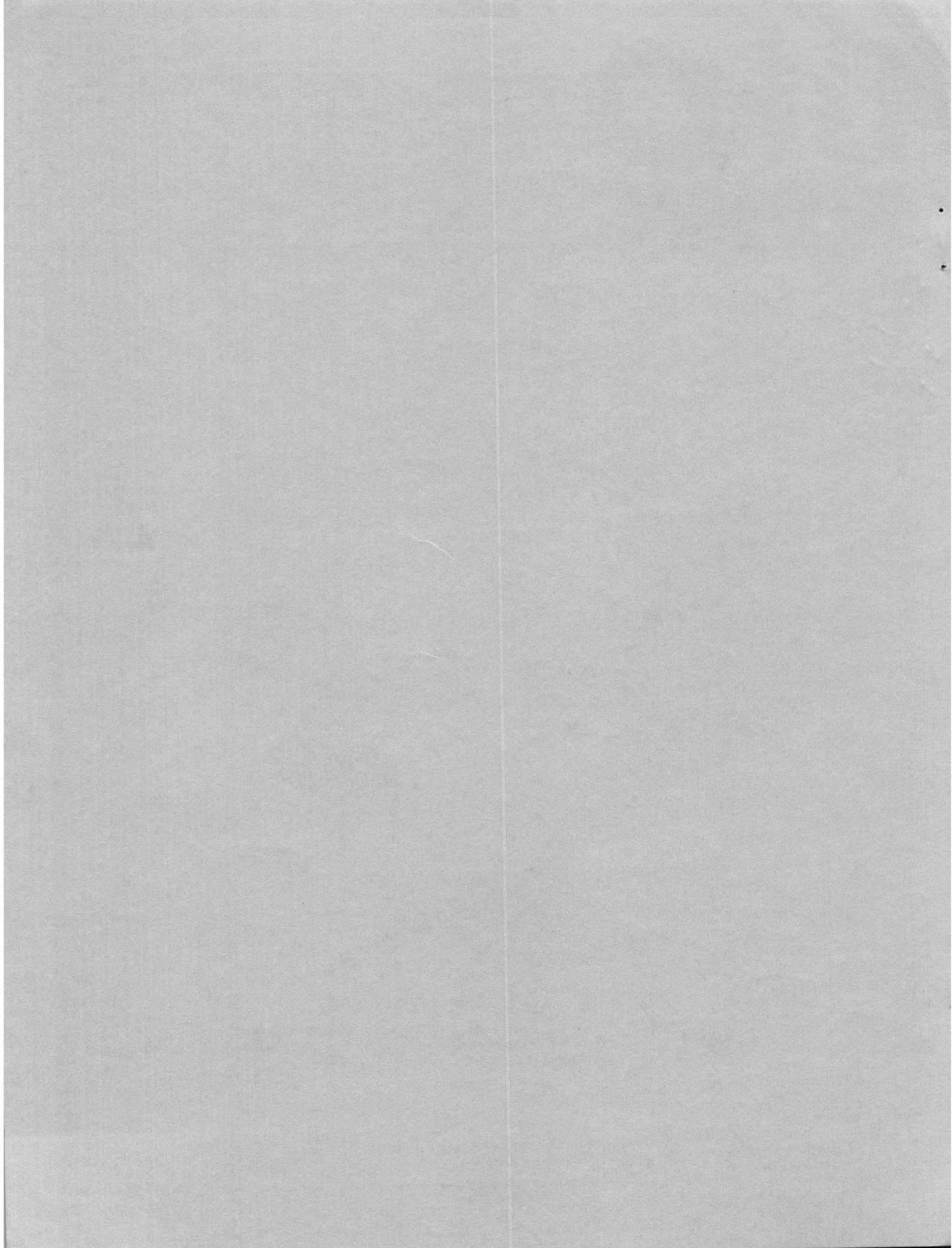
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**AERIAL PHENOMENON
CLIPPING INFORMATION CENTER**

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DIRECT REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED



BURY ST EDMUNDS OCT-11-1988

'Second sighting' of a UFO

TNT MAGAZINE
LONDON

OCT-24-1988

UFO 'buzzes' bus

PERTH: An upset bus driver has told police of being "buzzed" by a UFO in outback Western Australia. Pioneer express driver Peter Chapman said he and seven passengers saw a bright light flying alongside their bus on the Eyre Highway near Mundrabilla, about 100kms from the South Australian border. The sighting was close to where a Perth family earlier this year claimed their car was picked up by a spaceship, carried down the road and dumped. Sergeant George Johansen, of Eucla Police, said his friend Mr Chapman was at first reluctant to report the sighting. "He was a bit upset about it — it was pretty hair-raising for him," Sgt Johansen said. "He also thought people might think he was a bit of a nut." Mr Chapman reported that a bright light, with another one revolving around it, appeared over an escarpment.

A MAN has claimed the sighting of an unidentified flying object in the area, just 13 days after reports of a similar incident.

Mr Eric Bailey, of 92 Hillside, Stowmarket told the *Leader* that he saw a strange, bulky shape, just above some tree-tops as he travelled from Bury St Edmunds to Brandon.

A mystified Mr Bailey said: "I was driving along the road by the forest, about three miles outside Brandon, when this big, bulky shape passed across the road from the right to left in front of me. It was flying very low, just above the tree-tops.

My first reaction was that it was flying extremely low, more or less on top of the trees, for an aircraft. There were a lot of red and green lights on it and a great many small white ones. It struck me as very odd, and I thought it must be some type of strange helicopter.

But I'd never seen a helicopter that big. It seemed to be as big as my bungalow! The really odd thing about it was that there was no noise. I had the car window open at the time, and wound it down further to try to listen for any sound. But it was quite soundless."

By
Mary-Ann Hammond.

Mr Bailey, who is in his 40's, explained that the incident occurred at about 7.55 pm

as he made the journey to visit friends. He said that he makes the trip regularly once a week and has never seen anything like it in the past.

"I don't really believe in UFO's, so perhaps it was just some kind of plane. But then, I've never seen one that looked like that before. And — I hadn't just come out of the pub!" added a bemused, and rather amused Mr Bailey.

Another sighting of a UFO was claimed by 11-year-old Peter Topham of Fornham All Saints just 13 days prior to this incident. Peter, of Tut Hill, said he saw a UFO land in a field at the rear of his home.

Peter said the object had green, red and purple flashing lights.

The following day when he went to the field, he found sugar beet had an 80-metre wide ring which appeared to be scorched.

WEEKLY EXPRESS DAVENTRY NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
OCT 20 1988

Help with UFO research plea

SIR: Many people are now taking more than a casual interest in things seen in the sky which seem to have no rational explanation and which are generally termed, UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects).

A British UFO Research Association composed of people interested in such things have been operating for some time, but it is not generally known that Northamptonshire has its own group and that I am the regional investigation co-ordinator for all reported sightings of UFOs in the county.

The main aim of the group is to encourage and promote unbiased scien-

tific investigation and research into the UFO phenomena, to collect evidence and to co-ordinate research with other interested organisations, such as BUFORA.

To further my research I would like your readers and their friends to pass me any information or clippings they may have on UFOs, from the past, the present or the future. Over the years Daventry has had a number of sightings, which we have found as yet no explanation for, the other two areas being Church Stowe and Preston Capes. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who observes anything unusual in the sky or on the

ground. So as I can investigate and try if possible to find an answer to the UFO phenomena.

The local representative is Mrs Elsie Oakensen, Church Stowe.

Next meeting of NUFORC will be held on November 19 at Brookside Community Centre, Billingbrooke Road, near

Weston Favell, Northampton.

This is our first agm — admission is £1 at all meetings as this is to help pay for hire of hall. Any persons interested are welcome to come along and hear about our programme for next year. —

Ernest Still, 46 Occupation Road, Corby.

Plea to UFO witnesses

STAFFORD MP Bill Cash has had a reply from the Ministry of Defence on his UFO inquiries.

The inquiries were sparked by sightings made over Stafford in May by a considerable number of independent witnesses.

Mr Cash asked defence minister Roger Freeman to try and identify the mysterious triangular objects which he said had caused some concern to constituents.

But all Mr Freeman and the MoD could come up with was an almost laughable 'exceptionally busy Birmingham Airport'.

"The reported phenomenon is quite likely to be connected with civil air traffic going into the airport," reads Mr Freeman's reply to Mr Cash.

"The descriptions could relate to modern aircraft. Our experience is that most sightings can adequately be explained by natural occurrences."

But Mr Cash said: "The question is how could it be civil aircraft? There are some cranks in the world, but these were reliable people who actually saw things."

"And what they saw could not be explained by civil aircraft, that's the point. The reply did not tell us very much, but it is very difficult for MoD staff who haven't seen these things to actually know what they are."

Mr Cash said he would be pressing further with his inquiries, but he stressed that he was largely dependent on witnesses contacting him directly to give full details first hand.

It's like any other enquiry, you have to take it in steps, but it's up to people who made the sightings to come back to me privately and I will take the matter up again."

Mr Cash can be contacted at the House of Commons on 01 219 3431.

Another possible UFO sighting has been reported to the Newsletter. A Stafford woman, walking to work along Fairway at about 7.30pm, described seeing a bright orange ball in the sky at just above tree top height. It hovered for about ten minutes as she watched before moving off slowly to the left in a horizontal way and then disappearing completely.

Mr Cash said he would be pressing further with his inquiries, but he stressed that he was largely dependent on witnesses contacting him directly to give full details first hand.

Mystery of 'ball of fire' UFO

A bus driver and seven of his passengers have reported a close encounter with a mysterious "ball of fire" on the remote Nullabor plains, in Australia. Driver Peter Chapman reported being "frightened out of his wits" by the 15ft unidentified flying object.

It buzzed his bus and followed it for four miles yesterday near the border of Western Australia and South Australia.

Blackshaw said the sighting was in the same area where a Perth family claimed their car was lifted off the road by a white light in January.

He said seven passengers supported Chapman's story.

The latest sighting prompted Australian UFO researcher Colin Norris to claim extraterrestrials are using the remote, sparsely-populated Nullabor plains to study humans.

He said the report supported claims by the Perth family that their car was lifted from the ground by a space vehicle last January.

Blackshaw said that police had been to the scenes of both sightings but had found nothing "untoward".

In a television interview last night, Chapman said he saw the strange light approaching and woke the passengers at the front of the bus.

"It was about 60ft above the ground and was about 15ft round. It was very bright," he said.

NOV-3-1988

Encountering a different dimension to those UFOs

FRENCH astrophysicist Jacques Vallee, an UFO researcher working in America, so fascinated director Steven Spielberg that he created a role around him for the movie Close Encounters Of The Third Kind.

At that time Dr Vallee and his wife Janine had investigated 11,000 sightings by the U.S. Air Force "some explicable, but many not."

In one strange case Betty and Barney Hill of New Hampshire claim to have been briefly abducted by little men with long noses.

Vallee's first instinct was to fall about laughing till he discovered that the UFO the Hills had seen was also detected and tracked by military radar.

Says Vallee, these days a hard-boiled computer scientist: "So many humans have had so many unexplained humanoid contacts that you cannot discount them all."

In his controversial DIMENSIONS - A Casebook of Alien Contact (Souvenir £12.95), Vallee lists over 30 types of supposed ET's that have been sighted. These include those with flat noses and faces, flat men, robotmen, gnome-like creatures with pointed ears and the inevitable little green men.

Belief

His surprising conclusion is that these humanoids are neither ETs, nor are they imaginings.

"It is my belief that they are a form of consciousness that manipulates space and time in a way that we don't yet understand. Hence their mysterious appearance and equally sudden and inexplicable disappearance."

3128

Family in UFO green beam terror

By KERRY ALLOTT

A TERRIFIED family told yesterday of their close encounter with a UFO. Mechanic Tony Silvestri claimed a beam of brilliant green light lit up his car as he drove home. "It was so bright I couldn't see through the windows," he said. Mr. Silvestri, 36, had to stop and calm his frightened wife, Gwendoline, 33, and eight-year-old daughter Allana. "I was stunned," he went on. "It was just like a scene from Close Encounters of the Third Kind. "We have never experienced anything like it before. "The light was very intense and went on for several seconds. It was bright green, like a firework, and filled the car. Last night Ministry of Defence chiefs were investigating the



Tony . . . stunned

incident which happened as the Silvestris drove through the West Wales village of Felinfach. Mr. Silvestri of Ciliau Aeron, near Aberaeron, Dyfed, said: "At first I thought the car had an electrical fault.

DAILY STAR LONDON
OCT 28 1988

"But when I checked there was nothing wrong. And I couldn't see anything outside which could have caused it.

"I was as sober as a judge and it certainly wasn't a case of being dazzled by another car's lights. It was too intense and the wrong colour.

"I told the RAF about it because I want to know what really happened. They promised to investigate—but if it really was something mysterious they wouldn't say, would they?"

His wife added: "Until now we've had no time for UFO stories. We didn't really believe in them. But nothing like this ever happened to us before and we hope it won't again. We were terrified."

Mr. Silvestri was quizzed by Flight Sergeant David Pengilly, who said: "We like to get reports soon after an incident so immediate action can be taken to find out what it was.

"We don't like unidentified things in our airspace."

An MoD spokesman said: "We take all sightings seriously.

Sightings

"Investigations are carried out on UFO reports if it is considered there is a threat to the security of the UK."

Dr. Richard Lawrence of the Aetherius Society, whose members believe

there is life on other planets, said:

"If a beam of light is emitted from a UFO then there's a real possibility that extra terrestrials are on board."

And Jenny Rendles of UFO Investigators said: "This year we've had three times the usual number of sightings reported.

"There's more UFO activity being investigated this year than in the last 11 years.

PETERBOROUGH ADVERTISER
NOV 3 1988

Mystery flash a meteor?

A CITY man was left stunned when the sky lit up before his eyes while he was cycling to work.

Stephen Dunn was cycling down Soke Parkway on his way to work at the Cottage Bakery in Eye, near Peterborough at 4am when he noticed a light behind his shoulder shining through the gloom.

And he claims he saw a small flash of light about as big as a football shooting across the sky, turning it into a sea of brightness.

"It lasted for about five seconds," said 21-year-old Stephen, of Hadley

Road, Walton, Peterborough.

"It had a bluish tail and shot across the sky at about the same height as a plane."

Local specialist George Alcock says Stephen probably witnessed a bright meteor.

He said: "They are quite common at this time of the year. It would be quite bright because last night was a full moonlight."

And Andrew Cochrane of the British UFO Society said: "It's very interesting. He described it in great detail — it all sounds quite credible."

WOLVERHAMPTON
EXPRESS STAR

OCT 29 1988

Pilots 'saw UFO'

Brazilian pilots in three aircraft have reported seeing a circular unidentified flying object near Brasilia on October 3. 3128

BURY ST EDMUNDS LEADER SUFFOLK

OCT 4 - 1988

'I saw flying saucer'

A BOY is claiming he saw an unidentified flying object land in a field at the rear of his home.

Eleven-year-old Peter Topham says he saw the mystery object with purple, green and red flashing lights as he watched from the rear of his bedroom in Fornham All Saints one evening.

The following day when he went to investigate in the field, Peter found the spooky sight of an 80-metre wide ring of sugar beet which had been scorched.

"I'm sure it was a flying saucer", said Peter, who lives at C'est Ca, Tut Hill.

"While I was watching it flashed a huge white light like a massive camera which was about the size of a field," he added.

Now he is busy trying to convince classmates in the third year at Westley Middle School that what he saw was a flying saucer.

He said: "They don't believe me but I know what I saw. I shall never forget it."

Anglers in UFO sighting

drama

³¹²⁸ TWO city men froze in fear when they were buzzed by a low-flying UFO for FOUR hours.

Fishermen Paul Crow and Brian Twyman sat rooted to the spot as the 15-foot wide craft hovered in front of them.

And by the time the two men gathered their wits and fled, the mysterious object was still there sitting motionless in the air.

The anglers left home to go night-fishing at the city's Stanground backwater at 3.30pm. They

had been there for about three hours and were settling in for the night as dusk started to fall.

Unemployed Mr Crow, of Flag Fen Road, said: "We were sitting there quietly when suddenly we saw red and orange lights behind us, moving to our side."

"I don't mind saying I was scared stiff — I almost had a heart attack. It was one of the most frightening experiences of my life."

But for Paul it is nothing new —

two years ago he spotted a flying saucer over Boston.

He added: "But this one was far worse — it was about 15 feet wide with a circle of lights around it which kept turning blue. It went on for about four hours — the thing scared the life out of us."

● Paul reported the incident to the Telegraph as a result of our recent appeal. The sighting was last Monday. If you know of any UFO goings-on, contact the ET Newsdesk, tel. 555111.

ROTHERHAM & SOUTH YORKSHIRE
ADVERTISER NOV 4 1988

BURY FREE PRESS OCT 28 1988

Mystery UFO at Wingfield

Yes, we also saw UFO

A baffled Wingfield housewife saw something definitely fish in the sky and she returned from a teatime visit to the chippy.

For she believes she saw a UFO flying across the sky above her.

The sighting took place at around 6pm as the woman strolled back to her Wingfield home from the shops.

"It was a cylindrical shape with white lights underneath and blue and orange lights moving round the top," she said.

"It moved quickly around the sky and then shot off at great speed. I don't think it was a plane because there was no noise."

Her daughter, who was playing with friends nearby, also saw the strange craft.

Rotherham UFO investigator Mick Hanson said that the sighting was unusual for the area and could possibly have been an aircraft.

He said that the nearest UFO's similar to the Wingfield case were a cone shape seen in Rawmarsh and a rectangle seen in the Blackburn area. Bright orange lights were most common for the Rotherham area although cylinders had been spotted in other parts of the country.

A BROTHER and sister are claiming they saw a weird, black unidentified flying object hovering close to their home.

The sighting in Bury St Edmunds comes after a Fornham All Saints boy reported seeing a UFO at the back of his home, and another reader contacted the Free Press to say she had seen one.

Reuben Eaves and his sister Esther were cycling close to their home in Prigg Walk, Bury, at about 4pm on Monday when they say they saw the object.

"It started off as a long shape but then it formed the shape of an umbrella and then it seemed to be moving like it was opening and closing," said 15-year-

old Reuben.

Esther added: "It couldn't have been an aeroplane because it wasn't the right shape. We are convinced it was a UFO."

Reuben said: "It was a frightening experience and we were amazed no-one else near us was looking at it. We fetched some binoculars from our house to track it as it moved away."

The youngsters are now planning to contact the East Anglian UFO Research Association to inform them of what they saw.

SOUTHEND EVENING ECHO ESSEX
NOV-4-1988

New UFO sighting is a puzzler

ANOTHER triangular-shaped UFO has been seen over South East Essex.

It was spotted by 14-year-old FitzWimarc schoolboy Kevin Laker above his house in Derwent Avenue, Rayleigh.

His mother Patricia said: "Kevin saw it about 5.30 on Wednesday night. He described it as a triangle with an extra

side which met at a point. There was a white light and a long red light.

"It didn't make a noise and went off in the Canvey direction."

Triangles are the latest shape in a series of UFOs spotted in the skies of South East Essex.

1381

It's a mad, mad world in the tabloids

By Graham Earnshaw

REUTER NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Space Alien Shoot-out in Peru! Amazing Faith Healer Fixes Cars By Touch!! Proof that Elvis is alive!!!

Every week, the nation's tabloid newspapers dish up a diet of the gross, the wacky and the extra-terrestrial to an estimated 50 million readers (their estimate).

The headlines leap out at shoppers waiting at supermarket check-out counters across the country and pose an interesting question: either they're making it up or the mainstream press is missing some of the greatest stories of all time.

The World Weekly News, which claims a circulation of more than 1 million, reported recently that "representatives from 60 planets are coming to earth to discuss trade pact agreements."

It quoted Swiss astronomer Mark Bauer as saying he had been visited by an alien messenger who had given him a silver plate etched with symbols — so far undeciphered — indicating when the envoys will arrive.

"I cannot divulge the circumstances under which the plate was given to me, but I can tell you it was delivered by a highly evolved space being," it quoted Bauer as saying.

"Of course, we are skeptical about some of the stories," said the News' managing editor Eddie Clontz. "But we wouldn't question ourselves out of a story, particularly when it has no health-related ramifications.

"If we got a fellow who said he was taken aboard a UFO, for instance, we would really see no reason to check it out if it was entertaining, a good story.

"If we did some probing, we could find out that he'd been in the mental hospital for the past 60 days and then (have to) kill the story," he added.

Readers get a steady diet of outrageous stories from the wackier-tabloids, with a strong emphasis on aliens, UFOs, life after death, satanic cults and sex-change operations.

"We recently had the psychic's head exploding, and we had the World War II bomber found on the Moon, which was a good one," said Clontz.

"I don't think a very high proportion of the readership believes it," said Mike Nevard, who manages three of the weekly tabloids — the Sun, the Globe and the National Examiner.

"It's almost a cult thing to buy publications like that to see how far they've gone this week."

But the News's Clontz thinks the majority of readers at least want to believe the stories.

"Take UFO stories," he said. "People want to believe we are not alone, they want to believe there is something out there. Our life-after-death stories are the same. People want to believe them — and so do I — because they really are quite uplifting.

"Particularly in this day of horrible news everywhere, it's nice to hear someone has gone to heaven for three months and returned to say it's quite the nice place we all hoped it would be," he added.

Clontz said the papers trace their ancestry back to the dime novels published around the turn of the century.

The art was later adopted and perfected by the British tabloid press, but the Americans began to recover the art with the National Enquirer, which now concentrates largely on Hollywood gossip.

Nevard said the American papers are now far wilder than the British equivalents.

The Sun, for instance, has a column every week called Star Talk From Beyond The Grave through which a psychic "can get you an answer to your problem or question from a famous celebrity on the other side."

The late manager of the Beatles, Brian Epstein, recently reported in the column that John Lennon was working on a new album in the Other World, and had forgiven the man who killed him in 1980.

"But neither of us can forgive the creeps who are writing those tell-all books about the Beatles," Brian added.

"The Sun is very much in the wacky area," Nevard said. "It deals with UFO babies, circus midgets being flushed down the toilet, that kind of thing. A lot of it is entertainment. We are not papers of record. We give the people what they want."

But the Sun is not below publishing the odd story with strategic implications.

"Secret intelligence reports reveal the Soviet Union has developed a new breed of midgets only 12 inches tall to operate its space-ships," the paper reported.

Moscow favors the midgets, it said, in order to save weight, and may have got the idea from a Sun story last year about a midget who was "training to be an astronaut in a clothes dryer."

But the big tabloid story in recent months has been reports that Elvis Presley is still alive.

"We started that one," said the News's Clontz. "We sold quite a few copies with that."

Not to be out-done, the National Examiner several weeks ago carried blurred photographs of a portly man with an Elvis-like haircut and declared: "Elvis Presley is definitely alive. That's the conclusion of several leading Elvis experts."

1381

UFO coverup is still going on

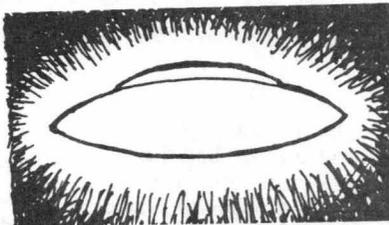
A Voices letter from
FILLMAN BLEDSOE
North Little Rock

Early in October, U.S. citizens learned that NBC planned to broadcast a two-hour program from Gulf Breeze, Fla., on unidentified flying objects. The title of the program would be "UFO - Coverup?" Gulf Breeze citizens had experienced UFO activity.

For 40 years the mystery of UFOs has been of intense concern and fear in many countries. An end to our government's cover-up would relieve people everywhere.

It was rumored that following the two-hour program, it would be impossible for our government to continue the cover-up. What terrific information had NBC uncovered on UFOs?

The program was reported to be ad lib. Before the broadcast, on the night of Oct. 14, I



was advised that one prominent Gulf Breeze citizen had been given a script and asked to participate. He declined.

Thousands of people may have taped the program. We did, and have carefully studied it. From the beginning, it appears that "UFO - Coverup?" was designed to continue the cover-up, rather than bring it to an end. Scientists participating in the program were about evenly divided that UFOs were real and active. No doubt, half of them were uninformed.

During the past 40 years our

government agencies involved in the cover-up have indicated that anyone reporting an experience with a UFO might be touched in his/her head.

Nowhere do we find the program host giving listening millions reports on major activities of UFOs in the U.S. We will list only a few which were by-passed by people preparing "UFO - Coverup?"

The 1965 blackout affecting millions of people in New England; cattle killed by the thousands; the great speeds at which UFOs can travel; the volumes of fresh water UFOs pick up and, last but not least, the frightening encounter of a UFO and a major naval vessel rushing to Grenada when we were preparing to invade the island.

My late book on UFOs is full of true facts and reports. What goes on with the NBC program? //

1321

'Mystery' spots light up switchboards

By Dave Gathman

A publicity gimmick for a new Elgin video store interacted with some unusual atmospheric conditions to create a UFO panic of sorts in an area more than 30 miles across Friday night.

Police as far apart as Crystal Lake and Streamwood reported being deluged with calls complaining about mysterious white lights which seemed to chase each other at high speed across the sky. Some callers said the lights

seemed to be unidentified flying objects.

Actually, most of the sightings seemed to be caused by an especially agile four-beam searchlight advertising the grand opening of Kobel's III video store, at 1380 Dundee Ave.

"It's a device called a Skytracker, from a company in California," said owner Chris Kobel. "It uses a four-spot beam which oscillates using hydraulics and metal bars that pull the lights rapidly back and forth." M

With heavy cloud cover forming a perfect canvas, the four spots of light converged, separated and chased each other around the sky in a circle. From a distance, no beam from the ground to the clouds was visible, as there usually is from a searchlight.

A dispatcher at the Streamwood police station said the situation was especially noticeable in that village because residents in many areas could see not only the Elgin lights, but a similar set of lights that seemed to be coming from Carol Stream or Glendale Heights.

"We probably got 20 calls," said the Streamwood policewoman. "People are saying they're UFOs. You'd think they had never seen a searchlight before."

Even residents of Lake in the Hills and Crystal Lake, more than 15 miles from the store, called police to report UFOs. //

Belleville braces for return of UFO believers Oct. 29

By **BILL MERRICK**
Special to The Capital Times

BELLEVILLE — When Belleville police officer Glen Kazmar looked out of his squad car window on a frigid night nearly two years ago, he had no idea that his life was soon to become a circus.

His home was barraged with phone calls and he endured many snide remarks from those who doubted his story — not exactly an easy thing for a law officer, whose credibility is supposed to be above question.

Kazmar says he saw a "clump of bright lights" hovering over Belleville, Jan. 15, 1987. He never guessed that his observation would thrust him into the media spotlight and put Belleville on the map as the UFO capital of the United States — something it'll celebrate later this month, on the weekend before Halloween.

Though other sightings were reported in the area, Kazmar feels he received the brunt of the publicity.

"I had no idea it would get so blown up,"

Kazmar says. "We had no privacy. Others saw more than I did, but people think that because of my position I'm more credible."

Though his wife "got very tired of the phone calls," Kazmar says his then 9-year-old daughter "thought it was neat."

"I told her it's unexplained, there's nothing terrestrial in it, just unexplained," he says. "I don't try to influence her thinking in any way. I said when you get older you can make a decision about it yourself."

Kazmar — who says he wondered about but never believed in UFOs — contacted the Center for UFO Studies in Glenview, Ill., for an explanation, but they could not give him one.

Kazmar uses one word to describe what he saw: "awesome."

"I can't really describe it, it was just awesome," he says emphatically. "I never saw anything like it."

"I joked with my partner, 'What if it beams us up?'" he adds.

Please see UFO, Back Page

All of Belleville will be looking for space beams Saturday, Oct. 29, when the small community — it straddles Dane and Green counties — celebrates its second annual UFO Days festival. Officials say that "2,000 to 100,000" UFO nuts will crowd into town, though Kazmar estimates the number at about "10,000 to 20,000."

In store for the throngs will be a parade, an alien costume contest, a dance and many other activities that organizers say may prove to be, well ... out of this world.

Kazmar will be in charge of a mini-*rendezvous*, where people dress up in 19th century garb and shoot muskets.

Kazmar, by the way, wasn't the only Belleville resident to see something strange in the sky in the winter of '87. Lavonne Freidig saw a "rocket-type object with three tanks underneath."

"The rocket took off and left the tanks hanging there," she says. "They disintegrated and left smoke rings."

Freidig hasn't seen any similar sights since, but if she does, next

time she'll look more closely.

"I'd be more prepared next time," she says. "I'd look closer at it. I wish it could come back so I could really watch it farther."

Unlike Kazmar, she says she enjoyed the attention the sighting brought her. Freidig, a legislative aide to state Sen. Lloyd Kincaid, D-Crandon, says she renewed some old ties as a result of the publicity.

"Some old friends called up and told me about their experiences," she says. "I never knew there were that many people interested in it."

People were so interested that Freidig was invited to appear on a New York television talk show. These plans fell through, however, and the public gradually forgot about the sightings. But not Freidig.

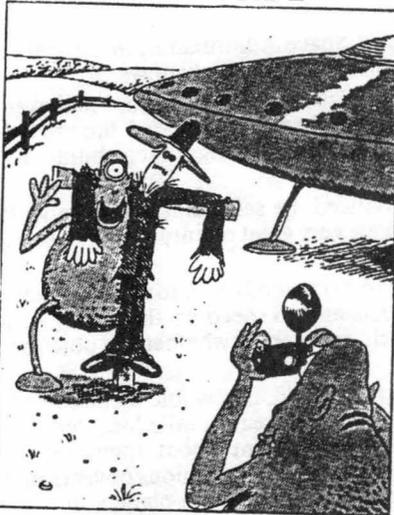
"I think about it and it's still so plain," she says. "It made life very interesting."

Kazmar hasn't forgotten either, though he may wish he could forget the hassles that accompanied the sighting. Asked if he thought he might see another UFO some day, he replies, laughing, "I hope not."

MA-D21 LAWRENCE EAGLE TRIBUNE

DEC 11 1988

THE FAR SIDE



BY GARY LARSON

1321



On the Inside

Linda Bean

A UFO hotel over Methuen?

ROOM SERVICE: It was as big as a hotel, said the caller, as big as a "three-story hotel" and all lit up and suspended over the Methuen Mall. The Haverhill woman, who believes she may have seen a UFO in Methuen skies on her way home from work and not an extra-terrestrial Hampton Inn — also said she called the paper because she read a UFO report in this column last week.

"I would like to find out if somebody else saw it," she said.

'It Was Bright Light'

20 Report UFO North of City

By MARK BAGNE

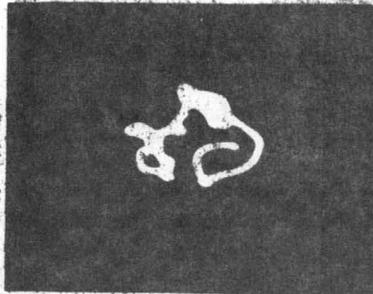
About 20 people today reported sightings of an unidentified flying object north of Cheyenne in the pre-dawn hours.

Although some wrote it off as stars or planets, others described it as a multi-colored, quick-moving object.

"It was a bright light," said one witness, Geraldine Huber. "It was red on the right side and green on the left. It would stay there for a time and then it looked like it would put on the turbos and it would move."

About 20 people called radio station KFBC to report the object, according to News Director A.J. McKay. The Laramie County Sheriff's Department took one call, as did KGWN-Channel 5.

About a month ago, several Cheyenne police officers and others north of Cheyenne reported seeing a UFO around the Horse Creek area. That incident was widely reported in the National Enquirer.



THIS OBJECT was seen in the pre-dawn hours today in the skies north of Cheyenne. About 20 people reported it as an unidentified object, but officials wrote it off as a star or planet. Kim Huber captured the image with a telephoto lens from near the Little Bear restaurant.

Jim Huber, who lives near Little Bear off of Interstate 25, said his wife woke him up at 5 a.m. and told him she had seen a flying saucer.

Huber said the object appeared to be flashing with red on one side and green on the

other and it appeared to move quickly in short spurts in the sky to his east.

"It was quite large," he noted. "I think if it was close to you it would be large."

Huber said he's highly skeptical about the existence of UFOs and he believes what he and other saw was a planet or star.

"If one lit down in front of me and they came out and talked to me I would probably think I was dreaming," he said. "The only flying cups and saucers I've seen were at one of the marriages I had, but I think they came from some relatives."

Huber said he told his wife she shouldn't wake him up that early in the morning unless alien creatures have come out and told her they had a cure for cancer.

But Mrs. Huber said she doesn't buy the explanation that what she saw was just a planet or star.

Mars writer says UFO, 'face' link not established

By PAUL DELLINGER
SOUTHWEST BUREAU

WYTHEVILLE — The author of a book about the nature of some unnatural-looking objects on Mars says they may be connected with UFO reports in Southwest Virginia and elsewhere but, if so, that connection has yet to be made.

Richard C. Hoagland, author of "The Monuments of Mars: A City on the Edge of Forever," spoke to about 70 people at a meeting of the Southwest Virginia UFO Group Thursday night at Wytheville Community College.

Hoagland also is the founder of the Mars Project, a team of scientists that has been investigating a series of objects found in 1976 Viking photos of the Martian surface. He and two others associated with the project — Erol Torun of the Defense Mapping Agency and Mark Carlotto of the Analytical Science Corp. — are scheduled to brief scientists and engineers at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Dec. 19 on their research to date.

The objects on Mars include a mile-long, human-like "face," and others that resemble pyramids, and their mathematical relationships to one another that Hoagland contends could be a message to Earth from some space-faring civilization.

VA-D28 ROANOKE TIMES
+ WORLD-NEWS

DEC 10 1988

National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials say the face-like object is a result of light and shadows.

"When we began this quest about five years ago, I had exactly zero interest in UFOs," Hoagland said. "I resisted mightily that there was anything relevant about this to things that go bump in the night or fly overhead or whatever."

But he is becoming convinced, he said, that "if we solve this problem, we are going to make a very great quantum leap in solving the UFO problem."

Hoagland's group hopes to persuade NASA to further study its own data showing these objects and to speed up the timing of the Mars Observer mission, which could show whether the objects are natural or artificial.

If they prove to be artificial, he said, that would mean someone took the time, energy and resources to create a mile-long version of the kind of message Earth dwellers sent about themselves on Pioneer 10 to anyone who might intercept it millions of years in the future. "Only instead of using a little aluminum plaque, they used 100 square kilometers of real estate on the planet Mars."

If it is indeed shown that there is a "they" who took so much trouble to leave us a message, he said, it would not be stretching credulity to theorize that they might still be keeping an eye on us. And that could explain some of the unexplained reports of unidentified flying objects, he said.

However, Hoagland said, in all his years of studying the heavens, he has never seen any flying objects that he could not explain.

Schoolgirl sees alien craft buzz houses

TWO UFOS have been seen in Weedon by a young schoolgirl — they were hovering above houses, only 100 feet in the air.

The sightings are now being investigated by the Northamptonshire UFO Research Association.

And the association is hoping that other people in the village also spotted the craft from outer space.

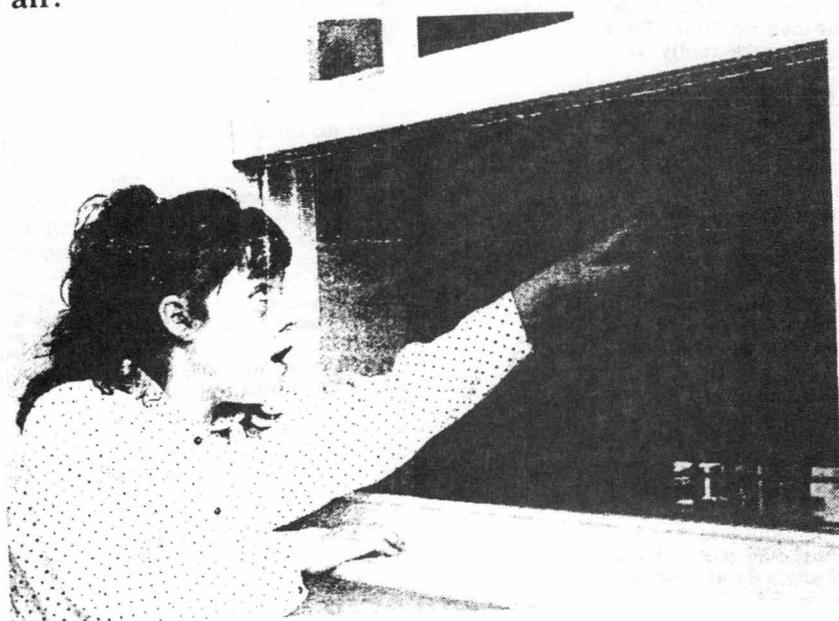
Ten-year-old Terri Oakensen, who lives in Weedon, had her close encounters after she had walked her friend home early in the evening, exactly one month ago.

But details have only just come to light.

Of the two sightings, the second one was the clearest. This is Terri's account of what she saw.

"I saw something strange over my next-door neighbour's house. It was eye-shaped, and it had coloured lights around it. They were red, blue, green and yellow. On the top there was a light which flashed blue and then red. When all the lights went off a black thing came on at the bottom, and when it moved away the whole thing went white. There was no noise."

The first sighting was a few minutes earlier, when Terri saw an eye-shaped



I saw a spaceship . . . Terri Oakensen.

white object, but no detail.

These encounters came nearly 10 years to the day that Terri's grandmother, Mrs Elsie Oakensen, saw a huge UFO above the A5 at Weedon.

Elsie, whose story is well known to many Daventry Express readers, is the Daventry representative for the

UFO Research Association.

She said that on the same night as Terri's sightings (October 24) there were further reports of similar encounters in Northampton and Corby.

"At 6.05 pm there were three separate sightings of a group of six objects, and 6.25 pm there were another three reports of a group of three objects."

Elsie added that it would be very interesting and helpful to find out if anyone else in the area saw something that night.

If you did then contact Mr Ernest Still, 46 Occupation Road, Corby, Northants, who is the county representative of the association and who is investigating Terri's sightings.

THE POST LONDON
NOV 24 1988
Out of the world

MEL Gibson tells of a disturbing UFO experience at his Beverly Hills home. He spotted strange sights in the night sky which came closer and closer until they were directly over his home. The tough-guy actor rushed to wake his wife and five children but by the time they had tumbled out of bed, the mysterious 'craft' had gone. Wonder what they now think of him?

Evening visit from UFO

YET ANOTHER unidentified flying object has been spotted above Tenterden. On Saturday evening a local woman reported a strange object flying over the town with two lights, one green and one red. It appeared to stop, shifted slightly and then moved off towards Shrubcote.

KENT & SUSSEX
COURIER DEC 2 1988

She reported it to the police and was adamant that it was not a helicopter. She said she should have heard the engine because of its height, but the object made no noise at all.

Police informed the RAF at Manston.

EILEEN SEES MYSTERIOUS LIGHTS

REPORTS of mysterious bright lights in the sky had recently ceased — until Eileen Riley looked out of her lounge window.

Eileen, of Carholme Avenue, Burnley, was watching television when she happened to glance out of the window. What she saw then held her transfixed to the spot.

"I could see one very dazzling bright light, with a smaller one behind it and another smaller one behind that. They were in formation and were really very bright.

"They were beautiful lights. I was more excited than anything else, to have seen something like that."

"I just could not believe it. I stood staring at it, then after a while it disappeared, as if it had been covered by a dark screen. My daughter came into the room because when I saw it I shouted out, but it had gone."

Eileen had not really thought about UFO's before, but she said that there was no other explanation for what she had seen.

"I know what I have seen, and I hope that other people who have seen them will get in touch with me, because it may be that we have seen the same thing," said Eileen. "It is a sight I will never forget."

Eileen said that it had taken much persuasion by friends and family to tell the Express about what she had seen. "I was very reluctant to tell anybody at first, but friends persuaded me to."

NORTH DEVON JOURNAL
DEC - 1 - 1988

Robin sights a large UFO

A NORTH DEVON businessman who had a brief sighting of a UFO is wondering whether anyone else has shared his experience.

Antique-shop owner Robin Westcott of High Street, Combe Martin, was driving with a friend to Barnstaple on Friday night at around 7.15pm when he spotted a triangular-shaped object in the sky, illuminated by an orange light.

"It all happened so quickly as we were driving along. My friend didn't see it as we were talking at the time, but I saw it clearly

above the top of the hedges — though only for two or three seconds.

"It was much brighter half-way down the two sides of the triangle and was on the Exmoor side of the road about half-way between Combe Martin and Barnstaple.

"It was difficult to see how large it was or how high in the sky. I waited to see it again as we drove along, but it had disappeared."

Mr Westcott says he is interested in the subject of UFOs but has never before seen one.

Close encounter

ONE fine summer's afternoon a seven-year-old girl had a close encounter in Halifax with a UFO which has haunted her life ever since.

Now Lorraine Clark is seeking help to throw light on an astonishing experience which is still as vivid as when it happened 21 years ago.

She was playing by herself near Wainhouse Tower when she saw a huge clear-shaped object hovering above some trees.

"It was like a metal airship but I could not see anybody in it or any windows," says Lorraine.

"There was no noise and I must have watched it for several minutes.

"Then it started moving and I waved and ran after it. I was not a bit frightened. I just felt disappointed and a bit mad at not being able to get any nearer to it. "The object disappeared in a flash over Devil's Rock".

There were some people near Wainhouse Tower who had been taking pictures and Lorraine thinks some of them must have seen the UFO.

Lorraine hurried home to Gar-side Street, King Cross, and told

her mother, Mrs Doreen Victor, what she had seen.

"She told me not to be silly and said I couldn't possibly have seen what I described."

She did not tell anyone at school in case they laughed at her. "If I had not seen it I would not have believed it."

She left Halifax when she was about 10 but she often thinks about that encounter.

Lorraine, of South Street, Oakenshaw, Bradford, has been back to King Cross to show her husband, Martin, where she saw the UFO.

In search of an explanation she wrote to Jenny Randles, Director of Investigations for the British UFO Research Association, after reading her latest book.

Jenny, of Heathbank Road, Cheadle Heath, Stockport, wants to hear from people who saw the UFO near Wainhouse Tower and anyone who took a photograph of it.

Andy Roberts, of Elland Road, Brighouse, a freelance writer and lecturer with a special interest in UFOs would also like to hear from anyone who spotted this particular UFO.

SANDWELL EVENING MAIL
NOV 21 1988

Case for the flying squad . . .

Police were today investigating claims that a Halesowen couple saw two flying saucers over the town.

Housewife Mrs Betty Griffin, of Drews Holloway South, Cradley, Halesowen, claimed that she and her husband spotted two "flying saucer-like objects" on Saturday.

She said: "We were driving along Two Gates, Colley Gate, at lunch-time when we saw two disc-shaped objects hovering at about 2,500 feet.

"There seemed to be what looked like a pearl necklace around each one. They looked to be made of aluminium.

A spokesman for the Met Office at Birmingham International Airport said that no sightings of UFOs had been reported in the area and there had not been any low-flying aircraft in the area.

SOUTHEND EVENING ECHO ESSEX
DEC 1 1988

This is what you saw in the sky that night

3128

STAR gazers have pieced together the life of a meteor that was seen in South East Essex.

The fireball meteorite appears to have come in over the sea near Westcliff where it was described as having an intense white sphere with green halo and slight tail.

As it progressed the intense white continued but the green halo changed to a gas flare blue-type colour.

The short tail stayed and was seen to go out

in the Bowers Gifford area.

Following the Echo story about the fireball, Rayleigh Astronomical Group believes there were at least two other meteorites on the same night, November 21. One was seen about 4.30pm and another at 6.20pm.

An extremely bright object was also seen on November 22 near West Horndon.

If there were any other sightings of the bright fireball type objects the

group, on Southend 206244, would like to hear.

UFO researchers are investigating a report that a mother and her two children saw an object that caused their car to stall and the lights to flicker.

The mum was driving home in the early hours along the A127 near Rayleigh Weir when they were terrified by the unexplained happening.

They apparently saw an object above the car which disappeared into the sky.

YELLOW ADVERTISER
(COLCHESTER)

NOV 25 1988

'We're not mad' say men who followed a UFO

3128

UFO spotters reckon they have seen what could be an alien spacecraft over Southend.

"But no-one will believe us," said Ron Murrill, of Crown Avenue, Pitsea.

He said: "I was with my mate, Frank Devenue from the Craylands estate at Basildon. We spotted it on the way to work on the early shift at Ekco.

"We saw a series of lights in the sky along the Arterial Road and followed them all the way from Rayleigh to Sutton Road.

"It was quite uncanny. We travelled eight miles, watching the light zig-zag across the sky. The funny thing was that it kept stopping. When we stopped at the lights, it stopped.

"People say we are mad. But it could not have been a plane, because it was stopping and starting.

"The only thing that come and go like that would be a Harrier jet, but you would hear the noise. This was quite silent.

"It happened around 5.25am, and there was little traffic. It could have been following us. Everybody at work keeps laughing about it, but we did see it."

The sighting comes against a background of regular activity in the night sky over Southend.

There were suggestions this week that an American Stealth plane may be the mysterious triangular object some people have seen. It is a slow-flying bomber currently under test.

The biggest reported sighting came three weeks ago when hundreds of people saw blue lights in the sky in the early hours of the morning.

Mr Murrill's sighting has been reported to the UFO Action Line.

SOUTHEND STANDARD ESSEX
NOV 18 1988

Have you seen a blue light lately?

UFO investigators want more witnesses to a blue light over South East Essex.

An engineer has reported being woken by a blue light that bathed his bedroom. He thought it was a car's headlamps but instead saw a craft — with a round front and a

square back — about 1,000 to 2,000 ft up coming towards his house. He said a smaller craft detached itself from the parent and went off in a different direction.

A similar object was seen at Canvey. If you the light contact the UFO hot line on 0728 830757.

PETERBOROUGH EVENING
TELEGRAPH NOV 21 1988

Mystery UFO was a comet

3128

STARGAZERS were light years away from guessing the real identity of a mystery object in the sky that had telephone lines to the Evening Telegraph buzzing.

Readers were convinced they had a close encounter with a UFO after spotting the bright blue ball in the night sky.

And instead they could have unearthed an unknown comet — never spotted by observers before.

By JEREMY
DEACON

The identity of the object which set people's tongues wagging was revealed after intensive probing by UFO investigator Andrew Cochrane.

Now urgent enquiries are being made at America's Smithsonian Institute to see if the comet has been recorded.

On October 27 dozens of city people were shocked to see the mysterious object hurtling through the sky.

Little Simone Coley, (3) from Whittlesey, was so taken by what she saw she drew a picture of it — five times — to convince her mother.

Many others contacted the ET and we immediately telephoned Mr Cochrane — who works for the UFO investigation team —

He immediately set about his task to uncover the truth behind the sighting and spent almost one month solving the riddle.

He said: "The investigation on this one was relatively simple. I contacted the people who had reported sightings and got detailed descriptions from them.

"I am quite sure it was a comet that people saw on that night."

What ever happened to...?

A Post-Crescent update of items that once made the news.

Aliens are still visiting the Valley

In September 1986, The Post-Crescent visited the Fox Valley UFO Discussion & Support Group at its headquarters run by Judie Woolcott in Menasha. Woolcott told at that time of being abducted by space aliens, who, she said, placed an implant in her head, behind her ear.

"Our group has been growing," she said last week, adding that in this region there are about 50 members, and about 100 statewide.

Her alien friends have been working more directly with earthlings in the last couple of years, she said, and just last Tuesday she actually saw one of them in her kitchen.

He was, she said, gray-skinned with round eyes that had bags beneath them. She didn't observe anything else because she was "just looking at his face." He told her that he was 94 years old.

Such apparitions do not occur often, she said, because each planet has its own rate of vibration, and only things that vibrate at the same frequency as earth are visible.

That is why the Sasquatch is only seen briefly and then seems to vanish, according to Woolcott. She says that the Sasquatch also is an alien, and his vibration rate is near that of Earth.

All of them are working directly or indirectly with God, she said.

"The aliens are down here working to keep us from destroying our planet," she said. "They don't have to come down here."

And earthlings are destroying the planet. "When is the last time you heard of all those tornadoes in November?" she asked.

Woolcott says she has been abducted, usually while she is in a car, numerous times in the last couple of years. The smell of sulphur is present when it happens, she said.

Movies such as "E.T." and "Cocoon" foretell the coming of the age of the alien, she said, and one of the best examples of what life on other planets is like is the cartoon television series, "The Jetsons."

The message from the aliens is clear, she said.

"Everytime I've ever talked to an alien, they said the same thing: 'You must tell people to go back to God.'"



Judie Woolcott

DROITWICH ADVERTISER

UFO ^{from} 3/28 sighting

JAN 5 1989

DROITWICH police have confirmed that a "big ball with flames coming out from its side" which hovered over the town was not an aircraft.

The object was spotted over Droitwich at around 12.10 am on Wednesday, December 21. Police contacted air traffic controllers who said the object was not an aircraft.

Two further sightings of the unidentified flying object were reported in Worcester and Walsall, according to Droitwich police. The speed of the ball was described as "slow".

UFOs near Lucedale not 'American-made stuff'

■ Eight George County residents reported two large flying objects.

From Staff and Wire Reports

LUCEDALE — Unidentified flying objects — definitely not "American-made stuff," according to one witness — attempted to land in George County this week and were reported by about eight rural residents.

Deland Blackston, 27, of Basin told George County Deputy Clyde Morris that two large flying objects decorated in red, green and blue lights were spotted near his home around 8 p.m. Tuesday.

"I know it wasn't American-made stuff," Blackston said. "It was about the size of a house, but I can't tell you the shape. It was real quick."

Blackston said he saw the UFO for only a minute or less. He said the

objects made no sound.

He and seven other Basin neighbors were talking near a county road about 12 miles south of Lucedale when they noticed the unusual sight in an open grazing field about 300 yards away. Witnesses said the objects moved toward the ground and suddenly turned back, heading toward nearby woods where they disappeared.

"I freaked out and started running and reported it," Blackston said.

No breaks have surfaced in the sheriff department's investigation of the UFO sighting, officials said Thursday.

Sue Lucius, the sheriff's night dispatcher, said Blackston's telephone call on behalf of the eight witnesses was the only UFO sighting reported Tuesday, though several others called Wednesday "because they had heard about it and were scared."

And now, the *real* UFO story

By CHRIS GLADDEN
STAFF WRITER

It has been a year and two months since Danny Gordon reported the first in a barrage of UFO sightings over rural Wythe County. Since then, the news director for WYVE Radio in Wytheville says his marriage, his job and his health have suffered.

"My life has been engulfed," says Gordon. "I've lost weight and hair. I can afford to lose the weight but not the hair."

At the same time, Paul Dellinger, the one-man Southwest bureau for this newspaper, covered the UFO stories as they unfolded and observed Gordon's growing obsession with the phenomenon.

The two newsmen, who have offices in the same building, finally decided to collaborate on a book detailing what they observed and experienced since the first strange lights were seen floating in the Wythe County sky in October of 1987.

"Don't Look Up!: The Real Story Behind the Virginia UFO Sightings" has just been published by Empire Press of North Carolina. It comes in a trade paperback and costs \$12. So far, it's available at Blue Ridge Books, Deva Gallery and Words and Music in Wytheville and by mail from Empire Press.

The title refers to Gordon's experiences after he reported the first sightings and then found himself at the center of the whole Southwest Virginia UFO hullabaloo. He says he wishes none of it had ever happened.

"This has cost me money and almost my marriage and my job," Gordon says. "A newsman's life is hectic enough without this. If I had it to do over again, I wouldn't do it. It has caused me so much trauma. I haven't slept well since last October."

A lot of other people in the county with a population of 26,000 have spent some restless evenings as well. Over the last year, Gordon says he has received thousands of reports from people who claim to have seen unidentified flying objects.

On top of that, Wytheville became somewhat of a mecca for the UFO subculture. Gordon, who says he has seen 35 UFOs himself, has organized four UFO conferences, has had his stories picked up on the national wire and has been interviewed on radio stations around the country. The people who have trekked to Wythe County range from a National Inquirer reporter to two beauticians with video cameras who wanted to document the sightings out of personal interest. One man told Gordon that he could call down UFOs with a guitar tuner;

another told him that he would be poisoned with a skin-contact virus if he persisted in his investigation.

Gordon claims that his house has been broken into and that his life has been threatened. And adding to the circus atmosphere in the area was an entrepreneur who printed T-shirts proclaiming Wythe County as the "UFO Capital of Virginia."

"One of the reasons Danny hasn't been called crazy is because so many people have seen them. Even the mayor's wife," Dellinger says.

□ □
It all started for Gordon on Oct. 7, 1987, when he was making his routine morning call to Wythe County Sheriff Wayne Pike. After filling Gordon in on some incidents of vandalism the night before, Pike mentioned that he had something unusual: Five law officers had spotted several silent aircraft in the sky. The officers said they were neither planes nor helicopters.

Gordon thought he would report the story on the radio and it would end there. But callers reported similar sightings, and the state news media became interested.

Then there was a report from an Ohio family traveling in the Graham Forge part of the county. The family said its car had been run off the road by a strange craft.

Gordon decided to do some UFO hunting himself. He and Roger Hall, a friend, were heading home on U.S. 21 south of Wytheville one night when both saw some strange lights, Gordon says. The lights turned into a large, silent craft flying at about 1,500 to 2,000 feet, according to Gordon. It was about 600 to 700 feet in length with no visible wings or rotors. More surprising was the fact that a red, glowing sphere joined the craft, Gordon says. That started a whole flurry of sightings on Gordon's part, along with an unsuccessful attempt to explain them.

Gordon says he has contacted the U.S. military at both the Pentagon and Langley Air Force Base but has received no explanation that satisfies him. The Tennessee Air National Guard reported that in-flight refueling rendezvous occur over Wythe County. And at the request of Rep. Rick Boucher, D-Abingdon, the Navy acknowledged that low-level tactical maneuvers do occur along a long-established route over Wythe County because of its rural nature and separation from well-traveled air routes.

But Gordon contends that some of the sightings defy 1980s technology.

"I'm not a debunker or a promoter," he says.

"Until I put a hand on a craft, I'm not sure about anything. I've been in the news business 10 years and I'm not going to put my credibility on the line. My life has been interrupted by a craft that isn't a conventional aircraft. A lot of times I'll slap myself in the face and hope it will go away but it doesn't."

Some of the reports can be easily explained. Venus, which shimmers in the night sky, has a tendency to trick people. And small planes with landing lights have buzzed cars. Other reports — from huge "Star Wars"-type craft to traditionally domed saucers — are harder to explain, Gordon says.

"What we're seeing in Wythe County is what is being seen in other parts of the country. The greatest mystery is not the cure for cancer. The biggest mystery is UFOs," Gordon says.

Dellinger was a skeptic longer than Gordon, but he, too, finally saw something he couldn't explain.

"It came down over my drive way. It had a huge bright light in front with three windows like the craft Danny saw. I heard a low motor. I don't think it's anything extra terrestrial," Dellinger says. "I believe a lot of people saw some unusual aircraft. These people aren't excited. They're down to earth. They just say 'I saw UFO.'"

"This book isn't going to change anyone's mind," Gordon says.

Dellinger agrees.

"If they believe that people got caught up in and said they saw things other people said they saw they'll believe that. If they believe there are flying saucers from Mars they'll still believe that," Dellinger says.

ENCOUNTER CULTURE

Minnesotans abducted
by aliens from space?
They thought it was just
a dream, but it was real!
That's what believers say.

By James Lileks
Staff Writer

Want to see a UFO? Here's the best way: Drive on a deserted road, late at night. High noon on I-94 won't do it. Backing out of the garage at sundown won't do it. Read my antennae: deserted road, late at night.

Take the case of a woman who attended a recent UFO conference at a suburban Holiday Inn.

"I was driving home around 11 o'clock, in the middle of nowhere," she said. "All of a sudden, the car was sort of whirring. I thought the wheels were spinning on the snow. Then the radio went static, and the car filled up with bright light. I heard a voice say, 'Look in the mirror.' I saw two spotlights, and I thought it was a truck. Then the lights went up, rose straight up in the air. And then the radio returned."

The woman did not want to give her name — people who see lights and hear voices generally wish to keep the experience to themselves, lest the psychiatrists show up with an economy-size barrel of Thorazine. But she is adamant about the veracity of her story, convinced it was not a trick of her mind:

"I had just been visiting two friends who were astrologically connected — people who talk to the stars. I thought maybe they had put a suggestion in my head, but I asked them, and they said they hadn't."

She told the story in the hallway of a Bloomington Holiday Inn, where a UFO conference was about to begin. Inside the meeting room, a gentleman was examining a National Enquirer article on the weight of a human soul, while a row away, two teen-aged girls talked in low, nervous voices about UFOs, the opposite sex and other uncertain phenomena.

The organizers of the conference, St. Paul hypnotherapists Linda Deer Domnitz and Connie Williams, stood at the door and greeted new arrivals. Others milled around, exchanging new stories of sightings, theorizing on dark governmental conspiracies, waxing rhapsodic on the wisdom of the aliens.

It was a small crowd — 30 people — but the purpose of the conference was special. This was not about whether UFOs exist; that was a given. This was about what they are up to — specifically, why they are beaming people up to their ships.

That, too, was taken as a given.

In 1987, two reputable authors published separate books detailing stories of abductions by UFOs. "Intruders," written by Budd Hopkins, told the story of an Indiana family so regularly taken upstairs by UFOs that the reader wondered if they received frequent-flier bonuses; the other, "Communion," by novelist Whitley Strieber, described the author's own harrowing abduction by leather-skinned, almond-eyed Gumbys From Beyond.

After the books came out, each author was besieged by stories from those who thought they, too, had been spirited away by UFOs. According to Hopkins, hundreds of people have come forward with tales of abduction. Reports of medical exams are frequent; evidence that the aliens represent any known HMO has not yet been advanced.

But the reports all agree on one thing: The aliens have come to Earth, and they're not just browsing. They're wrapping us up and taking us home. If it becomes any more common, abduction by aliens will soon be a legitimate, union-recognized excuse for missing work.

There are two ways to look at this: Either they're describing reality or they're not. Wherever you fall on the issue — and, according to a Gallup Poll, 68 percent of Americans believe in UFOs — the following will not dissuade you from your belief. But whatever you choose to believe, there are those who are already convinced that abductions are taking place.

Those believers are here in Minnesota, and they're ready to help you.

Yes, *you*. You may already have been abducted.

"If you have a dream of a ship," says Linda Deer Domnitz, "you have been abducted. The point of the hypnotherapy is to help you to deal with that."

Now, wait a minute. I've dreamed I was on a spacecraft, one that happened to be staffed by the crew of "Star Trek." But I no more expect that to be the truth than I expect I can walk into Whitney Houston's house and demand conjugal rights because I once dreamed we were married.

If a person comes to a hypnotherapist and says he once dreamed of being on a spaceship, isn't the sensible approach to judge the merits of the claim?

"We don't judge," says Connie Williams, Domnitz's partner. "The people I have worked with know that these are not normal dreams. They are completely different. I have them recall the dream, analyze the dream itself. Most people don't know they've been on a spaceship. They know they had a strange dream, and that it didn't fit with anything that had happened to them."

CON'T NEXT
PAGE

For many, the close encounter has already occurred

Domnitz and Williams have been in this business of dream analysis of UFO abductions since September. Both honed their hypnotic skills in California. Domnitz, who holds a degree in social work from the University of Iowa, recently moved to Minnesota from Arizona. In St. Paul, she teamed up with Williams, a Minnesota native and certified hypnotist who shared her interest in UFOs.

"I had a man who was working on self-confidence," Williams says. "In the middle of the suggestions, he said, 'Stop, I have something to tell you.' He'd been on a ship, and he described it as cigar-shaped, with many windows, many colors. He proceeded to tell me that this happened when he was walking on a street in Washington, D.C., and suddenly was somewhere else. This was in 1970. I didn't know what to do with it."

Times have changed; someone in Williams' position is more apt to know what to do today. The growing acceptance of non-traditional spiritual phenomena, a movement grouped under the rubric of "New Age," has given legitimacy to schools of thought once dismissed as nonsense. But the New Age welcomes the fringe; indeed, as it has no central tenets of its own, everything has equal weight. The fringe is the center.

Tarot cards and faster-than-light vehicles would not seem to share believers, but they do. The New Age emphasis on vague, metaphysical powers — the energy of crystals, the energy centers of the Earth, astral projection and other psychic phenomena — finds a perfect ally in the UFOs. No longer are they inscrutable terrors from the inky deep of space, but higher manifestations of the shining cosmic gristle to which all living things belong.

"The positive ones," says Domnitz, speaking of the aliens, "are the forces of light here to help the planet. We are facing a possible pole shift, earthquakes, the greenhouse effect — we're in various precarious positions. The highly spiritually advanced planets want to help us, want us to see peace."

Fine. So where's the help? Enough of this ringing-the-doorbell-and-running-away, already.

"We're not ready for it. The 'E.T.' movie helped; it shows that they're here to help us. People have to accept the possibilities, not discuss if it's real or not. That's a foregone conclusion," Domnitz said. "What we do with these conferences is figure out how to work with them."

The conference begins with a prayer "addressed to whatever God concept you choose." I choose a bagel, for it is

early and I am hungry.

The day's agenda is announced: a movie, "UFOs Are Real," followed by some UFO-sighting stories. Then everyone will be hypnotized, and if anyone's subconscious is still clutching a boarding pass to the mothership, we'll hear about it.

Before the movie, however, people stand and describe themselves. Everyone falls into one of two categories: Have Seen or Have Not Seen. Most have not seen, but express a desire to see one; seven have seen a UFO.

One woman reveals that she had some past-life regression and, in another life, she was in a ship; her tone of voice asks, "Does that count?" It does.

Another man, dressed in a suit, looking like the chief loan officer of a prosperous bank, says he hears a voice. "It says, 'You're not ready yet,'" he says. He is here at the conference to get some answers.

A woman in her late 30s, her voice uncertain, tells the room that she had been kicked in the head by a horse and believes now that she is being contacted by aliens. She, too, is here for answers.

The film is shown. Through photos and interviews, it makes a fairly compelling case for UFOs. A flinty, Yeageresque pilot tells of his sightings; Jimmy Carter's sighting of a UFO is described (of course, Carter also believed in a second term); there is an interview with Betty Hill, the New Hampshire woman whose 1961 story of abduction by aliens made her the mother of the encounter culture.



Joe Rossi/Staff Photographer

"Most people don't know they've been on a spaceship. They know they had a strange dream, and that it didn't fit with anything that had happened to them."

Connie Williams
St. Paul hypnotherapist



Joe Rossi/Staff Photographer

“The highly spiritually advanced planets want to help us, want us to see peace.”

Linda Deer Domnitz
St. Paul hypnoterapist

Next is Phyllis, who did not exactly see a UFO, let alone remember going up in one. She did, however, vanish from the face of the Earth for a while. On a retreat in Arizona with Domnitz, she had been out in the desert, meditating with a group. As Domnitz tells the story, when everyone opened their eyes, Phyllis was gone.

“I figured she was out around the rock, smoking a cigarette,” Domnitz says, grinning. “Then, all of a sudden, she was there again.”

“I felt a sort of cold energy,” Phyllis says. “I remember I was in meditation, just floating. I was not afraid.” She smiles. “There was a tremendous feeling of love.”

There is a question from the audience.

“I mean no disrespect by this,” inquires the questioner, “but have you had a head injury lately? Blows to the head seem to make people more responsive.”

Phyllis says no, her head is fine.

“I would sooner believe Santa and his reindeer are abducting people than extraterrestrials.” So spake Phillip J. Klass, former senior editor at Aviation Week, UFO investigator and author of “UFO Abductions: A Dangerous Game.”

Betty and Barney Hill, so the story goes, were abducted one night while driving down — all together now — a deserted road, late at night. Betty, heretofore a standard-issue middle-class citizen with no interest in UFOs, became convinced she had been abducted and took her case to the media. The film also details the efforts of Hill supporters to reconstruct the star map Betty drew, based on a map she had been shown by the aliens.

The film quotes liberally from a Hill supporter who claimed to find a perfect match and locate the stars from which the aliens hailed. (About Carl Sagan’s efforts to locate the stars, which used computers and yielded no such match, the movie is silent.)

The film ends up with a tub-thumping endorsement of UFOs and a warning that we had better take care of our planet so that we’ll deserve to meet these guys. Up with the lights.

Several members of the audience now come forward to tell their stories. Helen — a medical secretary who greets people with a hug and departs by placing a kiss on their third eye — is first. She tells of a sighting in 1956 — an electrically charged apparatus that fused the wiring of her car.

Klass has been shooting down UFO sightings for 22 years, and he says he has yet to investigate a sighting that cannot be explained as an earthly or natural phenomenon. He has a standing offer of \$10,000 to the first person whose abduction claim is backed up by an FBI investigation. No takers so far.

“Until a couple of years ago, claims of UFO abduction were relatively infrequent. Maybe one every three or four years. When the Hill story was shown on TV, that created a rash of reports, but then it quieted down. Even those in the UFO movement found the abduction stories a bit too much to swallow,” he says.

The advent of such books as “Communion” and the advance of the New Age movement, however, softened public attitudes, and abduction stories increased several fold. Klass’ book details his versions of the famous abduction stories, pointing out what he thinks are the flaws, the telltale signs of fakery. But while some are telling their tales for attention, he says, others have different reasons for believing the abduction stories. And not entirely healthy reasons, either.

“It is becoming a cult,” Klass says, “and a dangerous one. In my opinion, most of the people who previously claimed to have been abducted were telling a conscious falsehood. They could essentially forget it and throw off their stories; they were free to abandon them. But when people who are psychologically disturbed go to abductionists, when they undergo hypnosis, they allow these amateurs to implant their own

fantasies about UFOs.”

So they believe in saucers. What’s the harm?

“According to Hopkins, if you were abducted once, your chances are good that you’ll be abducted again, and that when you marry, your children will be abducted. And their children will be abducted. Hopkins has talked of dealing with children who supposedly were abductees and were contemplating suicide.

CON'T NEXT
PAGE

ENCOUNTER CULTURE CON'T

"There was a woman in England who stabbed her children for fear of abduction by UFOs," Klass says. "These are disturbed people, and when they join up with a UFO abduction cult and allow themselves to be hypnotized, they are extremely susceptible."

Let's be clear on one thing: Klass is not describing Domnitz or Williams. For starters, neither is an amateur, and neither implants suggestions. Nor are they scorned by fellow professionals as amateurs. Michael Kelly, a member of the Society of Medical Hypnoanalysts and a man known to excoriate misusers of his craft, is open to abduction stories himself.

"I've had a couple, more than five in the last 10 years I've been practicing. It's unusual, but not unheard of. The ones I've worked with weren't psychotic or out to lunch — they were normal people."

Did he believe them?

"If they believe it, it's true in their mind. My concern is with helping them resolve any problems

they have with it," he says.

What about Klass' charge that abductionists are planting falsehoods in the minds of the vulnerable?

"I trained Connie (Williams) in hypnotherapy," says Kelly, who practices in Edina. "She knows not to suggest. Some amateur hypnotists don't always realize what they're doing, but that's not the case here."

Some who believe in the UFOs ascribe darker purposes to their visits. Conference attendee Walter Moe, a retired engineer and a member of the Minnesota chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, is not convinced that the aliens are here for our benefit.

"We don't know why they're here. That has to be studied. There's evidence that they're studying us, trying to collect information."

Author Budd Hopkins goes further, postulating that the aliens are crossbreeding with humans to replenish their genetic stock. He sees them as unconcerned with the trauma and pain they may produce.

But leave aside their motives for a minute, even the contentious issue of their existence. Klass may be overstating the case by calling it a cult, but there are religious implications in the belief in UFOs.

UFO belief is almost a theology in itself: The UFOs, the aliens who drive them — they play a Godlike role, and when Domnitz talks about "the brothers and sisters of light," it's hard not hear the word "angel" resonating behind her ideas.

It is impossible to argue on these terms; when the aliens can do everything, represent any object, event or myth in human history, it is impossible to disprove them.

Yet, proof is not needed. As with all religions, faith above all is required — the faith that survives without hard proof, yet sees the shadow of proof cast by everything.

It is an extraordinarily hopeful religion, but it, too, is weighed down by original sin. Although they do not say as much, disbelief is sin, and it keeps us from the truth. When asked why the aliens don't land, play Peace Corps and help this race of sluggards take its place in the cosmos, Domnitz says we have to ask for help. They cannot interfere; we have to believe and extend an invitation.

"Most people don't ask for help," she says. "They get upset and frustrated, when they should be asking for help."

We are, in other words, stuck in our sinful ways.

There was a man at the conference who was holding forth in the hallway, decrying evolution. He said it couldn't possibly explain the diversity of life on Earth; no, this was a project of the aliens. They put us here, they were seeding the Earth.

"It's just like a garden," he said. "They are tending us, just like a garden."

That's not a new way of looking at it; the Earth has been called a garden before. This time, however, we haven't been kicked out. Yet.

A \$29 beginner's course in UFO dream analysis will be held Jan. 29. For more information, call 377-9103 or 645-8386.

SOUTHEND EVENING ECHO ESSEX
JAN 6 1989 ENG.

3128 Sky craft mystery deepens

MORE triangular craft have been reported in the South East Essex skies.

A Canvey mum and her son walking their dog along the sea wall saw green and white lights, flashing lights and a triangular-shaped object.

Later they spotted a big spotlight which went

out when an aircraft passed overhead.

The light came on again when the aircraft had gone and a triangular-shaped craft moved slowly away. The craft had red lights at the back.

Another Canvey woman saw lights and heard a

whirring noise in the sky.

East Anglian UFO researchers have been interested in lights seen by a policeman and other witnesses at Sizewell Cliffs in Suffolk.

The UFO researchers can be contacted on 0728 830757.

Those polite people
in Wisconsin
have planned
a welcome mat
for visitors to Earth

By Reggie McLeod
Special to the Pioneer Press Dispatch

ELMWOOD, Wis. — Perhaps UFO pilots would like to make official contact with Earthlings, but they are too polite to drop in uninvited. Perhaps they are merely waiting for us to put out the welcome mat.

Over the years, humans have reacted to UFOs with fear, hostility, curiosity and indifference, but we have never shown any . . . well . . . hospitality. That, explained Tom Weber of Chippewa Falls, Wis., is why he heads a group trying to build a 2-square-mile welcome mat that will be clearly visible to UFO pilots.

"They may be wondering: 'When are you people going to make a collective response to our presence? When are you going to invite us?'" Weber said.

His message would begin with a ¼-mile-long figure of a man facing a slightly smaller, human-looking alien figure. Both figures would be painted on flat, wooden platforms 4 feet off the ground. A row of lights from each figure would ripple to figures of the alien

and human shaking hands. Another row of lights would then ripple to a prepared landing site.

Never mind that space aliens may not resemble humans; never mind that they may be much taller than we are; never mind that they may lack hands. The message conveyed by the figures will be clear, according to Weber: "Members of your society and members of our society will meet here."

"Here" is just outside Elmwood, population 991, a place that may already be familiar to extraterrestrial travelers. Residents of this village, in the hilly farmland 25 miles west of Eau Claire, have reported UFO sightings regularly since the mid-1970s.

And every summer for the past 10 years, they've held their UFO Days, a small-town, family-style celebration of Elmwood's place in the interplanetary fast lane. Celebrants with antennae eat UFO burgers, while a bus tours sites where locals claim to have spotted UFOs.

Weber joined the celebration this year. He is president and found-

Continued from Page 1E

er of the UFO Site Center Corp., a non-profit organization trying to raise \$50 million to build and staff a UFO landing pad. The center itself would cost about \$25 million, and another \$25 million would be needed to operate and staff it.

"Could it be done for less? Yes, it could be done for less, but it wouldn't be done right," Weber insisted.

138/ET
Wisconsin/

Too many stories
to ignore

It may, of course, never get done at all. It's been almost a year since Weber hatched the landing-site idea, and he admitted that his group is having difficulty raising money. Proceeds from the sale of hats, T-shirts and bumper stickers haven't amounted to a huge treasury, and the only sizable contribution so far has come from an Elmwood resident.

"We've raised thousands of dollars, but we're talking millions of dollars, so we're nowhere near our goal," Weber said. The group, which has 10 active volunteers and an office in downtown Chippewa Falls, has just launched an intensive campaign to enlist the support of sympathetic celebrities. Weber mentioned Dennis Weaver, William Shatner, Mel Tormé and Muhammad Ali as possible sponsors.

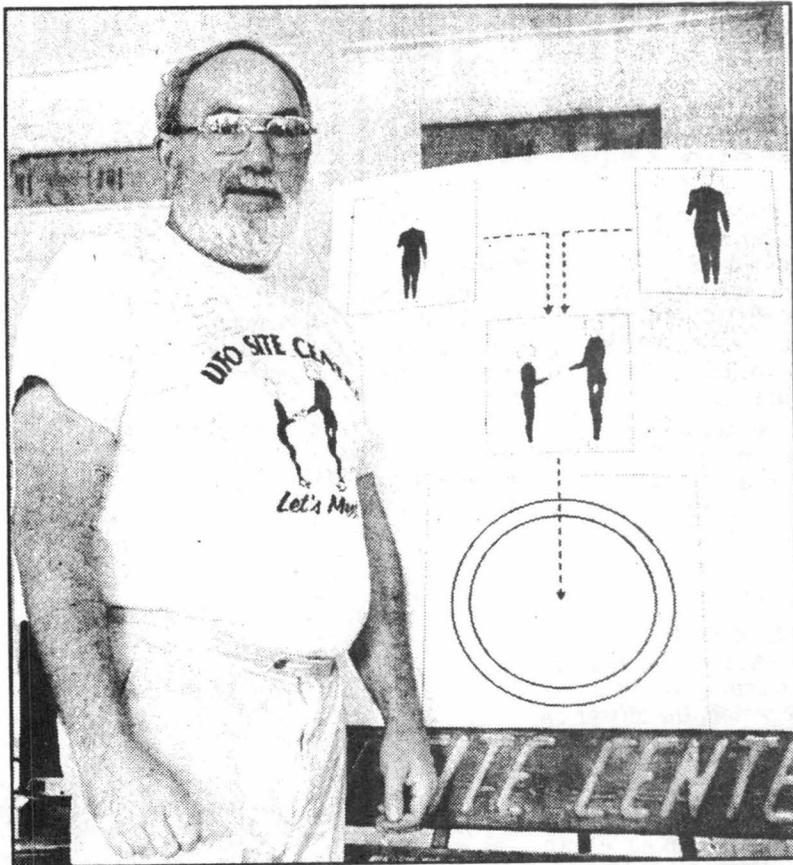
Weber's landing-site plan envisions the 2-square-mile area fenced and secured to protect the alien visitors, with buildings staffed by diplomats and scientists from around the world. The group, which based its idea of alien physique on reported sightings (also the basis for the way aliens are portrayed in the films "E.T." and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind") is now working on a book that speculates on how the world might be changed by contact with an otherworldly race.

"This is something I've thought about for a long time," said Weber, 50, who owns a metal finishing company in Cornell, Wis. "I suppose you reach a point in life when you either have to take action or forget about it. I'm willing to give everything to this project."

Though Weber has never personally seen a UFO, he's been interested in the phenomenon since his childhood. A native of Eau Claire, he had read about the sightings in Elmwood. It was the open-mindedness of Elmwood residents that led him to propose the project there.

Village President Larry Feiler, 45, is a lifelong resident of Elm-

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Reggie McLeod

Tom Weber of Chippewa Falls, Wis., is the promoter of the spaceship landing-strip idea, complete with its signs that will tell the aliens that Earthlings are friendly.

wood. He has never seen a UFO. But sightings are so routine that now locals have their own system of classification, he said. "We have gotten to the point where people may say, 'I saw a light in the sky,' but we only call it a sighting when people actually see a vehicle in the sky."

Paul Fredrickson, who used to work as nursing-home administrator in Elmwood, said he spotted UFOs twice during the 12 years he lived there. Now a nursing-home consultant, he lives in Melrose, Wis.

One night in the late 1970s, he was working at the nursing home when his son stopped in after a high school basketball game to catch a ride home. As they were driving over Tuttle Hill, south of town, his son pointed out a bright object on the horizon and asked if it was the full moon rising.



Fredrickson

"I said, 'That's one of them!' because the moon doesn't go that fast," Fredrickson recalled.

He pulled his van off the road, and they jumped out to watch a huge, gray, metallic object pass about 800 feet overhead. "It made no sound, except when it got right above us, there was a soft whir. It came out over the village, then went like this," Fredrickson said as he shot his arm straight out. "Whoa, it was gone."

While driving home from a class in another town one night, he and two others in his car watched a bright light bobbing in front of the car ahead of them. Both cars pulled over. The two women in the first car were frightened and asked Fredrickson to stay close to their car. A short time later, the light disappeared.

Fredrickson knew the late George Wheeler, a village police chief who reported three sightings during the mid-'70s. After the last sighting, he was hospitalized with an illness that he claimed resulted from an alien encounter. About a year later, he died of a heart attack.

After Wheeler's reports made the news, other villagers admitted similar experiences. Several reliable witnesses told Fredrickson about their sightings only after swearing him to secrecy. Most people described cigar-shaped objects about the size of a football field.

"My first reaction was skepticism. One emotion that no person can take — from a child up to an adult — is ridicule," Fredrickson said. "Then when many good people I had known for years started telling me about it, I became interested."

Nobody's sure why UFOs choose to visit Elmwood, but local residents have their theories. The most popular notion is that they tap into the high-power line for energy. Many of the sightings have been near the line, according to Fredrickson.

The sightings from the Elmwood area have been of better-than-average quality, according to Don Schmitt of the Chicago-based J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies. Schmitt, an investigator and co-director of the group, said it has gathered more than 50,000 reports of UFO sightings nationwide.

J. Allen Hynek, who founded the Chicago center in 1973, was a scientific consultant for the Air Force from 1948 to 1968. He served as director of astronomy at Northwestern University and scientific director of the center until his death in 1986.

"One thing that impressed me right along is not only the number of people involved, but the people themselves," said Schmitt, who came to Elmwood for UFO Days last summer. Witnesses have been calm, he said. One sighting has not triggered a rash of sightings; rather, there has been a steady flow of them.

Although the proposed UFO landing site has been the object of intense, worldwide publicity, it doesn't seem to have made a difference in the small community. "We're interested in it," said Feiler, the village president, "but it has not changed our way of life at all."

In Elmwood, they just keep their eyes fixed on the stars, like they always have.

Reggie McLeod is a free-lance writer who lives in Wisconsin.

Feelings of awe for mysteries, explained and unexplainable

By Russell McNeil
Special to The Star

Years ago I was camping with a group of friends near the top of a small mountain on Vancouver Island's west coast.

Sometime after midnight one of us, looking up into the clear, moonless night sky, spotted something. It was a light with no shape moving quickly across our view. After streaking across the sky, through an arc of about 40 degrees in under a minute, the light, veered off its track onto a new course perpendicular to the first. After another minute it vanished.

It didn't make sense then; it doesn't make sense today. Nothing in our experiences fit what we saw.

Memories of the feelings it created in us flashed back on two other equally powerful occasions. I was at the stern of the now scrapped frigate, HMCS Antigonish, steaming south from British Columbia on a training cruise destined for Seattle. It was bleak.

Far off on the horizon I saw an albatross making an extraordinarily clumsy take-off. In a time I was sure would never end, it struggled desperately to become airborne as it's enormous wings crashed repeatedly and pathetically into the rough seas.

At length the bird cleared the water to perform the finest display of aerial style and magic nature has to offer. It was one of those special moments of reverence known only to sailors.

That same summer I was part of another training cruise on the Grilse, an ancient submarine. Early in the morning, near the end of the middle watch, the officer on duty called me over to look through the periscope.

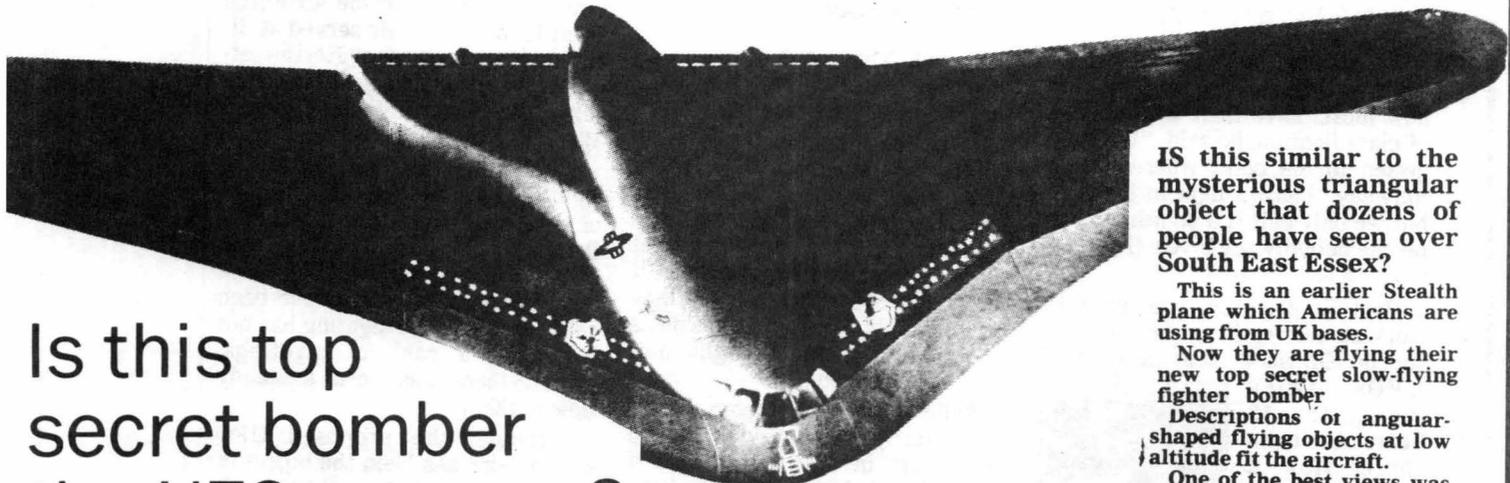
The Pacific sea, three hundred miles off the B.C. coast, was perfectly calm. The sea was alive with light. Coming from under the surface for as far as the eye could see, the ocean was illuminated in an

eerie emerald glow.

Nothing prepared me for that. The duty officer said it was a rare but explainable phenomenon caused by billions of microscopic phosphorescent sea organisms irradiating light like fireflies from under the sea.

Urban life robs us of these experiences. During long winter nights and on dreary city days I remember them often.

HANSARD (HOUSE OF COMMONS
REPORT) LONDON
NOV 5 1988



Is this top secret bomber the UFO you saw?

IS this similar to the mysterious triangular object that dozens of people have seen over South East Essex?

This is an earlier Stealth plane which Americans are using from UK bases.

Now they are flying their new top secret slow-flying fighter bomber

Descriptions of angular-shaped flying objects at low altitude fit the aircraft.

One of the best views was seen by a South East Essex engineer who spoke of an object round at the front and square at the rear

Now Southend East MP Teddy Taylor is to find out whether the Stealth has been operating in our skies.

One report says the single-seater secret fighter bomber was shipped in crates to the UK to avoid detection by Soviet spy satellites.

The East Anglian UFO Research Association thought the triangular sightings could well have been Stealth aircraft. But when they contacted the USAF they denied there was such a plane.

SOUTHEND EVENING ECHO, ESSEX NOV 18 1988

Unidentified Flying Objects

Mr. Teddy Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment what reports he has received within the past four weeks from the south-east about flying objects emitting strong blue lighting; and if he has any information on the origin of the objects.

Probe into mystery of 'Warminster Thing'

BATH+WEST CHRONICLE
DEC 29 1988

By Roderic Eldridge

WEATHER expert Terence Meaden is hoping to solve a 24-year-old UFO mystery which baffled the nation.

Reports of the so-called Warminster Thing brought experts and cranks alike flocking to the Wiltshire town for all-night sky watch sessions.

The phenomena were catalogued in books, newspapers, radio and television. Some put it all down to imagination but others set out to prove that Warminster was at the centre of some sort of intergalactic highway with regular visits from extra terrestrials.

Some of the more bizarre reports at the time came from people driving around Warminster, whose cars suddenly failed and they then saw lights or heard strange noises. There were vivid descriptions of fast moving inexplicable lighted objects in the night sky, whirring noises, physical and mental after effects on some of the witnesses.

For some years it became Warminster's main claim to fame and earned the community the unwanted title of the country's flying saucer capital.

Now physicist Dr Meaden from Bradford on Avon has decided to review all the evidence and he hopes to re-interview many of the original witnesses. Earlier

this year Mr Meaden discounted claims by UFO believers that mysterious circles in Wiltshire fields were caused by alien spacecraft. Mr Meaden said they were caused by natural whirlwinds.

But he says the Wiltshire Thing which happened 24 years ago on Christmas Day deserves further investigation. He said: "A mysterious entity which locals call the 'thing' made itself known in Warminster and district through its strange noises and rooftop 'hammerings' which affected the barracks at Knook and several residences in Warminster.

"Then followed an eventful period with reports of numerous happenings involving moving or hovering lights, unaccountable forces or winds and bizarre sounds. In some of the cases, related by Arthur Shuttlewood in his books, people in the open found themselves struck by inexplicable forces or winds, while in others the engines of moving vehicles inexplicably stalled when in the vicinity of mysterious lighted objects.

"Of most interest to me are experiences regarding unexplained luminous phenomena or forces at ground level in which

people, animals, cars or houses were affected, or which involved hovering or vertically moving lights."

Dr Meaden who works for the Tornado and Storm Research Organisation says that he would like to interview anyone who was involved at the time. And he also feels there must be more recent cases which have so far gone unreported. He intends conducting the interviews with his scientific knowledge to see if there are clues to the causes of the phenomena.

He has some ideas of his own on possible causes and is keeping an open mind until there has been time for more research. But he is quite positive on the flying saucer theory.

"That I regard as totally unacceptable although it will upset a lot of UFO people. That is the kind of answer produced by a non scientist totally mystified by what has gone on."

Dr Meaden says that once he has completed a study on the Warminster Thing the results will be collated along with other information and may well be published. Anyone who can contribute to the investigation should telephone Dr Meaden in confidence at Bradford on Avon 2482 or write to him at 54 Frome Road.



■ Dr Terence Meaden: hoping to solve UFO mystery which baffled the nation

SUNDERLAND ECHO
DEC 22 1988

Strange sighting

AN unidentified flying object was spotted hovering over Wearside skies this week.

The large object with red and orange flashing lights appeared to spin as it hung over Rodney Close, Tunstall, at about 9.35 p.m. on Monday.

According to eye witnesses the UFO then shot off into the night sky towards Tunstall without making a sound.

WORCESTER
EVENING NEWS
DEC 21 1988

Riddle as UFO sighted

COUNTY stargazers were baffled by a mystery object seen shooting across the sky last night.

Worcester school teacher Howard Groves, aged 37, and his 38-year-old wife, Christine, were walking back to their Ombersley Road home at midnight when they saw something bright white with a yellow tail.

"I am totally baffled. We saw it for between five and ten seconds

A Worcester police spokesman said they had received a number of calls from people who thought they may have seen an unidentified flying object.

Arnold West, chairman of the British UFO Research Association, said: "Off the cuff, I would have said it might have been a meteorite or satellite debris burning up. We will be investigating it."

YELLOW ADVERTISER
Colchester
JAN 6 1989 ENG.

UFOs in the night —
an astronomer's view

Lights in the sky

MOST astronomers are understandably sceptical about claimed UFO-sightings.

Not least among the grounds for their scepticism is that many people mistake the planet Venus, or the brightest true star, Sirius, as a UFO.

These far-from-unexplained heavenly objects "twinkle". That is, they appear to shimmer and change colour. But that is an optical illusion, caused by turbulence in the Earth's atmosphere.

Meteors are an other common explanation. Pieces of cosmic dirt, they are usually the size of a grain of sugar.

Travelling at up to 45 miles a second, they collide with the atmosphere, and streak across the sky in a brief, final blaze of glory as friction causes them to burn up. The resulting flash of blue, white or green light can easily be misinterpreted.

Let us assume that some UFOs really are alien spacecraft. From where might they have come?

□□

We have to think in terms of planets that can support life as we know it. In our solar system of nine known planets, this seems to rule out all but Mars.

And even the best we could reasonably hope to find there are primitive lifeforms, such as microbes, in its icecaps, made of frozen carbon dioxide. The other plants in our solar system are either "airless", or have atmospheres composed of poisonous gases.

What about other solar systems? Observing from the ground, it is impossible to detect planets that could be orbiting other stars like our own Sun.

But within the next few

Since July, South-East Essex has undergone a positive epidemic of UFO sightings. They reached a peak in September, with reports of lights and strange moving shapes being filed by the score.

Many theories have been put forward to explain the phenomenon of Unidentified Flying Objects — ranging from suggestions of honest mistakes and accusations of outright fraud, to passionate conviction that alien intelligences are about to contact us any day now, and may even once have shaped our religious beliefs.

Here Steve Tidey, resident astronomer at the Southend Planetarium in the town's Central Museum, gives an expert's view on those mysterious lights in the sky.

years the American Space Shuttle will launch into Earth orbit a revolutionary telescope. Theoretically, it will have the power to see these hypothetical planets.

□□

In his book, *Extraterrestrial Civilisations*, science and science fiction writer Isaac Asimov claims that in our galaxy alone, there could be 530,000 civilisations similar to our own. And there are millions of other galaxies, besides ours!

How near could be the closest of these hypothetical civilisations? There are about six stars within 23 light years of the Sun which show signs of harbouring a solar system. A light year is the distance travelled by a ray of light in 12 months: some 5.8 trillion miles!

Some people complain we should not send out space probes which could "give away" our presence. But we have been signalling our whereabouts since the first radio broadcasts more than 65 years ago.

Television and radio signals leak out of the atmosphere and hurtle towards the stars at the speed of light. So early radio broadcasts of Caruso singing in the 1920s have now

reached the nearer stars. If aliens are tuning in to us, they could even be picking up Star Trek!

Some astronomers are convinced we are the only intelligent race in our galaxy. Their argument is that our universe is about 15 billion years old, ample time for millions of civilisations to have developed interstellar space travel.

In terms of the universe's age, it would not take long to explore and colonise the Milky Way galaxy. Sceptics conclude that the very fact that we have not discovered hard evidence of any alien visitation to Earth proves we are alone in the cosmos.

□□

My own opinion is that there are intelligent, spacefaring lifeforms out there — but UFOs are not necessarily a manifestation of their presence.

Most sightings are explained by relatively mundane terrestrial or astronomical phenomena. Of course some defy explanation, but it is a triumph of hope over reason to argue that they therefore must be alien spacecraft. Though I, for one, would be delighted if it could be proved beyond doubt that they are.

YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS
YORK
DEC 21 1988

It's enough to get a UFO fan lit up

WAS it a bird or a plane or, because of the season, something more celestial?

No-one today could explain the bright lights seen in the skies over North Yorkshire last night. 7174

Callers at Harrogate and Richmond, and a motorist at Scotch Corner on the A1, all told police they had seen a burning object.

Northumbria Police had reports of something which looked like "a jet aircraft on fire."

Checks were made with Newcastle airport and with

RAF stations, such as Leeming in North Yorkshire, but all said there was no aircraft activity at the time.

According to former Yorkshire UFO Society official Mark Birdsall, of Leeds, the bright lights are the latest phenomenon in what he termed the year of the UFO.

"We could have something unusual here. There have been several reports of objects over Yorkshire in the past few weeks.

North Yorkshire Police press officer Insp Ron Johnson had his own explanation: "It was a bright light in the east, and these three men on camels were seen coming over Sutton Bank top, heading towards a place called Bethlehem, which is near Thirsk."

MIDDLESBROUGH
EVENING GAZETTE
DEC 21 1988

Alien sightings shot down

AN ALIEN invasion of the region was discounted today after numerous UFO sightings were reported to police.

Police control rooms from Northumbria and West Yorkshire were flooded with calls "great ball of fire" zipping around

midnight.

But they suspect people spotted a large meteor crashing to earth.

A spokesman for North Yorkshire Police said checks showed there were no reports of missing planes from RAF bases or from airports.