

# UFO NEWS

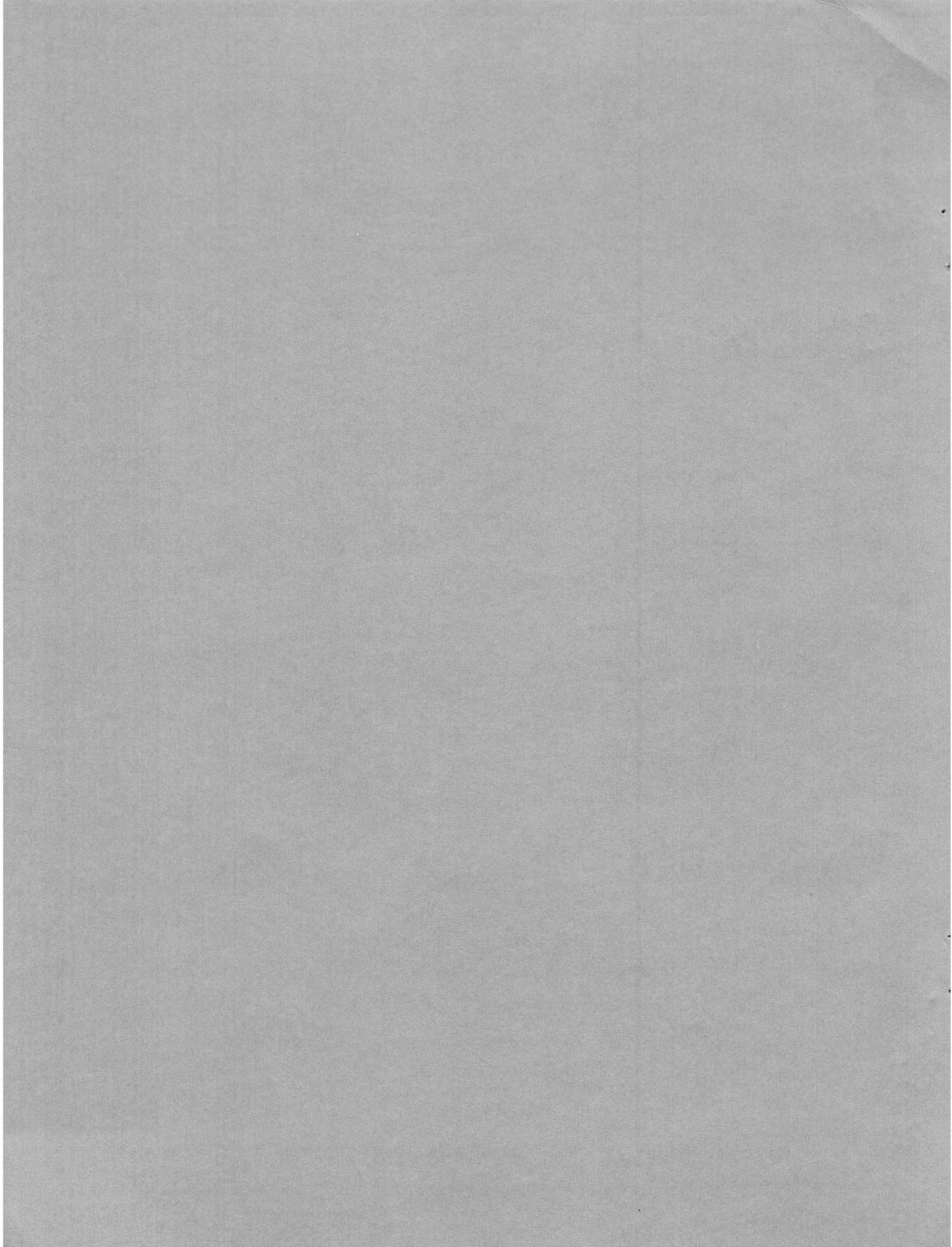
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**AERIAL PHENOMENON  
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SC-D8 COLUMBIA STATE  
FEB 16 1989

# Townfolk in Alabama puzzled by UFO sighting

By **DAVE MONIZ**  
Staff Writer

Fyffe's problem is everyone's problem.

UFOs spell trouble.

Especially if they look like flying bananas and are bigger than jumbo jets.

So Friday night, when a handful of Alabamans spotted not one, but two giant vessels hovering in the dark sky above them, it put tiny Fyffe, Ala., on the celestial map.

Although unexplained UFOs are

fairly common, the roster of witnesses makes the Fyffe sighting more than just fodder for the next Geraldo Rivera special. Officers from five law enforcement agencies said they saw at least one of the two objects buzzing their bewildered corner of Dixie.

That has led those who monitor such phenomena to speculate Fyffe is not crying alien.

Fred Works, the town's assis-

tant police chief, tracked both UFOs. The first, spotted south of the town of 1,300, had been observed by a woman who watched for an hour before calling police. She described the first one — which she saw through binoculars — as looking like a giant, upside-down banana with red, white and green lights.

Works and Fyffe Police Chief Junior Garmany saw that object, whose shape they could not determine, before they were diverted by another.

The second UFO, Works said, appeared about 1,500 feet off the ground and was traveling, he estimated, 300 to 400 mph.

He dismissed as possibilities both airplanes and helicopters because the UFOs were silent.

"That's the biggest mystery," Works said.

Elton Roberts, a reporter with the Fort Payne, Ala., Times-Journal, said police from Collinsville, Crossville, Geraldine and one highway patrolman reported seeing strange ob-

jects in the sky at the same time.

The resulting hubbub does not surprise Stan Gordon, a UFO tracker who says unexplained sightings in Pennsylvania have increased dramatically since 1987.

"I've been involved with this for 29 years, and we've never been through a cycle like this," said Gordon, head of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained.

"There are so many new cases now that we cannot dismiss them easily," Gordon said.

UFOs, it seems, know no bounds.

George Fawcett, who tracks the Southeast from his North Carolina home, recently wrote that South Carolina, "40th in size, ranks high for the number of excellent UFO encounters the past four decades."

Another UFO specialist, Duquesne University chemistry professor Paul Johnson, said all the heady talk isn't cause to run out and buy an intergalactic Gatling gun.

"About 90 percent of all UFO sightings can be explained," Johnson said.

"Normally, people are misidenti-

fying Jupiter, Venus, helicopters or meteors."

But that still leaves 10 percent of reported UFO sightings that cannot be explained, Johnson said.

Unidentified flying objects have at various times been described as looking like hot dogs and milk saucers, suggesting that aliens, like some of their earthly counterparts, have a sense of humor.

"We really don't know what UFOs are," Johnson said.

"The possibility that they're extraterrestrials is more prominent in the minds of Hollywood producers and tabloid writers. About 80 percent of people who have sightings don't report them because they get laughed at."

Assistant Chief Works might agree. As he fielded calls from television stations in Huntsville and Birmingham, and newspapers across Alabama, he acknowledged he was reluctant to talk.

"I'd just be satisfied to leave it be. If there's something out there, they're there. I'm not gonna worry about it," Works said.

"I'm not gonna say there are little green men running around." //

OHIO-D33 ELYRIA  
CHRONICLE TELEGRAM  
MAR 2 1989

## Inner Frontiers to discuss UFO's

AVON LAKE — Inner Frontiers, an educational lecture group which explores subjects on parapsychology and metaphysics, will meet March 21 in the downstairs meeting room at Elyria Savings and Trust Bank, 33455 Lake Rd.

Parking is in the rear off Electric Boulevard.

Pat Mathna will speak on UFO's and explore healing possibilities.

Program will begin at 8 p.m. following a half-hour social period.

Members pay \$1, guests \$3 at the door.

Membership is \$10 per year. //

CA-D525 NOVATO MARLIN  
INDEPENDENT JOURNAL

MAR - 5 1989

## UFO disappoints town

FYFFE, Ala. — The prospect of seeing a UFO lured more than 4,000 people to the town of Fyffe, greatly outnumbering the town's residents.

"This is unreal," Police Chief Junior Garmany said this weekend while watching bumper-to-bumper traffic in the Alabama town of 1,300.

Fyffe got on the UFO circuit Feb. 10 when a woman reported seeing a strange light in the sky and police later reported a large lighted object passing silently over them. Numerous other sightings have since been reported. But for all the hoopla, no unidentified flying objects were sighted Friday. Visibility was obscured by clouds and light rain. //

SC-D8 COLUMBIA STATE

FEB - 27 1989

UFOS ANYONE? Folks living in the Rosewood area were talking Tuesday morning about something that sounded very loud in the sky about 11 Monday night. Folks at Columbia Owens Downtown Airport (Owens Field, by any other name) say nothing particularly big or unusual was landing or taking off over their way. Anybody out there know what it was?

# UFOs becoming Friday night attraction

By JEFF TRYON  
Times Staff Writer

FYFFE — UFO investigators and just plain curious folks from around the state are expected to converge on this small DeKalb County town next weekend after reported UFO sightings on the last two Friday nights.

But many Fyffe residents, including policemen who saw the first unidentified flying object Feb. 10, are becoming reluctant to talk about the sightings, especially to the media, because of fears of ridicule or worse.

About 40 residents were said to

have watched unidentified lights for about two hours this past Friday night, a week after the first sighting.

Cathy Green described the sighting of an oval or round object with rotating lights at the center beginning about 7:30 p.m.

Fyffe resident Rickey Dobbins said that in addition to the UFOs, he could see the lights of several planes in the area during the sightings.

"I don't understand why there wasn't anybody reporting it (from) a plane," he said. "There were a lot of planes."

Ms. Green, who said she noticed

more planes than usual in the sky while using binoculars during the sighting, said at least some of the planes and helicopters appeared to be U.S. military craft.

However, officials at Ft. McClellan in Anniston and Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery said they had no aircraft in the area Friday night or Saturday morning.

According to published accounts of past UFO sightings, pilots, especially commercial pilots, are often reluctant to make an official report of sighting an object which does not appear on radar or behaves in ways that seem to defy

the laws of physics or aerodynamics for fear that such reports will call into question their veracity or even sobriety.

Ms. Green said she was among those who sighted the UFO this past Friday night, but she is one of the brave few in Fyffe willing to discuss the sighting.

"It was hovering in the distance," Ms. Green said. "Either the ship was moving or the lights on it were moving like (the lights on) a (police band) scanner."

Ms. Green described the bright lights as changing from green to a bright yellow or orange.

"We were all anxious and happy," she said. "Everybody was wanting to use the binoculars."

Ms. Green said she has received calls from community residents who have suggested that the sightings be kept quiet for fear they will subject the small town to ridicule.

"I think they're making a mistake," she said. "I think the more people that do see it and the more people that tell the public about it, the more serious study will be made of it."

Investigators from the Mutual UFO Network Inc. (MUFON), an international group that collects data on UFO sightings, have called and visited DeKalb County to discuss the sightings with eyewitnesses.

Jeff Ballard of Arab is MUFON's state section director for DeKalb, Jackson, Marshall, Madison Morgan and Limestone counties and will soon be assuming the duties of state director.

"Basically we're data collectors," he said. "We go out to the

site and talk to witnesses and try to get all the facts down.

"We're not trying to sensationalize or blow anything out of proportion," he said. "It's basically just a matter of scientific method, getting the data down and the facts straight."

Ballard said he would like to be contacted by anyone who has seen the DeKalb UFOs. He can be reached at 586-6568 or at MUFON of Alabama, Route 4, Box 329-5, Arab, AL 35016.

Ballard said three different types of sightings have been reported in the Fyffe area.

He said the first type, reported by several law enforcement officers, may have been celestial bodies, a possibility being checking against star charts.

A second type of sighting was the "very bright white light that is usually hovering," he said.

Donna Saylor of Oak Grove reported this type of sighting Feb. 10, saying the object was stationary for several minutes and then disappeared.

Mrs. Saylor, who discussed her sightings with a national MUFON representative in Los Angeles Saturday, reported seeing similar objects both Friday and Saturday nights, Feb. 10 and 11.

"It was crescent-shaped or banana-shaped," she said. "There was a red light on top and at the top of it, and green lights seemed to outline it, which is what made it show that shape.

"There was a real bright light in the center," Mrs. Saylor said. "But then it would turn. It was like we would watch it turn over or something and it would just be a circle with real bright green (lights)."

She said a neighbor also reported seeing the object on Wednesday, Feb. 15.

"The third type of sighting we're seeing, reported by the Fyffe policemen, is where the craft actually flew over their heads," Ballard said.

He said there may have been several different objects sighted, or people may be reporting sightings of the same object seen from different angles.

Fyffe Police Chief Junior Garmany and Assistant Chief Fred Works said they followed a triangular object the size of a large jet airliner or larger for about 12 miles. It flew over them when they stopped their patrol car, the chief said.

However, a week of answering media questions from around the

state and country and being kidded by area residents has left the officers weary and wary of discussing the sightings further.

"The lights and the general shape of it were nothing like an aircraft," Garmany told reporters last week. "We were standing directly under it at one time when it passed over.

"It didn't have a tail section on it and there were no lights like an airline cruiser would have down the side of it," Garmany said. "We turned our engine off and got out. You couldn't hear an engine sound of any kind. It was just silence."

Fyffe police reported getting about 50 calls reporting the UFOs on Feb. 10.

Inquiries about the sightings have come from all over the state and as far away as Colorado and California. A MUFON representative said the sightings have been reported in the Australian press.

Other recent UFO sightings in the state include a Feb. 20 sighting by police in Georgiana and a reported sighting in Athens Feb. 16. Ballard said there have also been reported sightings in Shelby County.

# UFOs talk of town in Alabama city

By FRANK SIKORA  
Newhouse News Service

FYFFE, Ala. — Police radios were crackling again last week in the farming communities along Sand Mountain in northeastern Alabama as reports came in about strange lights in the sky.

And telephones jangled with anxious citizens who also saw things: blue things, whitish things, things with green and red lights.

The radio traffic sounded something like this:

"There is a report of a flying object with rotating green and red lights crossing I-59 and moving toward Geraldine. Do you see it?"

Another voice: "You count to 10 and it's gone."

A third voice: "Negative contact."

A fourth: "I have one with three lights — it's just sort of rocking back and forth."

Ever since the night of Feb. 10, people in these parts have been talking about UFOs — unidentified flying objects.

The center of the activity has been the town of Fyffe, population 1,300, where Police Chief Junior Garmany and Assistant Chief Fred Works said they had a close-encounter sighting that night.

It prompted news media attention, some of it unflattering.

"If I had known the kind of ridicule we were going to get, I'd have kept my mouth shut," said Garmany, who stands 6-foot-5 and weighs 270 pounds.

The syndicated television program *Inside Edition* aired a report from Fyffe last week.

Garmany said the UFO fever began about 8:40 p.m. Feb. 10, a Friday, when a woman identified as Donna Sailor called the department and reported an object in the sky which did not appear to be a plane.

"I had just walked in when the call came in to the dispatcher, Sheila Smith, and she told us what the woman said," Garmany said. "Fred asked if I wanted to go with him and look for it, and I said OK."

Garmany said he and Works drove south on Alabama 75, saw a light in the sky and attempted to follow it.

"I think we drove for 12 or 15 miles, but we couldn't seem to get close to it," he said. "We turned around and were on our way back. We were on DeKalb County 43 and we saw a light ahead of us. We stopped."

At that point, he said, he and Works got out of the car and suddenly observed a large whitish object appear ahead of them, moving on the same path as the road.

He said it had three lights on the bottom.

TX-D44 HOUSTON  
CHRONICLE  
MARCH 5 1989

"It didn't make a sound," he said. "I'd say it was bigger than a jet airliner, and it was about 1,500 feet to 2,000 feet in the air. It passed right over us. When we first saw it I said to Fred, 'Do you see what I see?' I think he said, 'What is it?' At that point I picked up the radio and called in to the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department and reported that the object was passing over us with no sound."

Garmany said the object was heart-shaped, or similar to a sting-ray fish.

"The lights on the bottom illuminated it," he said. "They didn't shine down. I wasn't scared. It didn't act in an aggressive manner. If it wanted to get us, it had the drop on us. I don't know if it was from outer space, or if it was something the U.S. government is testing. But whatever it was, it wasn't a plane or a blimp or a helicopter. It was just an unidentified flying object."

Garmany said newspaper clippings revealed that in 1962 police in Fort Payne, Ala., reported seeing an object that closely resembled what he and Works saw.

Somebody has already come up with UFO T-shirts, one of which pictures two officers looking at a UFO. The drawing closely resembles what Garmany and Works saw, they said.

"But we're not selling T-shirts," Garmany said. "We're serious. We were out there that night and we know what we saw."

There was a pause, and Works said, "No we don't."

Garmany grinned. "Well, we know we saw something but we don't know what."

# Flash, explosion have witnesses

Strange phenomenon Feb. 9 may **stumped**  
have been rocket, meteorite or thunderstorm

By Armando Villafranca

STAFF WRITER

Sometime after 11 p.m. on Feb. 9, Mitchell Pawlik was sitting in his patrol car scanning the brushland for outlaw hunting when the entire sky was lighted up with an immense green flash.

Just as the shaken George West game warden began to suspect that he had seen a meteorite explode, the deafening peal of a thunderous roar rolled across the Live Oak County landscape.

He wasn't sure then and he's not completely sure now, 10 days later, of what he witnessed. Nor does anyone know what happened or what they saw.

Sightings of the explosion were reported from as far north as Dallas and west to Odessa. In the Coastal Bend area, a sheriff's deputy working in Pleasanton saw a huge blue flash fill the eastern horizon.

The explosion in the sky has been attributed to a spent Soviet rocket re-entering the Earth's atmosphere, an exploding comet or meteorite, and a brewing South Texas thunderstorm.

Eight Soviet satellites mounted on three rockets were launched within hours of the moment the fireball left dozens across South Texas awestruck.

"It's probably a rocket body off one of the Cosmo launches that came into the atmosphere and burned up," theorized a government aerospace expert who asked to remain anonymous.

Three spent rocket bodies did re-enter the Earth's atmosphere. But they fell three days after their launch, according to a U.S. Space Command spokesman at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"They were totally unrelated," said Maj. Alex Mondragon, spokesman for a Cheyenne, Wyo., installation that monitors aerospace traffic leaving and re-entering the Earth's atmosphere.

Wallace Thaler, an aerospace engineering professor at the University of Texas at Austin, also refuted the possibility that a Soviet rocket booster had exploded over South Texas.

Especially, he said, the possibility that the explosion was caused by unspent rocket fuel igniting when entering the Earth's atmosphere. He said rockets carry only enough fuel to get their payloads into orbit.

"You don't run around with extra fuel in your tanks like you do with a car," Thaler said.

Eyewitness accounts such as that from Pawlik led scientists to speculate that a meteorite had pierced the Earth's atmosphere.

Others reported a loud explosion sounding like a sonic boom that literally shook their homes.

"The sonic boom is a nice touch because that is unusual; very few have heard a meteorite at the end of its path," said James Oberg, a Houston space expert.

Based on the game warden's estimation that the explosion was heard three to four minutes after the flash, Thaler said the meteorite may have struck Earth at a spot relatively near the hill from where he viewed the fireball.

"If he heard it, it was fairly low, and 48 miles east of where he was somebody had their teeth rattled because they were right under the sucker," Thaler said.

The explosion, as witnessed, indicated that the meteorite was traveling at a high rate of speed, ignited and burst into

pieces close to the ground, according to Ian Halliday, Canadian government research scientist at the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics at Ottawa, Ontario.

"It leaves a streak of real angry atoms or air molecules who have been pushed aside and glow when they've been heated up," said Oberg, who estimated that the fireball could have been traveling about 60 to 80 miles a second.

"It's carrying the punch of a skyscraper dropped on top of you," he said.

Halliday said a manmade object such as a rocket booster would have broken the Earth's atmosphere at a speed of about 10 miles per second and then slowed down as it headed toward the ground.

He said that both a meteorite and a rocket booster will burn, break off and vaporize. But he said the luminous lifespan of a meteorite is much shorter than that of a manmade object.

Some eyewitnesses feared that the meteorite was right above them. Oberg said he didn't doubt their fears, but he did doubt their claim about the meteorite's proximity to their roof shingles.

"That's not unusual to think it's really close even though it could be 20 or 30 or 40 miles away from you," he said. "When it's that bright you tend to react very defensively."

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*A meteorite, if it did land, probably fell in the Gulf of Mexico, and unless it's reported otherwise, what remains of the meteorite is probably lying at the bottom of the Gulf somewhere between New Orleans and the Yucatan peninsula, according to James Oberg, a Houston space expert.*

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Oberg speculated that the meteorite, if it did land, probably fell in the Gulf of Mexico. Unless it's reported otherwise, what remains of the meteorite is probably lying at the bottom of the Gulf somewhere between New Orleans and the Yucatan peninsula.

In the nine days since it was witnessed, no one has reported finding any depressions, craters or strange porous rocks in their pastures.

Halliday said that of the scores of meteorites believed to have penetrated the Earth's atmosphere, only about half a dozen are found a year in the United States.

Photographic studies have pointed scientists within a few miles of where a meteorite may have landed, yet, more often than not, scientists return empty-handed, he said.

very few of them are found for the number that do get to the ground," Halliday said. "The fact that nobody's found it doesn't prove anything. It's quite rare to find them.

"Almost any kind of farmland is too big an area to cover unless it's something really huge that gets to the ground."

One reason, Oberg said, is that the meteorites burn off most of their mass as they pass through the atmosphere.

"Something that's really bright in the sky and could make a sonic boom is something that could be the size of a softball or smaller, a cueball," Oberg said.

Oberg said the privileged few who witnessed the spectacular explosion should relish the excitement from the experience.

Bee County Sheriff Bob Horn, whose deputies witnessed the event, agreed. He said it was best that the phenomenon was not more than an immense and brief flash in the sky.

"I was up in the courthouse the other day and woman asked me, 'What if I see some little green men coming?'" Horn said. "I told her, 'Well, you just give 'em something to eat and tell 'em to go on.'"

MARCH 5 1989

**UFO a no-show**

FYFFE, Ala. — The prospect of seeing a UFO lured more than 4,000 people to the town of Fyffe, greatly outnumbering the town's residents.

"This is unreal," Police Chief Junior Garmany said Friday night while he watched bumper-to-bumper traffic in the town of 1,300 people in northeastern Alabama. "We've never had traffic like this."

But for all the hoopla, no unidentified flying objects were sighted Friday. Visibility was obscured by clouds and light rain.

"I hope it rains tonight," one of the town's residents said Saturday.

Fyffe got on the UFO circuit Feb. 10 when a woman reported seeing a strange light in the sky and police later reported seeing a large lighted object passing silently over them. Numerous other sightings have been reported since then.

24 FEB 1989

**UFO or a plane?**

A TRIANGULAR UFO, noiseless and ablaze with lights has been startling locals in the Cirencester area. Recently, three women spotted the UFO as they drove along the A46 from Gloucester to Stroud. Insp Colin Handy, from Cheltenham police, said that it was a genuine UFO report. He said that the women

became aware of a large object on the off-side of the car which they claimed was hovering at about roof-top height.

The UFO, which was described as being bigger than a helicopter, and with light beams which gave it a tripod effect, then disappeared suddenly.

At the same time as the report, a police officer who was about a mile away from the women reported seeing a large aircraft in the vicinity of the A46.

A check with the aviation authority revealed that there were no low-flying planes in the area. However, stunt pilot Vic Norman from North Cerney said that from the descriptions, the UFO sounded like a plane.

"From what I have heard, especially with the strobe lights, it sounds very much like a plane," he said. "All planes have to have these lights when they fly at night."

AL-D17 MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER  
MAR- 5 1989**Fyffe residents spot mutants, but no UFOs seen Friday night**

By **BROOKS BOLIEK**  
Advertiser Staff Writer

FYFFE — Friday night was not a good night for UFO watching.

At least that's what the experts here said. The sky was far too overcast and the mist too heavy to spot Fyffe's most famous aliens.

But aliens of another kind, albeit not extraterrestrials, crowded Fyffe's normally quiet main street. Curious people reportedly from as far away as the nation's capital created Fyffe's first traffic jam. They joined the town's teen-agers cruising Alabama 75 in search of a close encounter. Reports of UFOs turned Fyffe into Alabama's newest tourist attraction.

"This is better than the state playoffs," said Steve Cowart, a volunteer with the town fire department. "There ain't never been anything like this in Fyffe."

All the attention has focused on reports by several Fyffe residents that they had seen an unidentified flying object hovering around their town on Friday nights. Witnesses described the object as being up to 75 yards long and looking like, well, a flying saucer.

"It's 50 to 75 yards long and it has lights on it," Mr. Cowart said. "We saw it near Crossville the

other night. It'll kind of fade away, or take off and it'll come back and it's quiet."

Mr. Cowart knows he sounds a bit strange talking about flying saucers, but he and other Fyffers swear the UFOs are real. They aren't, however, asking anyone else to believe them.

"No one has any reason to," Mr. Cowart said. "We don't know what it is, but we know what we've seen."

So far the interplanetary tourists have chosen to remain inside their spaceships and have avoided contact with anyone outside of DeKalb County.

"No we haven't seen any mutants," Mr. Cowart said.

Not all Fyffers are convinced that everyone who claims to have seen the spaceship has actually spotted a UFO.

Glenda Mitchell, a clerk at the Discount Food Mart, said you have to take people at their word and some words aren't as good as others.

"I believe all but one person," she said.

Ms. Mitchell did not claim to have seen any UFOs. A teen-ager outside the store playing blues on a harmonica also could not lay claim to any sightings.

"I've seen a lot of strange people, though, and maybe even a few mutants," he said.

# 1381 Guatemala gripped by UFO fever

By DAVID KIRBY

**GUATEMALA CITY,** Guatemala - UFO-mania is sweeping this Central American nation, sending thousands of people each night out into the cold, dark mountains hoping for a glimpse of extra-terrestrials.

Hundreds of night sightings by upstanding citizens, not thought to be psychotic or prone to heavy drinking, have captured the imagination of the country of 8.7 million people.

Each day, local papers report sightings by doctors, lawyers, students and even government officials. Conversation on the streets of Guatemala City invariably turns to the phenomenon, with a wide range of opinions about what the strange objects might actually be.

"I think the ETs (Extra-terrestrials) are coming back to look for the ancient Mayans, with whom they had contact centuries ago," said Joaquin Lopez Bonilla, a 20-year-old student at the capital's San Carlos Univeristy.

"They are looking for Tikal, I am sure," he said, referring to the resplendent ancient Mayan capital, now a major archeological site some 200 miles north of Guatemala City.

But there is a lot of skepticism. "These so-called sightings are nothing more than drug-traffickers who operate small craft at night. They make all kinds of strange maneuvers in order to avoid radar and the police," said Nario Pineda, a businessman from the town of Antigua, just outside the capital.

But for those who claim to have seen the UFOs, nothing can dissuade them from their belief.

"I saw them, and so did 12 of my friends, so I know I am not crazy," said Juan Carlos del Monte, 28. "We saw two red lights far off in the distance. They seemed to be playing around out in space. Then, suddenly, one began to move. Within 30 seconds it was flying practically over our heads."

"It was bigger than a jumbo jet, and it did not make a sound. It was circular in shape, with one red light and three amber lights," del Monte said.

Del Monte was interviewed 40 miles northeast of Guatemala City along the highway that leads to the Carribean coast. The area, near the town of El Progreso, has produced by far the richest number of sightings, although UFOs have been reported in other parts of the country.

In El Progreso, the UFOs allegedly appear between 7:45 and 8:15 p.m. Exactly four minutes to 8 p.m. is said to be the most common time for their appearance.

On a recent night, the highway was lined with hundreds of cars, each jam-packed with kids, dogs, grandparents and whoever else wanted to see the aliens.

Many people wrapped up tightly against the cold winter chill of the desolate mountains milled about, comparing tales of past sightings. Dozens of telescopes and binoculars pointed toward the clear black night.

One man, using a portable electric organ, played the famous five-note tune made popular from the movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

"They are out there, they can hear me," he insisted.

On that night, however, the UFOs did not appear.

"There are too many people here now," said one disgruntled observer who said he had come to El Progreso every night for a week. "All the car lights and Cumbia music (a lilting form of "salsa") are scaring the Martians away."

"It has been like this every night for the past few days. Thousands of them come up from the capital to see the UFOs. It's a big party," said one police officer who was sent to El Progreso to make sure the highway was not blocked by the crowd.

"I have seen the UFOs three times," he said, adding that he did not want to give his name because "otherwise, they will think I am crazy down at headquarters."

But the government, apparently, is not taking the UFO craze lightly.

"We don't fully discount the sight-

ings, in fact, we're a little concerned. But there is no proof of anything," a Defense Ministry spokesman said.

He said a number of military and police agencies were investigating the reports and that the agencies were "keeping an eye out for the UFOs ourselves. We have four observation posts set up around El Progreso," he said.

Even Interior Minister Roberto Valle Valdizan was not immune to UFO mania. One night last week, he and an entourage of aides spent several hours near El Progreso, heads turned skywards.

"We did not see a thing. I am very disappointed, but I will be back again," the minister told reporters the next day.

Meanwhile, the craze continues.

Local merchants are running radio ads claiming the ETs came to Guatemala to buy their products, while T-shirts, banners and grafitti cry out: "Welcome to Central America UFOs."

"It's getting to be a bit much. We are going to suffer if this continues," said one bank manager in Guatemala City, adding that several of his employees "have been coming in late in the morning. They stay out in El Progreso until very late, and cannot get up in time the next day."

But as long as the sightings continue, Guatemalans will keep looking skyward at night.

"This is the most exciting thing that has happened here in years. It is better than the pope's visit in 1985," del Monte said.

# Valley residents share close encounters

First of two parts

By Bill Roberts

Tribune writer

**A**re unidentified flying objects simply the bogey that lives within each of us? The one that believes something dark and evil waits beneath the bed at night? That suggests the sounds outside are more than leaves whipped by a midnight storm? That envisions the tree itself, given the proper moonlight and blackness, as a gnarled, shriveled body with a soul all its own?

Or are UFOs real? Do saucerians far beyond our earthly mental abilities study us as we do monkeys at the zoo? Do they walk among us? Or attempt to communicate? Or occasionally steal us in the night?

## COMING MONDAY: Did aliens capture an Arizona man?

If there is a line between such neatly opposing viewpoints, then the stories that follow almost surely grow from it. They come from reputable people — and more of them than ever are coming forward today — with detailed accounts of close encounters they dared not make public in a less sympathetic era.

"I don't go out and look for UFOs, and I don't go out of my way to be up on them," says 38-year-old Lyn Caldwell, a secretary in the flight controls department of the McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Co. in Mesa. "But I know what I saw. What I saw was so clear and precise."

Caldwell and the others are not connoisseurs of UFO tales, nor do they live on distant continents. They are from Apache Junction, Tempe and Mesa. In each case, their UFO encounter was a memorable but one-time experience, not a regular diet sandwiched between reading the palms and studying the stars. Moreover, they are family people with professional reputations at stake. To tell their stories, they say, is to subject themselves to ridicule and criticism. Several said they didn't care anymore.

Perhaps most importantly, many of their stories are remarkably similar in description and detail, though they never have talked to each other.

What Caldwell knows she saw, as did others that day in Ohio, was an oblong, silver object that hovered about 150 feet above them. There were no death rays there or masked invaders, just simple flashes of

colored light coming from an object that vanished half an hour later at interstellar speed.

Her story begins in suburban Toledo in late 1972. Her husband at the time, a Toledo police officer, was driving their 1969 Shelby Cobra toward St. Luke's Hospital to visit her brother. She was riding beside him.

Caldwell says she spotted an object not quite as large as a blimp moving above them. Red, blue and white lights pulsed from capsule-like windows across a clear, afternoon sky.

When they arrived at the hospital, the object hovered just beyond the parking lot. It would move slowly, then it would stop. It made no noise, she says.

"It was low enough that we could see the windows and the lights coming out of them," says Caldwell. "Maybe 15 or 20 other people in orderly outfits gathered in the parking lot to watch it. It was still, then it went straight up. It was like it evaporated. It was gone. When it was over, the man next to us said, 'They're going to think we're nuts.'"

Like the others, Caldwell says she has seen only one UFO. She and her husband were reluctant to discuss what they saw, and nothing about it was printed in Ohio newspapers.

Another woman who now lives in Mesa was taking care of her four young children in Marion, Ohio, about the same time. Her encounter 100 miles south of Toledo was similar to Caldwell's. Three years later in the Panhandle of Texas, a woman who today is a Tempe clothing store manager, describes a similar vehicle that landed near her home.

What these people have in common is this: They kept their stories private and only reluctantly discuss them now. What their minds saw at the time remain very clear to them, but something else also happened. The sightings evoked a common emotion that set them apart from the "normal crowd" and made them alone in the experience.

**K**athy Wheeler of Mesa is 46 years old and on the home stretch of raising four children. To this day, she says, she is skeptical of pulpy invaders-from-space stories that grab supermarket

tabloid headlines.

With that out of the way, she tells her story: In late 1972 or early 1973, she lived in a three-bedroom mobile home near Marion. At the particular moment it happened, she was appeasing their Chihuahua pup that was pawing at the door.

"I opened the door and saw this thing hovering over the trailer park," says Wheeler. "It had a row of windows, maybe three times the size of an airplane's windows, and the whole interior had this blue light inside, with a pinkish glow pulsating around it.

"The dog started barking at it and wouldn't stop," she says. "The dog never barked at airplanes."

Watching it was hypnotic. Wheeler says the oblong, silver UFO was 25 feet off the ground. Soon it began moving slowly, blocking out the stars in its path. Within two minutes, it simply vanished.

Wheeler says she tried to rationalize the experience: A blimp? A helicopter? Or some other earthly vehicle? Finally, she decided, it was a spaceship, pure and simple.

"Even a blimp," she says in winding up the story, "wouldn't be that low over a residential area. It couldn't disappear that fast. Besides, it made no sound. I know what I saw. In this big universe, why can't there be life on another planet?"

**T**he horrors of the Inquisition are nothing compared to the fate your mind can bestow when you're 10 years old and awake before sunrise.

But the child has now grown into a businesswoman who still insists the flying saucer and saucerian she saw that morning in the Texas Panhandle were within 50 feet of her front window.

In 1976, she was living in the country outside of a small Texas town called Texline near the New Mexico border. As she did each weekday, she arose before dawn, ate breakfast and watched out her living-room window for the school bus. On this day, something else dropped by. It was parked just beyond her front yard and the dirt road used by the school bus.

"It was maybe 40 feet long and silver, with four or five capsule-like windows across the front, and light coming from the inside," she says.

A gangway dropped down. A cloaked figure strode down and paused midway. The human-size saucerian stared toward her through the darkness. A bright back light kept its face shrouded in darkness. UFOs do not horrify, she says, but in real life they evoke a sort of stunned belief.

"I was thinking I didn't want to get up, but nobody's going to believe me so I'd better get my dad," she says. "By the time I got him up, it was gone. We went to the field, and the grass had all been pressed like something very heavy had been there. My dad told me later that grass didn't grow there for a year."

Her father, she says, grasped the implication that a flying saucer had indeed landed. As with the others, it was a secret best kept among a few friends and family.

"I really believe it was a UFO," she says, then grasps the reality of what she is admitting. "But please don't use my name. I don't think my boss would understand."

**D**arrell Gore is an insurance agent who is well along the road to middle age. He is the no-nonsense type of guy with whom you'd have no trouble entrusting your piece of the rock.

He also saw a huge spacecraft in the middle of the Pacific Ocean during the Korean War. It was hovering over a Navy destroyer a few hundred yards from his ship.

Gore says he was a seaman at the time who was standing the 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. watch. He had binoculars and access to a nearby telescope. He was within shouting distance of the ship's radar room.

SWINDON EVENING ADVERTISER WILTSHIRE

FEB 17 1989

## UFO puzzle explained

The mystery of the flashing lights seen in many parts of the area in recent days has been solved - they were from a small light plane.

Evening Advertiser reporter Clive Bennett set out to investigate the puzzle after having a close encounter with the lights near Down Ampney.

The white pulsating lights are anti-collision lights which have to be shown by all aircraft.

The man who came up with the answer was stunt pilot Vic Norman, who lives near Cirencester.

He had no doubt of the expla-

## VALLEYCOUNT.

Instead of employing any of those scientific tools, he simply gaped at an oblong, silver object.

This particular UFO had a window-lined cabin beneath it. Either lines or streaks of light ("or were they feelers?" he asks) reached down from it.

Gore says he watched the object for about a minute, then turned away momentarily to walk toward the telescope. When he wheeled it around, the saucer was gone.

The experience was something the 20-year-old seaman didn't dare admit. So instead: "I yelled down to the guys on radar and asked, 'would you guys search the screen ... did anybody see anyone on the scope?'"

"One guy said he thought he saw something on it, but then it was gone, so he figured it must have been a mistake."

Another mistake, Gore decided instantly, would be to explain why he asked. "You have to remember the times," he says. "Anyone who mentioned a flying saucer on ship was considered crazy. So I didn't tell a soul, and I'll bet I haven't told 10 people since then. But now I'm 54 years old, and I don't care. I know what I saw. It was an unidentified object, and I can't explain it. It's as memorable to me today as the day it happened."

Gore says he regrets not checking with the destroyer's crew or with people on his own ship who might have been awake in those predawn-dawn moments.

"Somebody probably saw the same thing I saw and went through the same thing I did: There's no way I am going to tell anyone. I've never seen one since then. I'm just glad I got to see one."

nation when the lights were described to him.

"It was a light aeroplane," he said. "It could have been any sort, the lights are standard fitting now."

The lights were not so obvious from the ground when the aircraft was high up, he said. But they were easily seen on clear nights when the aircraft was low down.

The reported sightings in the last few days all mentioned that the object seemed to be at rooftop level or low down and they were all seen on clear nights.

**T**here are, to be sure, many other stories that came forth as the *Tribune* interviewed UFO beholders.

For example, an elderly Utah man who is spending his first winter in Arizona saw a blimp-like object one night while camping in Utah eight years ago. It loomed over his camp about 50 feet off the ground, he says, and his military experience tells him it was nothing made on this planet.

Among a dozen others were a Mesa grandmother who talked of a saucer that landed outside her home in Utah one night. And an Apache Junction artist discussed the spacecraft he saw over the Superstition Mountains last fall.

If what their minds saw was real will forever remain conjecture. But for the beholders, the flying saucers were there.

Keeping their secrets from a skeptical society was the hardest part of all.

SWINDON EVENING (ENG) ADVERTISER WILTSHIRE

FEB 18 1989

## Night lights 'not from an aircraft'

More mysterious lights have been seen in the sky above Wiltshire.

The couple who saw the latest aerial display, late in the evening at Barbury Castle, near Chiseldon, are convinced they were not from any aeroplane.

Eamonn Smyth, 18, watched the lights for more than half an hour with his girlfriend, Elizabeth Free.

"We first saw a triangle of orange lights moving slowly low to the ground. We thought at first they might be from a Druid party or Satanist sect," he said.

"They seemed to pass behind some trees and when a car came along they went out.

"Then they came back on and were joined by another group and moved off towards the horizon. There was a red glow in the sky with yellow and gold streaks.

"We also saw what looked like a spotlight going up into the sky."

Mr Smyth, who lives in Wood Street, Old Town, Swindon, previously had an open mind on UFOs.

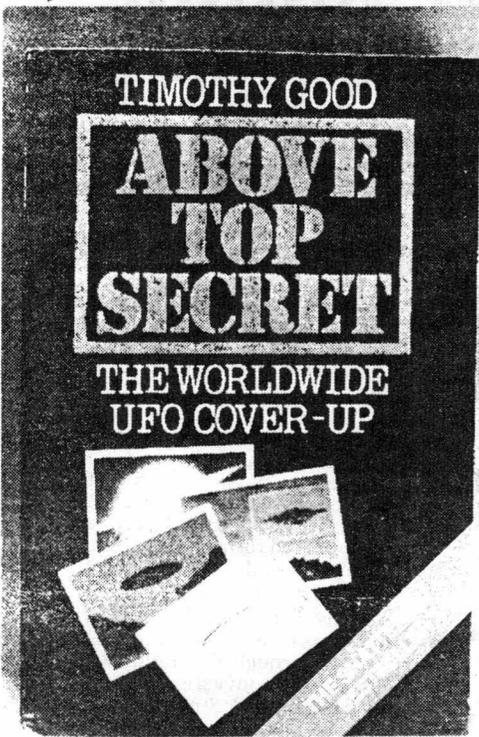
"But what we saw on Thursday night was amazing - the flashing lights were definitely not from any aircraft," he said.

Mr Smyth plans to return to Barbury Castle - this time armed with a camera.

FEB 25 1989

**NEW BOOKS**

3128



# Ringstead and the great UFO 'cover-up'

ANGUS Brooks was quietly walking his dogs on the cliffs at Ringstead on a clear October day in 1967 when he saw a UFO.

At least, he was totally sure that's what it was although he was unable to convince the experts.

According to Mr. Brooks, it hovered for 22 minutes, time enough for him to study it in detail and for one of his dogs, an alsatian, to get very upset indeed.

His was not an unpractised eye . . . as a former RAF intelligence officer and British Airways flight administrator he was well qualified to judge the size of the craft.

It hovered half a mile away from him and had a central chamber 25ft. in diameter with four fuselages making a total span of 175 feet. There was a forward fuselage and three to the rear, but as the craft manoeuvred, the fuselages were adjusted to appear at the side of the craft.

According to Mr Brooks it hovered midway between the atomic energy station at Winfrith and the American spy station at Ringstead, which has now been removed.

There was no noise of any engines, even when the craft finally accelerated skywards and disappeared from view.

Mr Brooks was later interviewed by a Ministry of Defence scientist and psychiatrist who told him that he suffered a "vitreous floater" in his eye — in simple terms a speck that occurs after a corneal transplant which Mr Brooks had undergone.

However, he remained convinced he had seen a craft made by someone and pointed out that vitreous floaters always go up and down in the affected eye, when the craft he has seen moved in a controlled manner sideways and at angles.

Mr Brooks' experience is recounted in a new book *Above Top Secret* (Grafton Books, £5.99) which was published on Thursday and which gives details of UFO sightings all over the world.

In it, author Timothy Good claims that there has been "determined and careful political suppression on information about UFOs at the highest levels — a conspiracy of fear between the world's governments to keep the facts — and the terrifying implications of those facts — from the ordinary people."

Mr Good has interviewed dozens of witnesses and seen hundreds of declassified government papers.

He has not been able to interview Mr Brooks. But he would dearly like to hear from either him or any of his relatives.

JEAN Saunders' latest novel starts with the catastrophe of the San Francisco earthquake, and the shattering of a 14-year-old Irish girl's life when she is orphaned.

Jean Saunders is a West Country writer and belongs to the West Country Writers' Association, yet in *All in the April Morning* (W. H. Allen, £12.95) she creates a confident Irish-American atmosphere from the turn of the century.

MICHAEL Hartland is spot on with his *Frontier of Fear* (Hodder and Stoughton), £10.95. Set in the mountain passes of Afghanistan and Pakistan, it is a tale of espionage, as top intelligence officer sets out to blackmail a Pakistani official into betraying his country.

The official is not the peace-proclaiming man he seems, however, and as the Russians seek to withdraw from the North West Frontier the drama heightens. Right in the news, Mr Hartland has penned another winner.

EXETER EXPRESS & ECHO  
FEB 21 1989



3128

A DEVON lorry driver was still stunned today after seeing a giant jellyfish-like creature hovering above trees near Cullompton.

Adrian Redfern, of Tedburn St Mary, was driving along the M5 yesterday when he suddenly spotted the unidentified flying object.

Mr Redfern told the Express and Echo: "It was extraordinary. I have never seen anything like it."

The mystery creature was 30 ft wide. "It kept expanding and shrinking and then it suddenly disappeared," Mr Redfern said.

The lorry driver, who was delivering a load of concrete, says that he is normally extremely sceptical.

"People might think I am mad, but I am sure it was there," he added.

PC Gerry Leyman, at Cullompton Police Station, said that there had been no further reports of flying sea animals in the area.

"Normally this is the type of thing that is dealt with at headquarters," he added.

FEB. 16 1989

# UFO fear has Elsie in a spin

**A Kidderminster pensioner wants to know if anyone can shed any light on a mystery object which she thinks could have been a UFO.**

Elsie Oakley of Worcester Road was terrified by a bright light she saw hovering above trees opposite her home, and wants to know if anyone else saw it or knows what it was.

Mrs Oakley (83) first saw the light at about 9 am on Tuesday, February 7. She says it looked like an ordinary light from a very powerful torch to begin with, but then she noticed a red glow among the trees which rose higher until it stopped well above the trees.

NOTTINGHAM RECORDER  
FEB 16 1989

# The sky at night

IT was pleasing to read about Mansfield's UFO group on page three oks. Whenever I take the dog for walks at night, I often casually gaze into the sky, especially if it is clear and starlit.

"A white cloud came over and it was shining through the cloud like a sun. Then it began to beam down through the cloud," she said.

She went upstairs but the light in the bedroom was so bright it hurt her eyes. Then the glow, which was about the size of a television screen, headed straight for the houses.

"I was so scared I didn't stop to see how far it went. I thought to myself my God, if that thing falls on us we could all be set alight."

Her first thought was that it was a UFO, and she is sure it was not her eyes or her mind playing tricks on her. The incident lasted about 90 minutes.

"I know what I saw, and I was very concerned about it," she said.

It is most remarkable how much activity can be seen moving about the night skies. Mainly I see aircraft lights, satellites and some light aircrafts flying low.

Sometimes a shower of shooting stars makes an appearance which makes a spectacular sight. Most of these things I have seen during the winter months when the air is particularly clear, making the stars really stand out. Although I cannot say I have ever seen anything which I could not positively identify, I am not naive enough to dismiss the possibilities of unusual phenomena.

It is quite easy to allow the imagination to play tricks when looking at the night sky, this is evident from some of the reports we read about from individual UFO investigators in the local press.

It is reassuring to hear that Mansfield UFO group have adopted a sensible down-to-earth approach to their investigations, which are prime necessities for proper research into unusual things of this nature.

It is most pleasing to know we have on hand a group of local investigators who can be called upon to check these things out for us. If I saw something I would not hesitate to call them.

I wish them all the best.

Mr B Scrivens  
Mansfield.

FEB 25 1989

# 24-hour hotline for UFO reports

**A 24-HOUR hotline to report UFO sightings to a team of experts, prepared to investigate at a moment's notice, has been set up. Now, sightings of UFOs in Cheshire and the surrounding counties can be recorded and investigated as soon as they happen.**

Before the Crewe hotline was set up, the Cheshire UFO Studies Centre would often get letters from folk, days after their sightings, saying they hadn't been able to contact anyone at the time.

Besides the new hotline, five members at the centre now have answering machines to take calls.

"As soon as people report their sightings, we go out and investigate thoroughly," said Eric Morris, Chairman of the centre.

## Silent

"Up to now, people either told the police or local newspapers, but now everything can be reported direct to us."

The years from 1985 to 1987 were very quiet for UFO sightings, but 1988 showed a surge in the number, with 885 being recorded nationally.

"We realised the need for a hotline and so far the response has been excellent," said Eric.

Ninety-five per cent of all sightings can be explained, but the other five per cent are a mystery.

"Some people who telephone

us genuinely believe in flying saucers and little green men, but we've never had sufficient evidence to support that theory," said Eric.

"When we go out to investigate a sighting, we deal only with the facts and go through a process of elimination. The witness is asked to complete a complicated form on times and directions and we will take it further if necessary."

Many reports have told of noiseless objects moving swiftly through the night sky. These were investigated and found to be USA Stealth S117A aircrafts, which are "V"-shaped bombers and fighter planes which move at an amazing speed, are silent and cannot be detected on radar.

They're often on exercises from Lincolnshire to East Anglia and are so fast, they could fly the length of Britain in an hour.

"A lot of TV shows take the mickey out of our work," added Eric, "but I've spent 15 years researching this topic. Even the Ministry of Defence and the RAF sometimes ask us for help."

SOUTHEND STANDARD  
RECORDED  
FEB 17 1989

# UFO man is quizzed

UFO investigators are interviewing a Rochford man who saw a V-shaped object spinning in different directions.

At one stage the noiseless object remained still in the night sky and then a red light left it, returned and the object disappeared.

The mystery craft, whose lights changed from blue to white, red and an orangey red, was seen by the 43 year-old Rochford man about 9pm on a Monday.

He asked to remain anonymous in case his friends ribbed him too much.

Southend airport deputy director John Burton said there was no unusual air activity on the Monday night.

FEB 10 1989

# Earthquake theory in UFO claims

Alleged UFOs seen on the moors above Keighley could be "earth lights" generated by mini-earthquakes underground, believe experts.

Investigators are examining evidence that night-time sightings of lights in the sky are a natural phenomenon rather than flying saucers.

The Independent UFO Network has launched Project Pennine to investigate regular sightings of balls of yellow or orange light across the region.

Philip Mantle, who runs the Network's UFO Hotline, says scientists are collecting evidence showing a link between earthquakes and lights.

"The Pennine hills are richly crossed with fault lines. Where the ground is under pressure it can give off sparks," he says.

"There were quite a few interesting sightings in Keighley at the end of last year.

People in Skipton saw them so often they called them flying oranges."

Network investigators are contacting UFO experts in other parts of the country and have enlisted the help of Leeds and Sheffield University geologists. Mr Mantle has even been to Norway to speak to experts.

He suggests UFO sightings stretching back hundreds of years could be attributed to the earth lights.

"People put their own interpretation on the lights. Some think it's a flying saucer, others may call it the Virgin Mary. An old man in Glossop thought he saw the ghost of Roman soldiers," he says. Anyone who thinks they might have seen a UFO can report their sighting to the confidential 24-hour UFO Hotline by phoning 0924 444049.

FEB 17 1989

# Strange sightings in the skies . . .

FOLLOWING reports of a number of UFO sightings over Essex at the end of January. East Anglian UFO have released details of the objects.

Now the unidentified flying object investigators want to hear from anyone who spotted the mysterious space machines.

On January 28 a triangular or shield-shaped UFO was sighted over the Tiptree area in the evening. It's colour changed from bright to a dull white before it shot across the sky towards Chelmsford.

And there were sightings of two separate UFO's on January — one of them being witnessed by three people.

Three bright lights were seen over Chelmsford at 8.30pm. They were in an inverted triangle formation and made no sound. The bottom light moved off at one point before retaking it's former position.

The mystery triangle was also spotted at the same time by a Wickford man and by someone living at Tiptree at 8.15pm. Both people said the lights were over Chelmsford.

The trio remained stationary for quite some time before moving slowly off.

Then on January 30 a man walking his dog at 8.30pm in Chelmsford saw what he thought was a star, but then the object started pulsating red, white and green.

Another silent object was seen over the county town the following day between 7.30 and 8.30pm. This one had 10 lights each side — four bright and six dull.

If you saw any of these flying objects contact the UFO Hotline on Basildon 286079. The team would also like to hear from you if you have had a paranormal experience.

And East Anglian UFO would like to hear from anyone who would like to train as a flying object investigator.

Said group founder Ron West: "Investigators work in pairs interviewing witnesses. They fill in a sighting form and take it from there!"

STROUD NEWS & JOURNAL  
FEB 16 1989

# UFO siting

SIX PEOPLE contacted Stroud police last week reporting the sighting of a UFO just outside Stroud near the A46 at Salmon Springs. Three calls were received at the time of the siting, and three were later received after media reports of the UFO.

BECKENHAM + PENGE ADVERTISER KENT

FEB 24 1989

# I have seen aliens —says writer

A best-selling author told this week how he has TWICE seen "flying saucers" moving round over Beckenham.

And, he claims, there is a top-level conspiracy to keep the truth about extraterrestrials from the public.

Timothy Good, 47, broadcaster, lecturer and

violinist, described his amazing experiences shortly before his paperback on the worldwide UFO cover-up was released in the bookshops yesterday.

The hardback version of "Above Top Secret", his second book, has already sold thousands of copies, hitting the best seller list

both here and in Australia.

But this week Mr Good - who is based in Beckenham - spoke about his own unearthly encounters.

Walking back to his Beckenham flat one December evening, he suddenly saw "a bright point of light in a cloudless sky. It was in the wrong position for Venus."

# Did anyone else see the UFO?

3128

ON January 31, a newspaper published a small item of news with regard to the police being alerted to a reported sighting of a UFO over the Weald. Although I was not one of the people who reported it, I saw the

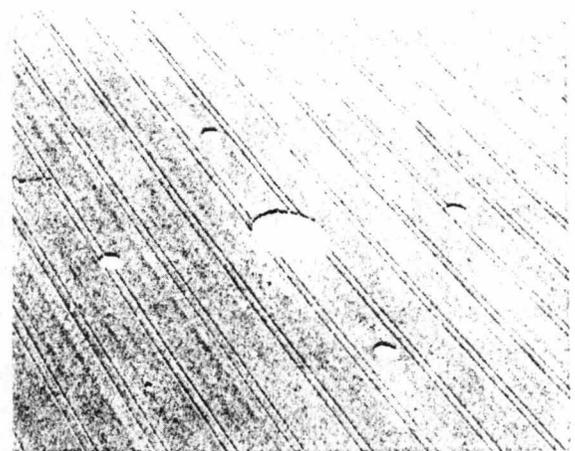
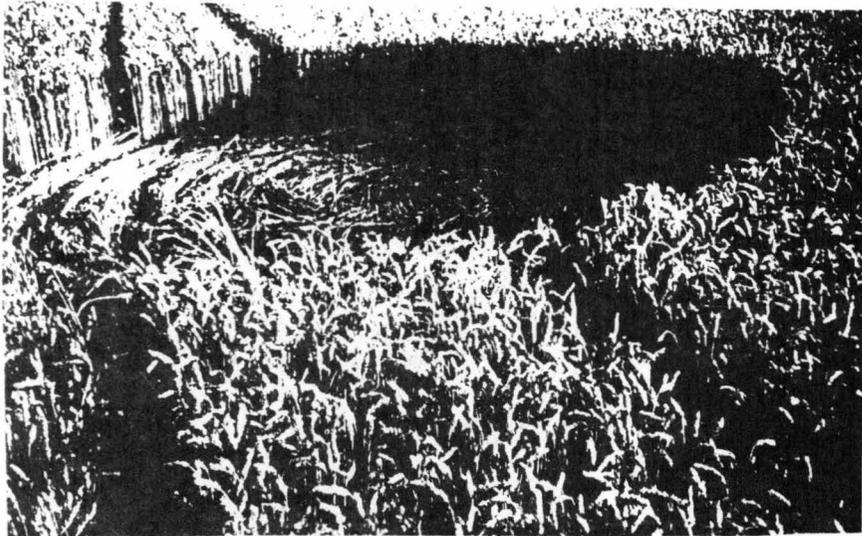
object flying over Northfleet during the early evening of the previous night. I would be most interested to know what the official explanation was, as to what it could have been. More so, as the jokes in my family

about little green men are wearing a bit thin.

Did ANYONE else living locally see the flying object?

Mrs PAMELA JENNINGS  
Rural Vale, Northfleet.

## FARMING IN EAST ANGLIA



● Left: A circle of wheat flattened by a descending vortex.

Above: An example of a quintuplet circle set seen from the air.

# Riddle of the corn rings unravelled by the wind

IN THE last nine years more than 400 mysterious corn circles have been reported in fields throughout the South of England. The phenomena — described by experts as one of the greatest mysteries of the English countryside — develops suddenly in standing crops.

Enormous swathes, sometimes comprising intricate circular patterns, are cut into fields of cereals and other arable crops such as oilseed rape and sugar beet.

A number of people have seriously believed the phenomena is the result of UFOs taking off and landing. Such illusions are now being unmercifully destroyed.

No footsteps or any other disturbance exists near the circular patterns which rules

out hoaxers, vandals or animal interference.

Many of the circles have obviously gone unreported and one expert who is making an intensive study of them is appealing for help from farmers in Suffolk and Essex who have perhaps been mystified by similar occurrences in their fields.

Dr. Terence Meaden, of the Tornado and Storm Research Organisation, says there is nothing sinister about the circular swathes cut into standing crops.

"You can cut out any extra-terrestrial explanation," he told me. "They are caused by natural vortices formed in the air in a special and unusual way."

Beyond that Dr. Meaden is more guarded, probably because he is in the middle of writing a book which he promises will reveal more



By Peter Hopper  
Agricultural editor

facts about his fascinating research when it is published in about a year's time.

However, he did assure me that there is much more to the mystery than meets the eye.

The difficulty about appeals to the public for information, particularly to farmers, was that there was usually very little forthcoming, possibly because of the dangers of attracting

unwelcome attention to crops near to harvest.

Perhaps a case in point was when an unexplained circle appeared in a sugar beet field near Bury St. Edmunds last September, although Dr. Meaden said he had only heard about this second-hand and had no further information about it.

"The trouble is East Anglia is very flat," he commented. "There are two things about this: to see these circles properly you need an angle, and it is my belief that they occur more frequently in hilly regions.

Wind flow is collected by hills, so vortices are more likely to occur in those regions. But Dr. Meaden does not rule out occurrences in crops on less elevated areas, that is why he requires information from the region's farmers.

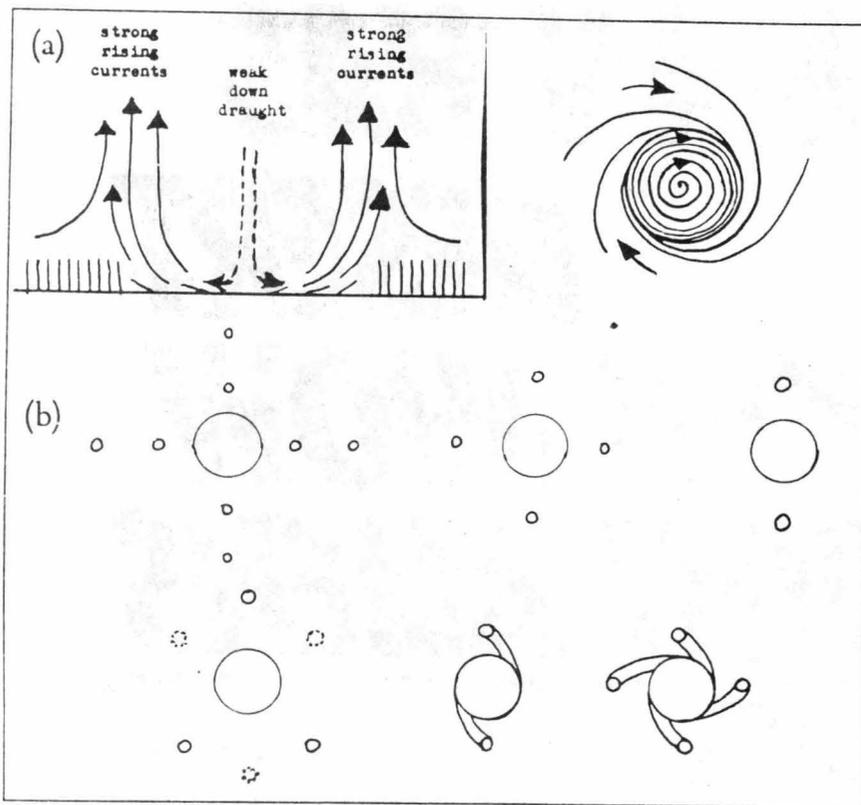
He is appealing particularly to owners of light aircraft to keep a close watch on cereal crops in July and August; it is just before harvest that they are most vulnerable to vortices.

Similarly, the critical time for oilseed rape in May, again shortly before harvest. Two circles that appeared in rape crops in 1987, both in May. Standing crops pushed over at a vulnerable time stay like that until harvest, he says.

The most vortices which have come to his attention in one year is 110, but Dr. Meaden believes there must be at least 500 occurring annually throughout Britain.

NEXT  
PAGE

# RIDDLE OF THE CORN RINGS CON'T



● (a) Side and plan-views of the windflow within a circle forming vortex; (b) some possible vortex patterns, known and unknown.

In a technical article on the subject in "Weather," the official magazine of the Royal Meteorological Society, Dr. Meaden says in concluding remarks that of the several types of vortex damage patterns found in fields of growing crops, the commonest was the plain circle, ranging in size from 2.5 metres to more than 20 metres across.

The duration of the vortex after striking a crop appears to be brief, a matter of a few seconds, and the energy of the system is soon expended," he comments.

A variation on the plain circle is the circle with a ring around it. However, the most impressive of the crop circle systems formed by atmospheric vortices concerns quintuplet sets. The diameter of the central circle in the instances studied has varied from 10 to 17 metres across while the smaller circles which are usually nearly equal to each other in size have ranged from less than 3 metres to 8 or 9 metres across.

Photographs used are by courtesy of "Weather" and are obtainable by non-members of the RMS from James Glaisher House, Grenville Place, Bracknell, Berkshire.

SUNDERLAND ECHO FEB 28 1989

STROUD NEWS & JOURNAL  
FEB 23 1989



GORDON BROWN: did he see a UFO during the match?

## Gordon has a Roker Park goal!

**GORDON BROWN** is a man with a mission — trying to crack the mystery of a UFO spotted hovering over Roker Park football ground during a match.

Sixty-year-old Gordon, from Cleadon, has been intrigued ever since he witnessed the object more than 37 years ago.

Now he is appealing for anyone else who saw it during the game between Sunderland and Portsmouth on September 22, 1951, to get in touch.

Gordon, then a soldier on leave, was in the crowd when a man next to him pointed out an object high in the clear blue sky.

The object, which Gordon describes as looking like two soup plates stuck together, gradually dropped to about 10,000 feet before zig-zagging away upwards at incredible speed, and disappearing.

All in all, the sighting, which started in the first half, lasted some 20 to 30 minutes.

Gordon, who is convinced he saw a "flying saucer", said: "I have never seen anything like it."

Anyone with information should contact Dicky on Wearside 534 3011 extension 46.

## UFO report

3128  
Sir — Regarding the said UFO which was reported in the paper. I will give you my version of it.

I was walking down from Uplands to Slad Road when I heard this very low aircraft sound. I looked up and saw a huge aircraft going over Uplands church towards the usual flight path of the American aircraft over towards Cirencester.

I admit it was quite a shock to see it so low.

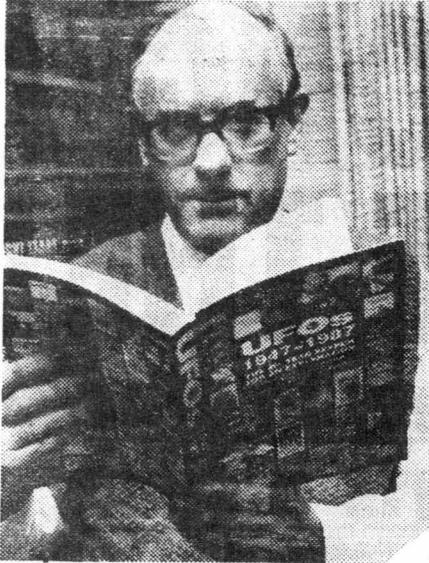
The aircraft had masses of lights underneath which made it look very weird.

As it was so low I thought it was going to crash, but it carried on until out of sight, and the engine was still very quiet.

E Robbins

Uplands.

# U.S. <sup>3128</sup> AIRMAN HAS DESERT POW-WOW WITH ALIENS



Arthur Tomlinson ... convince

## AMERICAN airmen are in contact with aliens.

They have already exchanged "basic information" at a desert meeting.

And a top-secret US Government report has revealed that the Air Force has been test-flying a recovered UFO.

The amazing close encounter claims in the leaked document have rocked UFO experts on both sides of the Atlantic.

**The powerful US National Security Agency has refused to talk about the document—fuelling claims that it is genuine.**

The document, headed "Top Secret", tells how Project Sigma was launched in 1954

It says the project met with "positive success" in 1959 when: "The United States established primitive communications with the aliens."

And the sci-fi shocker reveals how:

● A US Air Force intelligence officer made a date with two

aliens and spent three hours exchanging information with them in the New Mexico desert on April 25, 1964.

● Project Sigma is "continuing at an Air Force base in New Mexico.

● Project Snowbird was launched by the US Government in 1972 to "test fly a recovered alien aircraft." The project is still running in Nevada.

The partly-censored document was "leaked" to top UFO investigator Clifford E. Stone, who lives in New Mexico.

A copy of this document has been sent to the Manchester-based Direct Investigation Group for Aerial Phenomena.

Last night, at his home in Bent Fold Drive, Bury, Lancs, DIGAP secretary Arthur Tomlinson said: "I am convinced the document is genuine.

"There is no doubt that aliens have visited this planet

"It is only logical that they would want to establish contact with the main superpower on earth—and that's the US Government."

By FRANK CURRAN

SWINDON EVENING  
ADVERTISER

MAR 4 1989

## Another UFO <sup>3128</sup> mystery

The latest in a spate of UFO sightings has been reported by work colleagues Howard Carey and Roy Townsend.

The Austin Rover workers saw a round, brightly lit object travelling northwards over Swindon.

"I have never before seen anything that could not have been explained, said Mr Carey, who lives in Dores Road, Upper Stratton.

"But I just don't know what this was.

"My mate shouted at me to look up at the sky and coming over from the Shrivenham Road area was a light.

"At first I thought it was a Hercules but there was no noise.

"It was bathed in a whiteish glow and had a very irregular shape.

"There was an intense blue light at the front which pulsed.

"It veered to the right and to the left and then headed off towards Cirencester at a faster speed.

Fellow worker Roy Townsend, of Alfred Street, Swindon, said: "Last night something went over and I just don't know what it was.

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# 'Walton Experience' continues to defy skepticism

## Woodcutter says aliens abducted him in 1975

Second of two parts

By Ric Clarke

Tribune writer

SNOWFLAKE — Travis Walton is still fighting back the awful images.

The hovering craft and its blinding beam of light. The creatures' repulsive chalky skin and liquidy-black eyes. The room of stars. The mysterious five-day time lapse.

And the ridicule of earthlings.

They are all part of an incident that thrust Walton into an international media spotlight and upended this sleepy farm-town 13 years ago.

For five days in November, 1975, the 22-year-old woodcutter disappeared without a trace, then reappeared with a compelling tale of abduction aboard a spacecraft.



Walton

Walton, now 36 and a father of four, said the experience has permanently altered his life.

"It will always be there. It changed everything forever," said the soft-spoken, withdrawn outdoorsman with distant

blue eyes. "Everything that happened to me seems like a piece of something more."

But the "Walton Experience," as it has come to be known, is more than a sensational story or a personal tragedy.

It is one of the few reported UFO encounters that has stubbornly defied the skeptics.

There are six eyewitnesses who have passed polygraph tests. Walton has done the same, as well as subjected himself to psychological and physical examinations that have dispelled accusations of drug-induced hallucination or a cleverly orchestrated hoax.

Science has yet to disprove the Walton Experience.

And much to Walton's chagrin, people refuse to let it fade. It is still as much a source of fascination today as it was more than a decade ago.

To Walton, it is a source of pain. The stress surfaces in his voice as he describes the nightmare. This, he said, will be the last time he retells it.

He was one of eight loggers who were thinning trees for the Forest Service about eight miles southwest of Heber on a chilly fall day.

It was just after sundown when the men, crowded into a crew cab truck, noticed a bright light searing through the treetops. Moments later, they came upon the disc hovering about 25 feet above the ground.

"There was no mistaking this thing. This was not a glowing glob of light in the distance," Walton said. "It had a hard outline. It was plain to see."

Ignoring the advice of his frightened colleagues, Walton left the truck and approached for a closer look.

He described the saucer as about 25 feet in diameter with an array of exterior lights. Walton got close enough to hear sounds from inside the craft and to sense he was in danger.

As he turned to run, he was hit by what the others later described as a "brilliant beam of energy" that knocked him through the air.

The crew panicked and fled, then regrouped and returned to the scene. Walton and the saucer were gone.

Walton remembers waking on a table in the presence of three creatures.

They were "basically humanoid," he said, with chalky white skin and no hair. There was no verbal communication and their faces revealed no emotion.

They were wearing orange coveralls made of a suede-like material.

Their most striking feature was their huge, black eyes, which sent a chill through him when they blinked.

"It was just like they were looking right through you. They were so large," Walton said.

Looking back on the experience, Walton remembers the creatures as non-threatening.

"They remind me of these pictures you see of a human fetus," he said.

But at the time, they were terrifying.

Walton lashed out at the creatures, then bolted down a hallway that led to a dark room.

The room lightened as he entered it. The walls were covered with stars. In the center was a chair and a control panel.

He frantically pushed buttons on the panel, hoping one would open a door and provide an escape. Instead, they moved the star patterns in sudden, jerking motions around the room.

Walton suddenly felt a presence.

"I turned and there was a man standing in the doorway. It looked just like a human. I thought it was," he said.

Believing the "human" would help him, Walton allowed himself to be led out of the craft to a large hangar-like area that contained other saucers. He was taken to a room, placed on another table and fitted with a mask.

"As soon as that mask was over my face, I just grayed out," he said. "The next thing I knew I woke up on the highway outside of Heber."

Walton looked up in time to see the craft race out of sight in the night sky.

He wandered into Heber and called a relative who took him to his mother's home in Snowflake.

His family told him that what he believed was a two-hour experience actually was a five-day absence. They told him about the massive search that Gila County officials estimate cost the sheriff's office \$10,000. And they told him about the uproar his disappearance and the woodcutters' spaceship story had caused in his hometown Snowflake.

Walton said he was in a state of shock.

"They figured I was in no shape to handle it. I don't think I was," he said.

The family cloistered Walton in a brother's house in Phoenix, out of harm's way.

There he was interviewed by then-Gila County Sheriff Marlin Gillispie and inspected by doctors provided by the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization.

Physical and psychological exams were conducted at Barrow Neurological Institute the next day.

Psychiatrist Dr. Gene Rosenbaum of Durango, Colo., gave Walton a clean bill of mental health.

"This young man is not lying. There is no collusion involved, no attempt to hoax," Rosenbaum said. "And there is no evidence of drugs in this issue."

Walton, a Mormon, said he has never touched narcotics or alcohol.

Phoenix polygrapher George Pfeffer also cleared Walton.

"Travis Walton has answered all questions in a manner that he is convinced to be truthful," Pfeffer reported.

Rosenbaum also noted that the experience had left Walton "going through a life crisis like we all do after a death or a divorce."

Walton agrees that he was "a wreck."

"I just couldn't bear to think about what happened. I couldn't talk about it. I couldn't deal with it at all," he said.

He also was hypnotized, an experience that eased the stress and gave further credence to his story.

"It allowed me to repeat the story for the first time without all this terrific fear," he said.

He returned home to Snowflake where the experience continued to take its personal toll in terms of nightmares and a continual, ominous presence during his waking hours.

"I was warned this is the sort of thing that can just take over your life," he said. "I've had to make a specific effort to live as normally as possible to try to put this into the background."

Walton said he began granting interviews as rumors started circulating and cropping up in news accounts. Eventually he also wrote a book, *The Walton Experience*.

The book has not been a moneymaker. But he maintains that was not the intent.

"I felt a need to set the record straight," he said.

He can assess his losses from the experience, however. It has cost him jobs, friends and a reputation.

"All in all, I've lost badly from this thing."

Another concern is the impact it has on his children.

His two sons and two daughters, ranging in age from 2 to 10, also are victims of ridicule, he said.

"They have heard about it from everyone but me. This is not something I permit to be discussed in the house," said Walton, who fears the children are too young to understand. "When they're old enough, I'll go into it with them."

Life isn't easy in a town of 4,000, many of whom believe he is either crazy or a liar.

Former Sheriff Gillispie stops short of making either accusation. But he is not a believer.

"Those individuals saw what they thought was a UFO. I just find that a little hard to believe," he said. "I don't have anything to support that one way or the other, but neither do they."

Sheriff's Lt. E.M. Romo, who was involved in the missing-person investigation, is less tactful.

"I think these were fantasies he was living. If you fantasize enough, you start to believe it," he said. "Maybe he had a chance to live one of these fantasies and he took it."

Walton said he is just trying to live a reality, but it's not getting a lot easier.

"We've talked of leaving, but I'm not going to run away from it," Walton said. "I can sort these things out of my life in as practical a way as possible. I'm just going to go on being me."

## Scientist doubts truth of any UFO sightings

By Bill Roberts

Tribune writer

Why, he asks, do space creatures invariably turn out to be little people with large heads and big eyes who abduct jobless victims from the middle of nowhere?

"I'd be more inclined to believe the story," he quips, "if it would look like an octopus with orange and black tentacles. And why in the heck doesn't one come down and abduct me? I'd love it. Why do they always land by some woodcutter who's just lost his job or a farmer in the middle of the field?"

With that, Dr. Nigel Sharp, a scientist for one of the world's leading observatories, gives his not-too-serious views on space creatures and their earthly visits. He is, to put it mildly, skeptical.

"There is a lot of unexplained material, but this doesn't equal alien visits," says Sharp. "It just means we don't know what it is."

The flying saucer stories generally evolve because

## Skeptical

From page A1

people see something they cannot understand and decide it must be a space ship.

"Even people who are perfectly sincere and honest, when presented with a short-lived, unusual phenomena, really have no way of knowing what it is. And they cannot recall it without embellishment. Most people honestly believe they've seen something. Because of the climate of the times, they decide it is an alien spacecraft."

Sharp concedes he's seen unusual lights and objects, "but I can come up with plausible explanations for most of them. I have never had to invoke the alien spacecraft issue."

Sharp received his doctorate in astrophysics from Cambridge University in England. He now is a computer support and research scientist in Tucson for the National Optical Astronomy Observatories. In Arizona, the observatories are best known for the Kitt Peak Observatory west of Tucson.

Please see **Skeptical / A8**

MAR-4-1989

## UFO collection at New Towne

A collection of photographs and sketches focusing on unidentified flying objects will be on exhibit today and Sunday in New Towne Mall at New Philadelphia.

Included in the display — compiled by the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies — are photos of objects observed in both daylight and at night in a variety of locations.

The display will be open during regular mall hours.

SKEPTICAL  
CON'T

Sharp points out that his professional views on UFO's are his own and not, as the cliché goes, necessarily those of his management. Still, he's interested in the subject and equally so in the people who think they've seen flying saucers. Before he explains too much, he notes one earthly event: "There were more

documented sightings of Elvis Presley last year than of UFO's.

"Now, do you actually believe that Elvis is alive?"

Saucerians, he says, seem to change with the times: During the Cold War of the late 1940s and 50s, people were worried about the future. Consequently, the aliens spotted by earthlings were forbidding and threatening.

The 1960s were the years of flower children and the peace movement. Oddly, he notes, the space creatures became more docile and peace-loving.

Since then, society as a whole has become more personal. So too, he notes, are the aliens.

Nevertheless, UFO stories and their associated "proof" circulate in common categories that Sharp breaks down this way:

■ **Top-secret conspiracy:** The government is hiding space ships somewhere. "You are talking about a group of (government) people who couldn't conceal Watergate or the Iran-Contra Affair, and those people were facing prison.

"If somebody came forward with photos and proof of a hangar with alien spacecraft in it, they'd be instantly rich and famous. I don't believe there's anyone in government that clever. They would have to conceal a site with many, many employees, and keep every one of them from coming forward."

■ **Lie detectors prove it:** The tests are imprecise, says Sharp, and they don't detect people who think they are telling the truth, even if they aren't. "Why should I necessarily believe the person is certain of what he saw? Hospitals are full of people who firmly believe they are Napoleon."

■ **Hypnosis proves it:** "We've seen too much television and heard too many stories about hypnosis revealing the truth," Sharp says. "If that's the case, why isn't hypnosis accepted in a court of law? Why? Because under controlled, clinical circumstances, the evidence points in every case to the conclusion that the most accurate stories are those recalled without prompting. Under hypnosis, the story gets more and more detailed, but it gets less and less accurate."

■ **Crystal-clear sightings:** Temperature inversions at times can act just like mirrors, taking earthly objects and projecting them into the sky.

■ **Many other sightings:** Practical jokes — the barroom boys who concoct a UFO for their drunken buddy to see on his way home — are fairly common. In these situations, the pranksters later fear coming forward because they could be in trouble with law enforcement or simply be very embarrassed.

"People are reluctant to come to the conclusion that, 'Hey, I really don't understand this,'" Sharp says. "But it doesn't mean it has to have an irrational explanation."

## 1381 Man reports Feb. 8 UFO sighting

By Michael Burke  
News Journal

Just when you thought it was over, the Gulf Breeze UFO is back.

Jeff Thompson, 31, said he and his 12-year-old son observed a small lighted object descend near his house on at 3:38 a.m. Feb. 8. He said he watched it for about 10 minutes before it disappeared in a bright flash.

Thompson, who lives in the Tiger Point area east of Gulf Breeze, previously reported seeing a much larger UFO being chased by two military jets on Nov. 11, 1987. That same day, several other Gulf Breeze residents reported seeing a UFO; a Gulf Breeze businessman has said he photographed the UFO on the evening of Nov. 11 for the first time.

The businessman — identified in vari-

ous reports as Ed or Jim — said he took about 30 more photographs in subsequent sightings that continued until May 1988.

Thompson said his Feb. 8 sighting began when he was awakened by his dogs barking.

He went to his front door and observed a very small craft — about 3 feet wide and 2 feet high — descend to the ground.

Thompson immediately reported his sighting to the Mutual UFO Network, but he had not discussed it with the media until Tuesday.

Thompson said that while his son watched from the house, he walked toward the craft with a flashlight. When he was within 30 feet, the top of the craft turned white and made a crackling noise. Thompson said he dropped to the ground and the object "just dissipated."

FL-D37  
PENSACOLA NEWS  
JOURNAL  
MAR-22-1989

# UFO fever strikes West

# Florida

By Cindy West  
News Journal

Residents of galaxies far, far away may have visited West Florida long before Unidentified Flying Objects were spotted over Gulf Breeze in 1987.

UFO fever hit the Gulf Coast at various times, showing itself through numerous reported sightings and suppositions as to whether the sightings were legitimate.

**1950s  
UFOS**

Sightings go back at least to the 1950s, when, on March 31, 1953, a man saw one of the objects in the Pensacola area.

"I'll swear I saw a flying saucer" at 10:40 a.m. Tuesday, said George M. Lee of 13 Simon Court, Pensacola.

Lee, a postal employee, said he was driving north on E Street just south of Pottery Plant Road when he glanced up and saw a round, shiny object to the northwest.

He said a few seconds after spotting the motionless object, it began moving straight upward and then disappeared. Shortly afterward a plane flew over the same position.

The UFO sighting got small play inside the Pensacola Journal on Page 2. But it was followed on Sept. 17, 1953, with a front page blurb about an object seen above DeFuniak Springs.

This time, some DeFuniak residents as well as News-Journal staffer John Gunter, saw the object.

A report said the deep orange object appeared 45 degrees above the horizon in the west and gave the impression of traveling slowly clockwise around DeFuniak before disappearing in the east.

And there have been more sightings in West Florida:

- A rash of sightings were reported in 1973. Among them: Oct. 14, a man reported he saw four faint, white objects flying silently northeast across the sky about 15 miles east of Destin; Oct. 15, two men said they saw a UFO hover silently above Interstate 10 for five minutes; Oct. 17, just after dark, Eglin radar personnel reported tracking a UFO in the area north of Eglin and about the same time, more than a half-dozen motorists stop their cars to watch four lighted UFOs hover above Interstate 10 between Crestview and Milton.

During the night on Oct. 17, 1973, there were more than 50 scattered UFO sightings reported along the Gulf of Mexico.

- April 21, 1975, a dozen Holmes County residents and two sheriff's deputies said they saw a large glowing egg-shaped UFO fly at sharp angles just above the tree tops near Bonifay.

- July 6, 1975, the Journal reported eyewitness accounts of

UFO sightings over the Grand Lagoon Yacht Club. At least a dozen people said they saw two UFOs between midnight and 3 a.m. flying in a zig-zag pattern high in the sky "at incredible speed."

- Beginning Nov. 11, 1987, many sightings of unidentified flying objects were reported in Gulf Breeze by 135 witnesses, causing such a stir that national television crews came to the area.

Photographs of the Gulf Breeze UFO were first published in the Gulf Breeze Sentinel. They were taken with a Polaroid camera by a man identified only as Jim or Ed.

Numerous photographs were taken and examined to prove authenticity.

Oct. 5, 1988, the Gulf Breeze sightings were featured on a segment of NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries," a weekly series featuring true stories of strange events.

TX-D44 HOUSTON CHRONICLE  
MAR-19 1989

## Woman tells of too-close encounter with aliens

By DWIGHT SILVERMAN  
Special to the Chronicle

SAN ANTONIO — Joan Burns believes her first encounter with strange creatures came at age 10, when she saw a glowing figure standing at the foot of her bed. She thought it was a vision of Jesus.

"Now I know better," she said. Burns (not her real name) is a degreed professional in her mid-50s who lives in the Hill Country

community of Boerne, about 20 miles northwest of San Antonio. She says hypnosis sessions with MUFON investigator Robert Morgan indicate she has been abducted by creatures from UFOs no less than eight times.

Her three children, now in their 20s, also claim similar experiences.

Her case is just one of several that keep MUFON field investigators such as Morgan busy.

Among other incidents being studied is the story of the pur-

ported 1947 crash of a UFO in New Mexico and the apparently official, top-secret government briefing paper on the incident that surfaced in 1984.

Burns insists that what she has experienced over the years — and is now discovering in detail with MUFON's help — are not figments of an overactive imagination. She points out that she is a productive and prominent citizen in Boerne as well as San Antonio, where she and her husband work.

"These things are as real to me

as the birth of my children," she said.

Her most dramatic abduction experience came in July 1979. She and her husband had just moved to Boerne from San Antonio, and were living in a trailer home on a 20-acre tract of land where they were building a house.

On the evening of July 15, Burns' husband called frantically

for her to come to the window. Outside were three glowing balls of light, and descending from them, floating downward, were

five bizarre figures.

The creatures were similar to those described by almost every other purported abductee — thin, with grayish skin, large heads and large, oval-shaped, slanted eyes.

CONT

husband found his shotgun on the kitchen table, dismantled.

Burns first contacted MUFON after reading Budd Hopkins' *Missing Time*. Details of the 1979 abduction became clear after hypnosis sessions with Morgan, she said.

"Under hypnosis, I realized that they had put my husband to sleep," she said, "and took me out of the trailer. There was one of them on each side of me. I was in a kind of trance, and I kept trying to break out of the trance. I grabbed hold of a tree limb, trying to keep from going into the craft, and they didn't like that. A light went all over me, and I was paralyzed."

Once inside, Burns said, she was placed on "a table with light coming through it, like an examining table" in a room that was filled with colored lights. She said a needle descended from the ceiling and pierced her abdomen.

Afterward, she was taken back to the trailer by the creatures and put back to bed.

Burns said her hypnosis sessions revealed she was last abducted in August 1988, when her car was "taken inside one of these craft" during a drive home from San Antonio.

"It was a drive that should have taken 20 minutes, and it took an hour and a half," she said.

One of the most controversial cases in the UFO community centers around the tale of a July 1947 crash of a spacecraft near Roswell, N.M.

Remarkably, on July 8, the Roswell Army Base issued a press release confirming that "the many rumors regarding the flying disc became a reality yesterday when the intelligence office of the . . . Roswell Army Air Field was fortunate enough to gain possession of a disc through the cooperation of the local ranchers and the sheriff's office of Chaves County."

Several days later, the Air Force retracted this story, insisting instead the recovered object was merely a weather balloon.

For years, UFologists have sought to pin down what really happened at Roswell. There were even rumors that alien bodies were extracted from the wreckage and were being kept for observation.

Then, in December 1984, MUFON researcher Jaime Shandera received in the mail an official-looking envelope containing an undeveloped roll of 35mm film. Shandera had been

Her husband got his shotgun.

"These figures stood in the darkness out there, and we began to get very sleepy," Burns said, adding she dimly remembers going to bed, then nothing.

When morning came, Burns'

CONT  
BELOW



A 1960s "flying saucer" photograph that stirred controversy was proved a hoax. Although most UFO sightings have been explained as natural phenomenon, many remain a mystery.

receiving tips from an anonymous source within the government that something significant would soon arrive.

The film was processed, and the result has rocked the UFO community.

It contained what appear to be photos of a Nov. 18, 1952, document briefing then-President-Elect Dwight Eisenhower on the Roswell incident.

Stamped "Top Secret / Majic" and "Eyes Only," the document told the story of Majestic-12, a "TOP SECRET Research and Development/Intelligence operation responsible directly and only to the President of the United States."

The document went on to state that a local rancher reported that a UFO had crashed in a remote region of New Mexico approximately 75 miles northwest of Roswell Army Air Base, now Walker Field.

The document further revealed that, during the recovery of the wreckage, "aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site. All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by preda-

tors and exposure to the elements."

Also included in the narrative is the admission that "an effective cover story" regarding a weather balloon had been given to reporters

Finally, the document reveals that a second crash occurred on Dec. 6, 1950, near the El Indio-Guerrero area of the Texas-Mexican border. The craft in this case was almost totally incinerated, but some material was retrieved.

The authenticity of the MJ-12 document — as it has come to be known — has generated passionate debate in the UFO community. According to a MUFON paper presented at the group's 1988 symposium in Lawrence, Kan., handwriting expert have validated President Harry Truman's signature on one of the supporting documents included on the roll of film.

And those who knew the alleged author of the document — the late CIA director Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter — say it appears to read a though he wrote it.

Skeptics, however, are suspicious of the way in which the document came into MUFON's possession and cite nagging lapses in the document's phrasing and style, which seem unauthentic.

# UFO team cites rise in abduction claims

By DWIGHT SILVERMAN  
Special to the Chronicle

**S**AN ANTONIO — On a clear, starry night, a group of approximately 30 men and women meet in a local aviation maintenance company office to talk about things seen in the sky.

The walls display cutaway drawings of jet engines, a coppery rendering of Jesus' head and a photo of an unidentified flying object.

It's a monthly meeting of the San Antonio chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, a nationwide, 2,100-member organization that investigates and catalogs UFO sightings and incidents.

Chapter President Thomas Deuley, a retired U.S. Navy intelligence officer, told the group that he and MUFON investigators seldom have been as busy.

"It's almost a cliché in the UFO business," he said matter-of-factly, "but *something* is going on."

Indeed.

MUFON, which reaches a sort of institutional maturity with its 20th birthday in May, suddenly finds itself swamped with reports of new and disturbing UFO incidents.

Both the group's resources and political fabric have been stretched to the limit by thousands of people claiming not just that they saw some strange craft in the sky, but that they were *abducted* and *examined* by creatures within them.

Each tells remarkably similar stories of being spirited away by small creatures with enlarged heads, grayish skin and huge, lanted, oval eyes. Often their memories of the events must be unlocked through hypnosis.

The supposed victims come away from their ordeals with what amounts to post-traumatic stress syndrome, according to articles published in MUFON's monthly journal. Many have trouble sleeping, insist that all their doors and windows be locked and, when they do sleep, often dream of monsters. Skeptics say these are emotionally unstable people who are ascribing other problems to their lives to the modern mythology of UFOs. MUFON's members, however, believe the abductions are real and the associated stress causes the emotional instability.

MUFON is based in Seguin, approximately 100 miles east of San Antonio on Interstate 10.

the home of president and co-founder Walter Andrus. Andrus says he's not sure of the number of people who have reported celestial abductions to his organization.

"We just have had so many received by all of our state directors that we have not been able to get a precise number," says Andrus, who is a retired production manager at Motorola's Seguin telephone and computer module factory.

But two New York City-based writers who tackled the subject in popular books have received more than 7,500 letters from people who say they are victims.

Those writers are also at the focus of a growing and often acrimonious schism within the UFO community.

Whitley Strieber is the San Antonio-born author of *Communion: A True Story*, in which he says he has been abducted at various times in his life by creatures he calls simply "the visitors."

Budd Hopkins wrote the 1981 book *Missing Time*, which partly inspired Strieber to tell his own story. Hopkins was the man to whom Strieber turned when he first realized what was happening to him (Strieber autographed a copy of *Communion* for Hopkins with the words, "you saved my life"), but the two men since have become antagonists.

For the most part, the relatively conservative and cautious members of MUFON have sided with Hopkins.

Forever concerned about its credibility — Deuley says MUFON struggles to avoid "the Silly Factor" — the group does not seek publicity and is very careful about which members of the press it allows into its circle.

MUFON's membership list has some impressive and well-credentialed names. Its advisory board includes people with doctorates in chemistry, atmospheric sciences, biology, engineering, entomology, physics and religion. Dr. Wayne Webb, for example, is the assistant head of the Charles Hayden Planetarium in Boston and MUFON's consultant on astronomy.

The highly structured organization is broken down into state and local divisions, and has representatives in different regions of the world.

Andrus says MUFON prides itself on its systematic and thoughtful approach to investigating UFO cases.

"Before someone becomes a field investigator, they must study our *Field Investigator's Manual*, which is a 160-page book," he says.

Investigators first look for simple explanations of UFO sightings. After witnesses are identified and interviewed — if possible, at the site of the incident — MUFON's representatives contact nearby airports, mil-

itary bases, weather service operations and police for further information.

Andrus says between 10 and 20 percent of all sightings are determined to be of unknown origin — official UFOs. The rest turn out to be everything from heavenly objects — the planet Venus is a favorite — to standard aircraft or weather balloons.

For years, MUFON investigators happily spent their time looking into relatively mundane sky sightings. But the recent explosion in abduction cases has tested MUFON in many ways.

"We just don't have enough people to investigate all these claims," Andrus complains. "We are just swamped."

The abduction cases tend to follow a specific pattern:

■ Victims usually have stretches of "missing time," long periods for which they cannot account.

One classic case involved two teen-age girls whose car broke down on a deserted highway. After their mother went for help, a UFO appeared over the automobile. The girls locked the doors and dived to the car floor.

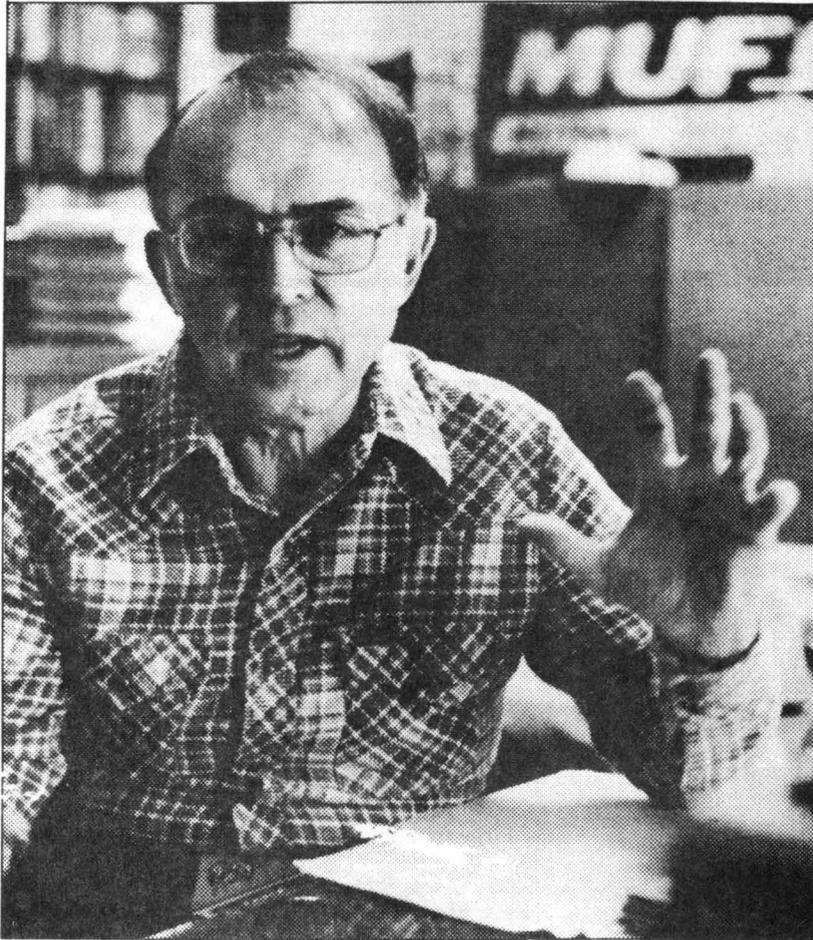
The girls then blacked out, awakening side by side on a grassy strip several yards from the vehicle. Approximately an hour had passed.

■ Abductees report a "screen" memory. When trying to recall certain incidents in their lives, they instead see images of animals. Often, those images fill them with a sense of dread.

■ Abductees often exhibit classic symptoms of post-traumatic stress syndrome — recurring nightmares, fear of being left alone, panic attacks. One MUFON investigator — history professor David M. Jacobs of Temple University — has posited the existence of "Post-Abduction Syndrome."

■ Some abductees manifest physical results — scars, burn marks, bruises. Many of the examinations reported are sexual in nature. There are reported cases in which abductees are given CAT scans and what appear to be foreign objects are found in their brains.

Strieber himself says there are three such spots in his head.



Dwight Silverman / Special to the Chronicle

Walter Andrus of Seguin, of Mutual UFO Network, talks of increased reports of contact between humans and alien life, compared to earlier times when reports were mostly of craft sightings.

The primary investigative tool in such cases is regressive hypnosis, which purports to take subjects back to certain points in their lives in search of greater detail.

However, skeptics say hypnosis can result in suggestibility when not used properly. In other words, if a MUFON investigator using hypnosis believes his subject was snatched away by beings from another planet, that's the scenario the subject will assign to whatever is causing stress in his or her life.

The use of hypnosis plays a key role in the current controversy raging in the UFO community. Strieber maintains that hypnosis should be used only as a therapeutic tool, and not for investigative purposes.

"In my own case, the reason we stopped using hypnosis was because my output was becoming structured according to my own expectations," Strieber said in a telephone interview.

Hopkins, on the other hand, believes it's important to "get to the bottom" of the UFO abduction cases.

"Strieber wanted to end his hypnotic regressions and figure things out by himself," Hopkins said. "He spent his time speculating rather than investigating his own case."

But ironically, it is Strieber's *Communion* that has brought an avalanche of abduction cases to MUFON. The book, first published in 1987, shot to the top of best seller lists. Hundreds of thousands of people who never would dream of buying a book about UFOs purchased and read *Communion*.

Strieber said he could "very easily have become a guru" to the thousands of people who claim experiences similar to his.

"I have avoided that by directing these people into groups that have formed all over the country," Strieber said.

"I have not made myself a leader. These groups are individual unto themselves. They are easygoing and social in nature, a place where people who have had this experience can talk about it without being bothered by UFO investigators."

Hopkins a MUFON member is more or less a "just-the-facts-ma'am" researcher.

He prefers not to wax mystical on the abduction issue and believes the abductors are conducting genetic experiments on humans.

Strieber, on the other hand, has long had an interest in things metaphysical, and in both *Communion* and its recently published sequel, *Transformation*, he speculates on whether his "visitors" were the inspiration for ages-old stories of fairies and spirits.

Perhaps they are part of a parallel universe or dimension, he muses.

Ed Conroy, a San Antonio-based writer and editor, has just finished a book investigating Strieber's claims and the public's response to them. Titled *Report on 'Communion': An Independent Investigation of Whitley Strieber's Visitor Experiences*, it will be published in July by William Morrow & Co.

Conroy believes the traditional UFO community has been shaken to

its roots by Strieber's approach and that professional jealousy propels much of the controversy.

"The UFO community has a fascination with nuts and bolts, the technology of it," Conroy said.

"They have been tied to the position that UFOs are not from this earth. The contribution Strieber has made has been to open up this entire field for



Conroy

discussion."

The question of UFO abductions was considered unfavorably in the UFO community. Much of the disdain is historical, stemming from groups such as the turn-of-century Fortean Society, or later hoaxers such as George Adamski, who claimed to have met long-haired beautiful people from Venus.

Although some UFOlogists — as academic researchers in the phenomenon call themselves — believe sightings have occurred since man's earliest history, the "modern wave" of sightings began after World War II, when people worldwide began reporting strange lights, discs, cigar-shaped objects and — occasionally — strange creatures.

Not only were people seeing these objects with their eyes, but they also were capturing them on film. And radar operators often corroborated visual, from-the-ground sightings.

In response, the U.S. Air Force began Project Blue Book, the public facade of what apparently was a much larger investigation of the phenomena.

According to federal documents obtained by MUFON through the Freedom of Information Act, Project Blue Book was actually one of three investigations conducted by the government. The other two were known as Project Sign and Project Gruge.

Project Blue Book was closed in 1969 with the pronouncement that the phenomenon was no longer worth studying. In January 1969, an Air Force commissioned study of UFOs directed by the University of Colorado under the guidance of Dr. Richard U. Condon came to the same conclusion.

"The Condon Report," as the study's results came to be known, ultimately gave birth to MUFON. Andrus and others were dissatisfied with the report and the government's decision to stop investigating reported sightings. They cited the fact that 19 percent of the UFO cases studied by Condon could not be explained.

"That's a higher percentage than what MUFON comes up with these days," Andrus said.

Most of the early sightings investi-

gated by first the Air Force and then MUFON were just that — sightings, lights and objects seen in the distant sky. It was not until 1966 that the first typical abduction-and-examination story burst onto the scene.

In his book, *The Interrupted Journey*, John Fuller tells the story of New Jersey couple Betty and Barney Hill. The two claimed to have been taken aboard a UFO and given a bizarre physical examination.

Under hypnosis, the couple gave a detailed description of their abductors and the procedures performed on them. They also allegedly manifested physical symptoms from the examination.

Both Strieber and Hopkins believe that abductions have been occurring since the beginning of the modern wave of UFO sightings. In fact, they believe that few abductees are ever taken aboard UFOs once, but rather are first "tagged" early in their lives and then experience "follow-up" visitations.

There are even instances, they say, of multiple generations of family members being abducted and examined. In *Communion*, for example, Strieber wrote about experiences his son appears to have had.

But Strieber and Hopkins differ sharply on the *why* of it all.

Strieber rejects Hopkins' theory that these are otherworldly scientists conducting genetic experiments on the human species.

"According to that hypothesis, the visitors came here in the 1940s. Forty years later, they're still performing the same experiments on people," Strieber said. "What's the matter with them? Are we dealing with morons who travel faster than light?"

Instead, Strieber believes we don't yet know the creatures' motivations or origins.

The popularity of *Communion*, as well as a growing body of photographic and physical evidence regarding UFOs, has created a new peak in the public consciousness.

Andrus is pleased to point out that such mainstream publications as the Washington Post and the New York Times have done major, sober pieces on the abduction phenomenon.

Even the psychological profession is beginning to take note of the numbers of people coming forward with abduction claims. A symposium of psychologists who have worked with such cases is planned for later this year in Tarrytown, N.Y.

Nearly everyone involved in MUFON, and most of the abductees themselves, readily agree that the abduction scenario sounds very, very crazy.

But at the same time, they point to the large numbers of people coming forward.

Says Andrus, "Many of these people are prominent and have a lot to lose by having others think they are nuts."

ABUCTIONS SOCIETY

SWINDON STAR

MAR-9-1989

## Two more say: We spotted a sky mystery

THE LATEST in a spate of UFO sightings was reported last week by two Austin Rover workers, Howard Carey and Roy Townsend.

They both saw a round brightly lit object travelling northwards over Swindon.

Mr Carey, who lives in Dores Road, Upper Stratton, said: "I have never before seen anything that could not have been explained.

"At first I thought it was a Hercules but there was no noise. It was bathed in a whitish glow and had a very irregular shape.

"There was an intense blue light at the front which pulsed.

"It veered to the right and to the left and then headed off towards Cirencester at a faster speed."

Fellow worker Roy Townsend, of Alfred Street, Swindon, said: "I just don't know what it was. It had a ring of lights and it was glowing."

ESSEX CHRONICLE  
CHELMSFORD

MAR 3 1989

## More strange sky sightings

ANOTHER batch of UFO sightings over Chelmsford have been reported by flying object investigators East Anglian UFO.

They are the latest in a line of sightings by witnesses since the end of January.

The inverted triangle of lights seen in the area on January 28 and 29 were spotted again on February 17 at Springfield between 8.30 and 9pm.

And a large, glowing orange ball was witnessed over the county town at 11.30pm on February 15.

UFO investigator Ron West commented: "There must have been lots of people who saw that one."

But the strangest sighting was the 12" metallic disk followed by a Chelmsford man driving towards his home town on February 20.

The man was 75 yards behind the car in front of him when the disk appeared as he drove along the A12 from Brentwood.

It followed the car at a height of three foot before vanishing after ten minutes.

White glowing balls were seen heading towards Chelmsford at 8.45pm on Monday.

Anyone who witnessed these incidents can contact the UFO Hotline on Basildon 286079.

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS  
MAR-7-1989

## The UFO 'time travel' theory

TIME travellers could get quite carried away next week — for just £1 a head.

The Manchester-based Direct Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena, which claims to be the oldest UFO society in England, has a lecture on Wednesday in the Derby Room at Leigh Library.

And the organisers promise startling new evidence, material, photographs and videos.

Electronic design engineer Arthur Tomlinson, a UFO investigator for 36 years, is giving the talk.

Steve Balon, aged 36, an investigator with the Manchester organisation, said: "Apart from photos of UFOs there will be top secret American documents about UFO crashes, which have only just been freed under the Freedom of Information Act."

He added: "The thinking about UFOs has now changed. We used to think they were nuts and bolts objects. Now we are inclined to regard them as psychic phenomena — sort of extra-terrestrial time travellers."

And the lecture will also show evidence of a close encounter by a former policeman on Ilkley Moor when he photographed an "alien."