

UFO NEWS

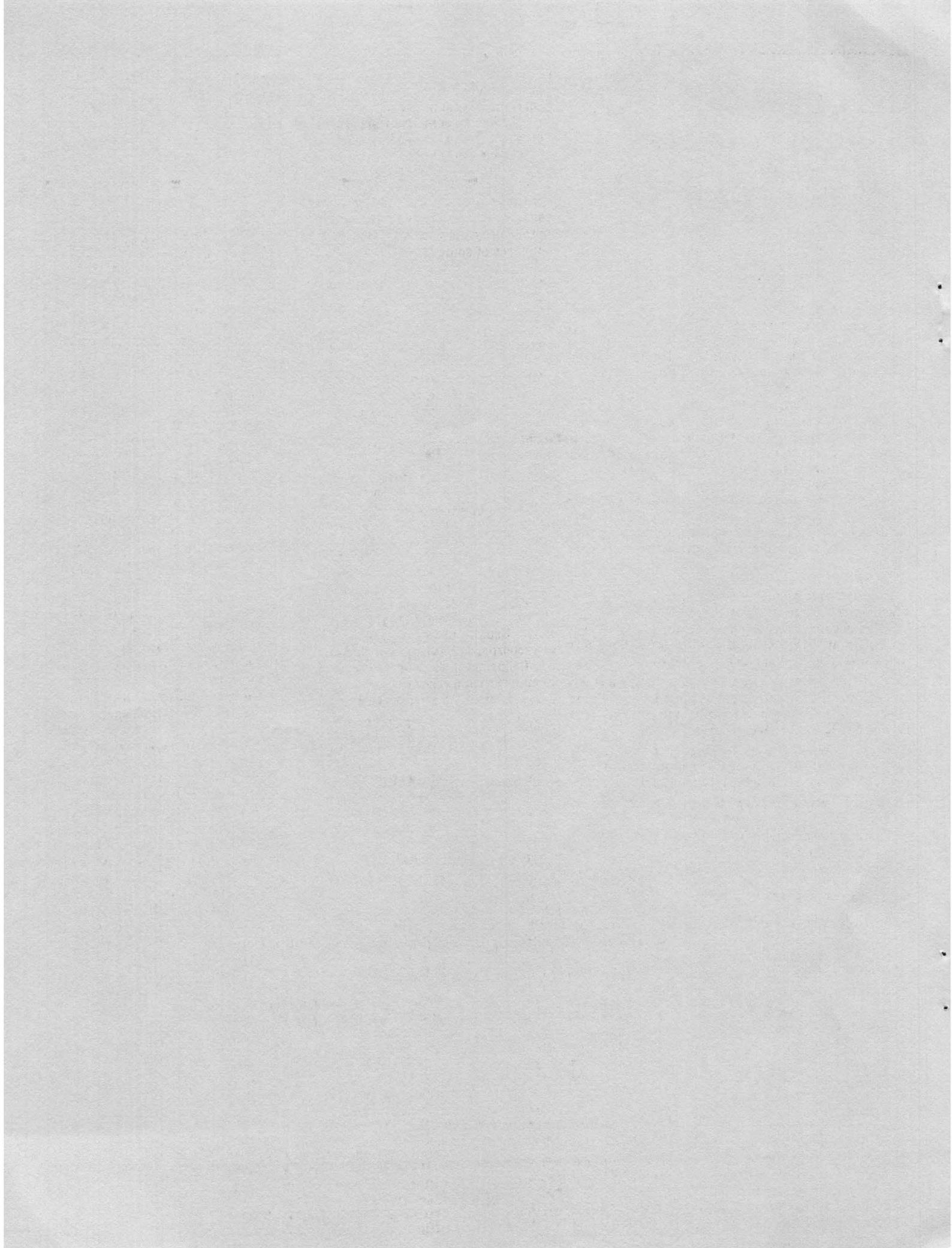
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**AERIAL PHENOMENON
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104 Reports of UFOs have left some Iowans wondering

By TOM ALEX
Register Staff Writer

Flying saucers, unidentified flying objects, here in Iowa?

Here are the reports:

A farmer in Davis County found large circular burn spots in a hayfield a mile from his house Sept. 26. Clair Roberts, 67, of rural Drakesville said it was the third such incident in the same spot since the early 1950s.

Wednesday night Appanoose County residents reported strange lights.

Carol Drake, 48, of rural Exline said she walked past the front window of her farm home Wednesday and saw a large light in the sky. It was reddish, and as she stared in amazement, another light, this one yellow, appeared next to it.

"The reddish one dimmed and turned yellow like the other one," Drake said Thursday. "I couldn't believe what I was seeing so I went outdoors and watched.

burned patches in his field recently, isn't saying what he thinks.

"If I had an opinion I wouldn't express it," he said, adding that he found burn spots in the same field in the early 1950s and in the early 1970s.

Doug Chickering of the Davis County sheriff's office said, "It's got me bugged. It doesn't spook me but it's sure got me curious. We've got some pictures of some large burn marks, about 18 feet in diameter, and somebody is saying dogs were barking out there."

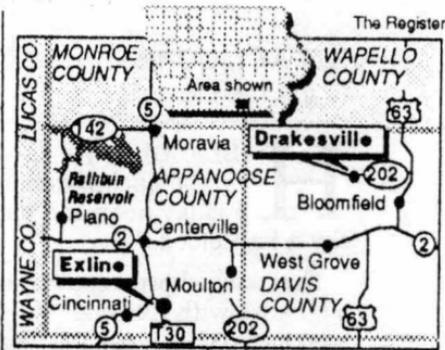
Lawrence Staunton, chairman of the physics and astronomy departments at Drake University, said, "There are a zillion reasons" for strange lights in the evening sky.

"The atmosphere acts like a lens," he said. "It can bend light and it can separate colors. All sorts of reflections and enhancements are possible."

Robert Gribble, director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, said 30 or 40 reports have been received recently from Iowa, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Texas and Ken-

IA-D15 DES MOINES
REGISTER

OCT-13 1989



MO-D44 SPRINGFIELD NEW
LEADER

OCT-22 1989

Paper's UFO article
'neat' explanation

Read the article "Expert: Mysterious lights no mystery" in Sunday's News-Leader. Must see Des Moines

UFO sighting hot news

By **PAT MOORE**
Of the Tribune staff

HILLSBORO, Wis. — Harley Pliner stood on the back porch of his Hillsboro house Friday noon and pointed to a spot in the sky a half-block away.

That was where about two months ago he saw a huge disc with flashing blue and red lights hovering silently above the trees.

He had never seen anything like it before. He hasn't since, either.

The disc didn't touch down. No three-eyed aliens strolled through the Hillsboro city park or zapped anyone, as Tass, the Soviet news agency, reported they

story of the Pliners' sighting was on the front page of the weekly Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise. The headline read: "Close encounter of the Hillsboro kind."

Now, Harley, 62, says people are calling him a celebrity and asking: "Have you seen any more UFO's lately?"

Harley, who delivers oil for Madden Petro Inc. of nearby Elroy, took time during his lunch hour

Friday in his two-story gray house on Mills Street to talk about the encounter.

Betty Pliner, 67, who has been married to Harley for 25 years, said they hesitated to say anything about it "because people will think you're nuts."

"We're not senile yet," she joked. "But there's more going on around here than we



She called her daughter and son-in-law on the telephone, and they reported seeing the same thing from their home three miles away.

"A man came to see my husband and I took him out to verify it," Drake said, adding that the lights remained in the sky for about 45 minutes.

from Iowa recently, Griddle said.

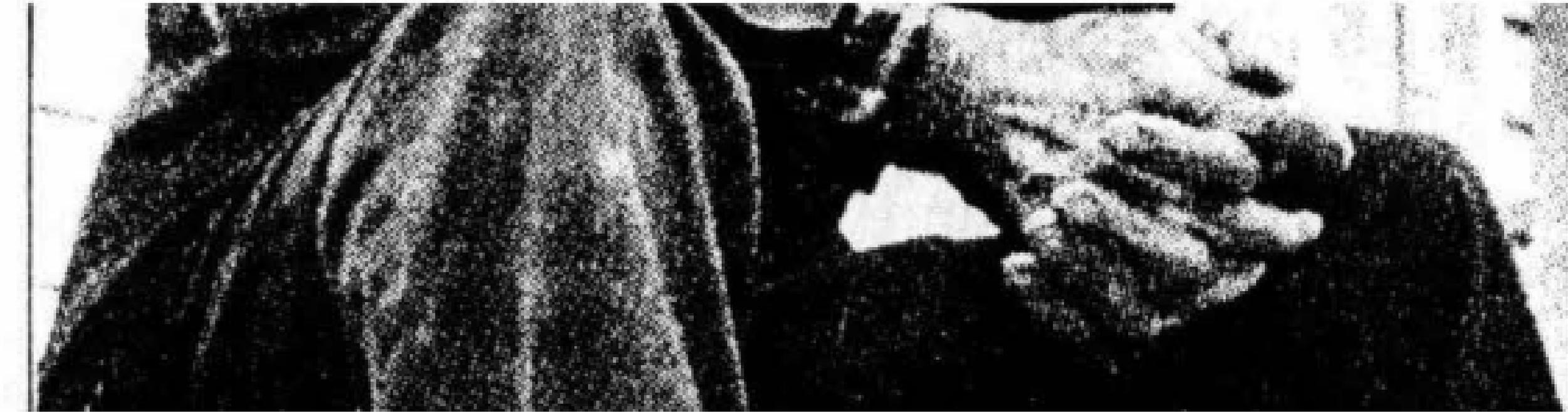
"These are not the highest quality reports. People are seeing lights in the sky. Some are stationary. Some move. Usually the stationary lights are reported as flashing multiple col-

everything in a nutshell.

Two weeks ago I watched four UFO's through binoculars near Sarcoxie. During this time there were two airplanes with their flashing lights in the same area.

... didn't send any senior reporters to talk with Harley and his wife, Betty.

"I told three people



Harley agreed.
"We never intended to have any publicity," he said. "That's why we didn't say much at the time. I think differ-

ner of Fairfield said. "It would be stationary for a time and then it would move. We weren't the only ones who saw it. I've talked to several others."

Drake said she had been laughing about recent Soviet media reports of a UFO landing and tall, three-eyed, creatures with small heads exploring Earth.

Thursday she said, "I don't believe in flying saucers. At least I didn't."

Husband Larry Drake, working in a field 10 miles away, saw nothing.

Roberts, the Drakesville farmer who found the

The Federal Aviation Administration in Kansas City, Mo., sheds no light on recent events. Spokeswoman Sandra Campbell said, "Call the Air Force."

Senior Airman Jeff Blade at Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha, said, "We stopped doing UFO investigations in 1969. The Air Force did it for 22 years," and found that 95 percent of the reports were explainable.

speed and slightly changed course when it appeared they might collide.

As a one-time pilot who owned my own airplane I know something of flight characteristics. These objects are definitely not airplanes.

From my observations, I shall institute a new science. It shall be called astro-physics-haha and be able to explain absolutely everything without ever having to go out and do anything.

DEAN M. McCLANAHAN
Springfield

IN-D21 MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL APPEAL

OCT 12 1989

UFO makes its rounds in Delta

From Staff Reports
And Our Press Services

A UFO, or maybe two, vaguely similar to one that reportedly touched down recently in the Russian city of Voronezh has been spotted hanging around the Delta.

Lee Abide Jr., 33, said he saw a large orange spherical ball hovering about 10 miles northwest of Greenville, Miss., around 4:35 a.m. while he was driving to work — the second time he's seen the craft in less than six months.

Abide, a pilot, said, "I've been around airplanes all my life. This wasn't an airplane or nothing that had been made by man. This thing didn't come out of a bottle of vodka," he said, referring to some speculation that the Soviet witnesses might have been imbibing.

Pilot Bill Kimmel spotted a similar craft about 6 p.m. Tuesday while flying a plane between Clarksdale and Memphis. Kimmel said it was

round, metallic, kept changing colors and was moving 800 to 900 mph at 3,000 feet some distance off his left wingtip. "There was no way it was a weather balloon because no balloon can travel that fast," he said.

Abide says other Greenville residents have seen the strange craft but are afraid to come forward.

The spacecraft that reportedly landed in Voronezh was described as a large shining ball or disc. Witnesses said that up to three tall creatures accompanied by a small robot emerged, according to Tass, official Soviet news agency.

else. But somebody reported it to the newspaper office."

On Thursday the

HARLEY PLINER sits on the back porch of his Hillsboro home last week.

Dick Riniker of the Tribune staff

didn't say anything about it."

Continued from front page

"We're just country people," Betty said. "Born and raised in the country. But you gotta tell what you saw if they ask you."

Harley stood on the back porch and retold the story about what he saw that Thursday night in August. Betty stayed inside behind the screen door.

Harley said he isn't too sure of the date, but it was about 10:30 p.m. He was coming home from working as a volunteer for the Knights of Columbus at the bingo game held in the Firemen's Community Center.

He'd parked the car at the side of the house and was walking up the back porch steps when he glanced into the sky. And there it was!

"It was big," he said. "It was a huge object like a big round disc. All you could see on it was all the lights. They were all around the bottom, blinking off and on. Over and over. Colored lights. Red and blue.

"It wasn't an airplane. It was a lot bigger than an airplane. I've seen airplanes go over every night."

He said he called to Betty, who was inside the house watching television.

"The way he hollered I thought he was having a heart attack," recalls Betty, who said she ran to the back door.

She, too, watched the object in the sky.

"It didn't make a sound. Not a sound. Besides that, it was just sitting in the sky," she added.

They watched the silent object with the flashing lights for about five minutes. When it began moving slowly eastward, Harley said he ran a block down to the corner, hoping to get a glimpse of it.

"It was a goin' that way," he pointed. But it had vanished.

"The first thing I thought about was jumpin' in my car and fol-

lowin' it around but it disappeared too fast."

"It coulda zapped me in my living room," Betty said, "and I wouldn't have known the difference."

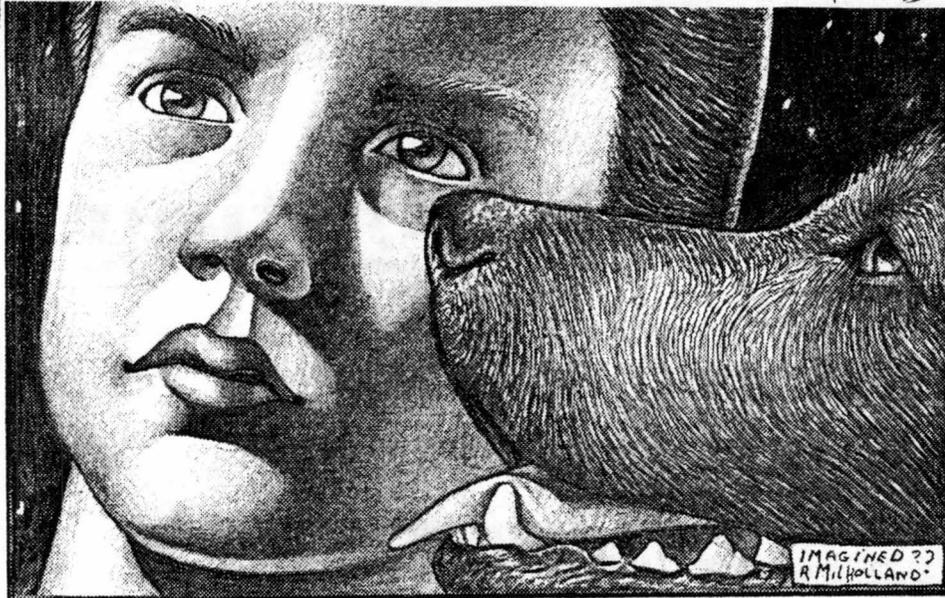
Did she ever see anything like it before?

"Heaven's no. It was just one great big ball of flashing lights," she said. "I wished I'da had a camera. But when something like that happens, who thinks about a camera?"

Harley said: "I'd like to see it again."

The Pliners have watched for it every night since then, but with no luck.

"The politicians know what's goin' on," said Betty. "Maybe some government car will pull up in front of the house someday. Because there's somethin' mysterious about it."



RICHARD MILHOLLAND / for The Times

The UFO Tass Missed

■ **Extraterrestrials:** A Soviet émigré relates his own unearthly experience with a saucer-sighting in Moscow.

By Paul Goldberg

WASHINGTON

After 17 years of silence, I have decided to come forward and report that in the spring of 1972 I saw an unidentified flying object over Moscow.

After recent events at a park in the city of Voronezh, as reported last week by Tass, I am a little hurt that at the time I saw them, the aliens did not come out for a stroll and left no debris.

For this there are two possible explanations:

- Aliens felt no urge to set their feet in the mud of the Chertanovo area of Moscow, where I lived. Considering the depth of the mud, their "object" would have had a difficult time on takeoff.

- Aliens, like some of Russia's new freethinkers, waited for *glasnost* before they ventured to show the world that they are humanoid after all.

I will refrain from further speculation and, instead, limit myself to the facts, withholding nothing, especially the details that do not support my account. The facts are these:

— I was 13.

— The only other witness was a seven-month-old German shepherd named Santa, now dead.

One spring morning Santa and I observed a large object hovering at approximately 37.5 degrees over the horizon, directly above the smokestacks about three miles away.

The object was different from the one recently sighted in Voronezh, 300 miles from Moscow. Ours was shaped like a saucer, and as it moved slowly in our direction it emitted a clicking sound, like a 10-speed bike—which at the time I did not yet own.

After 10 or 15 seconds the lights on the saucer went off and, as it continued toward us, Santa and I ran into the apartment building. We were not eager to be kidnaped, or dognaped, at the point of a laser gun.

One telling detail was that Santa ran ahead of me, tail between her legs. (A skeptic might say the dog was neurotic or simply picked up on my panic.)

This is a true story, inasmuch as something like this can be a true story. I have no idea whether I saw what I seemed to see. I can say I certainly *wanted* to see it.

When I described the sighting to my friends, all of them believed me. They, too, thought they had seen something similar on other occasions. No doubt stories were being made up on the spot. Some may have been repeated enough

times to become believable—even to those who invented them.

Everyone I knew had read excerpts of Western books that described the alleged role of space aliens in construction of Mayan temples, Egyptian pyramids and other wonders of the world.

When I told the story to my astronomy club at the Moscow Planetarium, the club leader, who, as I recall, had a doctorate in astronomy or astrophysics, said that the authorities receive thousands of reports of unidentified flying objects and do nothing about them. It seemed entirely plausible that the authorities knew everything but did nothing. He also noted that my dog's reaction was typical. Animals are said to fear UFOs.

I have not seen any UFOs since, certainly not after emigration to the United States. Worries about my next manuscript or my next contract have left no room for thoughts as extraneous as extraterrestrials.

In the world I now inhabit it is not desirable to spot flying objects and talk seriously about UFOs or life in space. This is a tested way to be written off as a lunatic or a New Ager. If I saw a banana-shaped object hover, or even land, in my neighborhood, I would simply look the other way.

However, in the course of one project, a book about the Moscow Helsinki Watch Group, I ran into an unexpected reminder that even the brightest of my former countrymen ponder life in far reaches of the universe.

"In the infinity of space there must be other civilizations, including those more advanced, more 'successful' than ours," wrote Andrei Sakharov in the conclusion to his Nobel lecture in 1975.

"I happen to be a proponent of a cosmological hypothesis, which holds that cosmological development of the universe is basically repeated an infinite number of times. . . ." Sakharov wrote.

Granted, UFO sightings and cosmology are eons apart. Still, no one asked Sakharov to take a stand on the existence of extraterrestrial life. He brought up the matter voluntarily—and unabashedly.

On a recent trip to Moscow I spent an evening milling with a crowd on Pushkin Square as it merrily ignored police orders to disperse.

In one group, a couple of Armenians talked about the killings in Nagorno-Karabakh. In another, hippies talked about their friends doing time in mental hospitals. In the third, men who looked otherwise intelligent talked about sightings of extraterrestrials.

It was a little painful to hear such matters discussed so close to the monument to Russia's greatest poet, Aleksandr Sergeevich Pushkin, and the site of what had been an annual human-rights demonstration.

But that was my problem, not theirs. Those people discussed their sightings and exhibited no desire for segregation between the real world and the world of tabloids. That distinction cannot exist in the Soviet Union—at least until Tass moves enough stories to fill a tabloid. □

1381

Mobile couple reports

AL-D16 MOBILE REGISTER
OCT-13-1989

UFO sighting

By KATHY JUMPER
Press Register Reporter

A Mobile couple said they spotted the same fast-moving, metallic unidentified flying object that Mississippi residents saw Wednesday.

"I called my wife and then my neighbor to see it so people wouldn't think I was drunk," Paul Hannie said Thursday. "It was round and about as big as a jetliner. It would turn colors — from a dark color to bright aluminum. It was up about 15,000 to 20,000 feet in the sky. We watched it for about 20 minutes.

"I've been flying all my life and I know it wasn't a weather balloon. Then low and behold I picked up the newspaper this morning and what we saw was identical to what the men in Mississippi saw."

Lee Abide Jr. of Greenville, Miss. said he saw the object three or four months ago and again Wednesday while on his way to work. A Greenville pilot, Bill Kimmel, said he was flying to Memphis two days ago when he saw a round, metallic object that kept changing colors and was flying about 800 to 900 mph.

The local offices of the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Weather Service and the U.S. Coast Guard said Thursday they did not receive any reports of UFOs.

A spokesman at Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. said Thursday, "we've been out of the UFO business for years."

"Usually when we have some bright planets out we have a rash of UFO sightings," said Dr. Paul Helminger, a physics professor at the University of South Ala-

bama. "That's usually in the spring or fall when people are out enjoying the weather. Venus has been out early in the evening and so has Saturn. Jupiter is out around midnight.

"And the dark star, Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, comes up in the morning. This could be what people are seeing."

Helminger said he watches the stars and has never seen a UFO. "Our library is full of books from people who have had unusual sightings," he said. "I don't know what people are seeing. But have them bring a photograph in and we'll take a look."

Hannie said he was doing yard work at his Alpine Hills home about 4:15 p.m. when he looked up and saw an airplane fly overhead. "A few minutes later I looked back up and I saw a pretty huge object floating south to

southwest. I thought it was part of the airplane at first. But the plane went on."

He called his wife, Abiline, and his neighbor, Jack Parsons, over to watch it. "We watched it go all the way across the sky until it went out of sight around Theodore area," Hannie said. "I called my sister in Semmes and she said she'd seen the same thing.

Hannie said he believes in UFOs. "And our country does, too," he said. "If they didn't, why would they be sending shuttles to Mars with all kinds of pictures and cassettes? I'm not a fanatic about it. But I was carried away when I saw it in the paper this morning.

"I don't drink and I don't smoke. I did get witnesses. I didn't want anyone to think I was crazy."

Strange encounter

Yes, I do believe in UFOs from what I have experienced. I saw one in 1932 when I was 22 years of age. I'm 79 now — that was 57 years ago.

This is what I experienced:

I was visiting my girlfriend in Lysander, and I had left for home in Galeville.

After leaving Baldwinsville I just crossed Cold Springs bridge, and over my head near to the right side of my car, some object about the size of a large bowl



BUGNACKI
... at 22

made him believer

roared up near me with blue lights flashing. A man's voice came from it, saying "We're following you." There was also some noise coming from it, like pouring drinks into a glass. I heard this as the motor idled down almost to a standstill.

I heard some laughing and also saw yellow lights inside. I stepped on the gas and this thing just speeded up its motor and roared away.

But they scared the hell out of me. I was still trembling when I arrived home. This experience has been popping up in my head ever since.

CHET BUGNACKI,
Syracuse

NY-D66
SYRACUSE POST-
STANDARD
OCT-22 1989

Scientist has unearthly ideas

SOUTH HOLLAND — The 1950s were a quiet, yet uneasy decade as Commies and the Bomb dominated the national psyche.

But UFOs also grabbed attention as an ever-increasing number of sightings was reported. In fact, the largest UFO study took place in 1955 and determined that 35 percent of 3,200 investigated sightings had no earthly explanation.

Outer-space visitors then dominated Hollywood scripts as

moviegoers were intrigued by the saucer-riding aliens in "The Day the Earth Stood Still" and terrified by the seemingly un-

REPORTER AT LARGE

Bill Torpy

stoppable "Invasion of the Body Snatchers."

UFO sightings have lost some credence in recent years, having been relegated to vying for space with Elvis sightings and grape-

fruit diets in supermarket rags.

But there really could be something to all this UFO business. I mean, was that really Andre Dawson playing right field for the Cubs during the playoffs?

Stanton Friedman believes Earth has been used by alien travelers as a stop-off point on their explorations, making this planet kind of an extraterrestrial Stuckey's.

But Friedman is no crackpot

■ See UFOs page 6

(Continued from page 1)

Trekkie waiting for Mr. Spock's arrival. A nuclear physicist educated at the University of Chicago and trained in rocket science, Friedman is a renowned expert on UFO research and was at South Suburban College Friday with a lecture titled "Flying Saucers are Real."

"I was a skeptic," Friedman said, "until I looked at the evidence."

Friedman, speaking in a rapid-fire, confident tone, documented UFO sightings by airline pilots, multiperson viewings, radar findings and physical evidence such as photos and burn rings where such saucers were said to have landed.

He displayed seven photographs showing a saucer hovering above buildings on a clear afternoon in Salt Lake City. And a tourist's snapshot of Hawaiian hula girls found a saucer sneaking into the background.

It's logical to believe there are alien civilizations that evolved millions of years before ours, Friedman said, adding that the visitors have never announced their visits because of a healthy fear of a

primitive society — us.

About 200 UFO aficionados hung on each word as Friedman described a "cosmic Watergate" being conducted by government authorities who have inspected thousands of such sightings but are hiding those results.

Friedman, who was featured on the season premiere of "Unsolved Mysteries," claims to have reviewed hundreds of documents and interviewed dozens of people concerning a 1947 saucer crash in Roswell, N.M., that killed four al-

ien beings. Army officials at first released some information on the crash but then backtracked after higher-ups had second thoughts. Debris from the crash and the bodies disappeared, Friedman said, but he found documents concerning a top-secret Army-CIA investigation of the affair.

Government officials have a vested interest in keeping UFO truths from the citizenry, Friedman claims. "They'd have to adopt a new view of themselves. We'd become Earthlings, not Americans or Russians. Nationalism is the only game in town."

The introduction of theories, counter-theories and coverups brought forth by Friedman made the arguments surrounding Presi-

dent Kennedy's death seem simplistic.

Space visitation is plausible, Friedman said, because there are more than 1,000 stars within 54 light years of earth that could have life-supporting solar systems. This is the "local neighborhood," cosmically speaking, that is.

The ships spotted are saucers because that is the optimum in ground-level exploration, he said.

"They can quickly reach high speed, turn sharply and have no visible external propulsion system. I know 50 companies that can build something that looks like this (pointing to a shot of a saucer). But none can build one that can fly like that."

Friedman displayed four Gallup polls that show about 50 percent of Americans believe in UFOs, with about two-thirds of the college-educated Americans in that category.

"If you're a believer, you're with the cream of the crop," he said, adding that there has been a fear of reporting sightings because of perceived derision. "It's time to come out of the closet."

Friedman asked those who believed they had seen UFOs to raise their hands. Fifteen did, including Eric Johanson.

Johanson was watching TV one

night in 1968 when static devoured the picture, forcing him to look outside to find the cause.

The Southwest Side resident said he was stunned to see a bright gold saucer-shaped object with a flashing red light silently hovering in the still Wisconsin night.

Johanson said he and his mother followed the object in their car and watched it hover above a cornfield.

"It stayed there for a few seconds and then WHOOSH, it took off at a 45-degree angle," said Johanson, now 41, who did not report the incident. "I didn't want to be thought of as a kook."

Johanson was frightened and confused by the incident but was reassured the next day after reading reports in a Rockford newspaper of a UFO sighting.

He doesn't talk about it much because he's a salesman and doesn't want to hurt his credibility with clients. And his wife, a devout Roman Catholic, thinks UFO belief borders on Satanism, he said. But Johanson, who now owns dozens of books on the subject, is unshaken in his belief: There's someone else out there. And they DO make housecalls.

"If the universe is as big as scientists say it is, then it's absurd to believe we're alone," he said.

UFO encounter had ring of truth

A recent article described the experience of Cynthia Vodovoz, who had an encounter with a UFO on Highway 31 in October 1973. She was 12 years old at the time.

Previously, she had recalled nothing of a 40-minute period during which she and her mother were apparently unconscious. (They were 40 minutes late getting to Cynthia's dance class in town.)

Recently, however, under hypnosis induced by her doctor in California, the details of her experience 16 years ago surfaced from wherever they had been buried somewhere deep in her subconscious.

Her story is typical of many other reported UFO encounters.

When I read the story in the paper, I was reminded of a time several years ago when for a period of 10 days UFO "sightings" were being reported from all over Jefferson County and other locations in Alabama.

I recall that for several nights in a row I went out to the airport, got into my airplane with Col. Joe Shannon and flew around for several hours each night looking for UFOs.

I also recall that on one of these occasions we were in radio communication with the fixed

base operator at the airport, who had an open telephone line to the dispatcher at the sheriff's department, who was in radio communication with a patrol car which was at the scene of a UFO commotion out on the highway.

We were vectored to this location where we spotted the rotating beacon on the sheriff's car. We orbited overhead for 20 to 30 minutes. The sheriff reported to his dispatcher that he saw the lights of our aircraft circling overhead. He also reported that we were being followed by another light.

Although I almost stalled and spun in trying to tighten up our turn so that we could find the "light" that was apparently in close-trail formation with us, we never did spot it.

Just out of curiosity, when I finished reading the story about Miss Vodovoz, I got out my log book and leafed back to October 1973. Opposite the dates Oct. 17, 18 and 19 I had inscribed the notation "UFO Search."

Needless to say, I am among those who believe that there really is "something out there."

Albert C. Persons,
1040 Montclair Road.

m

OK-D49 TULSA TRIBUNE

OCT-27-1989

Welch pair sees glowing 'green things'

By MELINDA MORRIS
The Tulsa Tribune

Shirley England says she has never been a UFO fancier, but now the Welch resident doesn't know what to think.

England said Friday the 13th of this month, appropriately, she and her 21-year-old daughter saw "a thing going up and down in the air" and decided to follow it.

With her daughter, Debbie England, driving, the pair followed the oval-shaped object at about 8:30 p.m. three miles southwest of Welch down a dirt road, where the object "landed."

The elder England said her daughter looked at her and said, "Momma, it ain't a car."

The Englands said the object was dark colored with two red lights.

Debbie England said that suddenly, "two green things popped out, one on the left side and one on the right."

Her mother described them as slim, 7 to 9 feet tall, light green in color, "with a white glow all around. I didn't see any arms or legs.

"They kind of turned and you could see the wrinkles in their necks."

Debbie England said the green objects looked like they were coming toward her and her mother

The elder England said, "I told my daughter, 'Let's get out of here!'"

Her daughter had trouble getting the car in reverse, but they finally were able to back up, England said.

Craig County Sheriff Jess Walker said he investigated the Englands' report, "but I couldn't find out what it was.

"I believe they saw something but we're not sure what."

While Walker said he had not received any other reports of a UFO landing, numerous others in Craig County, Ottawa County and surrounding cities have reported seeing strange, multi-colored lights in the sky.

Recently, residents in Pine Bluff, Ark. saw a bright light globe that hovered over treetops and disappeared somewhere over Watson Chapel.

Cora Walker of near Pine Bluff said she watched the white globe hover for an hour before calling the Jefferson County sheriff's office.

"It came out from the northeast at a rapid speed, and it went to the southwest," Walker said. "Then it stood still." She started calling her neighbors.

"It was a bright light and then from it, it looked like a red flare," she said. "I've never seen anything like it."

After about an hour, the light started slowly moving out of sight, she said.

"It went straight down like a moon," she said. "I don't know what it was, but it was a strange object."

The object was also seen by Sgt. Bernard Adams of the sheriff's office and Deputy Mark Bradley.

Bradley said the light started to move west toward Watson Chapel, which ruled out the possibility of the object being a weather balloon, because the winds were from the south at the time, he was told.

Woman tells of UFO in '73 on U.S. 31

By **Frank Sikora**
News staff writer

A former Birmingham-area resident says that she had an encounter with an alien spacecraft in October 1973, but did not know what had happened until two years ago when she underwent hypnosis.

Cynthia Vodovoz, 28, said the incident took place on U.S. 31 near Gardendale, and she and investigators are still trying to sort out the details of how a "thin thing" and "whitish looking" creatures allegedly took her aboard the craft. She was 12 at the time.

"For many years I didn't know what had happened, only that I had been troubled by something," she said in a telephone interview.

She said the event occurred as she was riding with her mother from their home in Morris to a dance class in Birmingham.

"I noticed an object," she said. "It was big and round and bright green and had a yellow ring around it. It was coming over the trees. It stayed with us. And my mother said, 'Is it going to land?'"

Miss Vodovoz said that just north of Gardendale the object began to descend directly in front of them. She said the car stalled near an intersection. There were several other cars stopped, she said.

"The object kept coming down and seemed to stop near the wires," she continued. "It seemed bigger than a plane. My mother rolled down the window which really upset me. I thought I was going to run. In the car next to me was a man whose face was lit up. He was leaning over toward us. Mother asked the man, 'Do you think it's a UFO?' And he said, 'I guess so.'"

UFO

From Page 1B

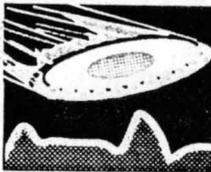
Miss Vodovoz said she recalls feeling "heavy," and a bright light shone in the car. She said she felt she could not move.

"The next thing I remember I was sitting in the car seat but my feet were in mother's lap, and the car door slammed on my back and it woke me up. My mother seemed to wake up. She was trying to start up the car."

She said they continued along U.S. 31 and when they arrived at the dance class they were about 40 minutes late.

Her mother called her father, Irvin Vodovoz, who worked with the Federal Aviation Administration in Birmingham, who dismissed the object as a rocket being test fired by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The following year the family moved to Washington. Later, Miss Vodovoz moved to Los Angeles to pursue her interest in dance. But she was bothered by the incident in Gardendale, she said.



to hold on, but the vents broke.

She said that under hypnosis she told of being taken — floated — aboard a craft that was white inside. She said she was placed on a table and said there was another girl lying on another table.

"She had kind of sandy, curly hair, and she was in the same predicament as me," she said. "They were walking around the table doing an examination. I remember they placed a needle in my navel."

Later, she said, she was placed in what appeared to be a transparent globe and floated back in her mother's car. She said the door of the car was slammed on her back.

"I've always wondered whether anyone remembers anything happening there that night near Gardendale," she said in the interview. "My father remembers getting a call from a man who said he was an Air Force colonel and the man said he had seen a UFO. I wish we could find that man."

Jeff Ballard, state director of the group known as MUFON — Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network — says he hopes to find motorists who might have been on U.S. 31 that night in October 1973.

"I feel there may be a number of people that may have had some encounters like that that they don't understand, but they are bothered by it," said Ballard, who is an engineer with a space-related company in Huntsville. "They just have some memory of a light."

Ballard says October, because of its normally clear nights, often brings reports of sightings of strange lights in the sky.

Tonight in Birmingham, a Nashville woman, Leilani Dearing, and her husband, Dan, will speak at the Parliament House Hotel. Mrs. Dearing says the couple was taken aboard a spacecraft in Hawaii by peaceful aliens.

In 1986 she met with Dr. Richard Neal, an obstetrician-gynecologist who also is a hypnotist. Later, she said, famed UFO investigator Budd Hopkins came to interview her, placing her under hypnosis.

In that state, she said, she told an astonishing story.

She told of seeing the object and coming to the intersection, thinking there had been an accident, because of the stopped cars.

"The people ahead were screaming and putting arms out the window," she said, "and this thin thing was coming. And as he passed the cars, the people were subdued. As he got to our car, mother rested her head on the door. Then three small beings, whitish looking, came to my door and opened it. I tried to put my fingers in the air conditioner vents

OCT-16-1989

UFO sightings get close look from Seguin

By **JEANNE KEVER**
Staff reporter

SEGUIN - Walt Andrus will tell you he is no crackpot.

The bookshelves and file cabinets lining his office bulge with government documents. Reporters and scientists from around the world have been keeping his phones busy lately.

Everyone wants to know more about the three giant creatures with tiny heads that allegedly descended and then disappeared into a large shining ball hovering over the Soviet city of Voronezh.

"It could be a hoax," says Andrus, international director of the Mutual UFO Network. "Something about it doesn't ring true."

The 2,200-member organization Andrus helped found in 1969 sends investigators to check reports of unidentified flying objects. Jammed phone lines have kept Andrus, who runs the operation from his home here, from getting in touch with a member who teaches at a university in Kharkov, just 70 miles from Voronezh.

Andrus is no blind believer in extraterrestrial life.

"I believe in God," he says. "I've never seen him. When it comes to UFOs, you look at the data. It's overwhelming. I don't have to believe. I call myself an objective skeptic."

The 68-year-old Andrus retired in 1982 after 34 years with Motorola, devoting himself full time to the network. There are several paid employees, but he is a volunteer.

"People say you can be obsessed," he says. "I don't call it an obsession, but when you realize how important the subject is, to solve the greatest mystery of the Space Age. . . ."

Andrus and several other UFO buffs formed the network 20 years ago after deciding an Air Force-led investigation into UFOs would be a "whitewash" to prove they do not exist.

He is careful to distance his organization from "kook UFO conventions where you can buy hair from dogs on

Please turn to UFO/E8

UFO: Looking for answers

UFO/from **E1**

Venus. . . . We won't even talk to a tabloid. The people we appeal to, the Ph.D.s and academics, they don't read the National Inquirer."

Their search is more serious than two-headed babies from Mars and million-year-old mummies.

"This affects the whole future of the planet Earth," Andrus says. "It's not stamp collecting or coin collecting."

He first heard of the Soviet sighting last Monday, when a reporter from a London newspaper called for comment. He since has spoken with the Cable News Network and radio stations from around the country.

He even talked to a New York-based reporter from Tass, the official Soviet news agency.

One thing that puzzles him is that Soviet descriptions of the aliens differs drastically from North American sightings his organization considers the most important of recent years. Still, he admits, "Not all of us (humans) look alike."

Since November 1978, more than 200 people in Gulf Breeze, Fla., a suburb of Pensacola, have reported seeing aliens. Most often, Andrus says, they have appeared to Ed Walters, a prominent Gulf Breeze builder.

These aliens are small and pale gray in color, with large black eyes, and no eyelids, teeth, hair, stomachs or vocal cords. They communicate through mental telepathy, he says.

Walters has taken pictures of the spaceship - described by Andrus as looking like the top of the Tower of the Americas - but not of the aliens themselves.

Andrus says the aliens apparently have implanted a transmitter into Walters' right sinus cavity, which buzzes when an appearance is imminent.

That is not the weird part.

Where the creatures are from and what they want still is a mystery, Andrus says. He speculates they implant human women with embryos crossbred between humans and aliens, using the women as incubators.

"It appears these creatures are frail," Andrus says. "They're not muscular. . . . They're trying to crossbreed with humans so they won't die out."

"Without a doubt they are far more advanced than we are in aerospace technology," although the human race appears to be physically superior.

The aliens apparently are methodical, he says, noting, "They don't seem to have feelings, compassion for people."

Despite this, Andrus says people need not be afraid. If you see a UFO or alien, "Don't make any hostile motions. Don't try to kill them. Get as many witnesses as possible. Take photographs."

Andrus is convinced that UFOs exist, and he thinks the mystery will be solved within his lifetime. But he has witnessed the phenomenon only once. It was Aug. 15, 1948, and he was on vacation in Phoenix when his son noticed four silver spheres floating slowly through the sky.

They were not weather balloons, Andrus insists. He barely had heard of flying saucers, a term coined in 1947, but he was intrigued as the four each suddenly disappeared as they drifted into a certain spot in the sky.

UFOs in Oklahoma? Sightings have residents abuzz

By Matthew Schofield
Special to the Eagle-Tribune

WELCH, Okla. — Whatever they were, the two, 9-foot, green, glowing, thin beings that may or may not have had heads certainly weren't Oklahomans.

The England family, out driving when they saw the things pop from a round object that decidedly was not a car, got mighty worried about that.

"We were driving down this gravel road out south and this round thing with two red lights was blocking our way," said Shirley England, the mother. "Then these green, glowing things popped out. Me, Debbie, John, Sarah, the baby and a neighbor girl, we all saw it. I don't know what it was, but we're all pretty jumpy around here now."

The Englands are not alone. Between

Oct. 8 and Oct. 16, more than 100 people in northeastern Oklahoma and southeastern Kansas reported seeing white, red, yellow, and green or blue lights zipping through the dark sky or hovering over trees or houses.

Only the Englands, who Craig County Sheriff Jess Walker said are not the type

The lights sometimes were stationary or moving slowly but often traveled about the speed of a small plane.

Occasionally, however, the lights "in the snap of your finger, or the blink of an eye, are across the horizon, and I guarantee you we don't have anything in our Army that could catch those buggers," said Jack Young, an Ottawa County commissioner.

The overwhelming feeling in the region is bemusement. Was this some cosmic trick? Were secret weapons being tested? And, if not, just what the heck were folks seeing?

"I've read stories before about people who've seen this stuff, and I've always thought they were idiots," said Larry Murdock of Columbus, Kan. "But I looked at the lights through the binoculars, and I never was so shocked in all my life.

"There it was, the traditional flying saucer, spherical and turning. Honest to God, I believe it's something from another planet. I just hope no Barney Fife-type decides to go shooting up whatever it is."

Jim Green, a police officer and Miami civil defense director, said craft from outer space might be going a bit far.

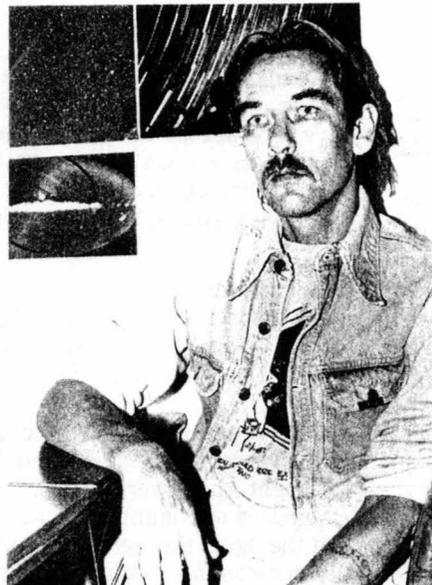
"If we had 12 witnesses to a robbery

Strangers in the night

A Winnipeg astronomy buff claims a UFO sighting

The night sky at mid-northern latitudes presents a remarkable panorama: the familiar constellations, the thick belt of the Milky Way, the electromagnetic tapestry of aurora borealis—all punctuated by the periodic streak of a meteor as it meets a fiery death high in the atmosphere. Amateur astronomers regularly watch the night sky for these and other sights. Most of the time, that's all they see. But when Winnipegger Carl Weselak turned his gaze skyward late in the evening on Thanksgiving Day, he observed an inexplicable series of objects move across the sky over a period of three hours. Mr. Weselak's sighting, subsequently corroborated by others, has added an intriguing new entry to the world-wide log of Unidentified Flying Objects.

Mr. Weselak, 36, was looking east, out the window of his downtown apartment, just after 11 p.m. "I was just standing at my window, trying to make a map of naked-eye stars in the sky, and they showed up," he recalls. He observed a total of 10 objects in five separate sightings. The first was a boomerang-shaped object which zipped across the eastern sky from north to south. The second sighting a few minutes later was even more vivid. "There was a group of three ball-shaped objects going north to south, just like three airplanes flying in formation. I didn't look away until I



Weselak: Coloured balls and boomerangs.

know what satellites look like. This, I've never seen before." The speed of the objects also convinced him they weren't terrestrial in origin.



"All of them took no more than 10 seconds to go from horizon to horizon."

Local UFO researchers believe Mr. Weselak witnessed a "true" UFO. "Speaking broadly, out of 100 (UFO) reports, I would say 98 of them are going to be identified as prosaic items. There may be one or two or three of them that remain unidentified by qualified people," says Edward Barker, a producer at the Manitoba Planetarium and director of the Manitoba Centre for UFO Studies. Since the original newspaper story about Mr. Weselak's sightings, others have come forward with similar reports. Two people have told Mr. Barker they saw UFOs the same day as Mr. Weselak, but in the southwestern part of the city, while another man reportedly saw a boomerang-shaped object hovering over a downtown park. "The main descriptions that we've had are bound together by the boomerang shapes—some are just a configuration of lights in the shape of a boomerang," says Mr. Barker. Along with other local UFO researchers, he is trying to determine if any "prosaic" items in the air on the night in question can explain what Mr. Weselak and the others saw.

The latest sightings provide more data to be entered into computer registries maintained by Mr. Barker and others like him around the world. Manitoba has already experienced a number of curious events this year—including a possible landing: a perfectly symmetrical circle 20 feet across was found this summer in a farmer's field a few miles north of Winnipeg. "Nobody saw anything associated with it. There didn't seem to be any other tracks in the field," says Mr. Barker.

Although most UFO researchers are convinced sightings such as Mr.

RENE MAUTHE

RENE MAUTHE

But thousands of others — from police chiefs and sheriffs to county commissioners, morticians, television cameramen and newspaper reporters, schoolchildren and retired citizens — claim to have seen the lights.

“Folks were lining their cars along country roads and sitting out to watch the lights dance in the sky,” said Commerce Police Chief Bob Baine. “I’d say that around here, more people saw them than didn’t.”

The lights often flew high but frequently dipped to tree level or just below. For a week, they appeared every night between 8 p.m. and midnight. The lights appeared to rotate as they moved.

Those who said they observed these lights drew pictures of a ball-shaped or a partly deflated football-shaped ship. And though many people said they thought they were within a mile of the object, no one heard any engine noise.

give stories this similar, we’d have a pretty good case,” he said. “Something is out there, probably some experimental aircraft.

“But here’s what gets me. It rose as if going straight up, hovered over a house then took off with no noise.”

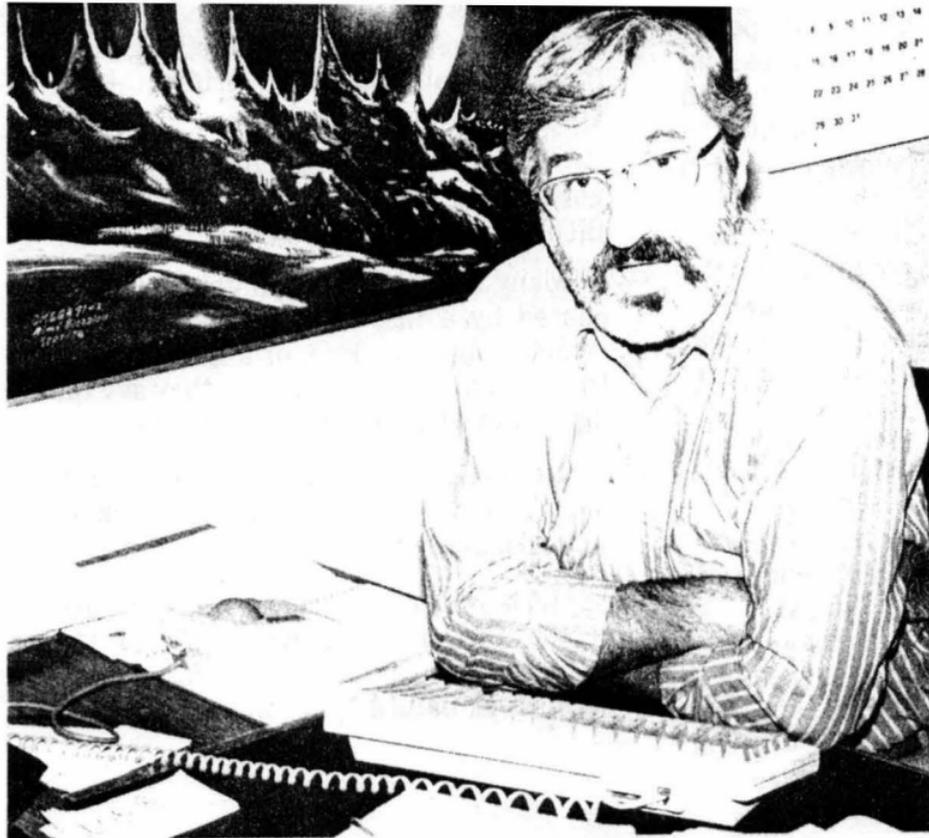
Many said the lights might have been caused by a fast helicopter, a glider, a remote-controlled kite, or a military-controlled mini-balloon. But then they say the lights moved unlike any of those things.

And police said that during the sightings, radar controllers in Tulsa, Okla., said no planes were flying in the area.

Mark Paonessa, professor of physics at the University of Kansas, said the sightings could be accounted for by any number of natural phenomena.

disappeared in the night. By this time, Mr. Weselak was aware that something unusual was happening, and he had begun feverishly writing notes while he scanned the sky. "All my emotions were just going wild because I couldn't believe what I was seeing. But I knew exactly what it was when I was seeing it."

Several things Mr. Weselak noticed helped convince him that these were not terrestrial aircraft. The ball-shaped objects were illuminated with yellowish-orange lights, not the red, green and white lights found on airplanes, and the boomerang-shaped objects were simply too out of the ordinary to be anything but UFOs. "I used to build airplanes at Bristol Aerospace," he says. "I used to follow airshows. I



Ufologist Barker: *Weselak's was probably a 'true' UFO sighting.*

plained, they do not agree that they necessarily represent evidence of superior alien civilizations. Christopher Rutkowski, a Winnipeg associate of the Chicago-based Centre for UFO Studies and author of a recent book, *Visitations*, says of the Manitoba sightings: "At present, all we can really say is that certain unusual objects are being seen by a great number of people. In some instances—and I emphasize some—there's no immediate explanation for them." But having seen a UFO with his own eyes, Mr. Weselak is not nearly so circumspect. "The second sighting," he says, "totally converted me to the belief that there are other forms of life in the universe."

—Rene Mauthe

UFO reported in King, Queen

By Mark Holmberg
Times-Dispatch staff writer

No headless giants emerged, no green rays erupted. And no mysterious scorched earth has been discovered in King and Queen County.

But the Richmond area joined the swelling ranks of localities worldwide reporting recent UFO encounters.

"I feel like a space cadet," Sandy Taylor of Mechanicsville admitted yesterday.

Mrs. Taylor has felt a lot of things — excitement, fear, curiosity, embarrassment — since she, her two children and a relative saw an unidentified flying object for 30 minutes as they drove home from Tappahannock between 7:30 - 8 p.m. Monday night.

Her curiosity and excitement overrode her embarrassment. She called the Hanover police, Richmond International Airport, and finally, the newspaper. "I want to know if anybody else may have seen it," explained Mrs. Taylor, who has "never

seen anything like that before."

She was driving west on U.S. 360 in King and Queen County when she "... saw something out of the corner of my eye, a bright light." Moments later, the object appeared clearly, dead ahead.

"It looked like a pretty large star," 10-year-old Matt Taylor said. "But it started moving around."

"I saw a bright light in the sky," Stephanie Taylor, 13, remembered last night. "But then it just followed us all the way home from Tappahannock. I don't know what it was."

"We kept riding along the road," Mrs. Taylor said. "I was unnerved by the thing... at times it hovered right above the trees — it stayed ahead of us. At first it was on the right side of the road, then the left."

At one point, she said, the bright object "shot up in the air diagonally and met another object like it."

"Around Broadus Flats, maybe a little before, it looked like it was going to land. I really thought it was going to land on the road. It got



Staff photo by Masaaki Okada

FROM RUSSIA? — Sandy Taylor and her children, Matt and Stephanie, watched a strange light Monday night as they drove from Tappahannock to Mechanicsville.

bigger, larger, as it was going down."

Matt agreed. "It got pretty large at one time, but not close enough for details."

Mrs. Taylor admitted she's not good at estimating distances, particularly when upset, but she judged the object to be as close as several city blocks at one time and perhaps a mile or more away for the rest of the encounter. They lost sight of it as they approached Mechanicsville.

Last night she was still a little upset, but her children were taking it in stride. "I'd like to see one maybe a little bit closer," Stephanie said.

"I thought it was pretty neat," Matt added.

According to ufologists (those who study UFOs), the Taylors sighting is the most common, and of the type that usually has an earthly explanation.

But Henry Wellborn, administrative assistant of the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network, was intrigued by the sighting because of the huge numbers of recent UFO sightings in Florida, Alabama and Georgia.

"All over the Southeast," Wellborn said last night from Seguin, Texas. Typically, he said, the objects have been circular and red and have hung

in the air "stationary, hovering over trees, and zipping back and forth."

Sightings in Pensacola, Fla., represent "the largest case in modern UFO history with hundreds of witnesses and photographs," Wellborn said, not to mention close encounters of "the first, second, third and fourth kinds, maybe even a possible abduction. Some of the encounters have been within 10 yards."

The detailed photographs were thought to be "too good to be true," said Wellborn. But, so far, investigations have not exposed a hoax.

(With 2,000 investigators working, including one in Russia, the Mutual UFO Network is interested in investigating all sightings where witnesses are willing to fill out one of their reports and cooperate with investigators.)

Mrs. Taylor, a housewife who said she realizes some people may think she's daft, doesn't know whether the lights were an alien spacecraft or just unexplainable lights. But they certainly scared her.

"I feel like I've been in a dream," she said. "I wish I'd had my video camera... and I wish someone would explain it or admit they saw it too."

NOV-12-1989

Tales of flying steel balls spur UFO fever in South

By David Snyder
Newhouse News Service

GREENVILLE, Miss.—After 20 years as a pilot, Bill Kimmel isn't easily impressed by what he sees in the sky, including fiery meteors, planets and satellites crossing the heavens.

But the shiny object that resembled a giant steel ball hurtling through the air at 800 or 900 m.p.h., 200 feet below his left wing, was different.

"Now I've seen it all," Kimmel said.

Others around here—some willing to talk about it, some not—also said they have seen a speeding shiny ball.

And a substantial number of people, including several deputy sheriffs, have seen their own UFOs 84 miles to the northwest outside Pine Bluff, Ark.

An astronomer said the mysterious visitors might be nothing more than the planet Venus. But interest has spread regardless.

In the Greenville area, people have taken to going out on the Mississippi River levee, away from the lights, to seek out the flying ball that Kimmel said is about twice the size of a two-seater airplane.

In Arkansas, the UFO watchers frequent country roads, trying for a peek at whatever it is that's hovering out there at treetop level, quiet and watchful.

Kimmel remembers everything about his encounter with the ball on a Monday in October.

He was ferrying a Hollandale rice farmer, Felin Cooper, north to Missouri to pick up a farm machinery part. It was "one of those clear fall days where you can see forever," Kimmel said.

At 5:30 p.m., 40 miles south of

Memphis, Tenn., Kimmel saw what appeared to be a bright light about 30 miles to the northeast.

"It was shining like I've seen the sun shining on airplanes," he said. "I could tell it was moving fast, but I thought it was just a jet."

Within seconds, when the object crossed his flight path, Kimmel knew that he was looking at something new and weird.

"It was a solid round metal ball about twice the size of a light twin-engine airplane. No cockpit. No wings. No tail section. When it got behind me, the sun silhouetted the thing. I watched it for two or three seconds and it disappeared, like they put it in high gear.

"Just disappeared," Kimmel said. "I know it sounds weird, but that's what happened."

Cooper saw it, too, and was equally amazed.

Lee Abide Jr., a Greenville area crop duster, said he saw the same thing a few days earlier.

"I look up and see this thing," he said. "It moved quickly to the right, then to the left. It was round. It was more orange than yellow."

And then the sphere, which Abide estimates was 90 feet in diameter, was gone.

"I was fascinated," he said. "It's something from another universe."

It wasn't long, Abide said, before locals began showing up on the levee with binoculars, "waiting to see something."

Kimmel said two other pilots told him they've also seen UFOs. UFOs began popping up around Pine Bluff on Oct. 23.

The sheriff's office received a call from a woman in the Ladd community, about 10 miles to the south on Arkansas 81. Neighbors

had been watching something in the sky for an hour.

Sgt. Bernard Adams went out for a look, and there it was.

"It looked like it was 150 to 200 feet above treetop level," Adams said. "When we saw it, it was over southwest Pine Bluff. It looked like it would hover up a little bit, then it would hover down a little bit."

He said he and other deputies saw the same thing last Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights.

The Sheriff's Department has been flooded with calls from people who say they have seen it glittering in the sky, sometimes looking like it was ringed with a blue haze, or blue lights. The Federal Aviation Administration has told police that the object didn't show up on radar, perhaps because it was too low.

Charles Hemann, institutional assistant at the University of Arkansas Planetarium in Monticello, said he hasn't seen the UFO, but he may have an explanation, at least for the Pine Bluff sightings.

What people may be seeing is Venus, which picks up bright sunlight this time of the year and appears low near the southwest horizon.

Venus can look like it is moving, Hemann said, because gases in the Earth's atmosphere play tricks on sky watchers.

"I've seen it do a lot of weird things," he said.

But those who have seen the object say it is extremely close, not millions of miles away.

"I know there's something out there," Kimmel said. "I really think they had to come from space. I believe they're easing in, showing us a little bit more all of the time.

"They don't want us to panic."

New brand of fear stalks

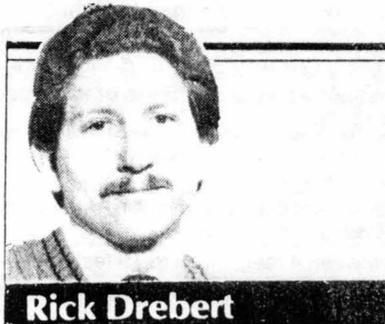
F or a 9-year-old boy, Grants Pass, Ore., was almost heaven.

Every evening, lumberjacks swarmed home from the forests surrounding the Rogue River Valley carrying chainsaws, axes and tales of hairy creatures who ravaged camps and lumbered across open clearings.

To hear the loggers tell it, caves riddled the mountains and in them families of Yetis made their homes.

Schoolyards buzzed about the latest sightings of Bigfoot, learned third-hand from a logger's son, who heard it from his father, who heard it from someone else on the job.

Few claimed they actually



Rick Drebert

came eyeball to eyeball with a Sasquatch, much less got a picture, but the stories were enough to keep the nape of a youngster's neck prickling when walking through the woods at night.

Then, there was Belle.

Belle was a teen-age girl who frequented mountain trails behind her house on horseback. A

Sasquatch allegedly crossed the trail in front of her steed, who promptly went wild. To hear her brother Daryl tell it, Belle barely escaped with her life.

Another reliable source recounted an incident involving an old woman who lived in a cabin in Wilderville, about 10 miles out of town. A Yeti disturbed her repose in the dark of the night, by beating on her house, attempting to extract a litter of puppies from under her porch.

The old woman blasted the creature with a shotgun as it ran from the house back to the forest.

She said it *screamed like a man*.

As my peers and I grew taller, so did the tales, and, of course,

our skepticism kept pace — at least until the infamous party where Tim and company saw the green, glowing eyes a few feet outside the firelight of their camp.

The partiers fled with the news back to town and the report re-energized the old stories we knew by heart.

Our fears were joyfully revived.

childhood

Periodically, carloads of us teen-agers would scout the backroads by moonlight for signs of the rude, overgrown fellow who never once showed himself. Our official Bigfoot calls echoed eerily through the canyons unanswered.

It was fun to be scared.

Yet in all those Sasquatch stories no one ever died. No one ever had his arms ripped off or blood drunk by the monster.

Fear never gave way to terror.

It may seem a little boring now, but the fear we had was plenty to keep us edgy; we didn't need Freddy to pique our senses with terror.

Fright was just a feeling, not a personality. Scarry things stayed in the movies or in stories. Horror didn't live in your bedroom or in your parents' room, whom you trusted.

There wasn't any Nightmare on Elm Street.

Times have changed.

Now movie makers and authors have packaged and sell terror.

Of course, they are just giving the public what it wants — *plus a*

little bit more.

Old-fashioned fear has turned to high-tech horror and this horror appears to be nearly outdated already, evolving to a more "sophisticated" level . . . to which the children in our society may, or may not adjust.

ESSEX CHRONICLE
CHELMSFORD
OCT 13 1989
(ENG)

UFO sightings

SAUCER and triangular shaped objects have once again been seen in the Mid-Essex skies.

The latest sighting in Chelmsford was over the Springfield estate when two people taking their dog for a walk saw a rounded object.

The saucer shape bore red, green and white lights and after about 10 minutes sped off, much faster than an aircraft.

The object was spotted last Wednesday evening.

There have also been various sightings of saucer and triangular shaped objects over Tilbury, Grays, Corringham, Southend, Canvey and Stanford.

A diamond shaped craft was also seen by two pensioners over Southend. There were two tiers of windows and the object was much larger than an aircraft.

The UFO hot line number is 0268 286079.

Boo! That thing could be Bigfoot

by Matt Neufeld
OF WASHINGTON TIMES

On May 27 in Odenton, Md., two others, ages 11 and 13, were playing on their family's boat, stored at a wooded area in the back yard. It was a day the boys would not forget.

They looked up to discover a hairy "thing" peering at them through a patch of brush. They described the creature as being 3 to 4 feet tall and covered with brownish-black hair, with a lone white stripe running down one leg.

The boys sprang off the boat and itched as the creature ran through the nearby clearing, visible for about 100 to 80 feet. In subsequent interviews with their parents, neighbors

and a Greenbelt man who reaches such sightings, the boys were firmly maintained the creature was not a deer and that it ran on two legs and had long arms.

The incident has become the latest sighting of a "Bigfoot" creature in Maryland.

Since the 1600s, when Piscataway and Susquehanna Indians of Maryland worshipped giant hairy half-men and painted such creatures on their breastplates, there have been "sightings" in the state, said Mark Opsasnick, 27, the Greenbelt researcher.

At the fanciful Halloween season, when imaginations are piqued by such phenomena and the supernatural, Mr. Opsasnick strives for realism.

He has carefully researched and listed Bigfoot sightings in the state — elsewhere — while attempting a main objective amid reports of ugly, smelly monsters.

"When I get involved in this, I try to convince people Bigfoot exists," said Mr. Opsasnick, a social worker with the Montgomery County Department of Social Services.

It is not merely trying to increase public awareness that monsters like Bigfoot are allegedly seen, they could be real, and, more importantly, they play a large role in Maryland folk-lore. All I'm saying is, people allege these things, and reports do exist."

And come in they do. Perhaps no other unexplained phenomenon has been more widespread in Maryland and the country than Bigfoot-type creatures. In Maryland, the sightings have been reported in all the state's 23 counties except Queen Anne's, Caroline, Kent and Talbot.

"and found her German shepherd torn in half, totally mutilated." In another account, a man named Ronald L. Jones encountered a Bigfoot in the Tracy's Landing area of Anne Arundel County. Mr. Jones claimed to fight with the thing, and

WHO OR WHAT IS IT?

Based on more than 300 reported sightings of the creature in Maryland, here's a profile.

Eye color: The predominant color noted by witnesses is red, followed by yellow, white, green, black and orange.

Hair color: The predominant color is black, followed by brown, white, silver, gray, tan and even green.

Height: Anywhere between 4 feet, 1 inch to 10 feet.

Odor: Bigfoot has been described as smelling sulfurous, musty or like a cesspool.

Tracks: Three-, four- and five-toed footprints have been found.

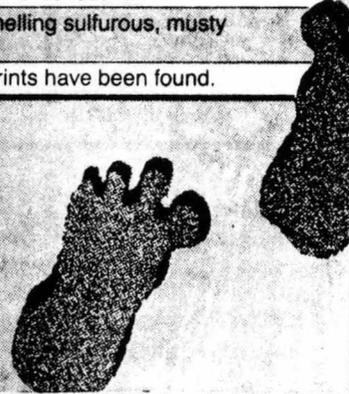
SIGHTINGS

(from 1600 to 1989)

The creature has been reported seen in all but four of Maryland's 23 counties, including:

County	Number of times seen
Baltimore	61
Harford	54
Carroll	50
Prince George's	49
Frederick	30
Charles	20
Anne Arundel	13
Montgomery	9

Source: Bigfoot chronicler Mark Opsasnick



said he hit Bigfoot "with a tire iron," Mr. Opsasnick said. Investigators had trouble believing him.

Most scientists and anthropologists doubt that a long-lost race of Bigfoot creatures, half-man and half-ape, exists anywhere.

"Mainstream science says, 'No, there are no monsters,'" said Mark Chorvinsky, a fellow strange-phenomena researcher who lives in Rockville and is considered an authority on unexplained creatures. He is the publisher of "Strange" magazine, a director and writer of short films and the owner of the Dream Wizards store on Rockville Pike that specializes in the unusual.

"Scientists will never consider anything as evidence unless a Bigfoot is caught," Mr. Opsasnick said. "Everything until then is considered soft evidence."

People have made plaster casts of so-called tracks, but they could be fake, both researchers said.

They also acknowledge that many "sightings" could be animals such as deer, bears or dogs; an ape or gorilla that escaped from a traveling zoo, circus or research lab; hallucinations due to alcohol or drugs; or just elaborate hoaxes. Mr. Chorvinsky noted that some sightings in the early 1900s were actually hairy or shaggy men.

As development eats up wooded areas, the men doubt Bigfoot will be seen as often as in the past.

"There's not enough open land," Mr. Opsasnick said. "Something like a Bigfoot creature would require 10,000 to 15,000 calories a day. You're talking about something that's 800 pounds."

"Bigfoot has allegedly been seen in every state except Rhode Island and Hawaii," Mr. Opsasnick said. There is no explanation why Rhode Island has missed out on the fun. But the widespread sightings, he said, "show how much American consciousness has been affected by this. It's an important part of our popular culture. I'm more interested in that than going out and finding Bigfoot."

Sometimes Bigfoot finds him. After Odenton residents called him about the incident in May, he did some checking, finding "there were dozens of sightings in 1968 a few miles south of there."

The Indian beliefs are mentioned in early accounts of explorers. There are Maryland newspaper accounts through the decades, including reports of Bigfoot sightings in Frederick County in the early 1960s — when it was called "Dwayo."

In a 1976 Baltimore County case, "dozens" of residents in the White Marsh area reported seeing Bigfoot during a three-week period. A bit of credibility was added when six Baltimore County Police officers were among the witnesses.

A woman called Baltimore County Police "and claimed a giant ape was tearing her dog apart," Mr. Opsasnick said. An officer arrived

Great balls of fire! UFOs buzz towns

By DAVID SNYDER
Staff writer

GREENVILLE, Miss. — Bill Kimmel is not easily impressed with what he sees in the sky. After 20 years as a pilot, Kimmel figures he's seen it all.

That includes jets, shooting stars, fiery meteors hurtling toward the earth, planets that sometimes seem to move and

satellites crossing the sky on their predictable, computerized routes.

The veteran crop duster has walked away from a midair collision over a Mississippi Delta cotton field, and he has survived seven engine failures. He's accustomed to playing tag with power lines and oak trees.

The sights and the close encounters are just part of the business, he figures.

But the shiny object that resembled a giant steel ball hurtling through space at 800 or 900 mph, 200 feet below his left wing, was different.

"Now, I've seen it all," the big, pragmatic man said recently.

Others around here, some willing to talk about it, some not, have seen the speeding ball bearing too.

And a substantial number of people, including several deputy sheriffs, have seen their own version of UFOs 84 miles to the northwest, outside Pine Bluff, Ark.

In the Greenville area, peo-

381 CF. UFO

From Page 1

ple have taken to going out on the Mississippi River levee, away from the lights, to seek out the flying ball bearing that Kimmel says looks to be about the size of a small two-seater airplane. In Arkansas the UFO watchers frequent country roads, trying for a peek at whatever it is that's hovering out there at tree-top level, quiet and watchful.

Kimmel remembers everything about his encounter with the ball bearing on a crisp Monday evening a month ago.

He was ferrying a Hollandale rice farmer, Felin Cooper, to Missouri where they would pick up a farm machinery part. They were traveling north "on one of those clear fall days where you can see forever," Kimmel said.

At 5:30 in the afternoon, 40 miles south of Memphis, Tenn., Kimmel saw what appeared to be a bright light about 30 miles to the northeast.

"It was shining like I've seen the sun shining on airplanes," he said. "I could tell it was moving fast, but I thought it was just a jet."

Within seconds, when the object crossed his flight path, Kimmel knew that he was looking at something new and weird.

"It was a solid round metal ball about twice the size of a light twin-engine airplane. No cockpit. No wings. No tail section. When

it got behind me the sun silhouetted the thing. I watched it for two or three seconds and it disappeared, like they put it in high gear.

"Just disappeared," Kimmel said, amazement in his voice. "I know it sounds weird, but that's what happened."

Cooper saw it too, and was equally amazed.

Even with Cooper's corroboration, Kimmel was feeling a little lonely in his belief that he'd seen something not of this planet until he talked to Lee Abide Jr., another Greenville area crop duster and, like Kimmel, the son of a crop duster.

You're not going to believe me, Kimmel said to Abide.

"I know," Abide told him. "You saw a UFO."

Abide, it seemed, had seen the same thing a few days earlier while standing out by the gate leading to the Abide Aero Service.

"I look up and see this thing," he said. "It moved quickly to the right, then to the left. It was round. It was more orange than yellow."

And then the sphere, 80 to 100 feet in diameter, was gone, Abide said.

"I was fascinated," Abide said. "It's something from another universe."

It wasn't long, Abide said, before locals began showing up on the levee with binoculars, "waiting to see something."

Kimmel said two other pilots have told him they've also seen UFOs.

A fellow crop duster was flying at night when a UFO was suddenly hovering close. The cockpit of his small plane was bathed in bright light, he said.

"He talked like it was right on top of him. It about scared him to death," Kimmel said.

UFOs began popping up around Pine Bluff on Oct. 23.

The sheriff's office received a call from a woman in the Ladd community, about 10 miles to the south on Arkansas 81. Neighbors had been watching something in the sky for an hour.

Sgt. Bernard Adams went out for a look, he said, and there it was.

"It looked like it was 150 to 200 feet above treetop level," he said. "When we saw it, it was over southwest Pine Bluff. It looked like it would hover up a little bit, then it would hover down a little bit." Adams said he and other deputies saw the same thing Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights.

But it was quick, he said.

"If you batted your eye, poof, it was gone."

The sheriff's department was flooded with calls from people who said they had seen it, glittering in the sky, sometimes looking like it was ringed with a blue haze, or blue lights. The Federal Aviation Administration was called. The agency told police the object didn't show up on radar, probably because it was too low.

On one occasion, the object dropped so low that it was below the treetops, Adams said.

Cynetria Myles, 13, saw the

CON'T
NEXT
PAGE

night visitor several times, she said.

"There was a ray of light that came from the middle of it," she said. "It was red."

Charles Hemann, institutional assistant at the University of Arkansas Planetarium in Monticello, said he hasn't seen the UFO, but he may have an explanation, at least for the Pine Bluff sightings.

What people may be seeing is Venus, which picks up bright sunlight this time of the year and appears low near the southwest horizon.

Venus can look like it is moving, he said.

That's because gases in the Earth's atmosphere play tricks on sky watchers.

"I've seen it do a lot of weird things," he said. "I've seen it look like it has moved a whole degree in the sky. I've seen it look like a rainbow."

But those who have seen the object say it's extremely close, not millions of miles away.

"I know there's something out there," Kimmel said. "I really think they had to come from space. I believe they're easing in, showing us a little bit more all of the time.

"They don't want us to panic."

But Maj. Lloyd Harrison of the sheriff's office, who has seen the object, said Hemann's explanation is good enough for him.

"I don't worry about it," he said. "It didn't look like anything that was going to land in Jefferson County."

NY D-38 NEW YORK DAILY NEWS OCT-12-1989

Queens a mecca for

UFOs?

By JAMES PETERS and DON GENTILE

Daily News Staff Writers

Yo, Gorbachev. So you got some space aliens landing in the Soviet Union?

Well, chief, we got 'em coming down in droves right here in Queens. *Maybe.*

Hot on the heels of official but dubious Tass news agency reports of knobby-headed giant aliens landing 300 miles from Moscow, comes this revelation: Aliens have been visiting Queens for at least 20 years, most recently in Kissena Park, Flushing.

It's *really* true, said Bill Knell, head of Island Skywatch, a UFO investigative group. He took skeptical reporters to the park yesterday to

show the spot where an alien spaceship *actually* touched down last March 9.

500 sightings?

Knell swore there have been 500 sightings of UFOs in Queens in the last 20 years and "80% are true" because "people in Queens know what they see."

Knell pointed to a circular patch of gray-colored crushed rock near the park lake. He called it the "affected landing circle" of an alien ship.

The landing, he explained, was spotted at night by passengers and the driver on a Q-65 bus.

The mesmerized group watched for five minutes while a "white pulsating light" emanated from the park, said Knell. A day after the

sighting, a woman passenger phoned Knell's UFO hotline and he was on the case.

Samples of the rock were sent to Ted Benitt, earth and space science professor at Nassau Community College.

Not local rock

Benitt's conclusion: The rock is not "indigenous" to Queens, said Knell.

Knell neglected to mention what Benitt told the Daily News: He never said the rock came from outer space; it could have come from New Jersey.

Knell also never questioned Joe Mackey, 60, a retiree, who volunteers his time to clean the park.

"It's a figment of someone's

imagination," said Mackey, explaining that the circle of crushed rock appeared when the Parks Department took down a tree.

Nevertheless, Parks Commissioner Henry Stern has asked department astronomer Dr. Gregory Matloff to look into the matter of whether the crushed rock was deposited by space aliens "or the Sanitation Department."

"We welcome the aliens to our parks and are happy to have them aboard," said Stern, with tongue firmly in cheek.

Linda Terzian, a Flushing resident, walking her dog through the park, sort of summed it all up.

"Why would aliens want to land in Kissena Park?" she asked.

AL-DI ANNISTON STAR
OCT 13 1989



DeArmanville residents spot unidentified flying objects

First Veronezh in the Soviet Union, now DeArmanville.

Several days after the Soviet press reported the landing of an alien spaceship in the southern Russian city, numerous DeArmanville residents reported seeing a peculiar flying object Thursday night.

No landings were reported, however.

One caller, who sounded young, described it as having bright white lights, looking like a flying plate and sounding like a train engine.

"They probably heard a train going by as an airplane was flying overhead," an Anniston police officer said.

A similar sighting was also reported in Weaver on Wednesday night, police added.

Strange lights at Castlegar

Once again, a credible witness describes an inexplicable wild display in the night sky



BARBARA TANDORY

Witness Willness: 'I know I saw it, and so did my wife.'

meteors on any given night. Another shower, known as the Perseid, starts at the end of July, but had not then begun. "Had it been in August it would be more likely," he said. Another planetarium employee, an operator on duty at the McMillan Observatory, noted that many amateur astronomers were out that night for the Pleiades eclipse, at 3:30 a.m. "For sure, they would have noticed anything unusual." The airport weather office reported no unusual weather phenomena. The airport itself was shut down for the night.

Nevertheless, strange nocturnal events are becoming commonplace in the Castlegar area this year. Other people have seen strange lights in the night for which there is no explanation.

In February and March, for instance, a number of independent witnesses, all residents of the neighbouring community of Thrums, reported seeing bright star-like objects, travelling in erratic courses over the same landmarks — the Brilliant Bridge, the Brilliant Dam, the Castlegar Airport, and the mountains closing off the narrow river valley at the edge of the landing field.

On February 24, as dusk fell, Kathy Tarasoff and her daughter Stacy, 9, saw a dazzling white light streaking towards the airport, flying so low over Mount Sentinel that they thought it was a plane crash-landing. They thought they saw its landing lights.

On the evening of March 6, a day after the massive solar flare began, Melody Tarasoff

BARBARA TANDORY



Witness Semenoff

Carter Willness, 35, is not the kind of man you can dismiss as a crank. Married with three children, he is respected in Castlegar as a successful smelter worker. Therefore last July 28, when he described what he had witnessed the night before for a full hour that began as he drove alone from work to his home at East Raspberry, five miles north of town, people listened. Here is the story he told:

It was about 2:00 a.m. He was passing the Castlegar Airport, just outside the city limits, and was approaching the Brilliant Bridge on the Kootenay River at a point where it parallels one of the runway air corridors. Suddenly a "bright flash of light came streaking overhead." Was it an airplane? It couldn't be, he decided. It must be something else.

As he continued on, more flashes followed. "I thought maybe a nuclear war broke out or something," he said. "Then I kept getting these flashes from behind — bright streaks like meteors going across the sky." But he was sure they weren't meteors or some weather phenomena either. "I've seen meteors before, but nothing like this."

The show continued after he arrived home. He watched bewildered from his back deck. "All of a sudden there were flashes coming from over the airport. Then, every direction I looked, I'd see these flashes. They were all over the sky — towards Trail, towards Nelson, over in Pass Creek, and some were right in the valley, like close to the ground. It was "like somebody taking pictures with a flash

camera."

Soon another phenomenon appeared. "There seemed to be a kind of mist in the air. It was like hazy and not hazy." Yet, the night was crystal clear, unlit except for starlight and a crescent moon, two days past its last quarter. When there came about 15 bright streaks in quick succession, he decided to awaken his wife, Darleen. Out of a deep sleep, she joined him on the deck. "It seemed like the sky, the whole sky, kept lighting up," she said. Was it the Aurora Borealis? She dismissed the thought. A Manitoba native, she knew what the Northern Lights looked like, and it wasn't like this.

Castlegar's citizenry tried to figure it out. There were theories, all eventually dismissed. That same night, for instance, astronomers everywhere were watching the sky to observe a rare astronomical event, the occultation by the moon of the Pleiades, a bright cluster of stars, known as the "Seven Sisters," in the constellation Taurus. But nothing untoward was seen or reported, and what they were observing could not explain the Willness account.

The Vancouver Planetarium received no reports of intense meteor activity. True, sporadic "shooting stars" have been seen of late since this was a meteor season. But the Delta Aquarid shower, which started the next morning, was a meteor shower without a sharp peak and passed uneventfully. Paul Deans, a spokesman at the planetarium, said the Delta Aquarid does not produce a lot of

and her sister-in-law, Lil Perepolkin, saw three "incredible light stars," two of them travelling together, back and forth, and the third one, after separating, hovering over a nearby ski hill. On the same night, in the small hours of March 7, a transformer blew up at Celgar outside Castlegar, causing a fire that shut down the 380-employee pulp mill for more than a month, and there was a power blackout all over town. The causes remain unknown.

In the weeks preceding the sightings last winter, the neighbourhood in Thrums experienced three power surges in a row, with "energy shooting out of the light bulbs," as one witness described, and had TV sets going off and on. Months earlier, Melody Semenoff and her husband, Charlie, were startled in the middle of the night by a "flash like somebody taking a picture" outside their bedroom window. Their neighbour Gordon Paetkau, an amateur astronomer with a domed planetarium in his back yard, has also seen a "rare and unforgettable" light in the bedroom — "like a nuclear explosion in the sky." His wife, Angae, has developed a simple explanation for several of her sightings of dark objects with red and yellow lights aflash on the underside, hovering above the surface of the Kootenay River across the highway from their home. Her private theory: They are aliens far from their home. She thinks they are visiting in their space craft. "They're coming for our water," she believes.

Over the years there have been sightings of light objects, anecdotal and unreported, of strange lights deep in the dark Slokan valley, in the heart of Russian Doukhobor settlements, and even just beyond the city limits of Castlegar — nearly always near water or power installations, in a setting where rivers, lakes and streams are constant features of the local geography. West Kootenay Power operates three of its four dams in this quiet corner of high mountains and deep waters where the sightings occurred. Some people call them UFOs.

There was again a power failure in Castlegar next morning after Carter Willness' sighting. The power company found a clear culprit, a bird stuck in a power installation. But it could not account for power interruptions earlier in the night in South Castlegar, an area not affected by the outage. (Problems of this sort are automatically corrected by the company's switching equipment.) According to a resident in the south end of town, a lawyer, the lights went out briefly during the night. His alarm clock had stopped at the same time Mr. Willness reported seeing the lights.

Mr. Willness himself has no theory about what he saw. But he insists that he saw it, that his eyes did not fool him. All he had to drink that night, he said, was coffee. "I've seen it, and my wife is a witness."

— Barbara Tandory

Flying saucer mystery over Wycke Hill

A FLYING saucer in Maldon?

That is what Wycke Hill resident Eve Joyce reckons she may have seen in thickets near her home.

Soon after midnight on Tuesday night, Frederick Joyce called his wife Eve to their bedroom window, which overlooks the hill near Spital Road.

"There was this big mass of light, bigger than our house," said Mrs Joyce. "It seemed to have little lights in it. It was yellow and didn't seem to be moving."

She compared it to a fair-ground roundabout and said it had disappeared when they looked again two hours later. "It was very weird."

Mrs Joyce said she spoke to a neighbour the next morning, who had also seen the strange lights on the hill and thought they might have been a flying saucer.

There may be a down-to-earth reason for the phenomenon: "It could have been gipsies but it is a long way from where they are sited," said Mrs Joyce. "I'm not seeing things!" she added.

This is the third mysterious incident Mrs Joyce said she has seen since the beginning of September. About two weeks ago she saw what looked like a small fire on the hill, and last week "a huge cloud of smoke" in the same area. Both were seen in the early hours of the morning.

WI-D34 WAUSAU DAILY HERALD
NOV-3 1989

Woman reports UFO near Mosinee

Wausau Daily Herald

At least one person saw an unexplained sphere-shaped object hovering above Locker Road in Mosinee Thursday night.

"I was so scared I must have driven home about 70 mph," A 19-year-old Mosinee woman said this morning. She asked that her name not be used.

The sighting occurred about 9:30 p.m.

When she got home, she told her father what she saw. He reported the sighting to the Marathon County Sheriff's Department at 9:36 p.m.

"I was coming down the road when I saw red and white lights," the woman said this morning, her voice cracking with emotion. "I thought 'My God, what's going on.' I thought it was a plane that was going to crash.

"It started following me and sped up real fast.

"It was fairly low ... it was rolling and tumbling."

A Central Wisconsin Airport official this morning said Northwest Airlinck flight 3195 from Detroit, Mich., was in the Mosinee area at the time.

The plane landed at CWA at 9:35 p.m. and would have been in the area since 9:25 p.m.

¹³⁸¹ Flying disk seen elsewhere, UFO center says

BY JAMIE WISE
Democrat State Desk

A spokesman at the Seattle-based UFO National Reporting Center said Friday that sightings of a bright, circular flying disk reported Thursday night in Arkansas could be the same object seen elsewhere in the nation.

"It sounds familiar with calls I've gotten from Knoxville, Tenn., and Oklahoma," said Robert Gribble of the UFO Reporting Center. "From the descriptions I've heard, it definitely isn't a meteor or satellite."

"We might have a real UFO on our hands this time."

A "cone-shaped" object with bright flashing lights and a red tail that flashed across the night sky was reported by several law enforcement officials and residents in seven counties.

The reported sightings began about 6:55 p.m. near Newport (Jackson County) and continued through 8:30 p.m. in Mountain Home (Baxter County).

The first sightings Thursday night were reported by two Arkansas State Police troopers at

some Brinkley railroad tracks when he saw the flash of light about 7:30 p.m.

"I don't know what it was, but it definitely wasn't an airplane because it didn't have wings, and it wasn't a meteor because it wasn't fiery enough and it was flying too low," he said. "I've never seen anything like it before in my life, but I'll tell you, it was beautiful."

Farrell's cousin, who requested anonymity, described the object.

"It was moving east to west and had a whitish light and

See UFO, Page 7B

¹³⁸² For some, faith in UFOs springs from experiences

Yes, I can say I surely believe in UFOs. I've had two experiences.

When the first incident occurred, I was living on Hoyt Road at the time in the Old Stage stopoff built in 1812. One night when a son of mine was very young, he fell out of bed and my husband and I ran upstairs to see what happened. We put him back in his bed and then started down the stairs. As we looked out a window before going down we saw a round dome-like light on the ground at the side of our place. We stood there for over half an hour and watched it. When it left it went straight up.

Well, we didn't say anything because in 1953 you didn't dare to say anything about these things or they would say something was wrong with you.

The second time, my husband was not at home. He shod horses and would take his equipment and be gone for a couple days at a time.

I was expecting my daughter, Aleta, at the time. It was raining and suddenly the back door blew open, and I could not shut it. A very large ball of fire, appeared in the back yard and I was frightened to death.

I called my Uncle Max to come down and help me close the door. Now, he was a very strong man and it took the two of us with all our strength to close that door. This red ball of light was there all the time.

After Aleta was born neighbors came calling and everyone remarked how brown her skin was. My husband and I

Newport. Sightings were also reported in Brinkley (Monroe County), Forrest City (St. Francis County), West Memphis (Crittenden County), Batesville (Independence County), Pochontas (Randolph County) and Mountain Home.

Witnesses interviewed by the *Arkansas Democrat* in six cities all said the night was "clear as a bell" and moonless. They also gave similar accounts of the object.

The best description came from Paul Farrell, a Brinkley engineer. Farrell said he was talking with his cousin near

¹³⁸¹ UFO

• Continued from Arkansas Page was flying at a relatively low altitude," the cousin, a Brinkley attorney said. "It was disk-shaped, and I saw blinking lights, and it had a steep trajectory and a red tail."

The men also said the object made popping noises - like static electricity - before the tail disappeared.

"The first thing I had to do was sit down and try to rationalize the thing and to figure out what we saw," the cousin said.

"The first thing I did was sat down and drew it," said Farrell, an engineer. "I didn't want to forget what it looked like."

The cousins' second step was to go toward the center of Brinkley to see if anyone else saw the object. They ended up at City Hall where two men were standing on the steps.

"When we got there, these two guys were there and we asked them what they saw," the lawyer said. "Without telling them what we saw, they described the same thing - exactly."

just looked at each other and never voiced an opinion but she looked like she'd been scarred. She has very beautiful skin today but it's not brown anymore; this gradually faded.

MARLENE GATES,
Martville

NY-066 SYRACUSE
POST-STANDARD

OCT-22-1989

Pear-shaped UFO stuns author

A PEAR-SHAPED UFO has been sighted near the Downs.

The dark ominous shape came plummeting towards the earth and burst into flames at dusk on Friday, according to a startled eyewitness.

After it crashed to the ground in the Wannock and Folkington area a huge cloud of smoke rose above it.

When most of the smoke had cleared odd lights were spotted flitting around it which suddenly disappeared.

Local author Cecile Woodford stood stunned at her top flat window in Carmen Court, Willingdon, too frightened to investigate any wreckage.

She said, "It was about 7.15pm and was beginning to get dark. There was a bank of cloud in the far distance when this pear-shaped thing started to come down lower and lower.

"It came in front of the cloud and burst into flames, not just a flare it really burst and then it went down.

"Up came a huge cloud of smoke then odd dots of light were around it.

"It was as if something was following it."
The larger than life UFO was too big to be an air balloon, she said.

And nearby museum owner, Paul Foulkes-Halbard of Filching Manor, said he heard a loud explosion coming from the same area at about the same time.

"I was sitting in my study and heard this noise. It sounded like a metallic explosion and reminded me of a bad crash where a car had tumbled over and over."

No wreckage could be found.

The Ministry of Defence could offer no explanation as to what the strange object was.

UFO sighted at Library

STARGAZERS from throughout the country are expected to gather in Sheffield tomorrow for an international seminar that is out of this world.

"Flying saucers are real" is the title of the lecture to be presented by American nuclear physicist, Stanton Friedman, at the Central Library Theatre tomorrow afternoon.

He is to be chief lecturer at the seminar organised by the Independent UFO Network — an organisation formed about five years ago which is supported by the British UFO Research Association and has more than 100 members through-

out the North and Midlands.

Mr Friedman is a well-known expert on extra-terrestrial goings-on in Canada and the USA.

The organisers of the seminar, David Clarke, of Handsworth, Sheffield, and Philip Mantle, of Batley, are sceptics when it comes to UFOs and have recently written a book called Earthlights Revelation which suggests that they are the products of natural phenomena, particularly earthquakes.

The seminar will be from 1.30pm to 5pm and tickets cost £3 or £2 for students and OAPs.

SOUTHEND EVENING ECHO, ESSEX
OCT 11 1989

Space invaders fly across Essex skies

SIGHTINGS of flying saucers zooming through South East Essex are surging upwards.

And 19 families in the last year have said they have actually made contact with a creature from out of space — some 'losing' up to three hours of their lives in the close encounters.

Ms Sheridan Lane, of the East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Association, said 100 sky searchers contacted them between July '88 and July '89.

She said: "The number of sightings has dramatically increased. There seems to be more and more visitations by unidentified objects.

"Nineteen people have told us that they have made contact with an alien. In most cases individuals have been driving along when their car has suddenly stalled.

"Normally their memories have been vague as to what has actually happened and the amount of time they have lost

By ANDY STEPHENS

has varied between 20 minutes and three hours."

In the last fortnight dozens of people have contacted the society's hot line to report sightings.

Woken

● September 29: Two pensioners on their way home from bingo in Southend saw a huge diamond-shaped object, much bigger than an aeroplane, with a brilliant white light shining through two windows.

A Stanford-le-Hope man saw a triangular object circling above his house.

A Basildon couple watched an object with red, green and white lights hovering above the Basildon telephone exchange.

● October 1: A Tilbury widower was woken from his sleep at 12.15am by a bright white light illuminating his bedroom and garden. He could not see anything but heard a humming noise 20

which disappeared with the light after 15 minutes.

● October 2: A girl and her parents walking their dog along Underhill Road, South Benfleet, spotted a large triangular-shaped object in the sky, with red, green, blue and white lights. It sped away after 20 minutes.

● October 4: A Canvey couple saw a huge saucer shaped like a skate fish at about 9.30pm. They watched the object, which had red, green and white lights, for 10 minutes before it rapidly shot off.

● October 5: Just after midnight, seven people walking home from a party saw a huge, dark object floating above the Shell Oil Refinery in Corringham.

An hour later, a boy and a girl saw the same object at the same place. They watched it for 15 minutes.

Ms Sheridan said: "We are still investigating all these cases but so far we have uncovered no explanations. We believe each will be genuine."