



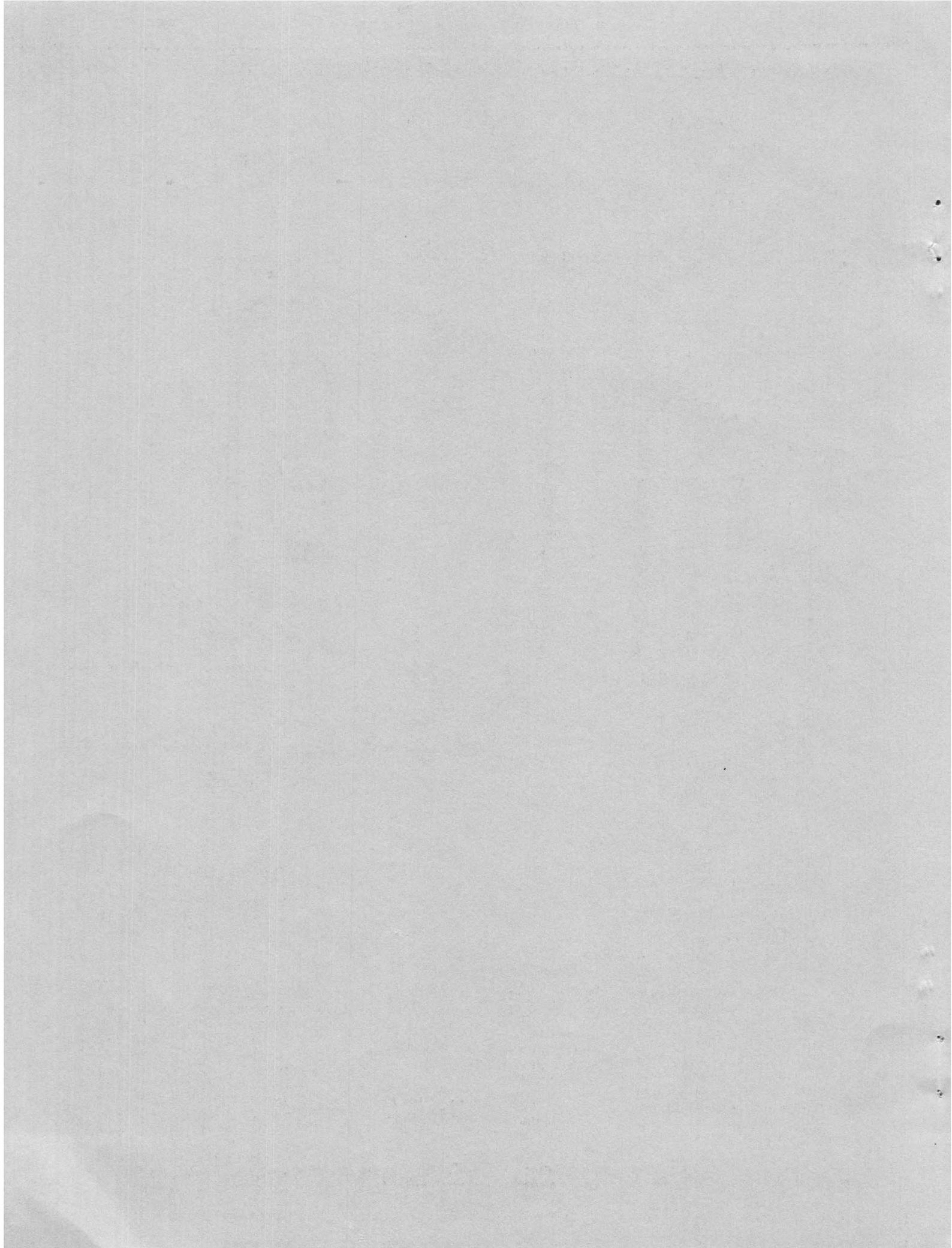
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1381

Believer says UFOs no flying fancy

By RUTH SHEEHAN
Raleigh Bureau

LINCOLNTON — Some people believe that President Harry Truman made a pact with an alien nation in the early 1950s that allowed creatures from outer space to set up shop beneath the Arizona desert.

Not George Fawcett.

Fawcett, an advertising sales representative for Park Newspapers and executive director of the N.C. Mutual UFO Network Inc., says he's seen no evidence to convince him that such a pact — or community for that matter — exists.

"Now, some people believe

there's a whole nation of humanoids living underneath the Arizona desert, but I don't believe it.

"Never have," said the 60-year-old Lincolnton man, who has been monitoring UFO activity in North Carolina and elsewhere for nearly 45 years.

For Fawcett, such spurious reports only degrade what for him has been a serious pursuit that began on Dec. 18, 1944.

On that day, the young Fawcett read a news item about "shiny silver balls in the sky." It changed his life.

Since then, in his spare time, the former journalist and restaurateur has filled 35 filing cabinets with 30,000 to

40,000 reports of confirmed sitings.

He has set up Mutual UFO Network chapters in several states, most recently in North Carolina, where approximately 200 members joined him in incorporating the group as an official non-profit organization last month.

"We want to pool our time, talent, money and other resources to continue what we've been doing informally for about 20 years," Fawcett said. Among their first actions was to elect eight officers — with Fawcett at the helm — and to establish an investigative arm, called the Greater Charlotte MUFON Investigative Team.

The investigative unit, with Charlotte's George Lund in charge, trains members how to check and verify or discredit sitings.

Using films, manuals and lectures, leaders of the unit teach members what to look for in the reports, such as descriptions of land markings, severe animal reactions, sounds similar to a swarm of bees and odors like ammonia, sulphur or burnt electrical wire. They also counsel on the finer points of determining a witness' credibility: photos or tape recordings are helpful, Fawcett said.

Fawcett said the team will likely be asked to look into more than 100 sitings this year, although he said only 20 to 30 percent of those will be deemed real. The rest can be written off as electrical towers, shooting stars, meteors and so on, he said. "But there's that extra 25 percent that cannot be explained away, even the government admits that."

Fawcett said MUFON investigators in this state receive help from the Federal Aviation Administration, Douglas radar tower, local police, the Morehead Planetarium in Chapel Hill and the Schiele museum in his territory.

"They don't say 'are UFO's real anymore?' they say 'what are UFO's doing these days?'" Fawcett said, citing a national poll that found 50 percent of Americans believe, 25 percent are skeptical and 25 percent discredit the claims.

Fawcett said that while "there's enough UFOs for everybody," he doesn't believe it's necessary to see one to have faith in their existence. He said most investigators have not actually seen a UFO.

"In that respect, my experience is unusual," he said.

"I saw one years ago above Lynchburg College — it was 10:15 a.m., July 10 — It looked like an orange," he said, describing the 4½-minute encounter.

While Fawcett is convinced the objects and their inhabitants may pose a threat to the nation's security and human survival, his next project, proposed construction of a UFO museum in North Carolina, capitalizes on them. "I think it would be a great tourist attraction. North Carolina is first in flight, why not first in UFOs?" /

WA-D11 DAILY OLYMPIAN
DEC-9-1989

UFO sighting claims

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The air force and police are investigating numerous UFO sightings near the border with the Netherlands and West Germany, officials said Friday.

Since Nov. 29, dozens of people and police officials in the northeastern Liege province said they've seen luminous objects in the sky, with some of them describing a flying platform scanning the surface with three huge searchlights, while others talk of dancing lights.

During the same period, air traffic controllers "found radar blips on the screens that could not be immediately explained," said Defense Ministry spokesman Col. Michel Mandel.

Olympian news services

When alien critters come calling

Sometimes it's for a vacation, a pitstop, or just passing

DAVID STAPLES
Journal Staff Writer

Edmonton

When he was a teenager, John Musgrave dreamed he was taken up into a spacecraft by aliens.

Or, at least, he thinks it was a dream — one prominent UFO researcher has told Musgrave that he was actually abducted.

"He seems to think that I was an abductee, but I don't think so," Musgrave says. "I say that what I had was this incredibly intense, lucid dream."

Musgrave, 47, an administrator at the Alberta Vocational Centre in Slave Lake, is Northern Alberta's top UFO researcher. At home, he has eight, four-door filing cabinets full of UFO information.

He says most UFO sightings are misinterpretations of natural phenomena. The UFOs are only things like planets and weather balloons.

Other UFOs are physical phenomenon which we have yet to recognize, he says.

And the rest? "My hunch is that over the years some of the UFO reports have been extraterrestrials, but that is a hypothesis yet to be proved."

"My hunch is that over the years, some of the UFO reports have been extraterrestrials, but that is a hypothesis yet to be proved."

— UFO researcher John Musgrave

The latest rage in UFO lore are occupant cases, where a person believes he sees actual aliens, or "critters," as Musgrave calls them. Musgrave breaks these stories into categories:

- **FLY-BYS:** UFOs reported to fly by with some sort of window or porthole in their saucer.

- **PITSTOPS:** Critters come out of their ship to do repair work, such as filling up on water from a lake.

- **VACATIONERS:** Critters come out to pick a flower, then go back to the ship.

- **VOYEURS:** These critters hover over a single person or a group of people, momentarily paralyzing everybody, then examining them.

Recently, Musgrave says a Wetaskiwin man looked out his window and saw a blue light hovering by his neighbor's window.

The blue light took off. Shortly

thereafter, the man saw the neighbor run outside, look around, then go back in.

The neighbor later reported that he had felt paralysed, and saw two aliens hovering over him and his wife in what appeared to be spacesuits. When they saw that he had awoken, a hiss sounded, and they disappeared. When the man returned to the house after checking his yard, his wife reported she had experienced the same thing.

- **ABDUCTIONS:** While Musgrave doesn't believe he was actually abducted as a teenager, many North Americans have reported that they've been taken up into spaceships.

Musgrave says the abduction phenomenon has been around for centuries. "I think of it as being a common experience. It seems to cross beyond historical times and different cultures and different value systems."

In early times, abductees believed that angels and gods abducted them.

During the Renaissance, abductees said they had been taken away to the fairy world, or abducted by witches.

After their abduction, these people often ended up in a similar state as many modern day UFO abductees: semi-conscious, naked in a field, doused with a smelly ointment.

An article in Skeptical Inquirer magazine says that abductees belong to a small percentage of the population, known as somnambulists, who are creative but have a hard time telling the difference between their night-time dreams and reality.

Musgrave says if abductees have good mental health, their abduction is a happy experience. But if they are troubled, they can end up as powerless lab specimens during the abduction.

Sometimes, the aliens tell abductees that they have been chosen to be leaders, and must speak out on ethics.

Musgrave says we blame abductions on aliens because we are a technological society.

Police investigating UFO sightings

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The air force and police are investigating numerous UFO sightings near the border with the Netherlands and West Germany, officials said Friday.

Since Nov. 29, dozens of people and police officials in the northeastern Liege province said they've seen luminous objects in the sky, with some of them describing a flying platform scanning the surface with three huge searchlights, while others talk of dancing lights.

During the same period, air traffic controllers "found radar blips on the screens that could not be immediately explained," said Defense Ministry spokesman Col. Michel Mandel.

At the time of the sightings there were no authorized low-level flights in the region.

"We are looking for a rational explanation," he said.

'I saw a UFO fly past'

Julie Goddard

WOMAN'S OWN, LONDON NOV 20 1989

didn't believe in life on other planets, and certainly not in little green men. But one day she saw a very strange light on Salisbury Plain

There we were, in an ancient part of England, standing in a field, gazing up at something very strange and dazzling. It was like being in a time warp. For a few moments, it was as if two separate time dimensions had overlapped. I and about 20 other mothers and children just stood there with our mouths open, watching while a strange phantom circle bowled silently past our 14th-Century church. To this day, I couldn't say what it was. All I can say, is that it was something unidentifiable, and it was flying. So I suppose it was a UFO.

Up until then, I'd never even thought about the possibility of life on other planets and certainly not human life. I was very much a believer in Patrick Moore's theories, as I used to watch *The Sky At Night*. He maintained that human life was an unusual development, unique to Earth, and couldn't be found on any other planet. I thought that perhaps plants or animals could exist on other planets, but that was about it. I certainly had no ideas about little green men and have never even been faintly interested in science fiction films or books. In most ways, I was a total non-believer in unearthly goings on.

I didn't believe, even though I was living very near Salisbury Plain, an area well known for strange sightings of things in the sky. In fact, anyone who has visited Wiltshire knows it's a place full of mystery. Stonehenge dominates the area, refusing to give up any of

'Suddenly it disappeared into the clouds'

its supposed secrets. And every summer I was used to hearing about mystery circles appearing in the corn, baffling farmers. The

most unusual circle appeared, like clockwork, every year, directly below the massive white horse that is etched on the chalk hillside near Westbury.

In many ways, Wiltshire could strike one as an eerie place. But I was never bothered. I did read about sightings in the paper occasionally, but thought nothing of them. A UFO society had been set up in the area, but I was so sceptical, that I always thought they spotted things because they had nothing better to do!

But all my views and beliefs were completely overturned the morning I saw something inexplicable fly past my very own eyes

—in broad daylight. That morning I had decided to walk my two children, aged seven and eight, the short distance to school. I didn't have to take them, but it was a lovely day, and I always enjoyed chatting to the other mothers in the school yard. The sky was clear blue and there was a slight nip in the air, which made us glad we had our warm coats on. We closed the back garden gate, crossed the road, and went into the school field through another wooden gate.

As we skirted the field, avoiding the football pitch, I was aware that a small group of parents and children were standing still, looking up. Some of them were pointing. Soon we were standing next to them. "What's going on?" I asked. "Look!" someone said, and we all looked towards the sky. There, moving from the Westbury direction, was a large circle.

The village of Steeple Ashton, where we were living, lies in a very flat area at the foot of the steeply rising escarpment of Salisbury Plain, so the sky is very open and you can see for miles around without anything obstructing your vision. What we saw was in clear view. And it was extraordinary.

I can only describe it as looking like a band of transparent plastic. It had grey edges and the ends were fastened together, making it look like a hoop. It seemed to me to go over and over like a hula hoop rolling along—and the thickness of

it wasn't all the same. It made absolutely no noise at all, no buzzing like an aircraft. I'd never seen anything like it before. All I can remember is that it seemed to bowl along in front of our eyes, and then, suddenly, it disappeared into a bank of clouds towards the

south east. It was hard to judge how far away it was, how big it was, or what substance it was made of. It didn't look very solid—I couldn't imagine it being full of inter-planetary invaders or little green men. But it was unearthly.

After it passed, we all just stood still. I can't remember if anyone had said anything during or after the sighting. We were all too flabbergasted to speak, I suppose. But when it had gone, the school's headmaster, Michael Green, who was with us, simply said, "Come on then, it's school time," and we all followed him along the path towards the school. But we all kept looking at each other, wondering if we really had seen the flying object. It was strange to carry on as if nothing had happened, but what else was there to do?

One of the mothers with us was a local reporter, and she went off to ring the local paper immediately, so the newspaper rang the headmaster for his comments. Then, some television people came round and interviewed local people. The UFO society also came to the school and asked people to draw what they had seen, but it was very hard to put it down on paper.

When I went home afterwards, I just did the washing and continued life as usual. I did tell my husband when he got home that evening, but he's a very matter-of-fact, down-to-earth sort of man, and he just said, "Oh. When's dinner, then?" To this day I haven't been able to convince him that we saw something strange. He thinks we saw a big smoke ring blown over from the nearby cement works. But it would have been the equivalent of a hurricane blowing for a smoke ring to have travelled as fast as the thing we saw.

I've told this story to people many times, and sometimes tell the children I look after at the local school. People are always fascinated to hear about it. But even though it's a story I tell others, about something I saw with my own eyes, I still don't really believe there are little creatures living in outer space travelling around in flying saucers. But I did see something very unusual—and it was a UFO. I saw something odd, something that can't be explained. That's how I'd sum it up. ■

SHOCKER *More Than 25 Support Groups* *Across the U.S. for UFO Kidnap Victims!*

So many people claim they were kidnapped by UFOs that they now have their own support groups!

Astonishingly, 27 groups are spread across America to help alien abduction victims cope with their emotional anguish, say experts.

"These people have nobody else who understands," said Aileen Edwards, a UFO investigator who runs a support group in the Seattle, Wash., area. "Their spouses and relatives would have them locked up in a mental hospital for talking about their abduction experiences."

Admitted Dr. Jean Mundy, a New York City psychologist who works with victims of alien kidnappings: "Before I met these people, I thought I would be working with people emotionally and mentally deficient. But they're not. They're just like you and me."

Well . . . not quite. They all

claim they've been through mind-boggling ordeals.

Rich Hale, 33, is a typical member of the Seattle support group. He says he was abducted one night in 1977 after his car went dead on a deserted road in eastern Washington.

"Three beings — all in white and six feet tall — came to the door of my car and said, 'Follow me,'" he recalled under hypnosis.

"We walked into an aircraft and the next thing I knew, I was lying on a table without any clothes on.

"It was dark in the room. I made out the hand, arm and face of a human. He was tall and mus-

cular, and had dark hair, a beard and hairy arms.

"While I was looking at him, all of a sudden his face changed to that of a wolf. I couldn't believe what I was seeing. A voice behind me said, 'Don't be afraid. He won't hurt you.'

"The wolf man let me go from the table and we went to a bigger craft. I could see beings walking down corridors. Their bodies looked human, but I couldn't see their faces." The next thing Hale remembers is driving his car once again — then arriving at his destination hours late and being unable to explain the lost time.

A member of a Washington, D.C., group who had a similar experience said he's also seen aliens in his home — and they even abducted a woman who was staying at his house with her boyfriend while the homeowner was away.

The woman woke up feeling like she'd had a good night's sleep and didn't realize anything was wrong until her angry boyfriend demanded to know where she had been all night.

She later told the homeowner, "I got up and went downstairs to check the front door — and that's the last thing I remember."

The homeowner added:

"Months later, under hypnosis,

she recalled an alien was in the kitchen with seven little aliens. They took her outside onboard a craft and examined her."

A member of one group said, "A woman in Virginia has been abducted hundreds of times and the aliens came to her house 45 times.

"A woman in North Carolina was part of a mass abduction. She saw at least a hundred other humans — some neighbors."

And one woman complained to a friend, "I wouldn't mind if the aliens came to the front door and said, 'Hey, could we?' But I hate this sneaking into the house and making me do things!"

Said Dr. Mundy, "Society's attitude that the aliens don't exist contributes to the trauma. It's bad enough to have a traumatic experience, but then to have everybody laugh at you makes it twice as bad."

And that's why the alien abductees have formed support groups. "The group helps me," said one member. "I get to talk to people who don't think I'm crazy. It changed my life."

— CATHERINE HAZARD

1081

UFO!

Criswell Road Family Sees Bright Lights, Mushroom-Shaped Object Hovering in Sky

By MARIA KLINE
Eagle Staff Reporter

They're here.

Or, at least, they may have been here.

For some Butler Township residents Thursday night may have seemed like something right out of the movies.

A bright light adorned a mushroom-shaped object that hovered in a field behind the Criswell Road home of Jim and Debbie Hahn between 9 and 10 p.m., Thursday night, Mrs. Hahn said.

As she and a friend sat on the back porch, they also say two smaller objects with red lights fly from the main object, Mrs. Hahn said. After a short time, all three objects "shot off to the left," she said.

And the Hahn's were not alone in their sighting.

Unexplained lights were also reported seen in Cambria and Westmoreland counties between 9:30 and 10:15 p.m., said Stan Gordon, director of the UFO hotline and the Pennsylvania Association for the Scientifically Unexplained, in Greensburg.

Mrs. Hahn said she doesn't believe what they saw was a helicopter. "It sat there 10 minutes," she said. "We didn't hear anything."

About an hour later, when her husband returned from a trip to the store, he also saw the object, Mrs. Hahn said, but at a slightly different location in the field.

"We get numerous reports all the time but usually

they're misidentifications of natural objects," Gordon said. "But in this case, all reports said they saw a bright illuminated object which moved back and forth and up and down," he said.

Unidentified flying objects are not unusual in Butler County. The last reported incident occurred near Route 422 near Fenelton in December 1986, according to Butler Eagle files, and many other sightings are documented in the paper.

The Hahns also spotted military-type jets circling the area within a half-hour of the sighting, even though the couple had informed no one except a family friend, she said.

"Coincidentally," Gordon said, jets are usually seen after a sighting even when there is no normal military action in the area."

Since 1969, Gordon said the military has not been involved in UFO research on the public level. "But there's no doubt that the government continues to investigate UFOs on a high level of security with specialized units responding," Gordon said.

PASU is a volunteer, state-wide organization made up of research specialists and former military personnel as a scientific clearinghouse for incidents of unexplained phenomena, Gordon said.

Gordon asks that any other people who may have seen the UFOs to contact the PASU so the phenomenon can be further studied. The address is 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg 15601.

TORQUAY HERALD EXPRESS
NOV 2 1989

I did — I saw a UFO

I SAW a UFO in broad daylight at 7.50am on Saturday. I was driving down Torquay's Teignmouth Road at Maidencombe Hill when an intense glow appeared through the trees from the sea. 3128.

At the bottom I was confronted by an object hovering about 200ft above the water, 50 yards from the beach. The surface was calm and there were no ships.

I got out of my car and stood in the road intending to flag down the next motorist as a witness. It was like a B

sci-fi film, nobody came.

After three or four minutes I hurriedly drove a quarter of a mile inland to the farm house opposite my cottage. I asked the farmer's wife to look out of her top window but the building was too low. Her husband bringing in the cows, shook his head.

ten minutes later I was in the office. The sky at Maidencombe had been empty when I re-passed. I told the news editor that when people reported the UFO to believe them because I had seen it, too.

It was cylindrical shaped like a huge florescent tube, possibly 100 or more ft across. Its pulsating red colour was more vivid than anything I have ever seen. It was incredibly bright.

The sighting has yet to be corroborated. I cannot believe there was nobody about in Maidencombe at the time. If anybody else was watching please could they let me know.

It was there — I saw it.

Strong evidence of UFOs

Such drivel to come forth from a frequent writer for The Leader-Post as in Don Curren's column on Oct. 28.

So he doesn't believe in UFOs. In fact, he even makes fun of anyone who does — like the people of Langenburg. Well, I have news for him.

I'm sticking my neck out and saying I do believe in UFOs. I'm positive I saw one in the sky 13 years ago in late July at about 10:30 p.m. I was in bed and looking out the window before falling asleep.

It was still fairly light out, and I often saw planes flying towards Winnipeg and east. They just show as flashing green and red lights, but this thing, high in the sky, was a perfect oval with a reddish-orange glow.

I was so startled that I jumped out of bed and rushed to the window, but failed to see it again. I later wished I'd dashed outside instead.

It was a while then before I fell asleep for I thought of experiences some of our friends had.

Some 20 years ago, my late husband and I listened to a tale told by friends from Estuary. These people were driving home from Leader after shopping when something flew down over them and landed on the grid road ahead.

It is 12 miles from Leader to the Estuary corner. Our friend said he drove as fast as he could to get a better look at it, but when they were within a couple of miles, it lifted off going north-

east towards Empress.

He said he saw the same thing two days later flying over the Estuary marsh.

My husband said, "Were you not scared?"

He replied, "No, I never thought of being scared. I never believed in UFOs before, but I know what I saw."

In addition, I know of some ladies from Weyburn who can tell you stories of their experience with UFOs.

We are getting warning signs that we are in the end-times. We are in a crucial transition period from the Piscean to Aquarian ages and UFO aliens are helping earthlings prepare for this transition.

Pray for our universe.

IVA DOREY

Weyburn

The hovering light that wasn't a star

A BRIGHTLY-coloured UFO hovering over Southend Pier has been seen by a family living on the seafront.

Miss Barbara Gay and her parents Ernie and Anne Fisher spotted the strange shape hovering opposite their Eastern Esplanade home on Wednesday evening about 6.45pm.

Barbara, 32, has never seen a UFO before and protests vehemently: "I'm not a crank."

"But I can't believe what we saw and I want to know if other people have had similar experiences."

It was her mother who first spotted the UFO in an area which experts say is a corridor for visitors from other worlds.

Barbara said: "She said: 'Look at that,' and I said:

"That's a big star".

"Then we got the binoculars out and we all looked and agreed it wasn't a star. We held the glasses close to the patio doors and saw it change its shape and colour.

"It was a brilliant white in a diamond shape, then it changed to an arrow, then it looked like a spider's web which was like a kaleidoscope of colours."

The bizarre object floated for about an hour, in the same position to the right of the Pier, before flying off towards London.

Barbara added: "We've never seen anything like it before and we've lived on the sea front for 10 years."

She said the experience took their breath away and the light from it was so brilliant it could not have been a plane.

A visitor from space?

STRANGE lights in the sky from a mysterious airborne craft have been puzzling people in South East Essex.

East Anglian UFO Association chairman Ron West said he had received a number of calls after a report last week of a dome-shaped flying object with red, green and white lights. It was seen hovering in the sky between Clacton and Leigh in the early hours of September 6.

A Hullbridge man walking his dog at 10.15pm on

September 4 saw similar red, white and green lights in the sky, circling and flashing.

He thought the lights were about 2,000 ft up. After two or three minutes they moved towards Burnham.

At 12.15am the next day Mr Bob Hoskins from Billericay saw a long, rectangular object shoot across the sky and stop. It had white lights and was going towards Basildon.

At around the same time a Southend woman saw a big circle of white moving across the sky.

A few minutes later Mr Barton from Southend saw an object hovering over the airport. He described it as huge, with red, white and green flashing lights. It moved on in the direction of Basildon.

And again near midnight Mr and Mrs Robinson from Canvey saw a shape like three light bulbs in the sky.

It had green, red and white lights and eventually descended beyond the horizon.

Three hours later Mr and Mrs Jones from Basildon were woken up by a humming noise and saw from their window a long object with bright, white light.

It hovered in the air for about 10 minutes and then shot off towards Southend.

East Anglian UFO Association would welcome further information. Their hotline is 0268 286079.

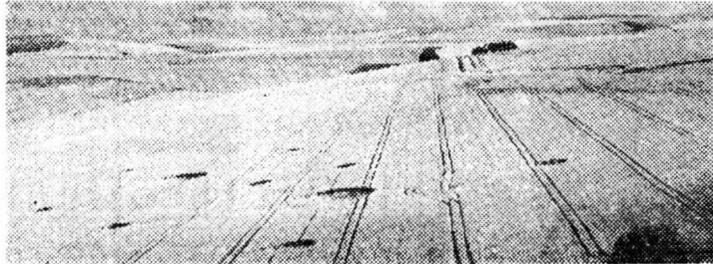
New noise clue to circles in the corn

By Brian Best

HUNDREDS of callers blocked a BBC switchboard yesterday after coverage of the mystery circles in West cornfields.

The Daytime Live television programme discussed a possible link between flattened circles of corn in Wiltshire and Hampshire, and UFOs.

No feasible explanation has been put forward for the force which flattens the corn.



New clue: Circles in the corn which have defied explanation

Now the BBC film is thought to have turned up a new clue to the mystery, after it picked up a sudden blast of noise in the centre of a circle at Silbury Hill, near Avebury.

Producer David Morgenstern described the noise as "electronic

chatter," which was retained in the film because it was thought to be significant.

"We had this sound interference in the centre of the circle but as soon as we moved out of the ring it disappeared," he said.

The blast happened during an

interview with electronics engineer Pat Delgado, co-author of the book *Circular Evidence*, who believes in UFO links.

So far this year, 270 circles have been reported, compared to only 94 last year.

Latest

The latest report is an unusual pattern of three rings around a large central ring in a field at Lockeridge, near Marlborough.

Five BBC lines were blocked for more than an hour after the programme yesterday.

The producers will select ten of those who phoned in to give their explanation of the mystery on Friday's show.

WESTERN GAZETTE YEovil SOMERSET
OCT 26 1989

Yeovil Comment by George Willey

UFOs over the South West?

ONLY one thing is certain about the latest reported sighting of a UFO in the skies over Dorset this week — that it will be officially ignored or dismissed by the authorities.

It will have that much in common with the many thousands of alleged sightings of unidentified flying objects that have come in from all over the world for many years now. The fact that they are so universally written off and explained away as non-happenings by the authorities has itself become a phenomenon.

This week, a Yeovil couple claim, with earnest genuineness, to have seen a glowing UFO in the skies above the giant at Cerne Abbas near Dorchester.

The oblong craft, fluorescent green with a red circular glow towards its rear, was travelling at

great speed over the famous 180 feet long figure carved in the chalk.

It then just disappeared from view, according to the amazed couple who saw it.

Students in this field might find it remarkable that, unknown to this couple, a similar sighting was reported the following night at South Petherton in Somerset. When they plucked up courage to report the Dorset sighting they had no idea there had been a subsequent one.

The couple from Yeovil, who do not want to be named, said they saw the unidentified flying object while travelling on the A352 road near Sherborne.

The woman said: "I thought at first it was a shooting star. But it was too big and the wrong colour. It was only there for a few seconds and then it zipped off."

She said it was travelling extremely fast, much faster than a plane. Her husband who works with aircraft said it was a flying saucer straight away, she said, adding: "It wasn't a plane. He knew it must be a UFO."

She said they did not wish to be identified because of possible public reaction to their story. This adds to the problem of credibility.

Talk of UFOs has gained impetus following the Russians reporting that aliens had landed in their country. But that may not have added credibility.

However, there have been a number of reported UFO sightings in Dorset and in the South West we have particularly encountered the phenomena of the mystery circles — flattened grass in sometimes huge symmetrical circles. No satisfactory explanation has ever been given. Will we ever know?

Alien abduction: Fact or fantasy?

Interest in unidentified flying objects was heightened last week when the official Soviet news agency Tass reported that an unearthly craft had touched down 300 miles southeast of Moscow. For years, researchers of the paranormal have investigated UFOs and reports of alien abductions throughout the United States including southwestern Pennsylvania. In this, the second article of a two-part series, Tribune-Review reporter Sharon Santus tells of three area people who claim to have been victims of alien abduction.

By Sharon Santus
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Marion Richards (not her real name), a 39-year-old homemaker from Ligonier, said she believes she was first abducted as a 3-year-old in Mamont, and at various times since then.

In the first incident, Richards said she was playing with her brother and sister near Beaver Run Dam when she experienced a time lapse of several hours.

"One minute, I was playing with my brother and sister, and the next thing I remember is my father getting down off his tractor, looking very worried and running toward me," Richards said. "Apparently, I had been missing for several hours. Most of Mamont was looking for me. They thought I had drowned. When I was found, there was a chunk of my ear missing, like someone had scooped out a portion. It's quite noticeable."

Since then, Richards said she has regularly been visited by "the three little people."

"I've always seen them," she said. "When I was small, I thought everyone saw them. I see them frequently for a while, then I won't see them. But I've never gone a year between visits."

Richards describes the beings as 3½ to 4 feet tall wearing capes.

"They are so fast, it's hard to get a clear look at them," she said. "They have real big eyes, I can't remember a nose, and a little slit for a mouth."

'When I was found, there was a chunk of my ear missing, like someone had scooped out a portion. It's quite noticeable.'

— Alien abduction victim

Richards said the visits usually occur between 3 and 5 a.m.

"My husband is sleeping beside me," she said. "They approach me, very close to my face. They put a finger or a wand on my forehead and that puts me out. It's the last thing I remember."

Richards said she is convinced that each time she sees the little people, they tranquilize her, take her aboard their craft, examine her and then bring her back. Her ear wound as a child, she speculates, resulted from the alien examination.

She said the only piece of evidence of the visitations was a black metal rod-shaped instrument left behind in 1985. She said she put it on the windowsill during the visit, but by morning it was gone.

HUSBAND HASN'T SEEN

Richards said her husband has never seen her visitors.

"He doesn't disbelieve me," she said. "He's just never experienced it." However, Richards said, her husband and son shared in a similar experience in 1985.

She said she, her husband and son were returning from Loyalhanna Dam when they came upon a bizarre scene.

"It was between 10 and 10:30 at night and I was driving," Richards said. "I came up over the hill and there was something along the edge of the road. It was a clear cylinder about 9 to 12 feet tall, and there were sticks and twigs swirling around inside of it. It was a vacuum and it was picking up things. I nearly hit it. There was a creature in the tree and he was operating the cylinder. My son only saw the arm. It was huge, 8 to 10 feet tall and it was very muscular and well defined."

NO LONGER FEARFUL

Richards said she is no longer fearful of the strange occurrences that, by her accounts, have been with her since childhood.

"I used to be really afraid, but not anymore," she said. "It doesn't consume my daily thoughts. If it did, I would go crazy."

John Biondi, a school psychologist with the Hempfield Area School District and member of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, has conducted hours of interviews and hypnosis with people like Richards who claim to have been abducted by aliens.

"I believe they are being truthful," Biondi said. "They seem sincere. These people do not want the publicity. They don't want to be identified, so there can be no monetary gain for them."

Biondi said people who suspect alien abduction often step forward reluctantly.

"Sometimes they think they're going crazy," he said. "We try to reassure them there are other people saying they've seen the same things. Have they been abducted? That's difficult to say. I think it's possible."

JUST FANTASIES

For some researchers, the possibility of alien abduction is clearly impossible.

Paul Kurtz, chairman of the Committee for Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, said those making such claims are "fantasy prone."

"These people can be normal in all other aspects of their lives, but they have this fantasy about being abducted by aliens," Kurtz said. "Then they start acting it out."

Kurtz said people might read a book or see a movie about abductions and, under hypnosis, they repeat what they read and see.

"Not only what is real comes out under hypnosis," Kurtz said. "The imagination is at work, too."

Robert Basil, editor of *Not Necessarily The New Age*, a book that explores alien abduction, said hypnotists often suggest answers they want to hear.

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ALIEN ABDUCTION CONT

PLEASE THE HYPNOTIST

"Some people will concoct an incredible, far-fetched tale as a way of pleasing the hypnotist," Basil said. "The hypnotists, instead of helping subjects to remember, are actually planting fantastic tales into their heads."

David Jacobs, paranormal researcher and professor of history at Temple University, agreed that an untrained or unscrupulous hypnotist can "uncover" events that never occurred.

"But we are very careful not to suggest abduction scenarios," Jacobs said. "Hypnosis is an irreplaceable tool for accessing "

memory. It's the best we have.

Jacobs said he is aware of abduction scoffers, but said his years of research have brought him to an unmistakable conclusion.

"To say these people were abducted best explains all the data that we've gathered," Jacobs said. "Even if you dismiss all the physical data, there's still the issue of the missing time. There is no better alternative explanation."

PA-D31 GREENSBURG TRIBUNE REVIEW

OCT. 16 1989

Close encounters of the 'alien' kind

Interest in unidentified flying objects was heightened last week when the official Soviet news agency Tass reported that an unearthly craft had touched down 300 miles southeast of Moscow. For years, researchers of the paranormal have investigated UFOs and reports of alien abductions throughout United States, including southwestern Pennsylvania. In this two-part series, reporter Sharon Santus spoke with three area people who claim to have been victims of alien abductions.

By Sharon Santus

TRIBUNE-REVIEW

For Jim Smith (not his real name), the day started out like any other: a short drive on the Pennsylvania Turnpike from Irwin to Monroeville to pick up some plumbing parts.

But instead of arriving at his destination in the usual half-hour period, Smith found himself inexplicably in Zelienople. He also found that three hours had transpired in what seemed like a split second.

Smith knew he had experienced a time and memory lapse, but it wasn't until years later — after a similar experience — that he discovered what he believes happened to him during that missing period. Under hypnosis, Smith said he recalled being abducted by three unrecognizable beings who placed him aboard an unknown type of craft and examined his body.

"You can't talk to anyone about something like this," said Smith, who has never told his story publicly. "People think you're insane. Until it happens to them, they don't believe it."

Smith, 46, is among thousands of people worldwide who claim to have been victims of alien abductions.

Reports of such abductions, originally scorned by most members of the scientific community and the public in general, have gained credence with the publication of such books as *Communion*, by Whitley Strieber. In the book, Strieber claims that in 1985 he was abducted from his secluded cabin in upstate New York, by short, stocky beings with wide faces and glittering, deep-set eyes. Strieber said he was taken against his will aboard a craft, physically examined and then released.

But long before Strieber's best-selling book, a handful of researchers across the country were investigating similar claims.

Among them is David Jacobs, professor of history at Temple University, who has been researching abduction phenomena for several years.

Jacobs said he has interviewed and hypnotized 47 people in the Northeast who believe they have been victims of alien abductions. He said his research has turned up an undeniable pattern that supports the accounts.

"Basically, these people are all saying the same things," Jacobs said. "They've been abducted against their will, they've had physical and medical examinations run on them, then they're put back where they were. None of them wanted to be abducted and many are terrified it will happen again."

Jacobs said at first, many victims are aware only that they have experienced a time and memory lapse. Through hypnosis, Jacobs said, they are able to unlock the mystery.

While hypnosis is indispensable in abduction research, Jacobs said, it also is problematic.

"No other mechanism accesses the memory so much as hypnosis," he said. "But it can lead people. The hypnotist can introduce subtle clues, even without knowing it, to get the subject to say what they want to hear. You have to be very careful."

Smith is among those who agreed to undergo hypnosis to find out what happened during his first time lapse in the late 1970s, and a nearly identical lapse that occurred in 1983.

In the second incident, he said he again was on the turnpike going from Irwin to Monroeville and inexplicably ended up in Zelienople in what seemed like a second, but actually was more than three hours.

"I looked down at the clock and I couldn't believe it," Smith said. My first thought was 'What happened? Did I run over someone. I felt something terrible must have happened for me to black out like that.'

Later, he mentioned the event to a friend, Stan Gordon of Greensburg, who is director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained. Gordon's group is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that conducts investigations of strange and unusual occurrences.

Gordon arranged for Smith to be hypnotized.

"When Stan suggested hypnosis, I thought he was nuts," Smith said. "But I agreed and two weeks later I was put under and everything came out."

Smith said that through hypnosis, he recalled that while he was on the turnpike in both instances, the cab of his truck was invaded by white flashes of light and he blacked out.

He said when he regained consciousness, he found himself inside a circular room, about 25 feet in diameter, where he was placed on an examining table by three short beings who had pointy heads. He said the figures used a green light to give him an elaborate physical examination.

"It was cold and I was scared and dopey," Smith said. "It felt like I had been tranquilized."

Smith said under hypnosis, he also was able to go outside the craft, look down and see the earth below.

"The craft looked like two inverted, silver plates placed together," Smith said. "All of a sudden, I was back in my truck. That's all I remembered."

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ALIEN KIND

Smith, who said he has total recall of the experience since hypnosis, said he was shocked by his recollection.

"I want to learn more about it, I want to talk to people who have had similar experiences," Smith said. "But publicity? No way. I don't need the hassle. Most people are never going to believe you unless it happens to them. My own wife doesn't believe it."

Like many who claim to be victims of alien abductions, Smith said unexplained marks appear intermittently on his body. He described them as two injection marks that have appeared on the back of his hand, his leg, face and arm. Smith said he suspects they are caused by the examinations.

Dr. Berthold Schwarz, a psychiatrist from Vero Beach, Fla., has for years investigated abduction cases including several in southwestern Pennsylvania.

He said the same type of information surfaces in many of the reports.

"These are people from all walks of life: farmers, physicians, coal miners, office workers, clergy," Schwarz said. "And they are giving surprisingly similar accounts: the little men with the wrap-around, slanted eyes, the experience of being taken aboard a craft and given physical examinations. The fact that there are so many similarities lends clinical credence to the abduction hypothesis."

Schwarz said those who come forward lack all motive for fabrication.

"I've seen marriages break up, lives wrecked," Schwarz said. "These people are reluctant to come forward. They don't want to be ridiculed by people asking, 'Are you on drugs? Did you drink too much?' They certainly aren't making any money from it because they refuse to be identified."

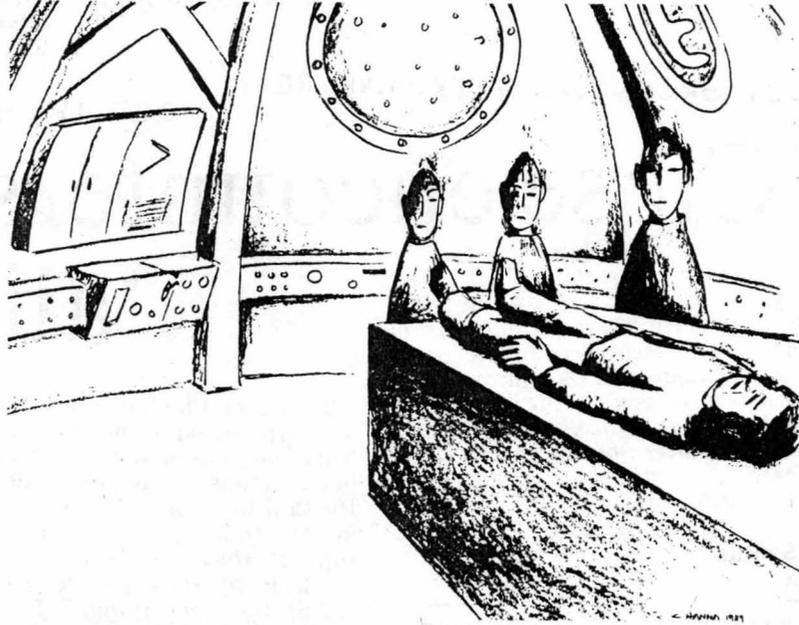
Among those shying publicity is Barbara Baker (also not of her real name) of Indiana County.

In 1974, after working the late shift at an Indiana department store, Baker, 55, was driving to her secluded home in rural Indiana County when she said she witnessed an event that changed her life.

"I was about a half-mile from my house, when I saw a triangular-shaped craft moving across a field at tree-top level," Baker said. "It had three blinking lights and there was no sound."

Baker said she reported the event to her sister, who dismissed it as a joke.

Several days later, in February 1974, Baker said she looked out her bedroom window and saw the craft hovering near a dam about a half-mile from her house. She said the craft, which she de-



Artist's rendering of Jim Smith's recollections about his abduction.

scribed as two pulsating lights, appeared each night in the same location for the next 19 months.

"I always felt safe and secure when it was around," said Baker who lives alone. "I knew if I tried to take a photograph or call the police, it would go away, and I didn't want it to."

Baker said that in September 1975, she watched the craft leave its usual spot by the dam and disappear.

"I knew I'd never see it again," Baker said. "And I didn't."

In April 1983, she contacted Stan Gordon. With his help, she attempted self-hypnosis at her home and said she learned she was a victim of alien abduction.

"I can even remember the coat I was wearing," Baker said. "There were two little men who held me by each arm. I'm sure it happened the night when I got home quite late for no unexplained reason. The little men dragged me into the craft and put me in a chair. I couldn't move. There was a screen with a skull on it. It looked like a CAT scan."

Baker said the beings had gray/green skin, large heads and stood about 4 feet tall.

"They had slits for mouths and I don't remember ears or eyes," she said. "They were nothing like the pictures I've seen in any books. It took nothing for them to carry me in, no effort. There was a third man. He seemed to be in charge.

He turned to me and looked at me. He had such empathy on his face. That's the last thing I remember."

Baker said she is convinced the beings were extraterrestrial and she was singled out for a reason she has yet to discover.

Gordon, who has been investigating paranormal sightings since 1959, said incidents like those reported by Smith and Baker are not unusual for the Chestnut Ridge and surrounding area.

"There appears to be what scientists call a 'window area' stretching 100 miles along the Allegheny Mountain system from Preston, W.Va. up through Fayette, Westmoreland and Indiana counties," Gordon said. "We do have a higher than normal occurrence of UFO and bigfoot sightings. Why? No one seems to know."

Gordon said one explanation for the nationwide increase in abduction reports is the willingness of alleged victims to tell their stories.

"They're not being laughed at like they used to," Gordon said. "The scientific and medical communities are starting to sit up and take notice."

UFO FLIGHT OF FANTASY

Exclusive By Jonathan Calvert



DODD: UFO claim

AT 1300 hours one day in May this year, an unidentified flying object was spotted hurtling through the sky at a speed of 5,746 nautical miles per hour.

An air force base was notified and two Mirage jets ordered to shoot down the object.

The fighters scored a direct hit and the object plunged into the Kalahari desert 80km north of South Africa's border with Botswana.

A team of air force intelligence officers went to the scene and found a silver-coloured disc embedded in a crater 150 metres wide.

Experts on Unidentified Flying Objects are convinced the story is true and have spent months investigating the mystery.

They claim that the South African officers levered open the door of the craft and two humanoid aliens stumbled out.

The story will be one of the hottest topics at a world UFO conference being held in Frankfurt this week.

The "evidence" comes in the form of a four-page document, which purports to be a secret briefing for intelligence officers.

UFO investigator Tony Dodd believes the story is true and will present the document to the conference.

But he may be the victim of a bizarre international con-trick.

Former police detective Dodd became interested in UFOs after seeing what he thought was an alien spacecraft. He retired from the North Yorkshire force 11 months ago and threw all his energies into a group called Quest International.

In August he received a phone call from a man called James Van Greunen who claimed to be a South African intelligence officer.

Van Greunen said he was a cryptologist and claimed he had been given the job of attempting to communicate with two aliens shot down by a South African

plane. And he had a "top secret" document to prove it.

The document arrived through Dodd's letter box a few days later.

"We were obviously very excited about the information but we could not just accept these papers on face value. So we started to check out the facts," said Dodd.

According to the secret document, the two aliens were taken from the spaceship to Wright Patterson air force base in the United States where they are now being studied.

Azadehdel and Dodd say they grilled Van Greunen for hours and are convinced he was telling the truth about the two aliens.

Van Greunen stayed with Azadehdel for three weeks and has since disappeared. Azadehdel claims that the South African fled to South America after the authorities rumbled that he was talking to Ufologists.

But the South African Embassy

in London denies the claims. When Wales on Sunday sent the document to the Embassy, a spokesman said: "There is this guy who has visited the UK recently whose story is exactly the same as the one in this document and his name is Van Greunen."

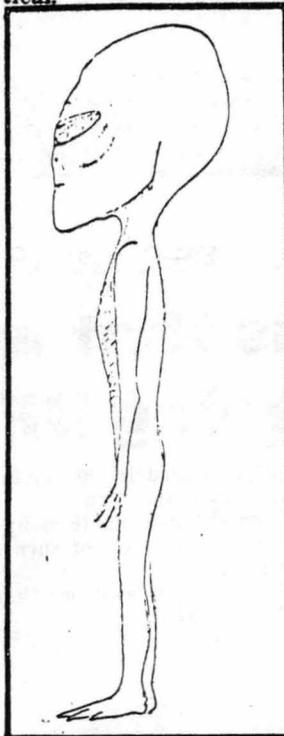
"He is a conman. He says he works in the intelligence service but we have checked him up and we have no record of a guy like that being employed."

Both Dodd and Azadehdel scoff at the Embassy's version of the story claiming it is a sophisticated disinformation campaign aimed at hiding the truth.

"We do not know where Van Greunen is at present but that is because he is being chased by the South African authorities," said Dodd.

So Dodd will be presenting the document to the International Conference on Communication with Extra-terrestrial Life as proof that there has been a top level conspiracy

Many people will believe him but many more will remain sceptical.



ALIEN: Crash landing?

UFO caught on film baffles photographic expert

Photographer snaps UFO

By **ALAN CLEAVER**

THIS fast moving object was captured on film by a photographer who was taking pictures in Amersham. It has baffled a top photographer and others who have failed to identify the craft.

Now the man who snapped the object, Nicholas Salmon of Chestnut Lane, Amersham, is appealing to Star readers to identify it.

Nicholas reported: "Much as I am reluctant to involve myself in such an emotive issue as that of the existence or otherwise of alien objects, the correspondence in your paper recently concerning the alleged sightings of UFOs in South Bucks has decided me to come forward with my own story.

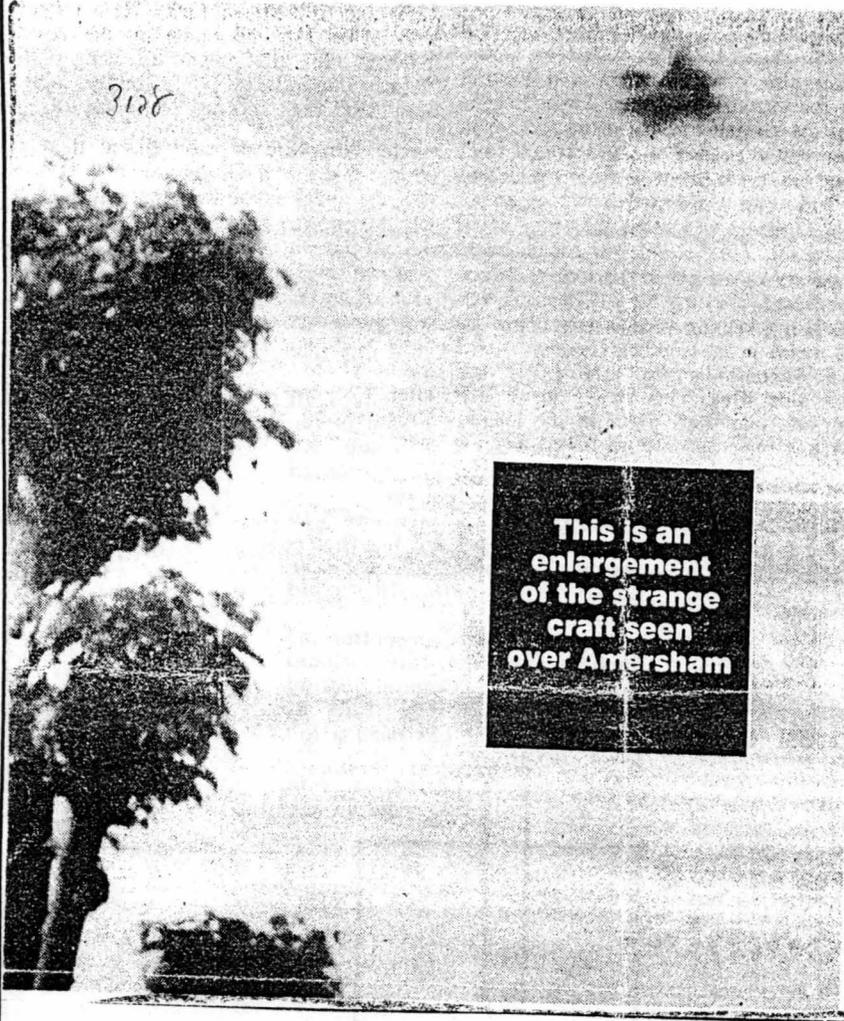
"On a cloudless spring morning (9.15am on May 18 to be precise) I was taking photos for a book I am writing on Amersham...

"Putting the camera to my eye I was conscious of an object travelling at considerable speed flashing across my view finder on a course from right to left...Considering the speed of the object, I was amazed to find I had captured it on one shot."

Former president of the Royal Photographic Society, Dr Vernon Harrison, has examined the negative and concludes: "It seems definitely to represent an object

— but what object? The photograph is certainly an interesting one and I don't think it is a hoax."

The speed and shape seems to rule out most known aircraft. If you have any ideas write to The Chiltern Star, Gomm Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7DW.



This is an enlargement of the strange craft seen over Amersham



Art spot

THE work of talented members of the Bucks Arts Society is on sale in Amersham this week. Artists will also be available to demonstrate some of their techniques. The exhibition is open from 10am until 5pm until Sunday at Dr Challoner's School in Amersham.

WYCOMBE STAR SEP. 22 1989

Prove to us that we weren't seeing UFOs

I refer to the U.F.O. article which appeared in the South Bucks Star and on the front page of the Wycombe Star. As the article appeared to be somewhat dramatised by describing the lights as 'winged creatures' it is not surprising that the Police Inspector was 'unimpressed'. However I challenge the police to provide evidence that these lights could have been produced by a laser!

I first saw the lights on the M40 travelling towards Beaconsfield about two miles from the M25. These lights were on our left. They were moving in a circular motion, at the same time pulsing from the centre to a finite circumference where they stopped and retracted to the centre. At the time of leaving the motorway there appeared to be a faint second set of lights towards Burnham which were not as clear as the first set. I then took the Amersham road towards the Missenden By Pass where the lights were still on my left hand side until the Amersham Hospital roundabout where they vanished.

- Questions 1. Who produced this clever display?
 - 2. How did they manage to put the display in the only clouds around?
 - 3. Will the Police say who the laser display was produced by and could he do it again to dispel our doubts?
- Back to you and the Thames Valley Police to prove that we were not seeing U.F.O's!
Derek Hanks, Larchwood, Little Kingshill.

Is there anybody out there?

THERE you are driving down the road at night, minding your own business, when suddenly you catch sight of something in the sky.

It's not like any aircraft you've ever seen; it's flashing colourful lights and moving erratically at enormous speed. As it passes overhead your radio goes dead. Then it disappears.

Scoff not... this kind of thing seems to happen to several hundred apparently sane and respectable Britons every year.

Many of them shake their heads in disbelief and swear never to drink again; others are so frightened that they dare not tell a soul; and a small percentage enjoy a brief moment of glory in the spotlight of the local press.

Such a story invariably prompts similar, often embellished revelations and 'experts' dust off the old theories about little green men from Mars. But is the invasion of Planet Earth really imminent? Or is there a simple explanation?

There have been mysterious sightings in the sky for as long as written records have been kept - for example, The Bible appears to contain several references in the chapters of Ezekiel.

Modern sightings appear to date from 1947 when an American business reported seeing nine silvery objects flying very swiftly near Washington.

His description prompted the tag 'flying saucers' and similar sightings have been made by supposedly serious, well-trained professional people like police, servicemen and even ex-President Reagan at frequent

intervals ever since. Take the incident in London last year when no less than eight policemen swore they had seen a 'saucer' through the telescope of a teenager. It later turned out to have been the planet Jupiter, and in fact nine out of ten sightings can be explained away fairly easily.

Saucer shapes are frequently formed naturally in the atmosphere by pollution, pulverised dust and water particles, and lights can be caused by many things.

Ball lightning is a favourite among the natural phenomena and it is known that moving lights often occur in the months before an earthquake, emitted by rocks under pressure.

Otherwise a 'spaceship' could really be an aircraft, weather balloon, meteorite or burned-out debris from satellites and other space junk falling to Earth.

Scares have even been started in America by what turned out to be loads of illegal marijuana, blasted over the Mexican border by a rocket launcher to beat the border patrolmen.

And it is possible that some supposed UFOs are really top secret military or scientific experiments that have been seen accidentally but cannot be officially explained away. NASA has even claimed that the Russians use apparent UFO sightings to cover up tests of strategic weapons which violate international treaties.

Sadly - or perhaps fortunately - there is not a scrap of real evidence to indicate that we are being watched or visited by super-intelligent beings from another planet.

Stories that various governments have actually made contact or possess the bodies of aliens who died

on Earth, have to be taken with the proverbial pinch of salt. Credibility is decidedly challenged by those people who say they have been kidnapped and examined by strange creatures.

Yet a survey in America as long ago as 1966 indicated that five million Americans claimed to have seen a UFO or to have met aliens. Six out of ten say they believe in the phenomenon as do 20 per cent of Britons.

In Britain as many as 400 sightings are reported each year although UFO societies believe that ten times as many more go unreported because people are afraid of being ridiculed.

Yet some are not afraid to speak out. Twenty years ago, Peter Hough was a schoolboy doing a morning paper round when he spotted something unusual.

"I saw an object that looked very crudely like an aircraft. It resembled two pieces of wood nailed together like a cross. I thought it was something caught in a tree until I realised it was quite some distance away. It was blunt at either end and the wings were at right angles to the fuselage. There were two rows of white lights winking on and off like Christmas tree lights. It did a very strange right-angled turn that I've never seen an aircraft do before or since. I didn't tell anyone about it for months. I wasn't afraid, but very intrigued. I was trying to explain it as an aircraft in my mind."

Today he is chairman of the Manchester UFO Research Association. "I'm very interested in the way things can be perceived by people. Most of the sightings we have reported to us are easily explained away of satellites, aircraft or weather phenomena. We're not in the business of promoting myths. We are seriously investigating the phenomenon."

Jenny Randles, director of investigations with the British UFO Research Association, co-ordinates the team of investigators who look into reported sightings.

She has been interested in UFOs for many years but first began investigating them in 1973 when she was teaching science at a school in Cheshire.

After a series of reported sightings in a nearby wood, and after several of her pupils told her about unusual experiences, she turned the mystery into a school project. Most of the lights were discovered to

have been landing lights from aircraft.

She said: "You must realise that 90 to 95 per cent of UFO sightings turn out to be identifiable." BUFORA works closely with the police, the Ministry of Defence and Jodrell Bank, to whom most UFO sightings are usually reported. "They ask us to follow through anything they can't explain."

She said there are about 160 different phenomena which have been misinterpreted as UFOs in one way or another. "but once you have cases which you can't explain you have to look further, in keeping with modern science but extending the boundaries a bit. Beyond that are the realms of supernatural speculation which we rarely come across.

"UFOs and spaceships are not the same at all. That is an extreme hypothesis. And cases of people undergoing alien contact are an entirely different issue."

Such cases, she said, generally involve respectable, intelligent people whose credibility and sincerity can easily be established. That such 'contracts' occur around the world, she said, was the subject of several theories. "It could be some extreme form of hallucination or a visual experience triggered by some kind of natural energy phenomenon which stimulates certain parts of the brain.

"These days, UFO researchers are much less likely to be found dealing with space scientists than with neurophysiologists."

Writer David Barclay, from Shipley, West Yorkshire, also thinks there is a psychological explanation for the phenomenon - that we are compensating for the lack of romance and mystery in our modern lives.

He said: "If you look at the documentation you'll see that whether UFOs exist or not, the idea of them is enough to produce distinctive belief patterns. In our cynical world we've created a space age mythology.

"Its growth coincided with the decline in orthodox religion and it has been explained as a reanimation of cultural archetypes we all have inside our heads - invoking the old gods in technological disguise."

He says of watching inexplicable shapes and lights in the sky: "There's an unreality about the thing. Your eyes are trying to make it turn into something else, like a jumbo jet, which it isn't. There is a dreamlike quality to the whole experience."

Sixty per cent of Americans and twenty per cent of Britons believe in UFO's.

Space invaders move in, vanishing citizens move out

THIS has been the week of the Russian equivalent of moving statues. We have been bombarded with stories of space invaders.

It started on Monday when the Soviet news agency, Tass, reported that a UFO landing had been "confirmed" in the Russian city of Voronezh. This was followed by a flood of similar tales of the unexpected.

On Thursday, we even got an account of a conversation between a journalist and aliens in the city of Perm.

The present restless state of Soviet society may tempt sociologists to conclude that such apparitions are connected with social upheaval. That may be so, but apart from the fearful rumours circulating in Voronezh, there have been no reports of hysteria, of crowds flocking to UFO sites and claiming to see cybermen.

Indeed, the main reason the alleged appearance of a three-eyed spaceman in Voronezh attracted the attention of the Soviet public and the world's press was that Tass, the official voice of the Soviet government, chose to put its credibility behind it.

"We're taking it seriously because it's coming from Tass," said Lesley Fagen, assistant managing editor of the syndicated US television programme, "Current Affairs", which sent a crew to Voronezh.

The Soviet news agency reported his remarks with some self-satisfaction, adding that while many agreed that the Voronezh apparitions were hard to swallow, "most (US) news shows reported the aliens because of Tass's reputation for journalistic integrity."

That integrity may be dented somewhat now.

A Soviet television team spent four days in Voronezh and failed to find a single adult eye-witness to the fantastic September 27th events in the local park. Something did happen local scientists say, and "incredible levels" of magnetism were recorded, but nothing to justify saying, with all the weight of an official news agency, that "the aliens have landed."

After years of suppressing bad news, up to and after Chernobyl, the Soviet media seems to find it difficult to resist rushing out with the most sensational account of a dramatic event. Initial figures for the earthquakes in Armenia and Tajikistan were exaggerated, and the number of casualties in the gas explosion involving two trains in the Urals also had to be substantially scaled down.

There is, however, no denying the fascination in Russia for tales of the bizarre. It's hard to say whether it's any more of a national characteristic than in countries like the US, where

MOSCOW LETTER

by Conor O'Clery



popular journals win huge circulations with stories like "World War 2 plane found on the moon". Every country has its urban legends. Here UFO sightings and other weird stories get reported in the official media because there is no tabloid alternative. They are therefore taken more seriously.

Last Sunday, on an internal Aeroflot flight, the stewardess handing out newspapers gave me a copy of *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, a serious Communist Party newspaper, saying: "There's a sensation on the back page".

Her urging to "read all about it" related to a story of an "abominable snowman" captured in an orchard on the Volga. It had, of course, got away, but it was, according to the paper "that big", with hairy skin and yellow teeth.

Much more interesting as a sociological phenomenon in Russia these days is the quite incredible faith which people put in a television healer called Anatoly Kashpirovsky.

His show last weekend was watched by an estimated 200 million viewers. On Wednesday he gave a press conference in the Foreign Ministry which drew more Soviet journalists than a member of the politburo.

People swear by him, joyfully retailing stories of how they have been cured of broken limbs, scars and blindness.

In one of the most dramatic episodes, this talented hypnotist talked a woman through an operation without anaesthetic. He was in Moscow, she was in Tblisi, 900 miles away, watching him spellbound on the television screen.

His reputation is spreading. A teenage girl from West Berlin recounted how she regained her lost hair and eyebrows by spending the day just walking hand-in-hand with Kashpirovsky in Kiev for a day.

He claims a recovery rate of 60 per cent by "working on the subconscious. What I say to a patient does not matter much. I

try to use the inner resources of the body."

The UFOs and the faith healers have captivated Russians as they face a grim winter, with worsening shortages expected. But the three-eyed "moving statues" of Russia, with their silver space suits and zap guns may be connected to a concept well-known in the West — that of marketing.

This is the time of year when people take out their annual newspaper subscriptions. There is intense competition among the dozen or so national dailies.

The army newspaper, *Red Star*, said huffily yesterday, after noting that Soviet astronauts discounted stories of little green men: "We can't help noticing that humanoids come to our long-suffering earth when we are renewing our newspaper subscriptions."

Country Life, the farming newspaper, said: "As soon as subscriptions open, there is a UFO or an abominable snowman." Indeed.

* * *

ANOTHER phenomenon in Russia these days is that of the vanishing citizens. After years of international criticism for not allowing free emigration, particularly of Jews, the Soviet Union has opened the door and thousands are leaving every month.

VA-D260
ARLINGTON U.S.A.
OCT 19 1989

UFO MYSTERY: A fireball that exploded into yellow streaks of light and disintegrated was reported across the Midwest Tuesday evening. The reports, including some from aircraft pilots, came from Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska. "Right now we're not sure what we had," says Capt. Lance Jay at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. "It's probably a meteor or some space junk entering the atmosphere," said Ron Cop of the FAA.

Aircraft or Aliens?

MACCLESFIELD EXPRESS
ADVERTISER
AUG 2 1989

U Figure it Out

Researcher says:

PETER HOUGH, chairman of the Manchester UFO Research Association, said: "We do have many sightings of people seeing figures. Mr. Hough, who has worked with clinical psychologists in his search for truth about UFO sightings and is a leading author on the paranormal went on to explain what he thought the sightings in the sky might be: "There is a Piezo Electrical effect where when there is movement under the earth's crust bright lights are thrown into the sky. It is an unexplained, but totally natural phenomena. With Macclesfield being in the foothills of the Pennines and at the centre of plate tectonics this could explain why the town has been a centre for UFO sightings".

Jodrell Bank says:

"ASTRONOMERS regard UFO's with some disdain. They prefer to distance themselves from UFO research. They believe that most of the unusual phenomena have totally

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS have been spotted in their hundreds over Macclesfield, swooping in over the Pennines and homing in on our quiet little town — nothing more than a backwater in space.

Great golden and crimson domes have hovered above the town centre and a ten feet tall alien with no face and no arms has landed in a garden in Bond Street.

Not fantasy — but fact — to leading local ufologist Gladys Stevenson who has seen all this and more with her own eyes over the last 13 years.

Just this week Gladys spotted another — a great red and white light flashing in the sky above the Bollington hills.

She said: "It couldn't have been a plane, they come in gradually over the hills to land at Manchester Airport. This was hopping about the sky in a frenzy — typical of many verified UFO sightings."

GLADYS, (77), of Buckfast Close, Macclesfield, saw her first UFO 13 years ago.

She had been walking home from her former shop, Stevenson's Confectioners: "The moon was lighting up the sky and as I was walking along Mill Lane I saw this great golden ball in the sky, with a smaller golden ball following.

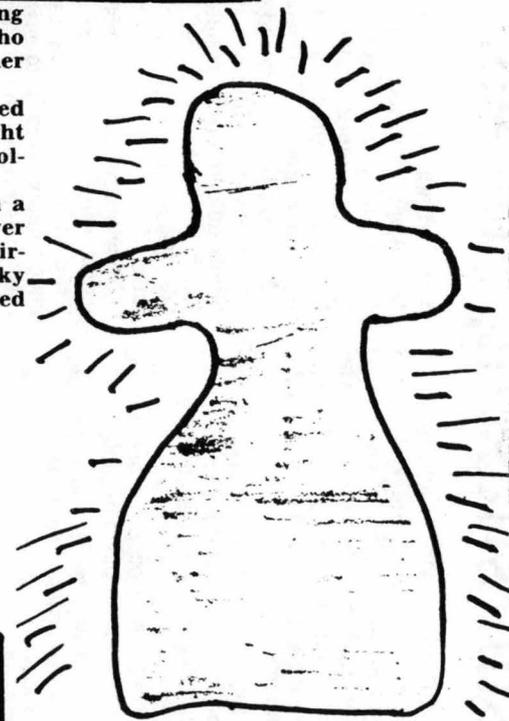
As I spotted it, it came closer towards me. It could have been hundreds of miles away or just above me, it was impossible to judge the distance, but I waved at it. As I waved it went back up into the sky."

Gladys has seen the same golden ball with its smaller but identical satellite following behind many times through the years.

But perhaps the most remarkable sighting was three years later when Gladys had been visiting a friend's house on Bond Street.

Gladys said: "I am psychic and I had felt there was something strange outside. At the bottom of the next door garden I saw this giant ten feet tall silver man, with no face just a dome shaped

By
Simon
Carter



Macclesfield's galactic visitor, as described by Gladys.

going straight down from a pair of giant shoulders.

"It was glistening all over, radiating. All around it the trees were lighting up in a red and silver square. I guessed this was caused by the electricity coming off the man.

"I wasn't scared, more transfixed by what I was witnessing. I shouted to the others to come out, but as I did it disappeared in a flash."

Terrified

In the Summer of 1985 she was walking with a friend over the hills from Macclesfield to Bollington. Gladys said: "It was a beautiful day and you could see Prestbury, Poynton and the rest of the Cheshire Plain stretching out before you.

"As we were looking out we saw this great golden ball fiercely

glowing. My friend was terrified and said, let's get out of here," but I said, "No, I know what it will do next there's no need to be scared, it'll come half way towards us and then stop." And sure enough it did just that. But then it disappeared in one great flash."

Only once has Gladys been frightened by what she has seen. Three years ago she was sound asleep in her lounge when she woke with what she thought was an electric shock. Looking out over the Park Green Bowling Club she saw a deep crimson globe low in the sky.

"It was a colour like you had never seen before, really ghastly the globe had twisted golden bits on top and underneath. I felt really nervous as it came lower and lower, but then it disappeared again in a

SOUTHEND STANDARD
OCT 13 1989

THE PLAIN DEALER, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1989

UFO sightings 3128 are soaring

Tales of UFO landing still shaking Soviets

THE NUMBER of UFO sightings in South East Essex is soaring, say experts.

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

Sheridan Lane, of the East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Association, said 1,400 sky searchers contacted them between July 1988 and July this year.

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 sudden-

ly stalled.

"In most cases their memories have been vague as to what has actually happened but the amount of time they have lost has varied between 20 minutes and three hours."

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

On September 29, two pensioners on their way home from bingo in Southend report seeing a huge object, much bigger than an aeroplane. It was diamond shaped with a brilliant white light shining through two windows.

Earlier that night a man in Stanfords-le-Hope said he saw a triangular object above his house.

On the same night a Basildon couple watched an object with red, green and

white lights hovering above the Basildon telephone exchange.

On October 1, a widower in Tilbury was woken from his sleep at 12.15am by a bright white light which lit up his whole bedroom and garden.

On October 2, a husband, wife and daughter walking their dog along Underhill Road, South Benfleet, spotted a triangular shaped object. It was very large with red, green, blue and white lights. It sped away after they had watched it for 20 minutes.

And on October 4, a couple in Canvey saw a huge saucer shaped like a skate flying at 9.30pm.

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

MOSCOW (AP) — A three-eyed alien with a robot sidekick landed by UFO and made a boy vanish by zapping him with a pistol, a Soviet newspaper reported yesterday, in a second day of spoofing in the state-run media.

But as the bizarre saga of the space invasion of the city of Voronezh unfolded for a second day, a scientist whose words were used to buttress the first published report said he was in part misquoted.

"Don't believe all you hear from Tass," Genrikh Silanov, head of the Voronezh Geophysical Laboratory, confided in a telephone interview from Voronezh.

On Monday, the usually staid, official Soviet news agency told the world that scientists had confirmed an alien spaceship carrying giant people with tiny heads had touched down in Voronezh, a city of more than 800,000 people about 300 miles southeast of Moscow.

As many as three aliens 13 feet tall left the spacecraft, described as a large shining ball, and walked in the park with a small robot, Tass reported.

The purported close encounter in

Voronezh was only the latest weird tale to appear in the Soviet media, which under the policy of "glasnost" or openness have recently told of other sightings of UFOs and the Yeti, or abominable snowman.

Monday's report spawned rumors in Moscow, including one that the aliens told Voronezh residents the Earth would be destroyed by the year 2000 if people didn't stop polluting it.

Nonetheless, a Communist Party paper whose avowed mission is to write about culture was the only major national daily to print anything yesterday about the UFO, indicating more authoritative newspapers like Pravda thought the topic too hot to handle.

Sovietskaya Kultura said its coverage was motivated by "the golden rule of journalism: the reader must know everything."

"Of course, it's hard to believe in what happened in the town," it reported from Voronezh. "It's even more difficult to explain."

The daily quoted witnesses as saying the UFO flew into Voronezh on Sept 27. At 6:30 p.m., it said, boys playing soccer saw a pink glow in the sky, then saw a deep red ball about 10 yards in diameter. The ball circled, vanished, then reappeared minutes later and hovered, it said.

A crowd rushed to the site, Sovietskaya Kultura said, and through an open hatch saw a "three-eyed alien" about 10 feet tall, clad in silvery overalls and bronze-colored boots, and wearing a disk on his chest.

OH-D430 LIMA NEWS

JAN 17 1990

1381
UFOs to be discussed

WAPAKONETA — John P. Timmerman of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies will discuss unidentified flying objects, past sightings and recent information about these sightings at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Neil Armstrong Air and Space Museum.

Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children ages 6 through 10. Advance registration is required.

Those who want to attend should contact the museum by telephone or in writing at P.O. Box 1978, Wapakoneta. //

Close encounters kept

MO-D22 JOPLIN GLOBE

OCT. 22 1989

in closet

The five words a newspaper reporter most hates to hear are, "this is off the record." You know then your news source is about to tell you the "juicy stuff," but won't be quoted for print.

At that point you can either stop them and listen only to what they will say on the record, or hear them out and try to get the information from another source.

This isn't a lecture on basic journalism, but I wanted you to know why I'm not going to name names here. As an outlet for our own opinions or information, this column allows us to step outside the normal boundaries of news work, and I can give you some valid information without attributing it to the sources from which it was obtained.

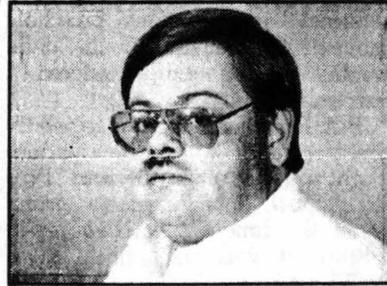
Unless you've been vacationing in Timbuktu the past week or so, you're probably aware of the strange series of sightings of unexplained lights in the sky over Northeast Oklahoma and Southeast Kansas.

It started Wednesday night, Oct. 11, and as of this writing has continued through Sunday night, Oct. 15.

I call the lights "unexplained," even though some "learned" people have come out of the woodwork to assure us the lights were only stars, normal aircraft running lights or other quite natural phenomenon that we excitable and unsophisticated Okies just couldn't figure out or don't normally see . . . to be able to tell the difference.

Horse manure!

(I would, incidentally, like to convey a large, fresh mound of that last-named substance to one Don Lind, an astronomy instructor at Coffeyville Community College, who told the Associated Press the sightings are predominant in Northeast Oklahoma and along the Oklahoma borders with



Inside Out

By Gary Garton

Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas because, "It's hill country . . . they have a history of seeing spook lights and this sort of thing in that area.")

But let the ostrich hide its head in the sand.

A large number of law enforcement officers from several jurisdictions, and a lot of mature, sober, intelligent and quite sophisticated residents of the modern world did see these lights.

Yes, they DID see the stars being touted as the source of the lights, and they saw the running lights, and in some cases heard the engines, of normal light aircraft flying over.

They also saw something ELSE.

A lot of folks who saw the unexplained lights haven't been talking to the news media because they feared the kind of ridicule that some skeptics did try to heap on those reporting the sightings.

I have learned the details of some of those sightings. And, yes, I saw something myself one night, too.

Probably the most interesting sighting occurred Sunday about 8 p.m., when two police officers, who were on duty at the time, observed an actual object, with lights attached, go over their town.

They described it to their shift supervisor as appearing to be about 10 to 12 feet in width, and from 24 to 30 feet long, although they couldn't tell its exact altitude, or have anything for reference to judge the exact size.

It had a silvery-metallic appearance, was tapered to a point at one end and squared off, with rounded corners, at the other.

It had three white lights in a triangular formation at the front, or tapered end of its fuselage, and one red light in the center, slightly toward the rear of the object.

It moved without a sound of any sort and proceeded in a northeasterly direction.

An object fitting the same description was reported by a resident east of Miami on Thursday night, Oct. 12, as having risen out of a wooded area east of State Highway 137, and moving off to the northeast.

A Quapaw woman saw two white lights hovering in the southwestern sky Sunday night, and they moved toward each other, then apart. The larger one moved off to the north above her location, while the smaller light disappeared.

A Commerce man, and others, saw five red lights moving in formation Friday night, Oct. 13, when one broke out of formation and moved at high speed to the west.

Several law enforcement officers in Kansas saw two red lights Thursday night, moving together, then stopping and rotating in a 360-degree circle around each other, before moving off again to the southwest in formation.

Friday night, one of my daughters, her husband's sister and I were out looking for the lights, driving along the Oklahoma-Kansas state line on State Line Road east of Picher.

We spotted a large round or

CON'T NEXT PAGE

CLOSET COWIT

spherical light which was red on top and yellow on the bottom, seeming to hover in the sky southwest of us, toward Miami.

As we watched, a regular aircraft passed by over the general area of Miami's airport, and the unexplained light seemed to grow slightly larger in perspective, as though it could have been moving toward our position.

I turned the car around. We started back toward Picher, hoping to go south and get closer to it. By the time we passed by some trees, however, it had disappeared from our line of vision.

I drove to my office in Baxter Springs, Kan., and began calling law enforcement agencies in the area to see if our sighting had been reported by anyone else.

A jailer on the fourth floor of the Ottawa County Courthouse said he had been watching the same light, describing it exactly as I had seen it, and he had seen it move away from his position as the airplane, which he also saw, flew over the airport area.

Obviously, it was not a star or planet, since he was looking northeast and I was looking southwest at the time we saw it . . . we know it was the same

time and same object because we both noticed the airplane over Miami and the object's apparent movement in response to the plane's presence.

OK, folks, I don't know what it was, or what everyone else was seeing, or why they happen to be cavorting in the skies over our area.

Don't accept UFOs if you don't want to, but don't dismiss the unexplained as not having actually happened simply because you don't want to believe it or don't understand what it was.

Gary Garton beams over The Joplin Globe's Baxter Springs, Kan., bureau.

58-440 WESTERN FLYER BI-WEEKLY DEC-1989

A skeptical look at UFOs - and FAA studies

I belong to a group that makes me smile every time I think about it. We're loosely affiliated with the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, or CSICOP, pronounced sigh-cop. That esteemed organization was started by scientific luminaries such as Carl Sagan and Isaac Asimov, because they were seeing far too much flim-flam being passed off as science.

Our group has no such world-shakers. We're just a bunch of people who believe a voice needs to be raised once in a while to ask, "Oh really?"

The state of the "general press" these days in their lust for so-called objectivity means that a reporter has to keep a straight face and report accurately and "fairly" whatever someone says, even though the reporter knows he's hearing nonsense. To get the non-nonsense view, reporters need people to quote. We try to provide those people.

This all ties into aviation in several ways. (You thought this was never going to get here, didn't you?) For starters, a lot of UFO sightings are reported by pilots, and the media seems to mention that as if it confers some special significance to the sighting.

This is as it should be, of course. I mean, we know that pilots are superior human beings, able to memorize the Sharper Image catalog or start a campfire with a single wet match, and if we feel like blowing our collective nose on Superman's cape, well, Superman had just better not complain.

But are we able to discern real versus perceived visual inputs any better than anyone else?

First of all, the reason pilots seem to see more than their share of UFOs is not any huge insight. It's that we spend more time looking around the sky than non-pilots. So whatever is or seems to be out there that gets dubbed UFO, who is more likely to see it than a pilot?

And what is it we are seeing? Here are a couple of

I went to an Air Force base for altitude chamber training, to learn of the effects of hypoxia first hand. We had some extra time, so the GIC (Guy In Charge) put us through the night-vision training routine.



RALPH
SEELEY

About fifteen of us - all pilots, civilian and military - sat in a totally blackened room. A red light the size of an aspirin came on, on the wall in front of us. A motor started. The instructor asked, "Which way is the light moving?"

It was obvious. "Down and right," I said. To my surprise, other voices were saying "Up and left," and "Down and left" and every possible combination.

The sound of the motor changed. "Now which way?" the instructor asked. This time we were all slower to answer. We considered carefully. But the result was the same. Nobody could

agree.

The lights came up. The red light was bolted fast to the wall. It had not moved an inch.

I would have bet my life savings that the light had moved at least three feet. If the light had been on any kind of moveable mechanism, I'd have accused the GIC of lying through his teeth. But there it was, bolted firmly to the wall. We all checked it out. We all shook our heads.

And we began to understand how people can chase Venus down the road, swearing it's zigging and zagging.

Back in the dark, we again perceived a small light moving, this time moving quickly a foot or two then stopping, moving and stopping. On this one we had no problem reaching agreement.

The lights came up. Again, the small lights we

FAA STUDIES CONT

stationary light goes off and another nearby comes on, your eye sees motion.

And how many UFO sightings report that amazing phenomenon of instant motion and instant stopping?

All of this applies to aviation in yet another way. Skeptical thinking addresses not only paranormal claims. It pays off in all kinds of analysis.

We are besieged by "studies" of all manner, all the time, by people with axes of all sizes and shapes to grind. Often, the studies are either deliberately misleading or shockingly naive, reaching "logical" conclusions that make me respond with allegory: "Just because a billion people in China speak Chinese doesn't mean it's hereditary."

Let's take a look at an FAA study.

NV-D50 LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL
DEC 21 1989

Justifying the forced retirement of airline pilots at age 60, the FAA routinely trots out a study that supposedly shows that pilots in their 60s have 2.5 times more accidents than pilots in their 50s. Uh huh.

How did they arrive at that number? They just added up all the accidents involving pilots in their 50s and all the accidents involving pilots in their 60s, and crunched the numbers.

But do you see a bit of circular logic here? The statistics include pilots from students to ATPs. But the group in their 50s includes airline pilots at their career peaks. The group in their 60s includes no airline pilots at all, because they are precluded from flying as airline pilots.

In short, the study is circular and useless.

It's not the first logically flawed study that has stood as the basis for regulating our lives, nor will it be the last. And the lesson seems clear to me: It pays to think skeptically, and don't stop asking questions. //

1351

Letters from our readers

UFO mystery

To the editor:

Arthur Chevalier's Dec. 13 Readers Write column ("Claims of UFO 'experts' have no basis in fact") made some good points about pseudoscience, but it entirely misses the central point: government refusal to make available uncensored reports of alleged UFO sightings. Jimmy Carter promised to declassify all these documents, but he never did.

So long as the federal government continues in its arrogant fashion to withhold requested information, legitimate questions about UFOs will remain — even if (as is likely) the majority of those interested in UFOs are crackpots.

JOE McCARTHY
Las Vegas

Flying saucers

To the editor:

Arthur Chevalier should stick to being a financial adviser rather than condemning KLAS-TV's George Knapp for his excellent documentary on UFOs. I have been a pilot for 44 years and have seen flying saucers, and I have talked to many airline pilots who also have seen them.

As for government cover-ups, I could fill this newspaper with government cover-ups and lies.

ROBERT L. WHITE
Las Vegas

NC-D16 GASTONIA GAZETTE
OCT 12 1989

1001

Lincolnton man says Tass wrong

Aliens have certain look, says Fawcett

By Donna Cox
Gazette Staff Reporter

LINCOLNTON — Soviet news reports about a 13-foot-tall, three-eyed alien with a robot sidekick has divided skeptics from believers like the parting of the Red Sea.

"Russian history is rich with UFO literature," said George Fawcett of Lincolnton, a UFO investigator and researcher for 45 years. "Since they opened up with glasnost, the U.S. has closed down in releasing UFO information."

But Fawcett said Tass, the official Soviet news agency, misreported the height of the occupants who allegedly landed in Voronezh, a city about 300 miles southeast of Moscow.

The basic humanoid is 3 1/2 to 4 feet tall, he said to set the record straight. "The ones we've learned to give credence to have a large cranium, and large wraparound eyes."

Richard O. Ulin, a UNC-Chapel Hill professor in international relations, said he doesn't put much stock in UFOs, aliens or the Tass report.

Fawcett, state director of Mutual UFO Network, Inc., said he hopes the increased openness with the public of such reports will spur greater openness in the United States.

"This is commonplace," he said, citing 48 cases of landings and occupant encounters and 11 cases of human abduction in 36 cities across the state in the last 80 years.

And only 10 percent of people who see UFOs report them and even less report them when abducted, because of stigmas or fears of losing their jobs.

Ulin, who traveled to the Soviet Union for five weeks last summer, said the topic of aliens never came up in his encounters with the people.

"Tass has been taken in before on more mundane things," he said. //

Oregon network searches for real story

By Tom Forstrom

The Statesman Journal

If you've seen a UFO, alert Skip Schultz.

But please don't get weird about it, Schultz asks. Don't tell him that space creatures are here to save us or abduct us . . . unless you have it in writing from the aliens themselves.

Schultz is the state contact person for the Mutual UFO Network, an international group that keeps tabs — scientific tabs — on reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects.

Schultz investigates UFO sightings, then writes up a report for the network's headquarters in Texas. "Researchers there will pull it apart and work on it," Schultz said.

The Mutual UFO Network is a non-profit organization that is now in its 20th year of operation, Schultz said. Much of what it does is done on a volunteer basis.

It is more like a hobby, Schultz, who also is a mechanic, said.

"I've been interested in the subject since I was a teen-ager," he said. "I decided to find some organization that I could do something."

Fast facts

Have you seen a UFO recently? Report your sighting to Skip Schultz of the Oregon Chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, Inc. His number in Woodburn is 981-2344.

He started with the UFO network as a field investigator but was quickly made state director. He, along with David Schiller of Salem, put out the *MUFON Oregon Observer*, a newsletter about UFO investigations. The most recent edition dealt with the sighting of a lighted object seen in late September by scores of people along a 50-mile stretch of the Oregon coast between Oceanside and Warrenton.

Other cases he has investigated include sightings in Sheridan, Salem and Gervais, where a family of six reported seeing a saucer-shaped, lighted object fly over their property and hover in a nearby field before taking off.

"They swear by what they saw," Schultz said.

Those interested in the international network can contact Schultz or write to the Mutual UFO Network, 103 Oldtowne Road, Sequin, Texas, 78155. Membership is \$25 a year and includes the network's monthly journal.

"We try to find a natural phenomenon for what they've seen. Sometimes we can, and sometimes we can't. About 90 percent turn out to be a natural phenomenon — a bright star or a plane — but 10 percent of the time we can't come up with anything."

And that's the intrigue for Schultz, who so far this year has spent about \$400 of his own money on investigations.

Schiller, a computer consultant and desktop publishing expert, volunteered to write and publish the newsletter.

"I read about UFOs for many years and I've always been curious about whether there are actual extraterrestrial vehicles," Schiller said. His research led him to back copies

of the Mutual UFO Network's newsletters. "I found them to be pretty scientific in their research. Then I met Skip and we talked about how a newsletter for people in Oregon might be useful."

Both Schiller and Schultz said some UFO-oriented groups tend to be pretty far out in their thinking.

"A lot of people believe in UFOs as an unknown nemesis from beyond," Schiller said. "There's really some off-the-wall philosophy in literature, new-age believers who tend to have radical views. I tend to be more conservative. I'm not an evangelist on the subject."

Some groups, Schiller said, believe that alien beings are coming to Earth as saviors, while others think they are coming to destroy us. "I kind of look down on that. It breeds a lot of fanaticism."

Neither he nor Schultz discount the possibilities.

Schultz said: "I myself have never seen anything, but I've talked to a lot of people who have. It's pretty exciting sometimes. It makes you wonder."

NC-D200 GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD
JAN 18 1990

Close encounter

George Fawcett of Lincoln, a founder of the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina, will speak on "UFOs and UFOnuts: Facts and Phenomena" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, in the Weaver Center auditorium, 300 S. Spring St.

The Mount Airy native will show slides and tell stories based on his 45 years of research, including 1,500 case studies of sightings nationwide, in a program sponsored by Guilford Technical Community College.

"I accept flying saucers and the little men with ray guns for the same reason I accept Project Apollo and the laser ray, because they've each been documented," Fawcett says, adding that North Carolina is fourth in the nation in UFO sightings.

Tickets are \$5. For more information, call 334-4822, extension 2303 (Greensboro) or 889-4545 (High Point).

In the meantime, watch the skies.