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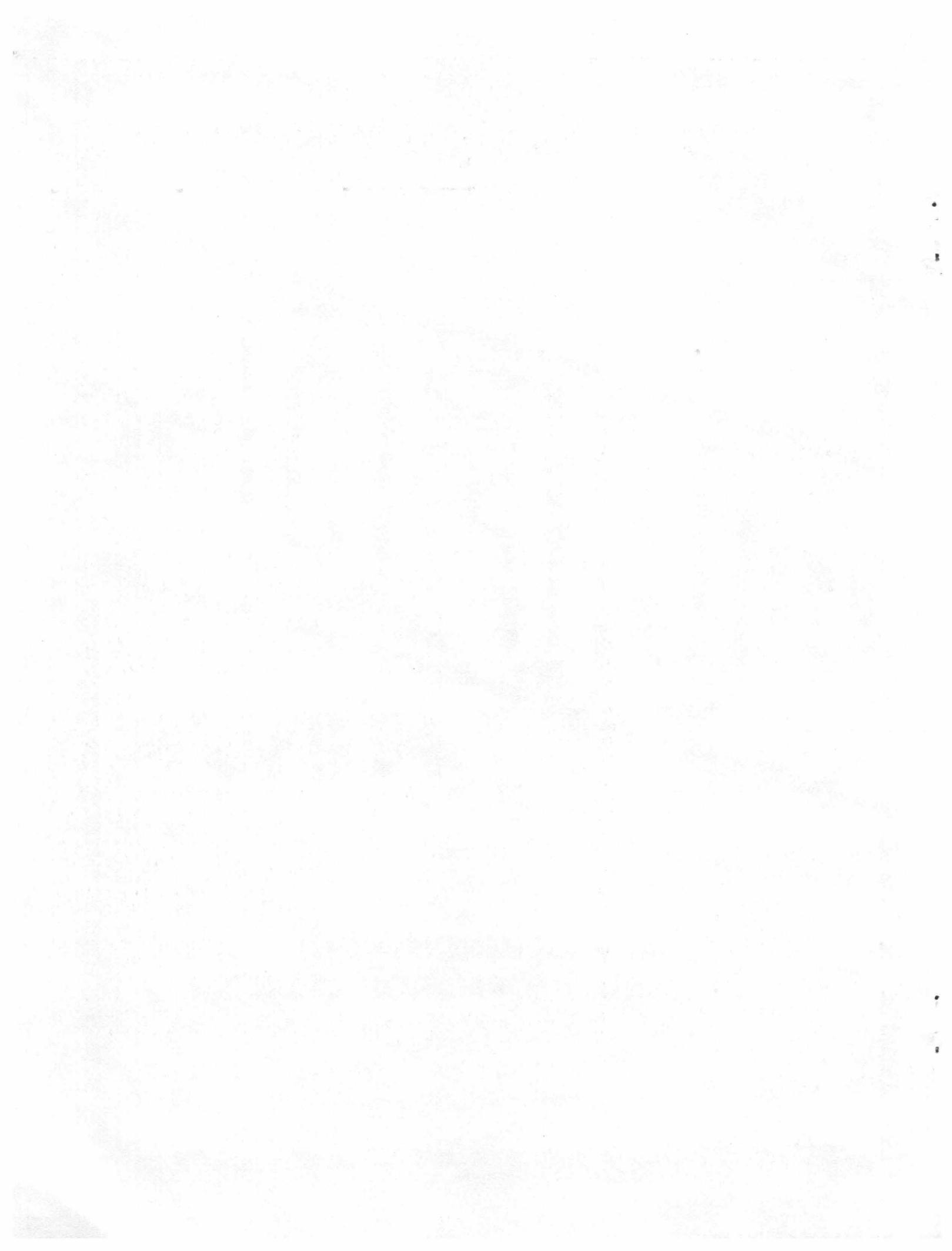
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NEWS

**AERIAL PHENOMENON
CLIPPING INFORMATION CENTER**

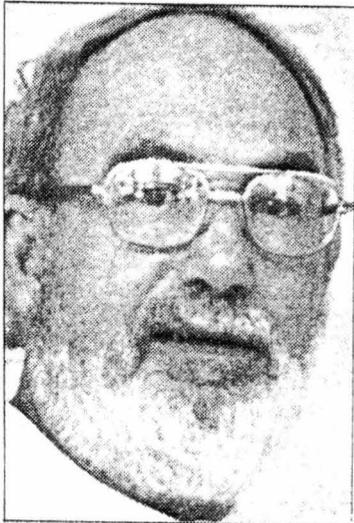
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DIRECT REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED



UFO landing site sparks dreams, but not funding

Elmwood, Wis., was eyed as a haven for research scientists and extraterrestrials



Tom Weber
Proposed landing site

By Bill Gardner
Staff Writer

Any aliens who put their spacecraft down at Elmwood, Wis., will find the accommodations are not nearly as plush as some earthlings had hoped to make them.

First of all, Elmwood has no motels. Much of the terrain is hilly and wooded, somewhat unsuitable for a UFO landing. The flatland is dotted with cow chips.

But it could have been so much more.

Tom Weber, who owns a metal finishing company in Chippewa Falls, caught the fancy of many people a couple of years ago when he proposed a \$25 million UFO landing site in Elmwood, which is about 25 miles west of Eau Claire and about 60 miles east of St. Paul.

Weber, 51, dreamed of a two-square-mile landing site bordered with lights. Visitors from space would be welcomed by a large pictorial message written in lights, and scientists from around the world would live and study at the landing site.

Weber's proposal was written up in newspapers across the country and even around the world.

Television reporters interviewed him. Geraldo Rivera featured the plan on his show.

Weber selected Elmwood because of its history of UFO sightings and its annual UFO Days celebration.

When speaking of the site two years ago, Weber exhibited missionary zeal as he proclaimed it one of the greatest achievements of mankind.

"The site center would make a bigger contribution to physics than 10,000 physi-

cists with an unlimited budget," Weber told a symposium on extraterrestrials at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

After his speech, Weber passed the hat and urged the audience to contribute.

"If I was a very wealthy man, I would pay for this myself — I would," he said at the time. "If you do not support this, it will not happen."

Now, it seems, it will not happen.

"The thing is pretty well done, and that's the end of it," Weber said last week. "Without a miracle, the project is not going to happen. We did our best."

Weber said he got tens of thousands of phone calls and letters from people around the world, but not many of them offered money. He had hoped to raise \$25 million.

"We raised somewhat less than \$20,000 total," he said. "That would be a good ballpark figure."

Weber and a man from Elmwood contributed about half of that themselves, he said.

"We were looking to raise millions of dollars," he said. "What we found out was a grass-roots thing just wasn't going to happen. What it would take is one or two very wealthy people who thought the project was worthwhile."

For a time the UFO Site Center had an office in Chippewa Falls, but that has been closed.

Weber still thinks the landing area is a good idea, but he said it's time to look at the prospects realistically.

"Right now it's just time for me to get on with my life," he said. "Although my interest is still strong, I'm just facing the harsh realities here."

NY-D360 THE NEW YORK
TIMES

JAN 29 1990

Northeastern Skies Light Up, And So Do the Switchboards

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27 (AP) — Thousands of people in the Northeast reported seeing a strange blue-green light in the sky Saturday night.

Sightings were reported from West Virginia to New York. Many people phoned the Air Force, and others phoned the National U.F.O. Center in Seattle. "We have no idea what it was," said an Air Force spokesman.

David Arnold, an air traffic control supervisor at Dulles International Airport, outside Washington, reported seeing the object at 7:10 P.M. //

From out of this world

Boise native links aliens with animal deaths

By David Proctor
The Idaho Statesman

There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.

"Hamlet"

William Shakespeare

At first blush, the whole idea seems insane, a nightmare from the supermarket tabloids.

But suppose, just for a moment, that Boise native Linda Moulton Howe's theory about the on-going animal mutilations is correct.

Suppose Howe is right when she concludes in her new book "An Alien Harvest" that — after a decade spent investigating the phenomenon — she found "an accumulation of human testimony that suggested the presence of extraterrestrial mutilators."

Or as she states more forcibly in interviews: "There isn't any question in my mind any more that there is an alien life form that intrudes on this planet for reasons I don't yet understand."

She and other UFO investigators also believe the federal government knows of these intrusions and has aggressively covered up its knowledge for decades.

Other researchers have documented eye-witness sightings by high government officials including the first director of the CIA, astronauts, pilots, air traffic controllers and thousands of ordinary citizens.

Documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act have revealed even more sightings (including one in 1947 near Emmett) and investigations the government has previously denied conducting.

"It's the best-kept secret in the world," Howe says.

If she's right, she acknowledges, the impact on this planet would be incalculable.

"But," she adds, "for people to deny it won't make it go away."

What won't go away are the thousands of mutilations that have occurred worldwide since 1967, including a recent rash in southeast Idaho.

Bear Lake County has been hit by 15 cattle mutilations in the past two months, says Sheriff Brent Bunn.

In Bannock County, 12-20 cases are reported annually.

Mutilations, mostly of domestic stock, first hit the headlines, especially in the West, in the mid-1970s. There were 90 cases in Idaho, and The Statesman ran 50 stories on the subject between June and December 1975.

The pattern is disturbingly similar, no matter where it occurs.

Somehow the blood is drained completely, and there are never any footprints or tire tracks near the carcass.

The animal itself usually has an ear missing, one eye is carved out in a perfect circle, flesh is stripped from one side of the jaw,

Is now writer/producer for a CNN/WTBS environmental series in Atlanta.

Book: "An Alien Harvest," 1989. (Available for \$55 by order from the Book Shop or from Linda Moulton Howe Productions, 904 Summit North Drive, Atlanta, Ga. 30324.)

the tongue is taken from deep in the throat cavity and long strips of stomach hide are removed, as are sex organs.

Howe had studies done privately at the University of Colorado Medical Center. The verdict: The mutilations were done by a pinpoint heat source and took only about two minutes.

To duplicate the cuts with current laser technology, Howe

HOWE FILE

Name: Linda Moulton Howe

Born: Boise

Current residence: Atlanta, Ga.

Age: 42

Education: University of Colorado. BA in English Literature, master's in film and television, Stanford University

Career: Production assistant at MGM documentary department, reporter and producer KNBC-TV, Los Angeles, producer of medical programs and documentaries WCVB-TV in Boston; director of special projects KMGH-TV in Denver, Colo., where she produced Emmy-winning documentaries on science, medicine and environmental issues, including "A Strange Harvest," an investigation into animal mutilations, broadcast in 1980.



An alien likeness drawn under hypnosis by a man claiming to have been abducted in 1980.

discovered, would require equipment weighing 550 pounds and take up to two hours.

In the 1970s, public investigations, including one by then-Attorney General Wayne Kidwell, were launched and rewards were offered in several states.

even deal with the real cases."

The official conclusions were not then, and still aren't, universally popular, either inside or outside law enforcement.

"I don't know of a predator that would (cut up an animal that way) with so much soft tissue available," says Sheriff Bunn. "It doesn't make sense to me. But then it doesn't make much sense that people would do this and leave all the meat."

Lou Girodo, now sheriff of Las Animas County in Trinidad, Colo., has investigated 100 mutilations over the last 13 years. He says, "I grew up on a farm, and I know what a predator does. They grab, tear and gnaw."

Girodo says he has seen coyotes circle a mutilated cow repeatedly, but they would not come in for a free meal.

"I've never seen coyotes act like that," he says. "Like everyone else, I'm trying to come up with an answer."

This was the debate Howe found when she began to investigate the story in 1979.

"I was a journalist and film maker (for KMGH-TV in Denver) who was provoked by the mystery of these bloodless animals," she says from her office in Atlanta.

"I knew I was getting into something that was unexplained, but I thought I could get into it and come up with the definitive answer. It was like walking into quicksand."

The turning point for Howe came six months into the investigation when she filmed a woman named Judy Doraty who was put under hypnosis to help her recall an incident that occurred in Texas in 1973.

Obviously terrified, Doraty relates on film how she was abducted by the aliens and

witnessed a mutilation.

"That really got me," Howe says. "I said, 'My God! It must be true!'"

"A Strange Harvest" won Howe an Emmy in 1980, but she continued to collect material on the mutilations and other UFO phenomena.

Eventually, she combined old and new information into "An Alien Harvest," which she published privately last year.

See UFOs/3D

READING LIST

Linda Howe recommends the following books as excellent sources for recent UFO information. All can be ordered through local bookstores or are available at the Boise Public Library.

- "Above Top Secret," by Timothy Good (William Morrow).
- "Aliens from Space — The True Story of Unidentified Flying Objects," by Maj. Donald Keyhoe (USMC Ret.) (Doubleday).
- "Clear Intent — The Government Coverup of the UFO Experience," by Lawrence Fawcett and Barry J. Greenwood (Prentice-Hall).
- "Intruders — The Incredible Visitations at Copley Woods," by Budd Hopkins (Random House).
- "Light Years — An Investigation into the Extraterrestrial Experiences of Eduard Meier," by Gary Kinder (Atlantic Monthly Press).
- "Missing Time," by Budd Hopkins (Marek).

From 1D

It cost her \$45,000 to print 1,250 books, but she chose that route so she could control the content and format.

"It was the biggest gamble of my life," she says now. "I guess it's a testimony for how much I care about how the material would be presented."

The material she gathered came from scores of interviews with eye witnesses and government officials who told her amazing stories, despite their fear of ridicule and retribution.

"I have seen grown men cry," she says of the officials. "I've talked to men who were talking only because I had sworn it would not be attributed."

"They know so much, and they've lived with this knowledge and agonized over it. They've sworn secrecy oaths saying they will go to jail without a trial if they talk. And I believe these people."

And there are documents.

In 1983 Howe was invited to Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque by an Air Force investigator. Inside a secure room she was shown — but not allowed to duplicate — a document titled "Briefing Paper for the President of the United States of America."

The paper, she says, detailed UFO sightings that go back tens of thousands of years and claimed

manipulation of DNA on earth's primates.

Recent encounters began in the 1940s, she says, and the paper listed dates of UFO crashes and details of live and dead aliens recovered by the government.

Other interviews and documents, detailed in the book, support what she read.

The book is nearly sold out, she says, but she has negotiated a new national distribution agreement that will allow a second printing this year.

Howe describes her current situation as living two lives — one as maker of documentary films, the other as a clearing house for mutilation and other UFO information that now fills five file drawers and two boxes in her Atlanta home.

It all, Howe acknowledges, sounds fantastic beyond belief, and she realizes her information poses many times more questions than it answers.

"All the hard questions you would like answers to, I would like answers to, too," she says. "I don't have definite answers, and I don't know anyone outside the government who does, and they're just sitting on it."

But she insists, "There can't be all this evidence and have it add up to zero."

"Everybody would like it to be like the movie 'E.T.' But the reality seems to be quite different."

1381

UFO sightings high in Local group dedicated to finding area answers to claims

By MICHAEL J. RIGG
Times Correspondent

CHICAGO Suppose you look up into the heavens one night and see something that's not a plane, a helicopter, a star or a planet.

What is it? And, more puzzling, what do you do about it?

There are organizations that work toward the answers to those very questions -- to search for the solutions of what are commonly referred to as Unidentified Flying Object sightings.

UFOs, and people who report seeing them, are no longer the stuff of tabloid newspapers.

More and more professional people -- doctors, lawyers, scientists, astronomers, even astronauts and presidents -- are reporting sightings of strange phenomena in the skies over every country in the world.

It is a serious study of a phenomenon that has been plaguing man for hundreds, maybe thousands, of years.

The Mutual UFO Network Inc. and the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago track and investigate local sightings.

The network has computerized information covering at least 20 major sightings in Lake and Porter counties alone.

The information starts with an incident in 1957 when Hammond Police cars were dispatched to pursue an alleged "object" through the streets of Hammond, and continues to a sighting in 1987 of a gigantic hovering "boomerang" in Hebron.

According to MUFON records, Indiana had the second highest number of sightings -- 32 out of 174 cases submitted during a 17-month period ending December 1988. Pennsylvania was first with 48, and Florida was third, with 18.

Even the Soviet Union made history when the Tass News Agency released a story concerning a UFO sighting by occupants in the Ukraine city of Voronezh on Oct. 4.

The Voronezh sighting was history-making, not only because Soviet investigators were on the case, but because Tass broadcast the story.

The Air Force stopped its open investigations into UFOs, known as Project Bluebook, in 1969, and state police and civil defense departments don't have the time, manpower or knowledge to step in.

Whether the answer to UFOs turns out to be extraterrestrial, interdimensional, atmospheric, or

simply psychological in nature, the question should be investigated.

Admittedly, a lot of sightings turn out to be misidentified planets or natural phenomenon, or just downright hoaxes.

Even so, they are important as insights into astronomy, meteorology and human nature.

The investigative process is scientific as well as serious. MUFON and CUFOS get reports either by direct word of mouth or through referrals from police departments.

Next, witnesses are interviewed, photographs of sighting areas are taken, and weather information and airport traffic are checked and cross-referenced.

Sometimes the military is checked to see if unannounced military test flights might have been the cause, and astronomical data is checked both day or night because the brightest planets can be seen during daylight hours.

Sightings are matched with others of the same type, duration, date and "good" sighting -- those labeled "unidentified" -- are filed on computer to be compiled into monthly and yearly reports to see if patterns in sightings turn up.

Sightings are then classified into groups, as prescribed by the

CONT BELOW

founder of CUFOS, the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek.

These classifications, designated "close encounters" are: CE-1, a sighting of an unusual object within 500 feet of the witness; CE-2, a sighting with physical evidence such as landing traces or exhaust residue; CE-3, a sighting involving sighting a UFO occupant; and CE-4, a sighting involving the abduction of the witness aboard a UFO.

UFO investigation in the 1990s looks very promising. Not only are the incidences of CE-4s becoming more serious, but investigations into government cover-ups are increasing.

CUFOS is launching a full-scale investigation into what has become known as "the Roswell Incident," detailed in William Moore and Charles Berlitz's book of the same title.

It involves the alleged crash of a flying disk, the recovery of its pilots, and the subsequent cover-up in 1947.

For questions about UFON and CUFOS or to report a sighting, contact the NW Indiana UFO Studies, P.O. Box 792, Griffith Ind. 46319-0792

Anything reported can be kept confidential upon request.

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BROWSING — John Timmerman, above, likes to set up his displays of UFO photographs and literature, such as

MT photos by Bob Pennell

those below, so he can browse among shoppers for more reports of unidentified flying objects.

Collector browses for UFO stories

By **VICKI GUARINO**
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

America's shopping malls are the base for John Timmerman's research of unidentified flying objects. He browses for reports of hovering silver discs, darting bright lights and the like among the passersby who pause between stores to gaze at his 20 panels of UFO photographs and leaf through the pages of the latest UFO literature.

But collecting stories is only part of the reason Timmerman and the exhibit from the Chicago-based Center for UFO Studies landed in the Rogue Valley Mall this weekend. He says the center wants to share the center's mysteries minus the sensationalizing of the most common carriers of UFO news — tabloid newspapers.

SIDE Tracks

"There are serious, highly concerned, well-educated people who are investigating this subject," Timmerman says.

He wants the public to see a bit of those investigations. The photographic and video exhibit, and Timmerman himself, will be stationed on the mall's lower level through Monday.

Timmerman gleaned the exhibit's prints and information from among the most recent of the center's 100,000-plus cases reported from 140 countries and dating back to the 1800s.

It includes descriptions of UFO experiences and explanations of how some UFO hoaxes were unmasked. The center is a

clearinghouse, collecting reports and relaying information.

The center's founder, the late J. Allen Hynek, was an Ohio State University astronomer hired by the U.S. Air Force in 1948 to examine UFO reports from the public. After breaking with the service and launching the center, Hynek coined the phrase Close Encounters of the Third Kind, and wound up being an adviser to the movie that made the term famous.

The phrase was part of a three-tiered hierarchy of UFO experiences. To Hynek, a Close Encounter of the Third Kind was a UFO experience in which alien beings are observed. The "second kind" is an encounter that leaves physical marks or other evidence. The "first kind" is simply the sighting of a UFO.

Timmerman travels from mall to mall — he'll open the show in a Bowling Green, Ohio, emporium on Thursday — because of a 40-year interest in unexplained flying objects. He is an Ohio savings and loan vice president and businessman by trade and necessity; the creator and curator of the UFO exhibit by enchantment and curiosity.

"I am fascinated with the subject," he says, "and I believe it needs to be made available to the public."

His encounters with the occasional kook and the mean-spirited viewer who thinks Timmerman is the kook and doesn't mind telling him so, fail to dampen his enthusiasm for discussing the unexplained. Timmerman strolls through the exhibit wherever it might be set up, watching visitors' eyes for the sparkle of recognition.

Did you ever see anything like that, he asks. When? Will you tell me about it?

"If you check with me Monday night, I bet I'll have two to three hours of tape recordings from the people here," he says.

Despite all of his listening and all of his



lecturing, Timmerman has never seen a UFO. He's not even solidly convinced they exist.

"To say I believe in UFOs is simplistic," he says. "I know there are unidentified flying objects. The question is how much more information is needed to identify them."

Are alien beings zooming around Earth to check us out?

"I say it might be happening," he says.

Because it's possible, Timmerman says the study of UFOs is worth sharing. He figures we ought to take a look at what may be watching us.

COLUMBUS-AREA RESIDENTS REPORT UFO — A bright, sparkling object spotted in the northeastern Columbus sky early Wednesday had several Bartholomew County residents wondering if they had seen an unidentified flying object.

At 12:27 a.m. Wednesday, a woman in the Flat Rock area reported the mysterious object to the Bartholomew County sheriff's office after watching it hover for 20 minutes east of Columbus Municipal Airport.

Bartholomew County Sheriff's Capt. Kenneth Whipker and Deputy Steve Moore also watched the object with its white, red and green flashing lights. An unidentified Edinburg policeman saw it and couldn't identify it.

Dispatcher Barbara Sage took the call and reported that checks with other agencies didn't reveal any clues to the object's identity.

IN-D330
INDIANAPOLIS
STAR

FEB 1 1990

Astronomers scan skies, find no UFOs

By DALE FENSKE

If UFOs are really out there, who would be in the best position to see one? Would it be those with channeling or psychic powers and New Age thinking? Most UFO conventions are filled with these people hungry for publicity and eager to give testimony to special experience with the unknown. But are they really the ones most likely to see an unidentified flying object?

What about amateur astronomers? Comet-watchers stay up late and get up early to scan the heavens methodically for any blurry spot that might mean a discovery. David Levy of Arizona has five comets named after him. He scanned the skies for over 900 hours before his first discovery.

Supernova hunters spend a lot of time under the open sky, analyzing one galaxy after another, looking for that one exploding star. The Rev. Robert O. Evans of Australia has discovered 18 supernovas and averages 250 hours per year in this quest.

Astrophotographers spend nights, in remote areas away from the infraction of city lights, photographing the sky.

Most amateur astronomers observe and explore the heavens just to have fun and see what can be seen. They spend many nights a year at star parties, sharing the night sky with their friends.

The Rose City Astronomers of Portland has more than 75 amateur astronomers. We have 10 members who have logged and documented their observations of more than 109 different deep-sky objects.

The Portland group belongs to a national organization of amateur astronomers, the Astronomical League, with approximately 10,000 members. Such people would likely not be fooled by a weather balloon, planets, bright stars or other sights that may be

Dale Fenske of Southwest Portland is president of the Rose City Astronomers.

IN MY OPINION

unusual to the untrained public eye. Their observations would be more credible and expert, for they would be ready to report on the object's angular size, motion and magnitude — similar to the data they already report on for other objects.

How often do amateur astronomers report a UFO? Perhaps it is because amateur astronomers are more experienced and informed — their reports of UFOs are nearly non-existent.

The late Leslie Peltier, a famous amateur astronomer, related his only experience with a UFO in his book "Starry Nights." He chanced upon a row of lights in perfect alignment. He couldn't believe his eyes, and when he looked back into the eyepiece he noticed the lights had moved, ever so slightly. They stayed in perfect formation and were slowly coming closer until they were almost directly overhead. He ran outside the observatory to find out if this UFO was visible to the naked eye. He saw nothing, but was greeted by a soft quacking sound coming from high overhead. His UFO was a flock of geese, flying in formation. Their white underbellies reflected a light bright enough to be detected by his telescope. That they flew directly overhead solved a mystery that might never have been revealed.

Amateur astronomers do see seemingly inexplicable phenomena. The first thought is to seek a plausible explanation. UFO proponents do the opposite, many times carrying out investigations of reports, eagerly attributing an extraordinary phenomenon to a UFO mystery.

For instance, Philip J. Klass, senior avionics editor for Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine and author of the best-selling book "UFOs Explained," related a story of a UFO sighting Oct. 5, 1973, by an experienced astronomer. Shortly after the

sighting, the astronomer reported the incident to a large UFO organization with headquarters in Tucson known as Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, whose founders and many of the members believe that UFOs are extraterrestrials. When the astronomer later told APRO that his own investigation disclosed the UFO had been a Titan I missile, the organization declined to accept this explanation.

The group "was more prepared to believe that my report and others of the same evening, were of a genuine extraterrestrial visitation rather than the more realistic Titan missile launch," said the senior astronomer.

If there is the slightest possibility that UFOs are of extraterrestrial origin, the one scientific discipline whose members should be expected to show a keen interest is astronomy. It is interesting to examine the results of a survey conducted by Peter A. Sturrock of Stanford University and a member of the American Astronomical Society. The purpose of the survey was to find members who would acknowledge interest in UFOs and maybe describe a UFO sighting. Of the 2,611 American Astronomical Society members, only seven (including himself and a friend) were sufficiently interested in the subject to devote any personal time to UFO-logy. This lack of interest by amateur astronomers shows a great lack of evidence for extraterrestrial UFOs.

Amateur astronomers, as much as anyone, would like to see some alien race that would have the remedy to all the ills that have plagued our planet. But to wish something were true and steadfastly believe it without substantial evidence blinds one to the pursuit of truth.

Amateur astronomers need hard evidence to be convinced. They don't — and won't — believe in alien spaceships until one actually lands at an astronomy club function, but then watch out for the stampede for they will want to be first in line, to hitch a ride to the stars.

16A-60 HADASSAH MAGAZINE MONTHLY NOV 1989

Unidentified Flying Objects: In addition to the usual tourists, Israel also enjoys visitors of an unknown kind. According to Hadassah Arbe'el, leader of Haifa's Unidentified Flying Objects Observers Club, Israelis have sighted scores of flying saucers in recent years. The most celebrated instance concerned an object that numerous witnesses observed skimming over Kiryat Sprinzak in October 1987.



The cigar-shaped ship even left a 25-foot scorch mark on a beach. Later, the Israeli Navy said it had been firing flares off the coast that evening. But tell it to the Marines.

WMU prof revives interest in UFOs

FROM GAZETTE WIRE, STAFF REPORTS

A Western Michigan University professor is trying to encourage serious research on extraterrestrials by reviving a professional journal of UFO studies.

The Journal of UFO Studies, resurrected this year from a defunct publication of the same name, aims to give researchers something "they wouldn't be embarrassed by writing for," said its editor, Michael Swords.

"It looks exactly like a professional journal, like any other academic field's," said the WMU professor of natural sciences. "The target audience is academics and researchers.

"It's meant to allow the serious people to have an outlet, which doesn't really exist right now. This was a hole in UFO publishing that had to be filled," Swords said.

Swords, 49, is a University of Notre Dame graduate who has been on the WMU faculty since 1972, the year he earned his doctorate from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

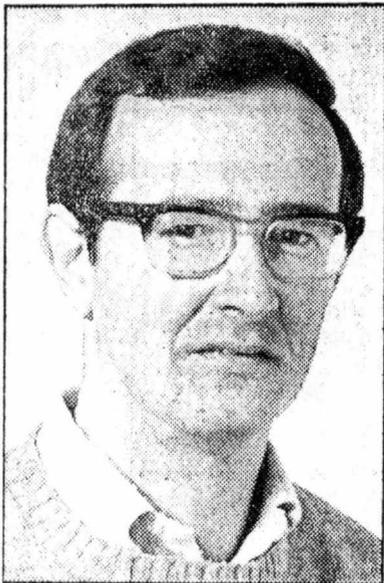
He won a WMU teaching excellence award in 1978 and has served on the Kalamazoo County Solid Waste Management Planning Committee.

Swords, who is working on the second annual issue, said the \$15 journal is too technical for the general public.

For example, one of the first issue's three articles of about 35 pages each discussed chemical analyses of a substance gleaned from the Delphos Case, a supposed 1971 UFO landing site in Kansas. Another looked at the effect of hypnosis in obtaining information from people who claim they have been abducted by aliens.

The analyses couldn't pinpoint a chemical, and the hypnosis study by Thomas Bullard of Indiana University, a folklore specialist, found hypnosis wasn't influencing accounts of abductions.

Swords wrote the third article, about whether other life exists in the universe. He said it isn't a matter of if, but of how many.



Michael Swords

"All the laws of nature are the same everywhere, and what happens once is bound to happen twice. Chances of other high-tech extraterrestrial civilizations are equal to how long it could exist after reaching the danger zone of technology.

"Since we've made it 45 years past nuclear weapons, I think people think there are at least dozens if not thousands of high-tech civilizations out there," said Swords.

The 174-page journal features a book review section and a forum on different topics each issue.

All views, including those of skeptics, will be welcome, Swords said. The second issue will take up theories about electrical fields that some researchers blame for creating balls of light mistaken for UFOs and for affecting psyches, maybe prompting people to think they've made contact with aliens, he said.

"A lot of old-timers don't like the idea because it steals the E.T.'s away from them," Swords said.

Mark Rodeghier, scientific director of the Chicago-based Center for UFO Studies that published about 700 copies of the first journal issue in March, plans to run off about that many for next year's edition.

PA-D590 PHILADELPHIA
INQUIRER

JAN 28 1990

A large meteor seen in the region

By Huntly Collins
Inquirer Staff Writer

What some observers described as a meteor streaked across the sky over the eastern United States last night, startling residents and causing a flood of phone calls to police.

The aerial display sometime after 7 p.m. was reported over a wide area, including Allentown, the Philadelphia suburbs and Maryland and West Virginia.

Some callers told police that they had seen a bluish-green light in the sky. Others said it appeared to be orange.

"I just happened to open my front door and this enormous orange fireball with a sputtering tail was moving from north to south," said Richard Lavigne, of Upper Uwchlan Township, Chester County.

"I've seen shooting stars before, but I've never seen anything like this," he said. He said the fireball was in sight for about three seconds.

"We are quite confident it was not a man-made object" re-entering the atmosphere, said Maj. Dick Adam, public affairs officer for the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colo. "We have no idea what it was."

Robert Gribble of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle said, "Based on descriptions that have been given, I'd say we're dealing with a very large solid, a very large meteor."

A dispatcher for the West Goshen police in Chester County said an officer reported seeing a meteor, which he described as a green light, about 7:15. "He thought he saw it go down," the dispatcher said.

Richard Adams, a dispatcher at the Allentown airport, said that more than two dozen people in the area had called to report the sighting.

"Most of them said it was a bright orange light that was large," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

TX-D950
TEXARKANA
GAZETTE
JAN - 15 1990

Author links mutilations to UFOs

By KEVIN FREKING
Of the Gazette Staff

Animal mutilations, human abductions and alien life forms normally are identified with outrageous horror films coming soon to local theaters.

But these topics and more make up the bulk of contents in a book released last summer that devotes some of its pages to incidents that occurred in Little River and Hempstead counties in Southwest Arkansas.

The book, titled "An Alien Harvest," was written by Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker Linda Moulton

Howe of Littleton, Colo., and is based on 10 years of research into the sightings of strange objects in the sky and and their links with cattle mutilations.

Ms. Howe is convinced, through her research and interviews with witnesses, that an alien life form is responsible for some of the hundreds, if not thousands, of cattle mutilations that have been reported in the United States and elsewhere in the world.

As Bob Taffee, of Ashdown, Ark., said it is the kind of story one might expect to

Please see UFO on Page 8A

UFO

Continued from Page 11A

find on the pages of the *National Examiner* next to the story about the walking catfish that went into a house and killed a woman.

But the material also is taken seriously by many people who have witnessed the strange lights that frequented Southwest Arkansas in early 1988. The cover of "An Alien Harvest" comes from a photograph taken by *Little River News* Editor Jim Williamson.

Williamson and other residents began watching the skies of Little River County with earnest after three women reported being chased by a strange light on Jan. 19, 1988.

Taffee said he was skeptical when his terrified niece knocked on his door that night to tell of the light that had chased them. But a couple days later, he and more than a dozen people saw other strange lights in the sky. Eventually, the group of sky watchers grew, and Williamson began to contact anyone who might be able to account for an object in that area like Air Life, the National Weather Service and NASA. All reports came back negative, Williamson said.

Williamson said he also contacted Ms. Howe and asked about cattle mutilations - something that often follows strange light sightings. The cattle mutilations would come as Ms. Howe had predicted, but not until March of last year.

In that incident, five pregnant cows were found dead and laid out in a straight line in a pasture. Some had been mutilated with large holes cut near their rec-

tums and another had a strip taken from its stomach. Ms. Howe dedicates about 10 pages of that incident to her book and also refers to a mutilation incident near Hope, Ark., in 1987.

Ms. Howe said examination of tissue from one of the Hempstead County cows by Dr. John Altshuler showed cell destruction caused by a rapid increase in heat.

"How do humans bring down five animals in a straight line without showing any tracks, marks or anything. I don't know," Ms. Howe said during a telephone interview last week. "I know we've tried to match the description of 300 degrees (given by Altshuler.) The laser manufacturers I've talked to in California and at Stanford Medical Center ... said that to cut an incision that large with any known laser, industrial, military or medical, that would not leave a gaping, carbonized burn, would take an hour or more.

"So, we can't match up an instrument with what appears to be the medical characteristics of those particular wounds."

Hempstead County Sheriff Don Worthey had a different opinion of what caused the deaths of the cattle. He said a local veterinarian found the cows died of toxic poisoning from hay. He said county officials did not have the money to send tissues from the cattle to a lab and the owner of the cattle just wanted to forget about the incident.

Ms. Howe said skeptics blame the cattle deaths she has researched on predators, disease or occult activity.

"Sometimes, they won't even listen to the evidence. They just say it's predator," Ms. Howe said. "I've shown a sheriff a report that said 'cut with a sharp instru-

ment.' And he said, 'aw hell, it's just predator.'

"I've also talked with people who say, if it is not predator, it's got to be satanic cults," she said. "You can't match up what happens with satanic activity and the particular mutilations I focus on in the book. They are usually sloppier.

"Disease? A disease that makes such clean incisions into the hide?" she said. "There is no such thing. So you are back to humans, government, aliens. I personally believe there are too many eyewitness accounts (of aliens and UFOs).

"You cannot ignore something like the daylight sighting by a rancher I described in my book," she said. "He's out rounding up the cows when he comes around a bunch of mesquite trees and sees these two four-foot tall sort of light-greenish creatures, not human, with very large egg-shaped heads and very big black, slanted eyes, carrying a calf between them. He runs in sheer terror and sees the calf mutilated at the spot where they were a couple days earlier."

In her book, Ms. Howe interviews people from several walks of life, including ranchers, law enforcement officers and veterinarians.

Ms. Howe said she gets plenty of responses from skeptics, but most responses since the May release of the book have been positive. She is working on updating her book for a magazine article to be published in Japan.

Taffee also said he knows his beliefs about what he has seen leave him open to ridicule, but he said many credible and upstanding people in the Little River County area have shared similar stories with him of strange lights in the sky.

Strange light reported over eastern U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Thousands of people in the eastern U.S. reported seeing a strange bluish-green light in the sky Saturday night. Some experts said the light could have been an unusually large meteor.

"We are quite confident it was not a manmade object re-entering," said Maj. Dick Adam, public affairs officer for the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado Springs. "We have no idea what it was."

Robert Gribble of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, a private group, reported receiving dozens of calls.

"Based on descriptions that have been given, I'd say we're dealing with a very large solid, a very large meteor," Gribble said.

"Descriptions run from a blue-green to a bright green coming down in an angular descent, leaving a short tail behind it," Gribble said.

Sightings were reported in West Virginia and from Virginia to New York.

Among the people who reported seeing the object was David Arnold, an air-traffic-control supervisor at Dulles Airport in Washington, where the sighting occurred at 7:10 p.m.

"It lasted 25 to 30 seconds and went from brilliant white to an orange as it broke up," Arnold said. "We've seen things like this before, but much higher. This was quite brilliant. It appeared to have dissipated completely."

Not all witnesses saw the object change color and seem to disappear.

A TV reporter in Oak Hill, W.Va., one of the places where there was a flurry of initial sightings, was at the home of one of the first witnesses nearly three hours after the initial sighting. She reported the light was still in the sky.

Kitty Harrison, assignment editor for WOAY-TV in Oak Hill, said what she saw was "absolutely not" a meteor.

"I've seen meteorites before, and this doesn't resemble the type of meteorite I've seen," she told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from the home of Elizabeth Gray and her son, Chris, in Stanaford, W.Va.

Another witnesses UFO lights near Cedar Rapids

MUFON group seeks information from others

By Lisa Ann Williamson

Gazette staff writer

Seeing unexplained lights in the sky could make you a little paranoid.

Sheree Voelkel of Cedar Rapids said she did not tell a soul about seeing bright orangish-red lights in the sky from the bedroom window of her southeast-side home Friday night for fear her family members might think she was crazy.

"I thought I was going crazy myself," Voelkel said.

She said she tried to explain the lights away by thinking it was an airplane or a helicopter. "But it took off suddenly at an unusual angle, so it couldn't have been an airplane," she said.

Voelkel was happy to read in The Gazette Saturday morning that there had been reports of

other unidentified lights in Eastern Iowa. Charleen Miller and Kurt Maas, who reported seeing the lights, were both described by officials as "solid, rational and normal."

"About 85 percent of unusual sightings have a rational explanation. But that leaves 15 percent that are unexplained, and we'd like to investigate."

Donald Curtis,
Iowa MUFON

Miller, of Wellman, told authorities she had seen a large dark mass, surrounded by two blue beams and a halo of light, hover and disappear above a Wellman farm field Monday. Maas, of Troy Mills, also saw a strange, unexplained light while out walking with his wife, Karen,

Monday night. Neither the Linn County Sheriff's Department nor Cedar Rapids Police Department received calls about the lights seen by Voelkel.

Donald Curtis, state director of the Mutual UFO Network Inc. (MUFON) in Des Moines, said he is very interested in talking with anyone who has seen unidentified lights or other objects. This is a subject he and the organization take very seriously.

Curtis said it was common two decades ago for people to feel uncomfortable reporting sightings, fearing ridicule by family members and others.

"But now there are many organizations in place to investigate sightings," he said.

MUFON is the largest UFO investigation organization in the nation, and has representatives

in over 50 countries, Curtis said.

"About 85 percent of unusual sightings have a rational explanation," according to Curtis. "But that leaves 15 percent that are unexplained, and we'd like to investigate them."

Curtis said most UFO sightings are planets and are usually seen on cloudy or overcast days. The planet Venus, for instance, can sometimes be seen as a bright light when no other stars or planets can be seen.

The Midwest seems to have hit a period of unidentified sightings. "There have been sightings in Des Moines recently and several in central and northwestern Illinois over the last couple months," he added.

Anyone interested in reporting an unusual sighting should call MUFON at (515) 265-7959.

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Unexplained halo of light over field

By Donna Lee Olson

Gazette staff writer

A glowing halo of light seen hovering over a farm field Monday by a rural Wellman woman is being taken seriously by the Washington County Sheriff's Department as an unidentified flying object, one of two apparent sightings in a month.

Charleen Miller also is taking her Monday night encounter on a country road earnestly. Now she's driving a different route to her Iowa City job, hoping to avoid something she doesn't want to meet alone again in the dark.

Chief Sheriff's Deputy Jack Dillon says he knows of Miller's reputation in the Wellman area as a rational woman with a husband and two children.

Another alleged sighting also is helping collaborate Miller's story. Within the past few weeks the Sheriff's Department dispatchers received an anonymous call from someone reporting a mysterious light in the night sky between Wellman and West Chester, which are about 9 miles apart.

The Sheriff's Department has notified the National UFO Center in Seattle of the incident.

Miller's unwanted experience began at 9 p.m. Monday on her way to work. About two miles north of Wellman, on County Road W-38, Miller sensed a bright light. She turned her head to the west and what she saw was a dark mass, flanked by two beacons, lit by a halo of light.

"It was huge. It was coming down and there were two blue lights" on the sides of the mass at what would be the 8 and 2 o'clock points of a clock. She looked for a few seconds, then turned to the front to make sure her car was on the road. "I looked back at it and as I looked at it, it vanished."

Celestial light show

By Karl Stark
Inquirer Staff Writer

Astronomers say that a brilliant light that flashed across the sky in much of the eastern United States on Saturday night was almost certainly the result of a meteor.

The celestial spectacle, which began after 7 p.m., was seen in the Philadelphia suburbs and as far

away as West Virginia and Maryland. Some callers told police that they had seen a bluish-green light in the sky. Others said the light was orange.

Bill Carr, a staff member of the Franklin Institute, said he missed the aerial pyrotechnics, but said the object "sounds like a fireball," a relatively large piece of celestial debris about the size of a fist.

Carr said debris that size was plenty big enough to send off the orange or green light that was reported. The object's rapid ride across the horizon also was consistent with the behavior of a meteor, he said.

Robert Gribble, director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, said that based on numerous reports, he was 80 percent sure that the

object was indeed a meteor.

And Maj. Dick Adam, public affair officer of the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colo., said the light was not a man-made object.

The agency tracks 6,800 man-made satellites, and none of them re-entered the Earth's atmosphere Saturday night, he said.

OR-D80
THE REGISTER-GUARD
JAN 15 1990

UFO ALERT!

UFO alert! Honors for the first potential extraterrestrial sighting of the year go to Sherrill Bower and a group of about 20 other attendees at a Eugene New Year's Eve party.

"It was shortly after midnight, and the whole group of us

was outside," Bower said. "There were these five lights in the sky that moved around together, formed patterns and figures and sort of danced for about 20 minutes or a half hour."

The party was at 15th Avenue and Moss Street. The lights came up over nearby Williams Bakery, just off Franklin Boulevard, Bower said.

They moved slowly, in seemingly coordinated patterns. "I thought maybe they were on hang gliders or ultralights because of the way they moved," she said. "But you'd have to be pretty crazy to hang glide at night with lights."

Or without 'em, for that matter.

Bower called the National Weather Service and the tower at Mahlon Sweet Airport a couple of days later, but neither had other reports of light sightings or theories on what they might have been. And Williams Bakery owner Tom Williams said there were no unusual occurrences — such as exploding cinnamon rolls — at the bakery that night to create lights in the sky overhead.

"I'm really kind of disappointed," Williams said. "I've been a UFO freak for 40 years. If they came to visit the bakery and didn't visit me, I'm kind of ticked."

The partygoers had gone outside to set off fireworks, but the lights weren't associated with those, Bower said. I asked, as diplomatically as possible, what the guests had been consuming prior to the sightings.

"Nothing unusual," Bower said. "We considered mass hallucination, but there wasn't even any punch for somebody to spike."

attributed to meteor

PA-D590 PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
JAN 28 1990

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Letter To The Observer

This Is One 'Solved' Mystery

Recently the TV show "Unsolved Mysteries" presented a "mystery" about a flying saucer that supposedly crashed in 1947. The show built a case for the saucer and its dead extraterrestrial crew being recovered by the U.S. government and kept secret from us citizens from that day to this. The evidence included some "Top Secret" documents called the MJ-12 papers, which fell into the hands of author William L. Moore and two associates and which they made public in 1987. The MJ-12 papers concern the activities of a committee of 12 top scientists and government officials whose responsibility was to investigate the saucer and its occupants. One of the papers is a memo authorizing the creation of the MJ-12 committee. President Harry S. Truman's signature is at the bottom of the memo.

UFO's have often been the subject of articles in The Skeptical Inquirer, which is published by the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. This includes a series of articles by Philip J. Klass about the purported crash and the MJ-12 papers. These articles thoroughly repudiate the crashed saucer claims. In the latest article, Klass showed that Truman's signature on the MJ-12 document matches the signature on a completely different, unquestionably authentic document he found in the Library of Congress. Since people never sign their names exactly the same way twice, the signature on the MJ-12 paper must be a photocopy. It even shows obvious signs of having been photocopied from the authentic memo.

Thus, this "unsolved mystery" is not a mystery at all but merely a hoax. As Klass amply documents in his articles, it was a very poorly executed hoax.

Apparently the hoaxer couldn't even find a fully operably pre-1947 typewriter with which to type the papers. The one used to type the Truman memo was a post 1963 Smith-Corona. Which brings us to another unsolved mystery, why were the investigators for the TV show so inept as to be unable to detect the hoax? And why is this junk mixed in with topics so serious as murders and child abductions? Such a juxtaposition reinforces the perception among viewers that the hoax is real and contributes to the dumbing down of America.

FLOYD WADDLE

Associate Professor

Fayetteville State University

Letters to The Observer are welcome. Letters of 300 words or less will tend to receive the earliest publication. Names, addresses and phone numbers must accompany letters, but neither addresses nor phone numbers will be printed, and they will be kept confidential. Letters will not be printed anonymously or with fictitious names. Poetry is not solicited. Letters expressing thanks or appreciation to individuals or institutions may be printed in the Saturday Extra section. All letters are subject to editing for good taste and may occasionally be edited for brevity. Writers are generally limited to one letter every 30 days. Send your letters to:

*Editorial Page Editor
The Fayetteville Observer
Post Office Box 849
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28302*

UFO investigator believes object was a bright meteor

An unidentified flying object sighted Saturday night in western Pennsylvania actually may have been a meteor, but experts are not sure.

State police in Gibsonia and the Beaver County 911 emergency dispatch each confirmed about a half dozen calls about a bright light at approximately 7:10 p.m. Saturday. State police say it probably was a meteor.

Stan Gordon, director of operations for the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, a volunteer statewide

clearinghouse that investigates UFOs and other phenomena, said the object is believed to be a bolide or exceptionally bright meteor.

The softball-sized object reportedly moved southeast in a line from Clarion County through Allegheny County and down through Westmoreland County, he said. The association received "dozens and dozens" of calls, he said.

People reported the object was white or yellowish white in color and changed color, with a long, fiery tail of various colors.

Gordon said a national UFO reporting center in Seattle, Wash., reported the object also has been reported in New York, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland and North Carolina.

Anyone with more information can call the society at 838-7768.

PA-D40 BEAVER COUNTY TIMES

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Easterners Baffled by Lights In the Sky

Startled, baffled residents in the East flooded police switchboards with calls Saturday evening to report sightings of a blazing ball of fire shooting through the sky that one scientist said was probably a large meteor.

Police across Pennsylvania received reports of a ball of blue and yellow — even green — fire that appeared shortly after 7 p.m.

Robert Richardson of Harrisburg said he was driving west in Mount Joy, Lancaster County about 7:10 p.m. when he saw an object shoot through the sky.

"It looked like a big green traffic light but it had a yellowish tail," Richardson said. "It went across the road in front of us and disappeared to the south. It was moving real fast."

John French, who directs the Buhl Observatory in Pittsburgh, said the object almost certainly was a fireball or a bolide meteor.

"It's a piece of rock from outer space that burns up when it enters the Earth's atmosphere," French

said of meteors.

French explained that fireballs are nothing more than large meteors about the size of a pebble, while regular meteors are the size of a grain of sand. They only seem large because of their trail of ionized vapors. Bolide meteors are fireballs that make a whizzing sound, he said.

Police in New York City said they received one report at about the same time of a helicopter having crashed in Central Park.

The report proved false, but was probably related to the meteor sightings, said Sgt. Ed Burns, a police spokesman.

In the nation's capital, people reported seeing a fiery green object that was the size of a car and had a orange-yellow tail around 7 p.m. There was one report traffic on the Capital Beltway — the nickname of the highway that rings Washington, D.C. — nearly came to a halt as the object shot through the sky.

"There's definitely something that has been sighted tonight," said

a spokesman for the National Weather Service, which received calls at its Washington, D.C., office.

"It sounds like a meteor. It was very bright, must've been a big one. It had a real long tail."

There were also reports of sightings on Maryland's eastern shore and throughout Virginia.

Linda Cox, 38, of Richmond, Va., was heading home when she observed some strange lights in the sky for about six seconds. The startled woman first thought it was a shooting star.

"I'd never seen anything like that. It was this huge light, like it was the searchlight from a helicopter, flying low and going like heck."

She said it appeared to burn out and divide into two pieces, one smaller than the other.

Authorities in nearby Chester-

field County received about two dozen calls of sightings. One police dispatcher said citizens reported "bright lights with sparks flying out of it."

The state police received numerous calls as well.

French said as many as 100 fireballs burn up in the Earth's atmosphere every day, but that few people ever see more than one in a lifetime.

Most of those who witnessed the spectacle had no idea what it was.

"It was a big ball of blue fire," said Sam Nicotero, who had just emerged from a move in McCandless Township near Pittsburgh when he spotted the meteor. "It came down like a falling star but it was real big."

State police from Lancaster to Pittsburgh, said they had received scattered calls about a UFO.

SATURDAY'S SIGHTING

A Mystery or a Meteor?

Even the spokesman for the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle said that descriptions sounded as if people were talking about a big meteor.

Early Saturday night, the sky in the Eastern United States was lit up with a strange bluish-green light. Actually, the color is the subject of some disagreement among eyewitnesses, who described it as yellowish-blue, bluish-white and going from white to orange.

Thousands of people reportedly saw this thing. In one place, a television reporter said that she saw the object still hovering in the sky three hours after the initial sighting. Another witness said that he saw the thing change direction.

Now if that doesn't sound like a good old "unidentified flying object" sighting, what does? But no one called it that. Everyone was looking for logical answers from the known, emphasizing the characteristics that could be explained and dismissing any that could not.

Undoubtedly, a lot of UFO sightings

are explainable as aircraft, satellites or meteors. Are all of them? Maybe, but no one knows for sure. You can dismiss a lot of sightings as the hallucinations of crazed minds, but a lot of them come from reliable, objective and knowledgeable eyewitnesses. Sure, it's possible that their eyes deceived them, but it's possible as well that they saw true.

Without making too much of a little thing, it would be too bad if people were starting to insist that every unknown could be explained in logical, known terms assuming all the information was available. A world with miracles, extraterrestrial visitors, mysterious psychic phenomena and historical puzzles is a far more interesting place than one where everything is explainable.

That's not to say that trying to explain everything isn't a noble pursuit. Insatiable curiosity is uniquely human. But much of the fun and excitement is in the trying. Once we know everything, what purpose would life serve?

NC-D550 WINSTON SALEM JOURNAL

JAN 30 1990

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UFO buffs want to zap earthling

Did a flying saucer crash on a New Mexico ranch in 1947, scattering strange wreckage and four small aliens? Did the government confiscate this "evidence" and store it in a warehouse, where 43 years later it still sits?

Scott Wolfe says yes, and he wants your money to help him prove it.

Wolfe, a self-described "UFOlogist" from Laguna Beach, says he wants to build a "Museum for Inter-galactic Understanding" that will display the alien wreckage and 3½-foot dead aliens once the government ends its silence.

Last night, more than 180 people — mostly diehard UFO buffs — attended Wolfe's seminar on UFOs and extraterrestrials. Many paid a \$10 "donation" that Wolfe claims will someday go toward construction of the museum.

And about a dozen people walked out demanding their money back.

The seminar, advertised in local newspapers and in fliers across town and held in the Scottish Rite Center in Mission Valley, failed to deliver in the opinions of many people who attended, including the UFO buffs.

The ads promised that those attending the seminar would "hear high-ranking military officials describe their communications with extraterrestrials" and "see live movie footage of real UFOs."

But, in fact, the military officials were not present in person but in the ideotape of a television show that already has been broadcast nationally. And the seminar never did show live movie footage" of any flying saucers.

When people asked to see the footage, Wolfe told them to "come back to the next seminar," scheduled at 7 p.m. tonight. When asked specific questions about UFOs, Wolfe usually said he'd answer them at the next seminar.

Much of the information, particularly involving the reported crash of a UFO in New Mexico, has been broadcast on "Unsolved Mysteries," as well as on many other documentaries involving UFOs.

2 more report seeing bright light in night sky

By Donna Lee Olson
Gazette staff writer

A UFO spotter near Wellman was relieved last night to hear she was not alone in her experience Monday night.

Charleen Miller told authorities she had seen a large dark mass, surrounded by two blue beams and a halo of light hover and then disappear above a Wellman farm field.

She was disappointed at the time to learn that no one else had seen it.

Last night, Kurt Maas of Troy Mills said in a telephone interview that he also had seen a strange, unexplained light shining suddenly in the sky that night and watched as the round beam flashed into darkness.

BOTH SIGHTINGS were around 9 p.m.

Unlike Charleen Miller's encounter, however, Maas said the light was farther away in the sky and not detailed. It shone like the sun or moon in the cloudy sky.

Maas and his wife, Karen, were out walking on the Linn-Buchanan Road Monday night when they sensed a bright light, like

car lights, coming from the west. Maas turned around in time to see the circle of light overhead before it suddenly disappeared.

"It looked like a flashbulb went off," Maas said.

The whole incident took a matter of seconds.

Karen Maas hadn't turned around fast enough to see the light in the sky, but was aware of the initial brightness behind them.

Later, during the walk, Maas asked a Linn County sheriff's deputy he met in Troy Mills if he had seen the bright light. The deputy hadn't.

YET MAAS, who describes himself as a normal, no-nonsense teacher, admits he now is a little less skeptical about unidentified flying objects.

"From what I saw it could have been space junk," Maas said. "It could have been a meteor, but (then) it was the biggest meteor I ever saw."

He also was relieved to read of Miller's experience in The Gazette on Thursday. "I feel vindicated," Maas said.

Later, Wolfe said many in the crowd were UFO buffs who already had seen a lot of information about UFOs, while his seminar was a "basic UFO course" geared for the general public. "That's why they said, 'Oh, this stuff.' They thought I was going to talk about other things."

Wolfe, a commodities trader, operates his UFO seminars under an umbrella organization called Feedback Unlimited Inc. He said the company is a non-profit group. The fliers and advertisements stated that the seminars were "presented by the Citizens for Scientific Reality," which Wolfe admitted was a group of 10 of his friends formed about three months ago.

Wolfe, when asked what he was going to do with the money raised through donations, conceded that it could be used to cover the expense of holding more seminars. "I can't be sure we'll spend all the money on the museum," he said.

"We paid \$10 for something we could have seen for free on television!" Don Waller, 51, of San Diego, shouted to Wolfe as the seminar ended.

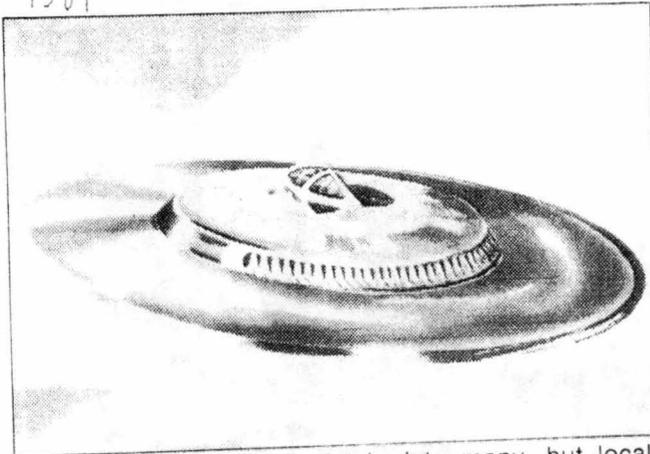
"Yeah, show us something scientific!" shouted another man.

"What bothers me is that this subject should be treated with honesty and dignity and what I saw tonight strikes me as something of a rip-off," said Waller, a general contractor. "This only makes people more cynical."

Wolfe, when confronted by the crowd, replied that "this is not about money. First of all, that was a donation. If you want a refund, talk to me afterwards. . . . If you're not happy with what we're doing and you don't want to contribute \$10 to the museum, then I'll give you your money back."

FEB 5 1990

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Flying saucers seem far-fetched to many, but local UFOlogist Thomas Stults says that "we are being investigated by seven to nine alien races."

UFO bulletin

We're not alone. Aliens eat our cows — and more

By Steve Johnson

All those stories you have heard about terrestrial cattle being wantonly mutilated by alien beings are true. In a kind of interstellar combination of the drive-thru window and the prepare-your-own-food bar, the visitors apparently park near a pasture, cut up an unsuspecting cow and then eat it, the theory being that it is easier to do this than return to one's own galaxy for lunch.

This, at least, was one of many interesting propositions UFOlogist Thomas Stults put forth last week in a lecture sponsored by the Business/Science/Technology Division of the Chicago Public Library and held at the Cultural Center, as part of a series called "Chicago Smarts."

"For us, what we want to do is sometimes present all the sides," said Nita Salutillo, a library program coordinator. "Last year, for example, we had yoga, and some people do not believe in yoga. There are many people who don't believe [in UFOs], and there are some people who do. Perhaps [Stults] could be an eye opener."

Much of what Stults said did, indeed, open eyes. It is also true, he said, that "we are being investigated by seven to nine alien races," who routinely visit our planet in order to kidnap some of our brethren and conduct scientific experiments on us and/or improve our gene pool so that we are better capable of traveling in space.

"Now we have a plethora of evidence with a high degree of probability that people, in fact, are being abducted," said Stults, a veteran of UFO studies whose eyebrows arch above his glasses in an expression of permanent amazement and who claims alien kidnapers cured a friend's lupus. "The '80s have been a very exciting overall time."

It is true, he said, that astronauts have seen UFOs. Neil Armstrong once confided that, during his historic Apollo 11 mission, "the fact is, we were warned off" by large and technologically advanced craft. "Their ships were far superior to ours," Armstrong said, according to Stults.

It is true, Stults said, that President Richard Nixon's resignation was brought about by UFOs. The real reason Nixon's culpability in Watergate was exposed had less to do with the enterprise of reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein and more to do with the fact that Nixon had promised to tell the American people the truth about UFOs.

"Those reporters were hand-fed that information, because they [the feeders, not the reporters] wanted Nixon to back off," said Stults, who holds the title

UFO

Continued from page 1

of Illinois state director of the Mutual UFO Network. "That was the last thing our government wanted at that time. They went out to get him, and they got him good."

And it is true, Stults said, that the U.S. government, involved in a conspiracy of silence for so many years, is now coordinating a number of businesses in a "planned educational approach" with the seeming aim of preparing the public for the shock of discovering it is not alone.

In addition to scores of eyewitness accounts from just plain citizens, there is a wealth of secret government documents, Stults said, detailing crashed alien craft and Air Force encounters with otherworldly vehicles, and "the government plans—today—are to start releasing this information in 1994." He allowed that date could be moved up or back. "Their current plan is supposedly 1994, hoping to get us educated and better prepared in the meantime."

One part of this campaign, he said, is the increase in UFO-related advertising, such as Reese's Pieces' "E.T." ads, and ads for Tropicana, Radio Shack, Bud Light, Edy's Ice Cream and Levi's Dockers pants. "Now, stop for a minute," said Stults. "Levi Dockers." The chairman of Levi Strauss, he said, is also a director of the Brookings Institute, a think tank that Stults earlier had said was an advisor to the government on its UFO policy. "Is that just a coincidence? I think not."

Stults' was the kind of talk

where Woody Allen's old stand-up bit about an alien race that starts bringing Earth its dirty clothes (the plan to turn us into a planet of launderers is ultimately foiled when the aliens return for their things, having traveled thousands of light years, but they forgot their ticket) would have fallen on 90 pairs of deaf ears.

Even the man in Stults' audience who kept laughing vigorously at things that weren't funny, in the manner of a TV sports announcer, probably wouldn't have cracked a smile.

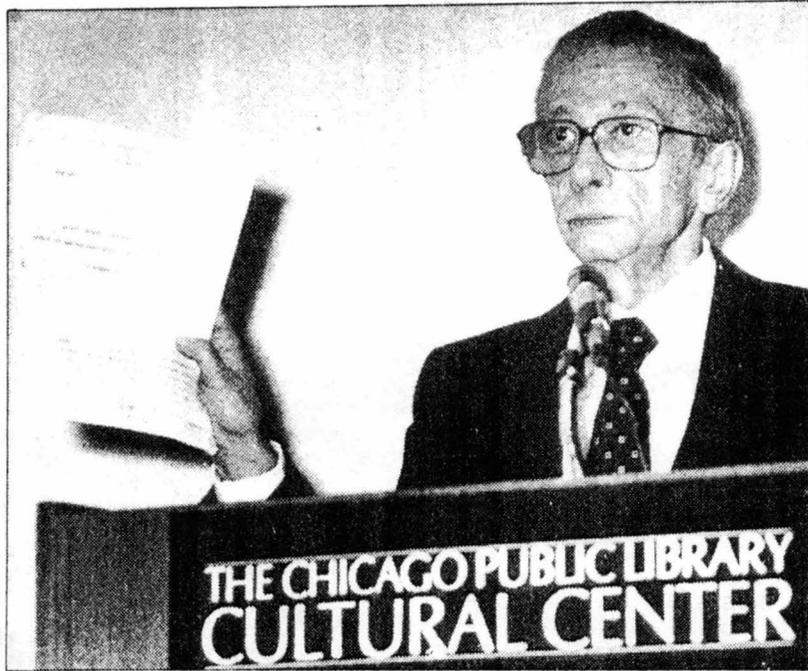
This was no dilettantes' ball. Between Stults and his audience, they spoke knowingly of "Hangar 18," the "man-in-black theory," the "MJ-12 papers," and some sort of aliens-for-Americans swap the government made in April 1964. Stults held up what he said were government UFO documents, released under the Freedom of Information Act, upon which 90 percent of the words had been blacked out prior to their release.

"I heard that President Eisenhower was taken out to meet them," said one man.

"It has been rumored but not authenticated," replied Stults.

Five members of the crowd raised their hands when asked if they had personally seen UFOs, and another man volunteered that his uncle, a chef in the mountains of New Hampshire, had seen strange lights in the sky on the same night of a famous abduction in the southern part of the state.

"We may be just a huge laboratory for them," said another wholly respectable-looking man in the audience, who privately expressed concern that Stults had not mentioned that some of the seven to nine observing races might not be



Tribune photo by Karan Engstrom

UFOlogist Thomas Stults holding a "top secret government document" to prove a point.

benign. "They've got certain experiments that I don't know how to describe. I better keep my mouth shut about them," the man said.

He did allow, though, that they had something to do with alteration of human neurochemistry. "The alteration is taking place at all times," the man said. "It's the acceleration of the alteration that's the crucial thing. That's about all I can say. Take care."

The man walked away. Less than an hour later, he turned up at Tribune Tower to ask that his name, which he had originally given, not appear in the article.

Speaking with fervor, Stults showed a score or so of slides of UFO pictures that he said had

been authenticated by computer analysis.

He also showed hoax pictures, one of which was suspended by a string in front of the camera and another which he described as a "peanut butter lid."

He spoke of a deliberate disinformation campaign along those lines, some of it propagated at the checkout counter. "How many of you have seen," Stults asked, "when you go to the supermarket, the National Weekly News: 'Two-Headed UFO Baby Found in Brazil'?"

"Now, with that kind of junk, do you think the Chicago Tribune is gonna publish an article on UFOs? No way."

OR. DBO THE REGISTER GUARD
JAN 22 1990

UFO UPDATE — Remember the New Year's Eve UFO sighting by a group of Eugene partygoers, reported here last Monday? Enough others have called or written since then to convince me that there was something in the sky that night.

But what it was remains — as it always does in UFO stories — a tantalizing unknown.

Sherill Bowers reported last week that she and a group of 20 people at a party at East 15th and Moss watched five lights move slowly, in varying formations, across the sky for about 20 minutes shortly after midnight.

Robert McCaffrey, a real estate salesman who lives in the Ferry Street Bridge area, said five people at his house saw the same thing. The large bright lights appeared in the south and moved north, he said.

"What we were looking at was an almost perfectly diamond-shaped formation, and finally a fifth light appeared like a tail on a kite," he said. "What was striking was there was absolutely no sound."

"When they came overhead of us, they split formation, two lights in one line, two in another," he said. "My son (Sean, 16) ran in and got his camera and took two or three photos."

Sean's pictures show two bright spots — slightly squiggly, because of camera movement — in the sky. But the photos wouldn't reproduce well in the paper.

McCaffrey said the lights disappeared over the Coburg Hills after about 10 minutes. Nancy Dear, a teacher who was at the McCaffrey's party, gave a similar description. As Bowers had, she phoned every agency she could think of in a futile search for an explanation.

Betsy Steffensen and another group watched the lights from the panoramic view at her house on Skyline Boulevard. Binoculars didn't help in identification. "When we put the binoculars on them, they were still just these lights," Steffensen said.

Eugene poet Ingrid Wendt and her daughter saw them from near the University of Oregon's Hayward Field. Runners Marcia and Bill McChesney watched

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"We were returning to our friends' party after running the Midnight Run in Alton Baker Park," Marcia McChesney said. "The strongest drink we consumed that evening was coffee."

But the sightings seem to have been limited to the Eugene area. There have been no reports from elsewhere in the state. At the University of Oregon's Pine Mountain Observatory near Bend, for example, research assistant Doug Hankins said he was working that night and saw nothing but stars and planets.

McCaffrey doesn't believe that the lights were anything extraterrestrial, but he's still curious.

"This has just had us all baffled," he said. "There has to be a logical explanation."

If only one of those lights had dropped a bottle — with a message in it. . . .

IN THE DARK CONT

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MYSTERY

Continued From Page 1

phoned the center described the object "as coming down and hitting the ground in their area, which is very common in something like this."

In North Carolina, Jim Iodice, who was flying a Cessna 172 over Pilot Mountain Saturday night, said that he saw a "glowing, yellowish-blue light" between 7 and 7:30 p.m. that appeared to be near the plane. The object was descending in a northeast direction toward Martinsville, Va., but it leveled off at about 3,000 feet, flew at the same altitude for several hundred yards, then changed to a southward direction, Iodice said.

"My flight instructor was in the plane, and he said that no meteor

would have changed direction like that," Iodice said. "We decided we just wouldn't say anything about it unless someone else did. But apparently a lot of people *did* see it."

Lee T. Shapiro, the director of the Morehead Planetarium at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, said that the object may have been what astronomers call a "fire ball," or an extraordinarily bright meteor.

There are no active meteor showers during this time of year, but fire balls are not uncommon, Shapiro said. A similar sighting in the eastern part of the state Jan. 8 sparked reports of sightings from Wilmington to Hendersonville, he said.

"Meteors don't change direction, but they can break up and the pieces can go in different directions," Shapiro said. Meteors generally stop glowing when they reach an altitude

of about 20 miles, often causing people on the ground to think that it landed near them, he said.

Among the people who reported seeing the object was David Arnold, an air-traffic-control supervisor at Dulles Airport, near Washington, D.C. where the sighting occurred at 7:10 p.m.

"We don't know exactly what it was, a meteor or a satellite," said Arnold, who has been an air-traffic controller for 25 years. "It lasted 25 to 30 seconds and went from brilliant white to an orange as it broke up."

"We've seen things like this before, but much higher. This was quite brilliant. It appeared to have dissipated completely."

But not all witnesses saw the object change color or disappear.

A television reporter in Oak Hill, W.Va., one of the places where there was a flurry of initial sightings, was at

the home of one of the first witnesses nearly three hours after the initial sighting and reported that the light was still hovering in the sky.

Kitty Harrison, an assignment editor for WOAY-TV in Oak Hill, W.Va., said that what she saw was "absolutely not" a meteorite. "I've seen meteorites before, and this doesn't resemble the type of meteorite I've seen," she told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

In the Dark

Strange Light Seen by Thousands May Have Been Meteor, Some Say

JOURNAL STAFF AND WIRE REPORT

Thousands of people in the Eastern United States reported seeing a strange blueish-green light in the sky Saturday night which some experts said could have been an unusually large meteorite.

Sheriff's dispatchers and spokesmen for police departments in northwest North Carolina and southwest Virginia reported receiving more than a dozen calls.

"We are quite confident it was not a man-made object re-entering," said Maj. Dick Adam, a public-affairs officer for the North American Aerospace Defense Command

(NORAD) in Colorado Springs, Colo. "We have no idea what it was."

Robert Gribble of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, a private group, reported receiving dozens of calls.

"Based on descriptions that have been given, I'd say we're dealing with a very large solid, a very large meteor," Gribble said.

"Descriptions run from a blue-green to a bright green coming down in an angular descent, leaving a short tail behind it," Gribble said. He said that everyone who had tele-

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"What we are seeing is a very bright bluish-white object that appears to be moving downward toward the horizon in an erratic spiraling motion," Ms. Harrison told the AP. "It is very slow. You have to keep your eye fixed to something stationary in order to see its progress."

Among the witnesses in the Washington area was Andrew Guthrie, a news editor at the Voice of America

since 1983. "It was a dramatic thing to see," Guthrie said. "I almost drove off the road." He said that the object appeared to be "three or four times treetop level" and about the size of a grapefruit with an "incandescent bright light at the center, like a magnesium flare."

A reporter for the AP walking along Pennsylvania Avenue in the Foggy Bottom section of Washington recalled thinking initially that it was some type of man-made firework

But the light remained on a flat trajectory, moving rapidly across the sky without fading in intensity or falling.

The witness then surmised that it could have been a fog-shrouded light on a fast-moving helicopter — until realizing that the night was clear and that there was no tell-tale sound of a helicopter.

MD-D20 BALTIMORE
SUN

JAN 31 1990

ROGER
SIMON



Little green men send the media the other way

She lives in Towson and wondered why I hadn't written about the UFO. She had seen it in the sky Saturday night but had seen no stories about it in the paper.

And now she felt that for dark and mysterious reasons, the media were covering up.

Fortunately, as a representative of a proud profession, it is part of my job to squelch rumors and calm fears.

"The media are covering up," I said. "At least I am."

But why not print the truth! she cried. Why don't the media admit that there is life on other planets trying to contact us!

"I can't speak for the rest of the media," I said, "but in my case, my Lord and Master Krago, Zarkon of Pluto, has forbidden me to write about these matters. What you probably saw was the scout ship for his invasion fleet."

She threatened me with the direst threat available to a citizen today: She was going to call her favorite talk-radio show and report me.

I just laughed. "Go right ahead," I said. "All the nation's most influential media personalities had their bodies taken over by pods years ago. Take Alan Prell. Instead of a belly-button, he has a deep-space radio embedded there."

You're making fun of me! she said.

People in Towson can be very quick.

"Prove it yourself," I said. "Go down to the station and rip his shirt off."

She hung up. (My bosses don't believe it, but many more people hang up on me than get hung up on.)

The UFO that the woman in Towson saw Saturday night was real. Hundreds of thousands of people up and down the Eastern seaboard observed it. Authorities received reports from as far south as Richmond, Va., and as far north as New York. The object was shiny and had a long tail.

So it was either a flying saucer or a 1959 Cadillac.

Last October, there was another big UFO sighting. The Soviet news agency Tass reported that gigantic "humanlike" creatures and a tiny robot had emerged from a huge "banana-shaped" UFO that landed in the Russian city of Voronezh, 300 miles south of Moscow.

The UFO hovered over a park and then descended. The aliens, who were 10 feet tall and had three eyes, were clad in silvery coveralls and boots the color of bronze.

The only thing unusual about this was that Tass does not usually report loony UFO stories. Tass is the official mouthpiece of the Soviet government and has never been confused with a supermarket tabloid. Tass' idea of a wild story is tractor production in Minsk and the International Conference on Hydroelectric Power in Pinsk.

But here was Tass reporting that there were numerous witnesses to the alien landing and that "onlookers were overwhelmed with a fear that lasted for several days."

At first, the story upset me because it shattered my long held theory about UFOs:

Even though space aliens are supposed to be much smarter than

earthlings, they always pick extremely stupid places to land.

They never land in front of the White House, for instance, or on the quadrangle at MIT or even at City Hall in Baltimore. (And if you wanted to find intelligent life on Earth, wouldn't you start with the Baltimore City Council and work your way up?)

But, no, they always land in obscure places like the swamps of Mississippi where Luke and Duke Dweeb are out in a flatboat fishing for engine blocks. And the next day Luke goes on local TV and says, "Yup, they was big and green and offered to take us back to mate with their women and start a master race."

"But we said no," Duke adds, "because we didn't want to miss 'MacGyver.'"

The Tass story seemed to shoot down my theory, however. After all, Voronezh sounded like a major city, and this time the aliens were seen by many onlookers.

So this could have been for real. And I would have been forced to reverse myself, accept the reality of UFOs and admit human error. I was not looking forward to this.

Then other accounts began to surface. On the news, I saw a Soviet TV interview with one of the "onlookers" who had seen the three-eyed aliens. The onlooker was 10 years old. As it turned out, the other onlookers were 10 years old, too.

Then there was Voronezh, itself. For information about that, I called Antero Pietila, famed former Moscow correspondent for *The Sun* and an expert on the Soviet Union.

"I would not call Voronezh a major city," he said.

What would you call it? I asked.

"A hick town," he said. "A large hick town — maybe about 300,000 people — but it's still a hick town. Though it is quite plausible to have giant three-eyed creatures there."

Really? I said. You're not making this up?

"Really," he said. "Voronezh has a huge cooling lake that sits over a nuclear power plant. And the lake is stocked with carp, and the people eat the carp."

The government lets people eat carp that swim in the cooling lake of nuclear power plant?

"Oh, yes, the town is very proud of the lake," he said. "They have a beach there and everything. And so I would not be surprised at all if, after a few years of eating the carp in that lake, you would see strange creatures in Voronezh."

There you had it. The creatures were not aliens; they were the next generation of Voronezhians.

So I am sure that object in the sky Saturday night was not a flying saucer but just a harmless meteorite, one of thousands that burn up in Earth's atmosphere every year.

And if you don't believe me, just ask Krago.

Something's going on at Nelson — but what?

**'Flying saucer' stories present a familiar paradox:
credible witnesses describing events which aren't**

By M.F. Whalen

Jim Harris is a 68-year-old widower. He enjoys his solitude, his afternoon nap, and camping under glittering desert skies near his Nelson, Nev. home. But like many of his neighbors, Jim has discovered that the skies over Nelson hold secrets even more wondrous than their celestial brilliance.

One evening several years ago, Jim awakened to the sound of a rattlesnake near his sleeping bag and witnessed the most unforgettable sight of his life. A huge, airborne object had loomed over the hilltop just 50 yards away. It rose

eerily, hovered several minutes, then disappeared over the next rise. It looked like an upside-down table saucer, he said, and made no sound.

"It just took off," said Harris. "It was real. I know what I saw. I may be old. And I do drink a lot of beer, but I was completely sober then, because I remember 'Charlie' (the rattler). He visits that campsite pretty often but we don't bother each other much. This time, I'm glad he did."

A resident of Nelson for 51 years, Harris has ascribed anthro-

pomorphic names to many of the desert's indigenous dwellers. But he doesn't seem a man to fabricate tales or accept them without question. He is a common-sense codger who has survived and prospered in the tricky trade of mining gold and silver. For 32 years he has actively worked three still-producing mines with the same partner. At one time or another they have mastered every dip, spur and angle of the mining business, from blasting out ore to running their own mill to refining it. And like many Nelson residents, he has witnessed at least

three UFOs in the area — the last one about five years ago.

"They come up when you least expect it," he said. "They move without a sound." He fumbled for a visual description. "They look like the pictures in the books; like an inverted saucer, that's all. You don't give a good description because they come up so unexpectedly... It's such a sudden shock."

"One morning I was driving toward Nelson from Las Vegas," he said. "It was just before daylight and as I went over the last hill before coming into town, I saw

something. It was not a weather balloon, and it wasn't an airplane. It was definitely a flying saucer. On another occasion, I'd gone to the dump — I call it my supply house," he laughs, "and when I got there, I saw a flying saucer just hovering over the area. I know it sounds strange, but that's what I saw."

Harris jokes when giving friends directions to his remote house trailer. "You turn right at the first cactus, head down the dirt road, then left around the mountain." But isolation and solitude are the

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reasons 45 residents of Nelson choose to live here, nestled securely in what they call "the saddle" of Eldorado Canyon.

Residents can only speculate why so many UFOs have been sighted in their area. "There's been about half a dozen UFO sightings in the past two to three years," said miner Jack Jacksis. He says some residents attribute alien curiosities to the magnetic pull of the canyon, others to the tectonic upheaval of the mountains, which would interest any geologist, including an alien scientist. "But whatever the reason," he said, "the geographic location of this canyon makes it a perfect place for UFOs."

Jacksis should know. He and a friend experienced one of Nelson's most frightening alien visitations.

"One evening, Ed Brown and I were in his backyard 'boiling gold' (a process by which gold is released

from ore by treating it with cyanide). My neighbor Marguerite had invited us to dinner, so Ed took the motorcycle and I took the car," he said. They enjoyed dinner and started back to the refining site. "But when I got to the dogleg in town, Ed and I separated." On the motorcycle, Ed Brown got well ahead of Jacksis, out of sight.

"Then, suddenly, the whole sky became ablaze. I'd never seen anything like it.

"At first, I thought the motorcycle had exploded. I laid onto that gas pedal. But when I got where I thought he'd be, there was nothing. So I pulled up in my yard, and there he was, sitting on the corner of the porch over here, crouched in a fetal position, shivering and shaking. He said, 'Did you see it, too?' I said, 'What?' And he said, 'The flying saucer with the people inside that looked like dogs.'

"I didn't know what to say. Ed got back on his motorcycle, went home, shut down his cauldron and wasn't seen or heard from again for three days. After that, he refused to talk about it. If someone brought it up, he'd leave the room."

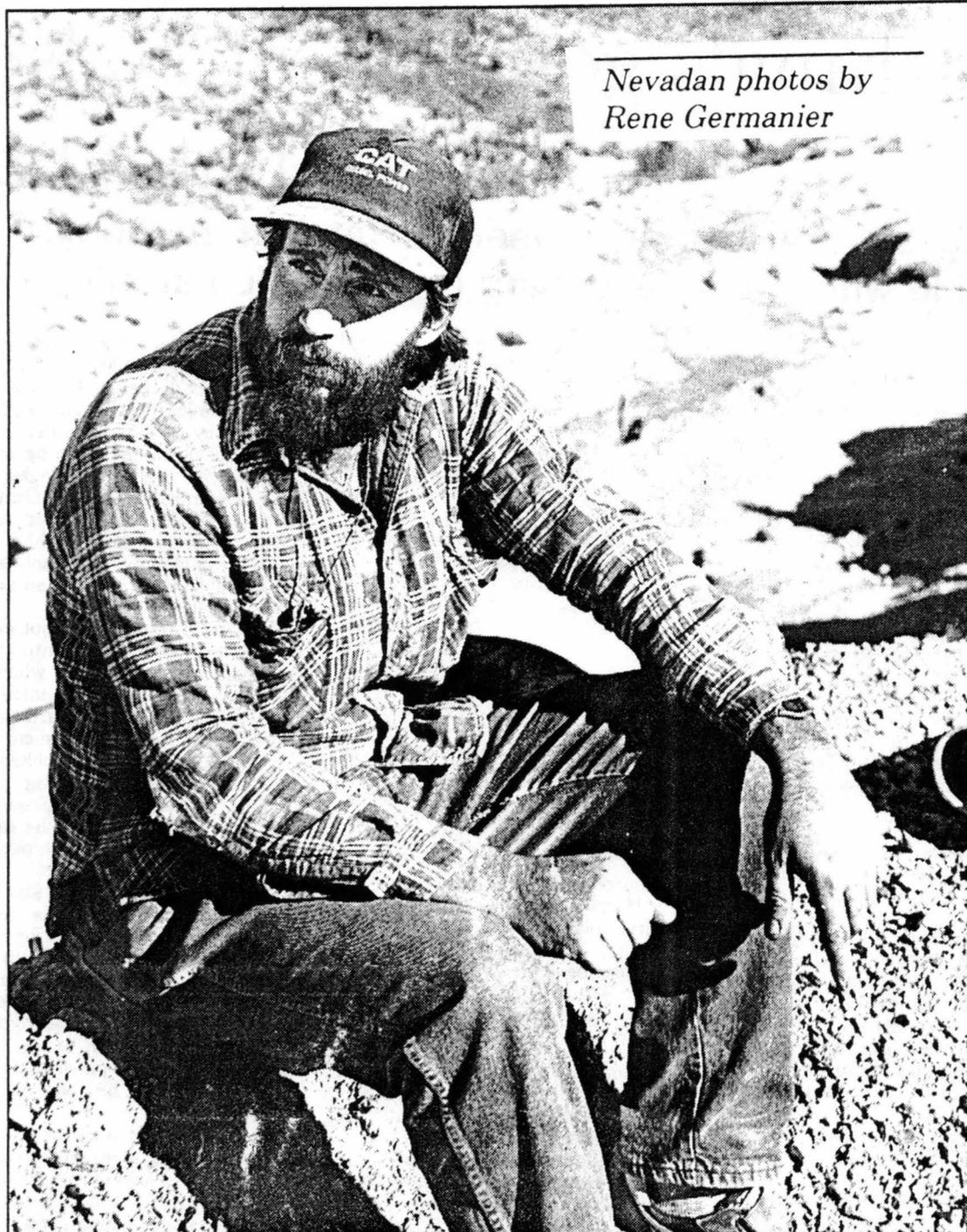
Jacksis did get him to say that the fiery object had passed directly over his head as he rode up the narrow canyon.

"And since then, he never worked outside at night," Jacksis added. (Brown also moved about as far away from Nelson as he could. He now resides in Idaho and could not be reached for comment.)

Jacksis also relates a story more personal, but equally intriguing. "I was sitting on my front porch one day, crushing rock samples with mortar and I felt a hand on my head — just as real as if someone walked up behind you and put their hand on your head. I felt someone's touch," he said emphatically. "And whoever it was called me 'Johnny.' Well, no one's ever called me Johnny except my Dad, and he's been dead now for years. When I turned around, there was no one there."

At 76, Marguerite Knickerbocker is considered Nelson's matri-

*Nevadan photos by
Rene Germanier*



Ron Firestone, a miner and gold refiner, heard stories of UFOs most of his life. He has seen one.

arch. In 1952, she and her husband Nick arrived here to file a mining claim. Thirty-eight years later, she still refers to her home as "God's Canyon" and refuses to leave. Nelson's uninvited visitors are Marguerite's guests — worthy of wonder, respect and an invitation to dinner.

"My advice to my friends in this community is to invite them in, feed them — don't try to shoot them like some people have done," she said with complete seriousness.

She went on to relate her own experience, in Henderson in the early 1960s.

"I was coming out of Safeway (in Henderson) one day," she said, "and the cashiers were grabbing their cash drawers and running with them held to their chest so as not to drop the money. When I asked what was going on, they said, 'Look outside,' and when I looked, I saw the whole sky lit up with beautiful, crystalline colors. They must have been exhaust fumes or a vapor trail of some kind. Then,

when I looked up, I saw a bright, glowing craft in the sky, moving in high-speed right angles. I watched it make a complete square," she said, drawing a rectangle with her finger in the air. "Then it disappeared. Now, nothing we know of moves like that. Nothing."

Ron Firestone agreed. Educated at the University of Nevada, Reno, Firestone is technologically sophisticated, able to mine and run heavy equipment and refine gold. At 34, he still lives by preference in the hills where he grew up, with his wife and his mother.

NELSON COYNT

"Yup. The one I saw was about a mile away," Firestone said. "And when it came through, it lit up the whole saddle."

"There was no mistaking it. It was a flying saucer," Firestone said.

He added that he was willing to call it something else until he saw it leave. "I'd bet I looked at it a good five minutes. Sitting there, it could of been a helicopter or something. But when it shot off to the

south, it was gone in a split second! The speed was comparable to a meteor." But it wasn't a meteor, because it had been standing still before it headed for the horizon.

Other residents of Nelson, and as far away as Searchlight, reported similar sightings about the same time, in the early 1970s, he said. He believes the sightings were simultaneous, but since he didn't record the exact time of his sighting, can't be sure.

Ron Firestone suggests that one reason Nelsonites see more UFOs than other people is that they spend so much time outdoors. "Here, it's common to entertain people sitting in your front yard. It's common to sleep outdoors in good weather. And there's not much artificial light, so if something happens, you're apt to see it."

Marguerite recalled that other friends claimed they had seen aliens inside the ships. "They said they were little people, with things on their back like antennae, and pointed dog-like faces," she said.

"They watched them come near to a peak near Nelson where they transported gravel and soil samples up with them." At least, that's what they appeared to be doing.

Soil samples? Vapor trails? Panic among Safeway cashiers? Certainly, all this has not escaped the attention of the U.S. government, and Nelson residents will assure you it has not.

Nelson natives tell of imposters posing as free-lance geologists who visit the area, questioning residents about the surrounding hills, canyons and caves. Said Jacksis, "I thought this one fella acted kinda strange. He pretended to be interested in collecting rock samples. Then I saw him head off in the direction all the UFOs had gone, climbing up hills of nothing but bentonite (clay). When he came down the mountain I asked him how it went, and he finally admitted he wasn't a geologist at all. Said he was involved in infra-red photo interpretation at some big air force base in Ohio, I think."

His thoughts were more accurate than he probably realized. Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio is the national command center for all Air Force scientific testing and research.

Some say governmental interference has extended to abducting Nelson residents who have witnessed UFOs. One man, a dockworker at Nelson's Landing and single father of two, was reportedly such a victim. The man swore that one evening he was blindfolded and experienced "a huge roaring" while being transported by aliens to a cave where he was released, observed by aliens and later returned to safety. Soon after he recounted his dramatic story to friends and co-workers, a large black limousine appeared at his job. The man and his two children were whisked away. They were never seen or heard from again.

Other residents swear to a similar story. One blazing afternoon several years ago, many couldn't help noticing a stranger walking through town, dressed in black suit, shirt and tie and carrying a black briefcase. "It seems," said Jacksis and Marguerite, both telling the story at the same time, "that old Harry Clark came along and offered him a ride. When the two got to talking, the stranger admitted he was an engineer. The conversation got around to UFO sightings when the stranger said he knew where the real thing was hidden in a mountain cave nearby. He said he'd show it to Harry, as long as Harry agreed to be blindfolded. Well, Harry agreed, and they switched places."

Harry told his friends the man drove knowledgeably along switchback trails and dusty, mountain backroads for about 40 minutes to an isolated cave where his blindfold was removed. There, he saw a huge spacecraft and learned from surrounding markings and geographic topography that he was in a hangar site for alien landings. The stranger then returned Harry to town, dazed and awestruck. No one ever saw the man again, as residents tell it. And Harry Clark is unavailable for comment. He died of cancer two years ago.

Fear of the government's reaction, or that of friends and family, is why some Nelsonites never report their findings. Marguerite tells of a woman who stumbled

across an alien landing site 40 years ago, but still refuses comment. The woman was reportedly fishing with a friend near Cottonwood Cove when the two pulled into a small inlet for lunch. There, they noticed a winding, dirt path littered with old, rusting mining relics, and followed it up the mountain side. Explained Marguerite, "Miners used a lot of these old paths to carry gold down the

mountains to the lake (or before Lake Mohave was built, the Colorado River) where it would be transported for processing."

But the couple stumbled across much more than old relics. They followed the path to a clearing where they found a huge burned patch in the ground, 50 feet in diameter. "They know it was 50 feet across, because they paced it off," she said. But the woman, now 85-years-old and dependent solely upon the care of other family members, would not confirm her find. "I don't want them reading this in the paper," she said. "But I thoroughly believe they're out there (alien beings), and I believe in

just try to keep an open mind. After all, people perceive things differently."

As a police officer trained to notice and observe, Mattson has also witnessed UFOs over Nelson. He doesn't know what they are, but is sure the phenomenon is no hallucination. "I was coming home from work the other night," he began. "I was north of Searchlight about 14 miles near mile marker 35. A truck driver had stopped and he flagged me over. Then, I stopped and the two of us just watched in amazement."

What he saw was enough to make a believer of any doubting Thomas. A configuration of bright,

what I saw."

So do resident authorities and law enforcement personnel. Although some like District Ranger Jim Riley say, "Well, it's interesting, but it just don't soak in too deep with me," others, like Metro's resident deputy Jim Mattson feel differently. Mattson not only vouches for the credibility of those who claim such sightings, but he has also seen them.

"I've known these people for years," said Mattson. "I've been the deputy officer out here now for about five to seven years, and I know them all. They're quite credible in their stories and very intelligent, knowledgeable folks. I used to

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glowing lights was flying in a holding pattern, making different formations as they maneuvered across the sky. Both men saw the six smaller lights and one large, glowing light fly in V-shaped and circular patterns until out of sight.

"I radioed my sergeant immediately and described it to him," said Mattson. "Then I called the tower at McCarran Airport. They didn't know anything about it. But I know what I saw. And when I see something, I know I've seen it."

His sergeant concurred. "I've known Jimm 18, 19 years," said Don McHale of Metro's Laughlin substation. "He doesn't drink, and he wouldn't lie. Of course, we don't officially recognize UFO's. And unless someone's in danger of being hurt, we don't take a report or make any official acknowledgment. So when he called it in, my attitude was more or less like, 'Well, that's nice.' But I trust his judgment. If he saw it, I know he saw it."

The Public Information Office at Nellis Air Force Base is familiar with the many reported sightings in Nelson. The following blanket statement is the Air Force's only official response to each new finding:

"Project Blue Book, the Air Force study of UFOs, ended in 1969 after 22 years of scientific investigation. More than 12,500 reported sightings were investigated. The vast majority, about 95 percent, were explainable. They were caused by such natural phenomena as meteors, satellites, aircraft, lightning, balloons, weather conditions, reflections of other planets or just plain hoaxes. Of the very few that remained unexplained, there was no indication of a technology beyond our own scientific knowledge or that any sighting could be considered an extraterrestrial vehicle.

"Most importantly, throughout Project Blue Book, there was never a shred of evidence to indicate a threat to our national security. Project Blue Book was ended based

on these findings, as verified by a scientific study prepared by the University of Colorado and further verified by the National Academy of Sciences. All of the Project Blue Book materials were turned over to the Modern Military Branch, National Archives and Records Administration, 8th Street and Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20408, and are available for public review and analysis."

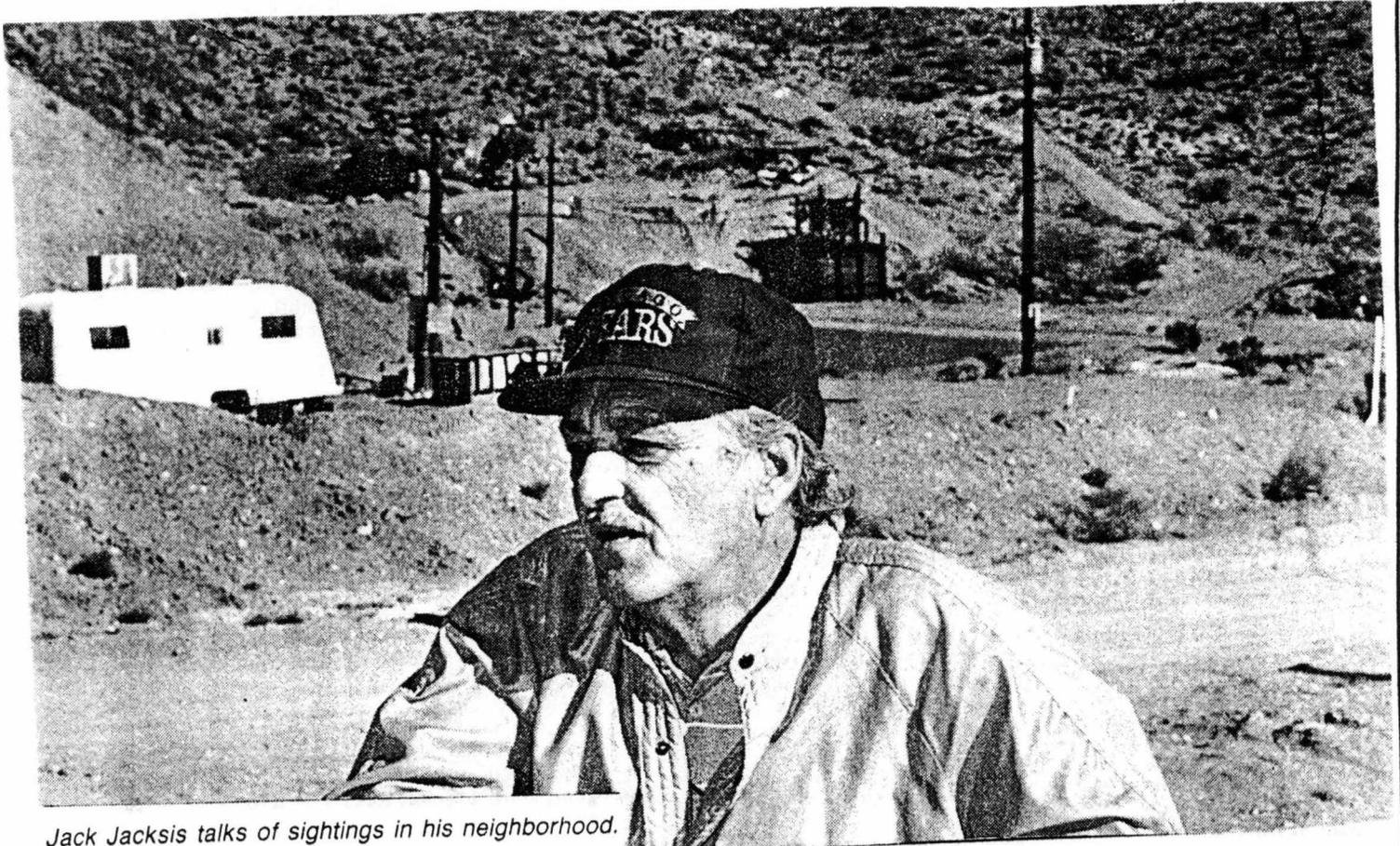
Call it one of the idiosyncrasies of a small desert town. Call it the result of isolation, desolation and loneliness.

But think before you call it.

If you were of superior intelligence, from another planet and were curious about life on earth, wouldn't the subject of your curiosity be people with the most advanced civilization on earth? Wouldn't you prefer their small, isolated towns to their panicky, overpopulated big cities? The landing capabilities of open desert to densely-forested peaks?

Admittedly, there are those among us who would call the average Nelsonite an extraterrestrial. Maybe they really are tuned into the Twilight Zone — all that ore in the mountains or something. Nevertheless, it appears that Nelson has become a target. Not only for aware and intelligent earthlings, but a primary target for sophisticated alien intelligence, as well. Perhaps the real aliens are those among us who still refuse to believe.

Mary Whalen is a free-lance writer who lives in Las Vegas. //



Jack Jacksis talks of sightings in his neighborhood.

One sighting occurred on the road behind him, another over mountain to left.