

UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

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Spy satellite? 'That's not what I saw'

By JENNIFER JORDON
Journal special writer

UFO? Yes!

A few Flintites reported seeing strange lights in the sky Thursday night. The Journal reported Friday morning that a Soviet spy satellite had plunged to Earth, breaking into thousands of pieces — hence the light show.

That's not what I saw.

That's not what my sister-in-law and nephew saw, either.

DRIVING SOUTH on U.S. 23 about 11 p.m., we noticed a brightly lit object just above the tree line a few miles ahead. We knew it was near the tree line because every few seconds the trees blocked our view.

At first I thought it was a helicopter with a searchlight.

But the lights were too bright for that. And we couldn't see a beam. Then we thought it might have been a blimp with a lighted message.

Near the Thompson Road exit, we went right under it.

I was driving so it was difficult to get a good look, but my sister-in-law describes exactly how she saw it.

THE CRAFT WAS about 30 feet long and 15 feet wide. It resembled an elongated helicopter body, but there were no blades and we didn't hear a sound...

The strangest thing was that it had wings.

On the underside of the craft were about four large high-intensity lights — like searchlights. At the rear, once we passed it, we saw a blinking red light.

It was not moving.

My nephew, who is only 6, sat quietly as we discussed our theories.

OBVIOUSLY SHAKEN by what he saw, he felt a sense of relief when I suggested we would call the airport after we got home. We drove my sister-in-law to her parents' Fenton home, then head-

ed back to Flint.

Unfortunately we were sidetracked from our mission to tell what we had seen.

As we went north on I-475, just north of the Hill Road exchange, the 1985 Caprice we were driving lost all power.

As I was cruising about 55 m.p.h., the speedometer suddenly dropped to 50, 45, then 40. The battery and oil lights came on simultaneously. We coasted onto the shoulder.

The car had died, and it would not restart.

Now hear me out.

I'M NOT GOING to try and make people believe the UFO we saw made the car die, but that's the story. As of this writing, the car trouble has not been explained.

What we saw may have been a NORAD space surveillance tracking device looking for the Soviet spy satellite before it crashed.

Perhaps it was another type of military craft headed for a National Guard center in northern Michigan, although that would not explain why it was motionless in the sky.

So Friday afternoon I called the local branch of the Federal Aviation Administration at Bishop Airport. An official there told me they were unaware of any such craft in the area. But he seemed to take me seriously.

I later learned that my sister-in-law's parents saw what resembled a similar craft about the same time we did as they were driving near Fenton.

That's at least six people who probably saw the same object, including the man who called The Journal Friday morning to report a similar sighting.

Maybe after this account is published, some top-level military official will call to explain what we saw. And maybe I'll believe it.

UFO? Yes!

PARMA SUN POST, Cleveland, OH - June 20, 1985 CR: M. Hawk

Stalking the celestial scuttlebutt

UFOs land in northeast Ohio on the third Saturday of every month.

Well, sort of.

That's when the 30-odd members of the Cleveland Ufology Project — the oldest UFO club in the country, according to group historian Earl Neff — gather to share news of sightings, telepathy and events that many might call supernatural, if not downright weird.

THE GROUP has met in Parma for 30 years, including the last 16 in the basement of a bank on Ridge Road. There are no windows in the room, where the eye takes a back seat to imagination.

A visitor to last Saturday night's meeting walked in warily, checking the backs of heads (for antenna stubs) and hands (to make sure all of them carried a little finger). When he paid his \$2 donation and was sure everyone there seemed normal — outwardly at least — he took a seat next to the youngest members in the room.

"You believe in UFOs?" he asked a blond kid wearing an Iron Maiden painter's cap.

"I don't know," the 10-year-old answered, shrugging his shoulders. "But I saw one once."

"How do you know it was a UFO?" the visitor wondered.

"Because it was too big to be anything else. My friend and me and my brother saw it," the boy said, motioning toward another blond kid sitting next to him.

"IT WAS ABOUT 30 yards long. It moved slow, then disappeared," the 13-year-old brother added. "It was about two or three years ago, on July 5, I think."

"Did anyone believe you when you told them about it?" the visitor asked.

"I don't know," the boy in the painter's cap said.

Just then, a man at the podium began to address the group. The boy said it was his father.

"There haven't been many sightings in the last few years," the man



Flip side

by John Urbancich

at the podium said after some welcoming remarks.

Still, there had been enough for him to tell the group about numerous incidents in New York state, where either UFOs or ultralight aircraft had been stirring up the populace.

BEFORE GIVING WAY to a woman with more strange tales, the man also talked about reports of mysterious lights in the sky near the Arctic Circle and "a black hole" over Baltimore. Neither incident, however, seemed as interesting as some of the woman's stories, which she read from a UFO newsclipping service, based in Arkansas.

One of her reports concerned a group of Washington State residents who saw a UFO crash into Puget Sound. A few months after they raised enough money to go diving for the craft, they found a cup-shaped object stuck in the mud at the bottom of the water.

"One of the divers stood on the object, which resembled a satellite dish," the woman reported. "It made the diver nervous, though, because there was a humming sound coming from inside."

The visitor's favorite story was one which the woman described as a "rather bizarre case" in California.

After an alleged killer named Barry McNamara was arrested for the mass murder of his parents, his sister and his niece on Jan. 5, McNamara wrote a letter to a Santa Barbara newspaper describing what really happened.

M McNAMARA WROTE that he was driving his car when he saw "a cy-

lindrical flying saucer." Stopping for a better look, he saw some "unusually white" men with blond hair and blond beards, standing near a 1965 Datsun sedan that was "glowing slightly and hovering about 3-4 inches off the ground."

The "white" men all wore 1960s clothing that "appeared to be new," McNamara wrote, and walked in a "funny, spider-like fashion."

McNamara claimed the men reached into his car and sprayed "a funny gas into my face." The next thing he knew he was wandering on a road near his parents' home, where police arrested him for murder.

"I haven't been able to find out anything else about this incident," the woman told Cleveland Ufology Project members, who seemed accustomed to it all.

MOST OF THEM, however, really perked up when the group's research director filled them in on a "substantial" sighting in Rockport, Tex.

A dozen people, including a deputy sheriff, reported seeing a UFO on May 27. According to a UPI report, the deputy said the object was "bright white with red rings."

One of the witnesses said the glowing object caused her car to stall, her headlights to go out and her alternator light to flip on.

"Of course we all know that's quite common during these sightings," the research director said.

After a 15-minute break, which included cookies baked from recipes in CUP's "Out of This World" cookbook, guest speaker Elaine Fortson,

"a UFO contactee" from Portage Lakes, took center stage.

FORTSON, an attractive redhead who said she was married to another "contactee," told the group she recognized her psychic ability by the time she turned 18.

She said she worked as a medium for 10 or 12 years, moved to Florida and took part in numerous telepathic experiments, including a scientific expedition through the Bermuda triangle.

When the group's 84-foot sailboat passed through a magnetic field, she said, "It felt like something turned a switch on inside me."

"Since then I have seen many UFOs in all parts of the country," Fortson said.

The visitor had hoped the "contactee" would go into more detail about her experiences. Instead, she sounded more like an evangelist espousing the Gospel According to Spielberg.

"WE ARE NOT READY for any mass forms of communications with the space people," Fortson said, "but I believe there are aliens here — some even in our own forms."

"When they communicate with me (mentally) I ask them why they don't come forward, but they won't until we stop the greed and learn to love our self and our neighbor."

"There has been much less physical contact in recent years," she said, "but very heavy mental contact, especially at the end of last year and early this year. Has anyone else experienced that?"

When the visitor looked around the room and noticed heads answering Fortson's question with nods of affirmation, he knew it was time to leave — before someone zeroed in on what he was thinking.

Very quietly he grabbed his 1960s jacket, tip-toed out of the room (in spider-like fashion, of course), hopped into his Datsun and drove away.

The car eventually stalled and the headlights went off, but not until it was safe in its driveway.

'UFO' may have been military aircraft

By ANN MEYER
Staff Writer

Minutes after Tangerare Dean, 14, and her cousin Takisha Johnson, 12, saw in the sky what they described as a flying saucer larger than their house, the world's largest aircraft landed at MacDill Air Force Base, authorities said this morning.

The St. Petersburg girls said their midnight snack was interrupted between 12:30 and 12:45 a.m. Tuesday when a loud aircraft passed over their house at 3964 13th Ave. S.

At 12:53 a.m., a C-5 military transport plane landed at MacDill, said Sgt. Cathy Segal. The aircraft approached the base from St. Petersburg and would have been flying low in preparation for the landing, she said.

Ms. Segal did not know if the plane was a C-5B, which was rolled off the assembly line last Friday, but she described the aircraft that landed early Tuesday as the largest aircraft in the world.

The plane is almost as long as a football field, has a tail section as tall as a six-story building and has a cargo compartment as large as an eight-lane bowling alley, Ms. Segal said.

At about the same time Tangerare and Takisha ran



File Photo

This is a C-5A cargo plane, an earlier version of the plane that may have been mistaken for a UFO.

out to their back yard and saw flying overhead what looked like a huge saucer with a church steeple on top, several other St. Petersburg residents also saw something they had never seen before.

Aelred Lauth, 47, of 3726 25th Ave. N, told police he was awakened about 1 a.m. Tuesday by a low-pitched pulsating sound. The crystal chandelier and the china in a cabinet began to shake. He woke his family and they all went outside. Hovering in the sky at the edge of his yard was an object the size of a football

field, Lauth told police.

He said the object came from the northwest and was flying southeast (in the direction of MacDill), but seemed to be moving slower than an airplane. He and his family said they also saw two series of colorful lights rotating around the object.

And an elderly woman, Gladys Miller, told a reporter she also was awakened in about 1 a.m. by a loud engine noise. "It startled me so, I was half asleep," she said. Mrs. Miller jumped out of bed and looked out the window of her

sister's Bayway Isles home. There, she said, "I saw a huge object covered with lights. It looked triangular to me."

Mrs. Miller went back to bed, but she said she couldn't help wondering about what she had seen. The next morning, she told her sister, Doris Wikkerink, what she saw.

Mrs. Wikkerink said she thought her sister was dreaming. "I know she's a very sober lady and I know she is very sensible, yet I was trying to kid her. So I told her she had a nightmare."

STANDARD-TIMES, San Angelo, TX - July 18, 1985 CR: L. Whitehurst

UFOs bring out the strange in some

What have I gotten myself into? Someone spotted the column I wrote in April about people who reported seeing a UFO at Lake Nasworthy and sent it Chris Lambright, who is a field investigator for the Center for UFO Studies. Chris wrote me a letter and we also talked on the phone.

Here's the thing: Chris thinks there may be something to this, and he wants to hear from the people who reported the sightings. He has seen the letters, and he said there was information in them that had been reported in other sightings, but which the general public probably wouldn't know.

Chris also took note of the similarities in the descriptions of the UFOs, but he said he has a "healthy degree of skepticism" and wants to talk to the people. "However, if several independent witnesses could be found (we still have to be certain that the same person did not write the three letters) who witnessed this object, then the incident becomes more believable and significant."

Chris asked if I would write about this again but requested that I not "give out any significant details so we could distinguish between any potentially valid reports and any hoaxers. . . It has been estimated that, on an average, for every sighting that is



Jack Cowan

reported nine go unreported, so perhaps there are other witnesses who for one reason or another have kept quiet."

Since I don't know any significant details, it won't be difficult for me to keep my mouth shut. Besides, I'm still wondering how I got in the middle of this. It's all a little unsettling, if you want to know the truth. I feel pretty strange writing about UFOs. It's not too, uh, normal. Not only that, if this is all for real, I'm not crazy about the idea of being a go-between since some aliens who like their privacy might find out about it and get cranky.

Anyway, I was pleased to learn that Chris wasn't just going to swallow those reports before checking them thoroughly. He told me he had personal involvement with just

four or five UFO sightings that he considered legitimate. "The first thing I intend to do is to see if I can find some way to substantiate that the people aren't in cahoots," he said. He doesn't think that's the case, but he wants to make sure.

Right now, he said it looks "intriguing." Chris said that if he can locate the witnesses, "it could be an extremely compelling case."

OK, you folks know who you are. One of you signed your name. Another signed his letter "Teacher X" and the other gave a first name and last initial and added, "an excited citizen." Chris said that any information given would be kept confidential and no names would be released without prior consent.

If you want to write to him, address your letters to Christian P. Lambright, 9944 Walnut Street, No. 1093, Dallas, Tx. 75243. Or you can call him at (214) 234-1685 or (214) 644-9390.

And you'd better do it. I've gone out on a limb here. People are starting to wonder about me, and Chris promised to let me know how this thing turns out so I can have some evidence to prove that I'm not strange . . .

DANE CO. NEWS-SICKLE/CROSS-ARROW, Black Earth-Mazonie-Plains, WI

Aug. 8, 1985

CR: R. Heiden

UFO sighting reported here

A Dunlap Hollow resident claims that on August 2 he saw what he believes was an unidentified flying object (UFO) in the southern sky.

The object, he said, was slowly heading east at about 9:45 p.m. It was a glowing object, he explained, from which a beam of light, like a searchlight, was projected.

Anyone else who made such a sighting is asked to contact John Donaldson at the News-Sickle-Arrow office.

Mysterious circle found on lawn

SOUTHBURY — When Christopher Dannen went out to walk his dog yesterday morning, he noticed a large, black circle on his lawn, near the outskirts of his property.

It was an ashy substance that neither Dannen nor his wife, Terry Vara-Dannen, could recognize. It forms a fairly symmetrical circle about 15 feet in diameter.

By the end of the day, the color of the ash had turned a bluish gray. There are about five small spots of the substance inside the circle.

"I didn't go around telling anybody that a UFO (unidentified flying object) landed on my lawn, but I can't think of any other reason for it," Vara-Dannen said, standing by the circle at her house on Georges Hill Road. "My husband was a total skeptic (about UFOs) before, but not now."

Several neighbors stood with her and agreed it was "weird." Dannen

said it isn't spray paint.

Vara-Dannen said that when she and her husband walked their dog about 9 p.m. Wednesday night, the circle wasn't there. They ran an air-conditioner in their bedroom, located on the far side of the house, and didn't hear anything during the night, she said.

After discovering the circle, Vara-Dannen called the state police, who referred her to the Civic Aeronautics Board in Middletown. The board

couldn't do anything for her, she said.

"Nothing like this has ever happened before," she said. She said her family have lived in Southbury for about 2½ years.

Dante Vaghi of Bethel, who claims to have sighted UFOs in the area, dug up a section of the grass with the ashy substance yesterday afternoon to have it analyzed, Vara-Dannen said.

— EILEEN EHMAN

NEWS-TIMES, Danbury, CT - Aug. 16, 1985

CR: H. Peatfield

If people see UFOs, they don't say so

MOUNT VERNON, Ind. (AP) — Francis L. Ridge doesn't get excited when people see UFOs. He gets excited when they don't.

Ridge, 42, is a local representative of the International Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, which keeps an eye out for extraterrestrial visitors, and he says no one's been reporting any this year.

The decline of UFO reports in Indiana is part of a worldwide trend. To perk up interest, his group is sponsoring its first National UFO Information Week this week.

"We're not kooks," Ridge says. "If the town drunk calls us we're not interested in it. There are sightings occurring all the time, but they're just not reporting them. We need reports. We need people to call."

UFO cop

A Fairfield policeman finds that seeing is believing

By James Lomuscio
Staff writer

George Lesnick, a recently retired Fairfield police lieutenant, remembers that March 24 night in 1976.

Around midnight he got a call from Officer Frank Nolfi, who was off duty. Nolfi reported something strange — six luminous ball-shaped objects in the sky near Eleven O'Clock Road in the town's Greenfield Hills section.

Lesnick, then a sergeant, and Detective Ronald Thompson drove up and couldn't identify what they saw.

"It was six objects, one was larger than the other five and roundish," recalled Lesnick. "They were like very white, bright light, and the largest one was bright orange."

"They were moving at an incredible rate of speed and then stopping in the sky," he continued. "One would go east, one would go west and then stop abruptly."

Lesnick, Nolfi and Thompson weren't the only ones who saw it. So did two Easton police officers and hundreds of other people as far away as Hartford, Lesnick said.

"We checked the airports, and there were no aircrafts in the area," he said. "It was a clear night, nothing I could explain, and hundreds of people spotted the same thing."

For Lesnick, 57, a tall, burly Fairfield cop who was on the force for 29 years, it was the beginning of an insatiable interest in UFOs, unidentified flying objects. He immersed himself in UFO literature and reports of sightings. He even became a member of the Evanston, Ill.-based Center for UFO Studies. In March 1983, while off duty and investigating the strange sighting of a bright, boomerang-shaped UFO in Westchester County, N.Y., he teamed up with Philip Bragano, an astronomer who also lives in Fairfield.

Bragano, who is chairman of the science department at the Windward School in White Plains, N.Y., said he knew from the start that "we were a good team."

"I basically did all the technical research and technical evaluation, and he did all the police work, got all the facts out," Bragano said.

Other cases followed, interviews with people who claimed to have spotted UFOs. About 90 percent of all reports can be ruled out by a logical explanation, like weather balloons, airplanes or shooting stars, Lesnick said. But it's the other 10 percent they will investigate.

Bragano said many officials tried to attribute the Westchester sighting to planes in close formation, "but despite four years of sightings, nobody has ever been able to track down any planes or any pilots, or any airports they are coming from."

Also, there were no sounds from any engines.

Lesnick said the Westchester boomerang UFO was reported to

popular movie title, involve contact with UFO pilots, extraterrestrials, center officials say.

What about extraterrestrials?

Lesnick's not ruling out the possibility, since it would be too egotistical to think the earth, "a tiny piece of driftwood in the universe," is the only planet with life on it. Bragano seems more convinced extraterrestrials exist.

The two have even investigated cases where people claim they have been abducted into UFO crafts. One of the most famous is the Cheshire case of Betty Ann Luca.

Her book, "The Andreasson Affair," recounts her experiences on a craft where she was physically examined by odd-looking creatures.

What about the likelihood of these sightings being secret government projects?

Bragano says it's a possibility, which would account for the government's reluctance to become interested in UFO sightings. However, he tends to believe these UFOs are not from this planet.

Fairfield Detective Ron Thompson, who also witnessed the 1976 sighting, doesn't believe in UFOs. Still, he can't account for what he saw that night.

"What I really remembered about it was that they seemed very close," Thompson said. "They would be still, and then they would just flash across, like a shooting star."

"But they didn't look anything at all like shooting stars," he continued, "and you're talking to a guy who doesn't believe in UFOs."



Fairpress/Michael Bisceglie

George Lesnick, a retired Fairfield policeman, has been investigating UFO sightings since the 1970s.

be larger than a football field and only 500 feet above the ground. It was so close and so intense a sight, he said, that people stopped their cars on New York's Taconic Parkway and caused accidents.

The next day, when he went to Westchester, Lesnick said the Yorktown Heights police station switchboard was still lit up.

"These were all doctors, lawyers, computer experts," said Lesnick, who claims to have interviewed thousands of UFO witnesses over the past few years.

"You're talking about credible people seeing incredible things."

Sightings were also reported in Fairfield County, and in Putnam and Dutchess counties in New York.

"If that was just attributable to stunt pilots," Bragano argued, "they would have to have been all over the place, have an unlimited supply of gasoline, and the way they were flying they would have to be better than the Air Force Blue Angels."

The same UFO reappeared July 24, 1984, with sightings from Danbury to New York's Rockland County, Bragano said. *Discover* magazine later reported that the boomerang-shaped object was really six Cessna planes flying in close formation.

"But the wind velocity gusted up to 32 miles per hour that night, and these things were unaffected," he said. "And a plane can't hover. It's been seen hovering for as long as 10 minutes."

Most recently, Bragano said he saw similar lights over Fairfield in March. The FAA told him they were only planes, but Bragano's not buying it.

One of the more interesting cases Bragano recalls was in the Sandy Hook section of Newtown. For a couple of weeks in September of 1978, residents and local officials kept spotting an egg-shaped object in the sky. It was a bright, yellowish object making figure eights, Bragano said. One of the residents, an IRS agent, photographed it, and the photo was later computer analyzed.

"The conclusions were that it was no type of hoax," Bragano said. "The object was a disc shape, a little more than 30 feet in diameter."

"One of the computer printouts made it look like a classic flying saucer," he added. "It was really weird."

A 1979 case in Huntington involved a woman who saw a large red, glowing ball of light about 20 feet wide in the countryside behind her home. As she opened her door, the object moved away quickly, getting smaller and smaller, Bragano said.

"The next day she woke up and her eyes were red, and her face was red, and her skin was all itchy," he said. "She showed the symptoms of being exposed to microwaves. The doctor diagnosed her condition as conjunctivitis, cause unknown."

UFO-ologists would describe this case as a close encounter of the second kind, according to the Center for UFO Studies. Close encounters of the third kind, like the

UFO information week is observed

Have you seen a UFO? Sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects are reported every year by observers from throughout the world. Most of these incidents can be logically explained, but a large number of these encounters remain scientifically baffling. The questions remain, what are these objects? Where do they come from? and what is the purpose of these observations?

The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) of Seguin, Texas, is the world's largest UFO research organization and has designated the week of Aug. 18 to 25 as the First National UFO Information Week. The purpose of this venture is to make the public aware of the facts that UFO sightings continue to be reported on a regular basis, and that serious scientific study is being undertaken to try to find answers to this continuing mystery.

In Pennsylvania, UFO sightings may be reported to (PASU) The Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, which is established as a statewide clearinghouse for reports of UFO sightings and other phenomena. PASU was founded in 1981 by Stan Gordon of Greensburg, an electronics technician, who has been studying the UFO phenomena for 26 years. Gordon is also the MUFON state director for Pennsylvania. The public may report what they believe to be a UFO by calling the PASU UFO Hotline (24 hours) at 412-838-7768. They can also write to PASU at 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, Pa. 15601. These incidents are taken very seriously and callers will not be ridiculed, and names are kept confidential.

PASU, which works closely with MUFON, is comprised of professional people, most of whom have backgrounds from various fields associated with Science, engineering, technology or medicine. PASU has during the 1985 year, investigated many dozen of alleged UFO sightings from around the state. A high percentage of these sightings were attributed to misidentifications of natural objects such as bright planets and stars, aircraft lights, meteors and balloons. Another example of a now explained UFO sighting occurred about midnight on June 21 of this year. The PASU Hotline was very busy with callers from many parts of Pennsylvania reporting what appeared to be a formation of

eight to 12 bright reddish-orange lights with contrails streaking fast across the sky toward the South. From the information PASU was receiving, it was evident that what was seen was either a bright fireball type meteor or a piece of space debris burning up. A call to NORAD in Cheyenne Mountain, Colorado, verified that the objects were indeed pieces of the Soviet Cosmos 1530, that was breaking up. But not all of the sightings reported can be explained away so easily. Each year in Pennsylvania there remain a number of cases that remain in the unexplained category. Since the beginning of 1985, several UFO cases have been investigated that still remain strange to the investigators. The following are a few examples of these cases:

Jan. 2, Jonestown (Lebanon County). In the early morning, two young men go to a wooded area to check their animal traps. They observed a large oval shaped, metallic object making a humming sound as it moved over a group of trees, and only about 200 feet above the ground. They took cover under trees, and watched as the large object hovered nearby. From the bottom front of the object, a bright ball of yellow light was emitted and was observed as it slowly descended toward the ground. The larger object then moved across the sky into the distance. The smaller light was not seen again, but the tops of trees where it moved over, were found to have been freshly broken off.

March 20, New Castle area (Lawrence County). About 9 p.m. many people in the area saw lights low in the sky that they thought was an aircraft in trouble. One man reported he saw these lights ahead of him, and as he approached the lights moved toward his car. The lights were attached to a very large solid triangular shaped object that hovered directly over his car at an altitude of no more than 200 to 300 feet. It then silently moved off in the direction of Butler.

June 21, Somerset County. At about 12:30 a.m. several people claim to have seen a large, elongated object with lights hovering very low to the ground. One man came around a hill and observed an 80 foot long dirigible shaped object with white and blue lights that made no sound as it moved about 75 feet above the trees and across a field.

Did you see that UFO?

PRESS, Issaquah, WA - July 31, 1985

It is broad daylight out, and stars just don't shine at 9 a.m., the Issaquah woman tried convincing herself as she drove down Newport Way last Friday morning. But the two brilliant objects intrigued and mystified her, so she pulled over her car at Issaquah Valley Elementary School to get a better look.

There they were, high in the sky, flashing brightly and moving closely together, synchronously, even stopping together and then continuing on. This is not an airplane, she told herself, but just to be sure, she asked a passerby. No, they both

agreed, it is not an airplane, nor were the two lights anything they recognized.

Soccer players at the school saw it too, saying the bright lights looked like a reflection off some sort of metal. Although none of the observers were concerned about an imminent alien invasion, they were awed.

After watching for about five minutes, the woman reluctantly got back into her car — she would be late for work. But as she continued on Newport Way, she watched as the two twin, unidentified lights disappeared over the mountains.

She called *The Issaquah Press* later that morning, inquiring if other sightings had been reported. No, this was the first *The Press* had heard about it, and neither the police or fire departments had received and UFO calls that morning.

Did you happen to see the unusual, brilliant objects the morning of July 26?

If so, *The Press* would be interested in hearing about it. And if you have a plausible explanation for the lights, we'd like to hear that, too.

Maybe you can relieve the curiosity of a few sky gazers.

Matt Beer and other observers of the supernatural sighted at small Birmingham bookstore.
by Bob Gordon

Strange Encounters of the Literary Kind

For those who find a trip to downtown Birmingham too close an encounter of the third kind, the already alien atmosphere intensified at Maximus & Co. Booksellers last week when UFOlogist writer Antonio Huneucus showed lots of slides of white shapes on black backgrounds.

Actually, Huneucus did a good job of compiling a large body of UFO information, although much of it seemed a refresh of old stuff; and the lack of air conditioning in the store—remember how a class II planet with its nitrogen/oxygen atmosphere feels at 90+ degrees?—caused the group of about 50 to grow a bit antsy.

That is, until Huneucus began to discuss the case of Brazilian farmer Antonio Villas-Boas.

One day in 1957, so the legend goes, Villas-Boas was working in the fields when something happened which probably gave the *National Enquirer* six months of copy. He kept quiet about his experience for some time, but several years later he finally admitted that he had been abducted by members of an interplanetary Club Med chapter and forced to have sex with a female alien in a wild and raunchy way. "She told him it was an experiment in cross breeding," said Huneucus. Was this the second coming?

To substantiate the Brazilian's claim, Huneucus said this sower of cosmic seed repeated the same story under hypnosis while the results of psychological tests on Villas-Boas indicated he lacked the intellectual wherewithal to fabricate such a tale.

One has to wonder if the same thing did not apply to the two fishermen from Mississippi who claimed to have been briefly abducted. ("Gee, Bobby John, ain chu tared a tellin' the same ol' fish story? Lez make up a reclec good'un dis tam.") The tremendous potential payoff of fibs in the UFO area is too strong to overlook.

Then there's the case of Chilean Army corporal Armando Valdez. According to another Huneucus anecdote, early one morning in 1977, Valdez and six companions were called by a guard who observed a UFO landing about 500 feet from his post in Pampa Luscuma, a mountainous desert region. Valdez reportedly walked to the glowing vehicle and disappeared about 4:15 a.m. The formerly clean shaven soldier reappeared 15 minutes later from *behind* the other soldiers near the guard area, sporting a five-six day growth of beard and with his calendar watch set five days and 15 minutes ahead of the actual date and time. The craft reportedly took off about 6:40 a.m. Valdez has no memory of what happened on the craft, said Huneucus.

Huneucus delivered his lecture in a tone of voice which pointed to his belief in the truth of the incidents. There were few "According to's," or "He claimed's." But later he said he was simply "pointing out" incidents for which questions still remain, like when he displayed a photograph of a "solid object" taken from an airplane window. "Some people later said it was a reflection from the back of the wing. I don't know about that," said Huneucus. Me neither.

Another photo featured about 10 white dots on a black background. Huneucus' explanation: "Here we have a fleet, actually."

Several other proofs he offered to explain the existence of flying saucers were at least as vague and coincidental as the average horoscope or fortune cookie prediction. "They



UFOlogist Antonio Huneucus visits Birmingham.

Photo: Bill Schrab

bodies of an undetermined number of three-foot-tall guys from out of town sporting stunning one-piece metallic jumpers.

Requests by Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-WV) for the revelation of the room's contents have gone unanswered.

In another incident, Huneucus reported that in 1947, Roswell Air Force base officials in New Mexico issued a press release saying they had recovered the remains of a "flying disc." The next day higher authorities quashed the report by saying it was really a balloon.

Freedom of Information Act filings have yielded evidence which shows UFO groups have been under surveillance by several federal agencies over the last 30 years. This is because many of the groups were also anti-nuke, said Huneucus. In fact, according to a 1983 story by Huneucus for the *News World*, the FBI spied on one such Detroit group. "Perhaps more interesting," the report said, "is another set of documents, circa 1954, in reference to 'Detroit Flying Saucer Club, Espionage-X.' These papers show that the FBI conducted at least a cursory investigation on the activities of the Detroit Flying Saucer Club.... Director (J. Edgar) Hoover, however, advised the special agent in charge in Detroit to stop 'your office to obtain from captioned club or its members, material concerning flying saucers.'"

In still another uncovered FBI memo, Hoover—often thought of as some kind of alien himself—was said to be upset with the Army for not turning over the remains of a "saucer."

Further, in 1974—21 years after it was written—a declassified CIA-sponsored report on UFOs showed that the intelligence gathering agency recommended a government policy of "deemphasis" of the phenomena. The original 1953 report, "The Scientific Advisory Panel on UFOs," popularly known as the Robertson Panel after Chairman Dr. Howard P. Robertson, a California Institute of Technology physicist, recommended "that the national

security agencies take immediate steps to strip UFOs of the special status they have been given and the aura of mystery they have unfortunately acquired."

So do they or don't they exist? Only your cosmologist knows for sure. But Huneucus and a lot of other UFOlogy buffs (including *Detroit News* gossip Matt Beer, presumably at Maximus to scoop the *Freeop* on who's grokking who on planet Glitteratiouis), claim they would be happy for now simply to have the feds come clean with what they know about UFOs.

"That way it would no longer be speculation," said Huneucus. "It would change a lot of things, especially our belief systems."

shot about 20 (gun) shots at some aliens that came near their house but none were harmed," said Huneucus about one alleged incident. Of another: "More than a thousand shots were fired at planes (used as a UFO reference) but none were shot down."

But more convincingly, Huneucus showed that with respect to UFOs, the federal government's secrecy fetish remains intact.

Since the 1950s, Huneucus claims that the American government has made it unofficial policy to discredit as much UFO phenomena as possible, while vigorously pursuing and recording UFO information. For federal security-types who think in terms of the real possibility of blowing up the world, the possibilities involved in dealing with UFOs have real and great potential.

Huneucus has written extensively on the UFO nuclear facility subject for the *New York Tribune* and the *News World*. According to his research, the feds have a lot to cover up.

The most notable alleged cover-up involves the "Blue Room" of the Wright-Patterson Air Force base. The room is said to contain the remains of a flying saucer and the

Latest UFO information

AS A spinoff of the recently held first-ever National UFO Info Week, here are several items which should be of interest to your readers.

The 1985, 16th Annual MUFON UFO Symposium Proceedings held in St. Louis this summer has now been published and is available for \$11.50, which covers postage and handling direct from MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, Texas 78155. These proceedings contain findings by many professionals in science, medicine, education, law, news media, etc. on the latest up to date state-of-the-art UFO investigations.

In addition, starting on September 10, 18, 21, 23, 26 and 29, a HBO TV documentary on UFOs will be shown. It is entitled "UFOs: What's Going On?" It was produced by the Robert

Guenette Productions in Los Angeles.

Currently the next Gallup Poll on UFOs is being conducted and should be released soon. It is the first one taken since 1978 on UFOs.

With UFO reports pouring in again in 1985 from England, Russia, China, France, Spain, Italy, Brazil, Taiwan, Australia, Sweden, Zimbabwe, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States it would be wise to keep our open eyes to the skies and informed of the worldwide UFO enigma in the coming months.

George D. Fawcett
N.C. Public Relations Director
Mutual UFO Network, Inc.
Lincolnton

FAIRFIELD CO. ADVOCATE, Fairfield, CT - March 27, 1985

UFOs Over Our Homes

BRIDGEPORT—Last week, *Advocate* editor Jim Motavalli debuted his weekly program "What Do You Think?" on WUBC-TV, Channel 12 on the Fairfield/Bridgeport cable system. The subject was UFOs. Guests George Lesnick (a Fairfield Police lieutenant) and Phillip Imbrogno (an astronomer) talked about their several years of work in tracking the "Westchester Wing," a UFO that's been seen by upwards of 5,000 people in the Fairfield/Westchester/Putnam County area. It's one of the best UFO sightings ever.

At 9 p.m., when the one-hour live program ended, Motavalli and WUBC volunteer Bob Johnson left the studio and immediately sighted some suspicious looking objects over the University of Bridgeport student center. Johnson was enthusiastic, Motavalli skeptical.

But this was no isolated sighting! Hundreds of people reported seeing similar objects that night from New Haven to Westchester County. Imbrogno and Lesnick, sudden celebrities, headed over to WICC and the Tiny Markle Show for an impromptu appearance.

Weird, huh? The official explanation is planes flying in close formation, but if you believe that I have an option on the Brooklyn Bridge you might be interested in....

"What Do You Think?" will be back on WUBC Channel 12 this Thursday night at 8 p.m.

Reader shares information, experiences with UFO's

To the Editor:

Last week Major Wayne and Lee Aho were in town to visit and stayed at Ben and Esther Thomsons. He has been here several times to lecture on UFO's since about 1960. He lives in Tacoma, Wa. near Mt. Ranier where the first sightings were reported by Kenneth Arnold when nine UFOs circled the mountain and where witnessed by many in June 24, 1947. Pictures were taken and have been used in Wayne's lectures.

I have been interested in flying saucers or discs as they are sometimes called. I, too, took pictures of two that were crossing the highway in front of us in Utah. When I first came to Underwood I was so enthused over having pictures of flying saucers, as they are sometimes called, that I wanted to show them to everyone until I saw how disinterested most people were.

When I came to one person to show them she looked at me in disdain and said "Go away." I did not show them again as I had been cold-shouldered once too often.

While visiting in Spain for several weeks I had occasion to talk with people who had seen UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects) and accept them like we do cars, they just are!

There I met the president of the University of Madrid and had an ongoing argument about where they are the most plentiful, in Spain or the USA. I attended his church and found he answered to the following titles, Rev. Prof. PhD and Dr. He claimed they were more plentiful in Spain, but I claimed we had more taken up in UFOs. I finally had to admit, after getting reports from the Spanish news media that our papers said very little of them, but I get

other papers and magazines with much information in them.



Mt. Ranier, Wa., spring of 1978, taken from the car driven by Major Wayne S.

I was at the Giant Rock conference in California where I met 17 men who had contact with these extraterrestrials from different planets and all gave the same message for us, namely, wanting to help us live the Laws of God — in peace.

Major Aho does not give up since he knows what war is — having been in the Air Force for years and worked for peace since then in the government and in public life. He was awarded many medals and honored by the government in many fields. He has so much vital information and is making this his life's work. He is president of the New Age Foundation with groups all over the world, with his office in Tacoma, Wa.

Wayne also had a conversation near his home in Washington where he was told that the earth people had

a choice, either get into a higher state of consciousness and practise love to all or go into darkness. We are on the brink of disaster and are to choose either Love or War.

His message fell on deaf ears as he visited every Senator and Representative in Washington, D.C. in 1957. At that time we, the people on earth, still had the say-so. However, materialism took over which is not the Kingdom of God as such, but governs man's mind where love is geared to defense.

Let's love the Love of God in everyone we meet every day and work for peace on earth now. We can do it and join those giving their life to the Father. America can do it since we have been winners when we make up our minds to do the right thing at the right time.

Myrt Hawley Underwood

DAILY BOOMERANG, Laramie, WY
July 25, 1985
CR: L. Whitehurst

Scientist Reports Profile of UFO Abductees

by Steve Weiss

People who claim to have been abducted by a UFO are no different than anyone else, aside from their experience, according to a prominent researcher speaking in Laramie July 13.

"People who have claimed to have UFO experiences come in all shapes, ages, and sizes," says Dr. Aphrodite Clamar. "It's difficult to

paint a physical or psychological portrait of the average UFO subject." The only similarity among these people is the effect of their experiences, she reported.

Dr. Clamar, professor of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York, gave the Keynote Address at the sixth annual Rocky Mountain Conference on UFO Investigation held at UW. (School of

Extended Studies)

Her research was limited to nine people who both reported seeing a possible UFO and then "lost time." Sometimes several hours are unaccounted for after a UFO sighting, and the "abductees" become troubled and perplexed by their experience.

Only years later, sometimes under hypnosis, does the patient remember the incident. "Each has asked 'Why me? Did it really happen to me? Why was I singled out to be a victim?'" said Clamar. The abductees tend to feel "stigmatized," separate from others and reluctant to discuss their experience with friends or relatives.

Because most societies do not reward anyone who is "different," that response is expected, said Clamar.

Some skeptics claim that UFO reports may come from a psychopathology — a mental disorder. Clamar began her research to find out if the skeptic's claims were true. Her study found no disorder, except for the effect of their experiences, in those people reporting a UFO abduction.

"Here is a group of people who consistently have been described as 'paranoid', crazy, attention seekers, marginal citizens and misfits," said Clamar. "The people I examined did not fit these stereotypes."

"This is a mystery that challenged me, and perhaps society's need to find orderly, logical and acceptable explanations. I couldn't find a pigeonhole for the facts I was coming up with."

The subjects were given "an extensive battery of tests," and did share several characteristics that Clamar said could relate to their UFO abduction.

"At least the results are not inconsistent with what one might anticipate as a psychological consequence of such a startling, disturbing event as a UFO abduction."

JOURNAL AMERICAN, Bellevue, WA - Aug. 26, 1985

Mysterious light has East Sider thinking UFO

Wanda Todd looked at the kitchen clock. Three a.m. For years, the Eastgate woman had been forced awake by headaches, and that's what had her reaching for the aspirin on this night three months ago.

That's when she saw it — the object she's convinced was a UFO.

She was facing east, looking up at the stars from her kitchen window, when it caught her eye. "It had a special twinkling to it," she said. "It was fascinating. It would move slowly along, then go up and down ... It was almost ominous."

It was, she said, far off in the sky, about 30 degrees above the horizon. Framed between fir trees, Todd said it moved southward but occasionally headed back north. "It had no pattern, it wobbled," she said. "It was really doing a dance."

Todd told her husband, Chuck, about what she'd seen but, a self-admitted skeptic, he laughed it off. "I just assumed it was a satellite," he said.

But Wanda Todd, a woman who won't reveal her age but appears to be about 60, knew it was

after "seeing things," no. She teaches Sunday school, reads *Reader's Digest*, has never been to a psychiatrist, doesn't like publicity and says she's never even had a parking ticket or bounced check.

"I'd believe anything Wanda told me," said Carol Lint, a friend and fellow church member of Todd's. "That's how much faith I have in the lady."

The first person Todd told about her sighting was Dave Halverson, pastor at Ballard Nazarene Church, where the Todds attend. He didn't scoff in the least.

"He told me some Bible scholars are interested in the subject," she said.

Also interested is Robert Gribble, a Seattle ufologist who doesn't think Todd is whacko either. Gribble works at the UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, which is one of a handful of such groups in the country. (The Air Force ended a 22-year investigation of UFOs in 1969, leaving only private organizations to keep track of them.)

"WE GET AN AVERAGE of four reports a day," said Gribble. Recent local examples include:

- Aug. 17. Puyallup. 2:45 a.m. Two witnesses reported seeing seven bright oval-shaped objects, several maneuvering at low altitude, and about three of them casting down a cone of blue light which witnesses could see reflected off the ground and timber in the area. No sound.

- July 27. Seattle. 9:08 p.m. Witness reported two disc-shaped objects traveling across the southern sky, weaving in and out of each other. Estimated distance one mile.

- July 21. Alder Lake, near Mount Rainier. Two a.m. Group of six adults reported observing one large and two small oval-shaped objects maneuvering in the area. Noticed sudden stops and starts at high rates of speed. At each change of speed the object changed color. Low altitude.

Even though Washington is ranked 22nd in population, it ranks eighth in the country in UFO reports.

IN THE '60s, Gribble helped investigate a close encounter in Seattle: three boys sleeping overnight at a north-end house reported awakening to see a glowing object 6-to-8 feet in diameter land between two houses.

"They reported some kind of humanoid next to the object," said Gribble. When the incident was investigated, "there was quite a bit of physical traces. The ground in the area was highly magnetized. There was a burn spot with a dent in the side of a house."

Does Gribble believe extraterrestrials landed in Seattle? "Oh yes," he said. "I'm convinced of it."

He's not, however, convinced that Wanda Todd has seen a UFO — though he doesn't think she's crazy. "We've had hundreds of calls on that one over the last few months," he said. "What they're seeing is Jupiter. It will move slowly

across the sky just like the sun."

When people stare at something for a long time, said Gribble, their "eyeballs start to move, unbeknownst to them," which explains the "dancing" Todd saw.

But Todd isn't buying Gribble's theory. Neither is her husband, who after seeing the object is convinced his wife is on to something.

"Jupiter wouldn't move that far in 15 minutes or half an hour," said Wanda Todd. "This was going too fast for any earthly body."

When she stared at Venus, said Todd, it "clearly didn't make a move" like the other object she watched. "I tested my eyes by looking at other stars to see if they were dancing," she said. "There was no comparison."

Besides, she says, if it was Jupiter, why has she seen it only four times although she's been scanning the eastern sky for months? And what about the night she saw two of the objects?

Todd wants an answer. "It's something that may not be friendly," she said.



Bob Welch

J-A Staff Columnist

no satellite. Since she was a youngster in northern Minnesota she's been an avid skywatcher and has never seen anything like this.

"Satellites don't go up and down and sideways," she said. Neither do planes or heavenly bodies.

In the last four months, she's seen the object four times, the latest on Aug. 15. She sees it only between about 1 and 3:30 a.m. Once, she saw two such objects.

"This is a mystery," says Todd, "and I want it solved."

YOU CAN'T GO any further in a story like this without asking the logical question: Is Wanda Todd whacko?

If you mean does she read *National Enquirer*, consult a Ouija board each evening and have a habit of calling newspapers and police stations

Ex-Tulsan Recalls 'Shooting' UFO

By RALPH MARLER
Of the World Staff

On a warm Sunday night 20 years ago, a Tulsa youth aimed his Boy Scout camera at the dark sky and clicked the shutter.

In that instant, Alan R. Smith, then 14, made his mark on a controversy that puzzles many today.

Alan took a color photograph of a UFO — an unidentified flying object.

It wasn't a clearly defined "flying saucer." The pictured object was multi-colored, separated by dark bands.

But it was a UFO: an object, flying, and unidentified.

Even the Air Force said so, reluctantly.

Alan's UFO photo was published around the world. Life Magazine printed it.

The photo became a standard used by UFO buffs in search of proof of various theories: "visitors" from another world, or time.

But Alan wasn't impressed with UFOs.

"I didn't see a 'flying saucer,' or 'little green men.' I saw a UFO," he said on a recent Tulsa visit.

"I didn't really develop a serious interest in UFOs. I became more fascinated by the world of journalism than the world of UFOs," said Alan, now 34 and the father of three.

The press attention to his photo amazed him. And it led indirectly to his decision to include journalism in his education.

Too, the photo made him some money, enough to pay three semesters of tuition at Northeastern State University at Tahlequah and later the University of Tulsa.

Today, Alan handles public information and marketing for the High Plains Vo-Tech school in Woodward. And he freelances some for area newspapers.

Alan still remembers the UFO, however.

Actually, there were two UFOs that passed over his parents' home in southwest Tulsa's Carbondale area on the nights of Aug. 1 and 2, 1965.

They appeared during a summer when thousands of people from Minnesota to Mexico reported seeing brilliant, colored objects in the skies.

But Alan didn't know about UFOs.

"I was just a 14-year-old kid interested in baseball and girls," he said. "I was oblivious to the world."

On a Saturday night, after finishing his chore as a route carrier for the Tulsa afternoon newspaper, Alan was in his backyard, listening to a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game on the radio until his father got off the night shift as an American Airlines mechanic.

Through a mimosa tree, Alan and a friend noticed a huge orange light float from northeast to southwest.

It was making a humming noise, but wasn't an airplane or helicopter, Alan said.

"It was a round brilliant object. There didn't appear to be a craft behind it... just a light," Alan added.

The craft disappeared, silently.

Alan remembered his camera, a Christmas gift the year before.

He bought a roll of film the next day, loaded the film in the camera and put it near the back door.

On Sunday night, Alan waited again. This time, his father, his sister and a friend were watching, too.

Nothing happened, for awhile.

"We'd almost forgotten about it," Alan said, "and were getting ready to go in the house."

"I looked around... and saw that orange sucker again."

"It looked like it was coming straight overhead." Again the object hummed, moving from southwest to southeast, picking



World Staff Photo by Jim Wolfe

Alan R. Smith displays a photograph he took of a UFO over Tulsa 20 years ago Sunday.

up speed.

While the others watched the object, Alan grabbed his camera and raced to the rear of the backyard, where lights were dimmer, braced himself against a clothesline post, and pointed his camera.

"I panned the camera a second or two. When I thought I had it dead-center, I clicked the shutter."

Alan took two more shots of the object.

But when the film came back from a processor about two weeks later, there were no prints.

"I was kinda disappointed...so much for that."

But his father, A. L. Smith, asked if he'd examined the negatives. Alan hadn't. When he did, he noticed a small speck in a corner of the negative. He had it enlarged and printed.

"It was sort of breathtaking," Alan recalled. "The image was clear and vivid, about the size of a dime on a 5-by-7 print."

"It wasn't quite what I saw. I saw a round orange-reddish disc that changed to white as it moved away. In the photo, we got all the colors."

Alan showed the photo to a few friends.

Publisher W. P. "Bill" Atkinson, who had launched his Oklahoma Journal newspaper the year before, heard about Alan's photo. Atkinson, Managing Editor John Clabes and Journal photographers visited Alan.

For weeks, the Journal tried to duplicate the photo, without luck. Finally, the Journal decided to print it, reserving publishing copyrights.

Alan said he wasn't paid by the Journal, which Clabes con-

firmed recently. But Alan didn't even think of being paid.

"I remember thinking, why would someone want to pay me for using that picture?" he said.

Eventually, Alan would set up a savings account to handle the approximately \$500 he got from reprint rights to the UFO photo.

The photograph was first published Oct. 5, 1965, on Page 1 of the Oklahoma Journal. Clabes, public information officer for Tinker Air Force Base since the Journal folded in 1980, said the issue was a sell-out.

Other newspapers and magazines worldwide published the photo. It still is used in UFO journals and books.

Hayden Hewes, Oklahoma City UFOlogist, supplied a copy of the Journal's negative to the Air Force UFO team in November

1965. The Air Force returned it, saying it was meaningless to analyze copies of negatives.

A year later, after Life published the picture, a congressional committee strongly suggested the Air Force analyze Alan's picture.

On June 9, 1966, the Air Force reported: "Based upon the information furnished, we can neither confirm nor deny the identification of an unidentified flying object."

To Alan, the Air Force report "bears out what I saw."

"I'm not a hoaxter or attention seeker. I took a picture of an object, flying, that hasn't been identified."

Hewes said it was the first time the Air Force used the phrase "...neither confirm nor deny the existence" of a UFO.

And, Alan's photo was a key that UFO buffs could use to compare with other UFO sightings, said Hewes.

Alan's fame was quick, and short. He spoke to UFO groups across the state.

Classmates at Clinton Junior High School were fascinated, and didn't ridicule him.

Gradually, as interest waned, Alan finished Webster High School, went to college, got drafted into the Army, married high school sweetheart Jamie Hunter.

Their oldest son, Amos, 12, is an aircraft "fanatic," said Alan. Youngest son Eli, 8, is into baseball.

Alan drives to Tulsa often this summer to see daughter, Glory, 10, who is in the City of Faith Hospital recovering from a leg infection.

He's winding up work on his master's degree in education from Northeastern State University.

Alan doesn't give much thought to the UFO now. "The only serious thought I ever had was it was some type of experimental aircraft."

"The fact it's from this planet has more certainty for me than anything else."

"When you get down to it, everyone has seen a UFO. I feel many can be explained. But also, I feel a very small number of them cannot be explained."

"I haven't seen one since."

FREE PRESS, Burlington, VT - July 21, 1985 CR: B. Greenwood

Vermont UFO Conference Draws Sparse Attendance

By TOM HILL
Free Press Correspondent

ROCHESTER — Without warning, network programming is interrupted. A voice claiming to represent "Galactic Command" warns that the human race must "cease at once" its race toward nuclear disaster. After several minutes, regular programming resumes.

Science fiction? No, it was Nov. 26, 1977. The signal of England's ITV Television Network was pre-empted by a voice and a signal that no one could trace.

Aleuti Francesca has the newspaper clippings, which quote scientists denouncing the incident as a preposterous hoax. But ITV had state-of-the-art "test insertion signals" designed to detect and intercept bogus broadcasts, she asserted, and "The engineers were not even aware they were being overridden."

A soft-spoken, middle-aged woman with a precise, English accent, Francesca was in Rochester for a weeklong series of events focusing on the paranormal. There was a sparsely attended movie on UFOs Monday night; other sessions focused on reincarnation and prophecy. At Saturday's session on UFOs, she spoke to an audience of three.

Born and educated in London, Francesca became interested in the paranormal while in her teens. For the past 26 years she has been a lecturer and director of the Solar Light Retreat in Central Point, Ore. Her personal counseling is based on the premise that many emotional problems are rooted in previous lifetimes; she explores these lives with her clients during "regression consultations."

Since experimenting during the 1950s with "light-beam communication with ETs," she claims to have received hundreds of "teletought" communications with extraterrestrials.

Several planets of our solar system are inhabited,

she says — though by "physically etheric" beings rather than "physically dense" ones such as humans.

The modern "flying saucer" era began in 1947, she said, when Kenneth Arnold coined the term to describe objects he said he saw over the state of Washington. Francesca faulted the U.S. government for concealing what she says is evidence that Earth is often visited by intelligent aliens. United Nations Secretary General U Thant, she said, described UFOs in 1957 as "a major problem," with low-level flights taking place over several countries. She said the Air Force's "Project Blue Book" query was "not a serious investigation."

Aliens communicate with Earth, Francesca explained, in several ways. Her larynx, she said, has been controlled telepathically by an alien. On Saturday she played tapes of several such alleged contacts, one of which asserted that many world leaders, including several U.S. presidents, had been contacted by aliens, but had chosen to disregard their message.

The two kinds of space beings that she knows of, Francesca said, can be described in simple terms as "the good guys and bad guys."

Civilized planets belonging to a Confederation see earthlings as "younger brothers and sisters," but there's a race of malevolent beings out there, devoid of emotion or compassion, "who see us as a laboratory experiment."

Francesca has a gloomy view of the short-term future — she said she has received messages predicting catastrophic earthquakes and floods in California, and a reversal of the Earth's magnetic field that will cause global chaos. But no nuclear apocalypse figures into it, she explained; the Confederation will step in before Earth can destroy itself.

Group supports those who have sighted UFOs

By PATRIK VANDER VELDEN
of the Northwestern

A local UFO discussion group wanted to set up a stand at the Experimental Aircraft Association to tell fliers that extraterrestrials are friendly, but couldn't come up with the \$400 to pay for the spot.

"We wanted to be able to talk to people who have not reported UFOs and to learn about other sightings. To let them know people from other planets are mostly friendly as opposed to warlike," said Judy Woolcott, member of the Fox Valley UFO Discussion and Support Group.

The group was unable to come up with the money because they had just spent \$45 on lecture expenses and \$55 to renew their clipping service, she said.

"We're hoping next year to have an education booth to hand out brochures and show our VCR presentation of pictures of craft we've taken," she said.

The group is about 11 years old and has around 12 members who meet in Menasha the first and third Sunday of each month. They made the 30-minute VCR tape of still shots of flying saucers. The group gives lectures, talks on radio call-in talk shows, keeps a library with 300 UFO-related books, and receives news stories from a worldwide newspaper clipping service.

Mrs. Woolcott runs a cake catering business. Three years ago she had a stand near the EAA grounds on 20th Avenue and talked to pilots then about UFOs. She said pilots were re-

luctant to talk about UFO sightings because of fear of ridicule.

The 48-year-old mother of five does not push her views upon her children.

"There is one that believes and would rather not admit it. I don't ask my kids to get involved. This is my thing and if they don't want to, why should they?"

It was her first sighting in 1958 in St. Petersburg, Fla., that triggered her interest in UFOs.

"I was driving down a boulevard in my convertible and happened to look up to the sky and see this ball of fire falling. In an instant, the fire went out and it looked more like a star and all of a sudden it changed direction. The next day, the St. Petersburg Sun Times had columns of names reporting people who had seen it," she said.

Her most recent sighting was one week ago during a vacation to Ranger Lake, Ontario, Canada.

"I saw nine last week in Canada. We took along binoculars, a telescope. The first night we were there, we saw high flyers that are mother craft way up in the atmosphere. They look like large stars and are moving," she said.

It's easy to find a UFO, she said. "In order to find a craft you take a group of stars and find any that are moving."

Since that first sighting, Mrs. Woolcott claims to have had a missing-time experience and seen a hologram of a 12-inch UFO in her kitchen.

The missing-time experience, she

said, happened about three years ago when she and a friend drove from Appleton to a New London campground. A trip that normally takes 30 minutes took three hours, Mrs. Woolcott said.

"We don't know what happened," she said.

The image of the hologram lasted about 90 seconds, she said.

"It didn't faze me in the least. I would say it was about 12 inches high by six inches wide."

As to why a hologram of UFO would appear in her kitchen, Mrs. Woolcott said, "Why not?"

She took this incident to be a thank-you sign. She explains her frequent viewings of UFOs when she drives her car as signs of protection from extraterrestrials.

"I'm trying to tell people about the space brothers and what they are trying to do for man. And they are trying to turn around and do something for me. It's as if they are guardian angels and they just want to make sure we have a safe trip," she said.

It is not only Mrs. Woolcott that UFO occupants are concerned about — it is concern for the whole human race that brings them to earth from where ever they come, she said.

"They want to save man from himself, prevent us from a nuclear disaster is the biggest thing," she said.

Mrs. Woolcott was not certain of the origin of all the space travelers.

"I don't know. I've never been up



Northwestern photo

Judy Woolcott holds up photograph of alleged UFO

there."

But she speculated they come from planets within our solar system, within the Milky Way and beyond. "There are so many planets out there, so many galaxies," she said, adding that where they come from is not important. UFOs have been on earth as long as man has been on earth, she said.

"The point is, they do come down here and live among us. They can work here. I'm not saying they're from all the planets. Not all look like us."

UFOs travel on "free electromagnetic energy," said Mrs. Woolcott.

As to how she knew this she said, "Some things, you just know."

For now, the group hopes to make itself more visible to the public.

"We're trying to let the general public have a place to call to report sightings. We will do lectures, call-in shows, go anyplace to talk to anybody who wants to have information about what's happening."

They are willing to offer support for those who have had UFO experiences and felt trauma.

"We interviewed a lady who had a UFO experience. Five years prior she met with the little people. She demonstrated how they walked, but it still scared her. She was crying. She never told anyone. Not even her husband. So she had harbored this. People are afraid to talk about this," said Mrs. Woolcott.

A Catholic, Mrs. Woolcott said her association with UFOs is like a religious experience.

"There's a certain feeling with seeing a UFO. There's a warm, tender feeling. I don't want it to sound like we worship UFOs, but there is a feeling that goes with seeing a craft."

"I attend church every Sunday. The more you study UFOs, the more religious you get, the more contact with God and nature you get. The God for earth is not different than the God of the other planets."

If there is only one message that Mrs. Woolcott would want UFO agnostics to learn it is this: "Take a clear night and look to the sky. Enjoy what you see. See if you can see something moving."

UFO pursuit / Two Menasha women believe, plead for a ride

BY WILLIAM D. ZAFEROS
Post-Crescent staff writer

MENASHA — There are a billion stories in the naked galaxy.

Judie Woolcott's is one of them. Woolcott's tale begins with her first UFO sighting.

It was 1958. She was in St. Petersburg, Fla., and she was looking out over the ocean.

Suddenly, something unearthly appeared in the sky.

"It was a ball of flame falling out of the sky," she said. "It stopped, then it headed south. We spent that night chasing it."

She never caught up with whatever it was she was chasing that night, but the morning newspaper was filled with accounts of the sighting, she said.

Woolcott has since spent the last 27 years continuing her pursuit of extra-terrestrials and their craft, a pursuit which she said can begin merely by looking into the sky and waiting.

The St. Petersburg sighting was the beginning of a lifelong hobby, some might even say obsession, with Woolcott, who someday hopes to hitch a ride with the alien visitors.

"Give us a ride," she said hopefully, looking skyward as she spoke to about her adventures chasing unidentified flying objects with a visiting Earth re-

porter. She believes the aliens can hear her, but she isn't sure why they've refused her request.

Bonnie Meyer remembers the first time she met Woolcott.

"I thought, 'This woman is crazy,'" she said with a laugh. "She's not."

A year after she met Woolcott, Meyer had her first sighting. The two have been partners in their search for UFOs ever since.

"After my first sighting, there was no stopping," Meyer said. "I had to get people to understand what's going on."

They're used to the kidding, however. They even get it from their husbands, who buy them gag gifts like "Alien in a Can" for Christmas.

"My husband bought me a T-shirt that says, 'I'm a UFO nut,'" Meyer said. "They understand our interests." Woolcott said a condition of her marriage is that her husband understand that UFOs are a part of her life, and she said he has been with her on a few sightings.

They even kid themselves about some of the more embarrassing moments of their flying saucer chases. "We've followed a lot of radar tower lights and helicopters," Woolcott said, "and felt pretty stupid about it."

Still, since this is "National UFO Awareness

Week," Woolcott and Meyer, co-chairwomen of the Fox Valley UFO Discussion and Support Group, hope to make the public less skeptical of the existence of life on other planets.

Woolcott said the group of roughly 15 people meets each first and third Sunday of the month at the group's 64 Racine St. headquarters to discuss recent sightings and other matters pertaining to UFOs.

The office is filled with books on the topic such as "The Flying Saucer Reader" and "God Drives a Flying Saucer," and several newspaper clippings on UFO sightings, including one that appeared in the Post-Crescent, are taped to the walls.

"I think people are coming out of the closet," said Woolcott, who mentions former president Jimmy Carter as one who has reported a UFO sighting. One of the reasons for the group, she said, is to help people deal with

the sightings.

"It supports people who have had sightings and have had the living whatever scared out of them," she said.

But Meyer and Woolcott believe eventually, UFO sightings will become more acceptable as larger numbers of people see the craft. In that case, more and more people will be "coming out of the closet."

Meanwhile, Woolcott, Meyer and the group will continue scanning the skies, binoculars and cameras at the ready, waiting to meet the visitors. There can be little question that they're having a lot of fun.

How does Woolcott respond to people who don't like what she has to say? To those who think her group has seen one too many episodes of Star Trek?

"Turn us off," she said. "They don't have to listen to us."



Post-Crescent photo by Copper VanderWalker

Judie Woolcott and Bonnie Meyer look at a photo of an UFO trail

NORTHWESTERN, Oshkosh, WI - Aug. 4, 1985 CR: J. Woolcott

Once-Common Sightings of UFOs Diminish in U.S.

By RALPH MARLER
Of the World Staff

Where are the UFOs? It seems they've disappeared. In the 1960s and 1970s, thousands of people reported UFOs in the skies. Twenty years ago, dozens of Tulsans peered into the August sky looking for unidentified flying objects. Some held UFO watch parties on their lawns. Today, reported sightings are few. In June, bright sky lights reported over Australia and Miami, Fla., were attributed to space junk. And, when UFOs are reported now, some are huge: flying objects bigger than a football field over New York and Pennsylvania in 1984; an object 6 miles wide over Red China in June. Some UFO buffs say the UFO "market" is saturated, that movies have fulfilled the public's curiosity in spacecraft of unknown identification ... or origin. Instead of UFO lawn parties, people now watch "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" on television or go to a theater and see "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial." Others say the news media report only exciting sightings, and then infrequently. The fear of ridicule, from peers and press, keeps people from

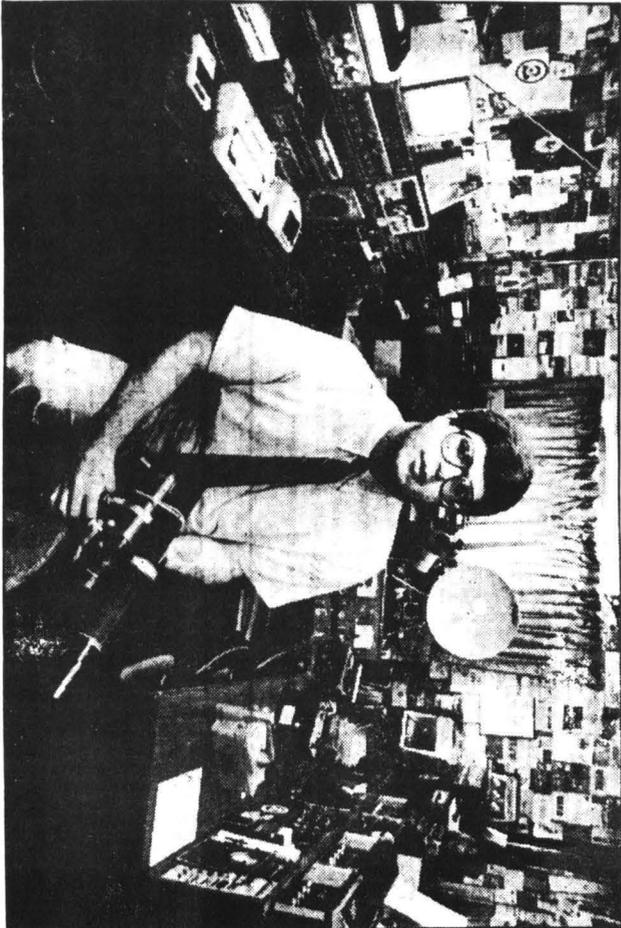
reporting UFOs, many UFOlogists believe. A few say UFO "visitors" have finished their surveys of earth ... for a while. Or, we're still being surveyed, as mankind would a wilderness. Government officials said "unidentified" flying objects never existed. The UFOs were really planets or stars or man's own creations such as balloons or airplanes or satellites, Air Force officials say. Still, the Air Force couldn't explain 701 UFOs out of the 12,618 it investigated between 1948 and 1969. The Air Force started investigating UFOs in 1948, a year after "saucer" type objects were spotted by a pilot over Washington state's Mt. Rainier. The press started referring to "flying saucers" after the pilot said the objects flew "like a saucer if you skipped it across water." UFO sightings grew, peaking in 1952, 1957 and 1966, when more than 1,000 were reported yearly across the United States. National security prompted the federal government to look into UFO sightings in the late 1940s and 1950s. Security agencies feared an enemy would use a UFO flap to mask a surprise air attack. The Air Force got the task, which it named Project Blue

Book. But attempts to explain UFOs embarrassed the Air Force at times. For example, during the 1965 flap in Oklahoma, the Air Force claimed people really were seeing certain stars. An Oklahoma City astronomer debunked that claim and said the particular stars were on the other side of the earth from Oklahoma. Scientists stayed out of the controversy until the 1965-67 sightings. A scientific panel reviewed Air Force files and concluded UFOs were not a security threat, didn't involve unknown technology and didn't involve vehicles from outer space. The Air Force was relieved: if there was no security threat, there was no defense mission for the Air Force, and it dropped the subject. Private groups didn't stop, however. Today, a half-dozen private groups still research UFOs, from different perspectives. The oldest, Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO), operates in Tucson, Ariz., where it collects, screens and publishes UFO reports in its monthly bulletin. Publicity-shy APRO isn't as showy or sensational as other UFO groups, says director James Lorenzen. But Lorenzen confirms UFO sightings have decreased be-

cause people don't report sightings for fear of ridicule and because Hollywood's space movies relieved the public's "psychological anxiety" and curiosity about UFOs. Movies such as "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," which dealt fictionally with UFO sightings, and "E.T.," which showed a friendly visitor, satisfy the public's emotional awe with UFO, Lorenzen says. But such movies can mislead the public, too. Lorenzen says. "E.T." depicts an angelic visitor who is mankind's peer. APRO believes UFOs possibly represent extra-terrestrial beings who do not consider mankind as peers. These ETs "are indifferent to us," and are neither hostile nor benevolent, Lorenzen says. "People can't accept that. Psychologically, that indifference makes it harder for people to accept ETs if we're not even considered an enemy," he says. "It's better to keep an open mind and realize we don't know that much" about UFOs even today. That's why APRO keeps researching sightings, to find evidence, to find patterns. "The mystery is still puzzling," Lorenzen says. Another group is Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), which is sponsoring National UFO Information Week on Aug. 18-25. Based in Seguin, Texas, MUFON investigates UFOs in most states, including Oklahoma. Norma Jean Waller, of Norman, MUFON's Oklahoma investigator, tries with limited funds to check out the few sightings in Oklahoma now. Ms. Waller, who works at Tinker Air Force Base, says the most recent Oklahoma incident occurred last winter near Enid, when two farm families awoke one morning to find wheat straw neatly dropped on their homes and strange marks on the ground in a wheat field between the homes. Another incident occurred in a remote area east of Pawhuska in 1978, when people saw saucer objects hover silently at night. She suspects people are "more sophisticated and less frightened" of UFOs since movies and science fiction books have popularized them. Ms. Waller's problem is being notified on sightings so she, or other MUFON investigators, can go to the scene quickly and gather what physical evidence might remain and talk with witnesses. City police departments once forwarded UFO sightings to her, but few do nowadays. Oklahoma's Highway Patrol, which received hundreds of UFO reports from 1965 to 1973, seldom hears about them now, says Lt. Pat Collins, public information officer. OHP doesn't keep records of UFO sightings, but troopers do investigate them in event a plane or other aircraft may have crashed, Collins says. Research also is conducted by Center for UFO Studies, Glenview, Ill., a non-profit group founded by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, who switched from a UFO skeptic to believer, and Sherman J. Larsen. Individuals keep track of UFOs, too, such as Hayden Hewes, 41, of Oklahoma City, who has been active in the field since age 13. Hewes has written hundreds of articles for newspapers and magazines on UFOs and related "paranormal" incidents as Bigfoot, a legendary primitive creature sighted in the northwest, to sexual encounters with alien visitors to earth. "Today, there's hardly any interest in UFOs," Hewes says. "And, if there is, it's combined with other paranormal incidents" such as Bigfoot and abductions of humans by ETs. UFOs are "not as strange today," Hewes says. But that's not to say UFO research should end. Jerome Clark, editor of International UFO Reporter, says in the March issue it's uncertain whether the absence of UFO activity "is a fluke" or merely a return to pre-1947 days when the objects didn't even have a name. "Even if we are entering a long lull in sightings, we 1980s UFOlogists have nearly four decades of reports, claims, controversies and unanswered (or misanswered) questions with which to concern ourselves," Clark says. "Something is out there — something that science has paid too little attention to and the public has paid too much of the wrong kind of attention to. It's time now for a mature UFOlogy to address itself, in the right way, to the real issues."

UFO sightings remain open case

Stan Gordon holds an infrared device for viewing at night.



John Beale/Post-Gazette

POST-GAZETTE, Pittsburgh, PA - Aug. 19, 1985 CR: S. Gordon

By Michael A. Fuoco
Post-Gazette Staff Writer

When Stan Gordon heard the reports last June 21 of bright reddish-orange lights streaking in formation across the skies of Western Pennsylvania, he was, as is his nature, skeptical. A call to NORAD's space center in Cheyenne Mountain, Colo., confirmed his skepticism. As he suspected, the bright lights were caused by "space junk" — pieces of the Soviet satellite Cosmos 1530 burning up. Case closed.

However, Gordon has yet to find a logical explanation for the sightings at the same time in Jefferson County, Somerset County and Indian Head, Fayette County, of a bright object that looked like a large blimp with six flashing blue lights. That phenomenon, like thousands of others, remains an open case being studied by the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained.

Gordon, an electronics technician, founded the statewide clearinghouse for UFO sightings and other phenomena in 1981 and has seen its membership grow to 70 volunteers. The non-profit group's wide range of disciplines enables scientific research of physical evidence collected at sites and analysis of reports from eyewitnesses, Gordon said. The result is a professional separation of the logical and the unexplained. Most sightings are misidentifications of normal objects — planes, weather balloons, bright stars, meteors, satellites — observed under unusual conditions, Gordon said. However, he said that about 10 percent of the reported sightings of unidentified flying objects, Bigfoot, mystery animals and the falling of strange objects from the sky remain unexplained.

"We don't know what they are," Gordon said. "That's not to say they're from outer space or another dimension. We have no idea what the unexplained category of phenomena is."

This year, about 220 UFO sightings have been reported in Pennsylvania along with dozens of other phenomena, Gordon said. In the basement of his Greensburg home, Gordon maintains six file cabinets containing the 26 years of research he's conducted since the age of 10.

Also sharing space there are the PASU computer, radio scanners, short-wave radios, radiological monitoring equipment, magnetometers, an infrared viewing device, plaster casts of Bigfoot and other strange creatures, thousands of taped interviews with people who claim to have witnessed unexplained events, and hundreds of books about UFOs and other phenomena. Several of the books, including "UFO Dynamics" and "The Bigfoot Casebook," refer to research by Gordon, who's searching for a publisher for his first book. But, Gordon said, he has never made any money from his research and primarily does it because people witnessing strange events are understandably at a loss.

"A lot of people don't know where else to turn," Gordon said. "They're afraid to tell their spouses and friends. It can be traumatic and a psychological problem. We're able to help them understand that they're not the only ones who have had experiences."

Because people are reluctant to come forward with stories about seeing phenomena, the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) of Seguin, Texas, the world's largest UFO research organization, is sponsoring the first national UFO information week through Saturday.

In conjunction with the event, PASU will exhibit equipment and documents and present a slide show at Westmoreland Mall, Greensburg, on Saturday.

PASU's 24-hour UFO hotline is 838-7768. Correspondence may be sent to 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg 15601.

On the trail of UFOs

More than 200 attend forum

By VIRGINIA LOWRY
Times staff

BEVERLY — Budd Hopkins pointed to the scene projected onto a screen on the stage of the Beverly Golf and Tennis Club.

"The ground had been absolutely baked," said Hopkins, gesturing to a circular area of dead vegetation.

The scene in Indiannapolis was of a reported landing by an unidentified flying object. The source of the UFO, Hopkins believes, was extraterrestrial.

Hopkins, an artist from New York, specializes in investigating abductions by extraterrestrial beings. He was one of a half-dozen speakers who addressed more than 200 people attending a two-day forum in Beverly during the weekend.

Sponsored by the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), the forum also kicked off National UFO Information Week, Aug. 18-25.

Besides MUFON, the week-long informational event was also sponsored by the Center for UFO Studies and Fund for UFO Research.

Local organizer for the forum and UFO Information Week is Beverly's Marge Christensen,



Nancy Shackleton photo

Budd Hopkins addresses forum yesterday at the Beverly Golf and Tennis Club.

Massachusetts MUFON director and public relations director for the national organization. She is also an English teacher at the high school.

From as far away as Hawaii, participants in the forum came to hear speakers such as Hopkins, Massachusetts MUFON assistant director Barry Greenwood, astronomy professor emeritus J. Allen Hynek, and physicist Willy Smith.

The speakers explored abductions, medical evidence supporting those abductions, governmental investigations and the entire UFO controversy.

Slides taken by Hopkins in Indiannapolis showed that since the June 1983 sitting snow melts on that site before it melts anywhere else in the area.

"There are no traces of anthills, insects, etc. . . this is dead soil," Hopkins claimed.

Hopkins was the next-to-last speaker at the forum. His primary topic was the UFO abduction phenomenon: "A Speculation on Motives, Based on the Evidence."

Why have extraterrestrial beings kidnapped earth creatures?

First, said Hopkins, "It's a possible locating device."

Other possibilities are "the implanting of information . . . or the taking out of information from the brain."

Much of Hopkins' information has come from witnesses who, under hypnosis, have reported abductions by extraterrestrials. Some have told the UFO investigator and author of "Missing Time" that their skulls were probed.

Hopkins regards this as probable evidence that information-collecting implants were left behind in the bodies of some.

That theory, he said, will be tested further this fall, when several volunteers undergo CAT scans.

"They are following, perhaps monitoring, perhaps implanting" for future reference, said Hopkins.

Greenwood, a U.S. Postal Service employee from Stoneham, uses the Freedom of Information Act as his tool for UFO research. He's gathered more than 7,000 pages of governmental investigation and research.

TIMES, Beverly, MA

Aug. 19, 1985

CR: MUFON

Participants cite seriousness of pursuit

By VIRGINIA LOWRY
Times staff

BEVERLY — David Christensen doesn't encounter many people who look at him strangely because of his belief in unidentified flying objects.

After all, UFOs are simply unidentified phenomena, and the basis for research.

"The real UFO movement is serious people investigating unknown phenomena," said Christensen, husband of Massachu-

setts Mutual UFO Network director Marge Christensen, who organized an international weekend UFO forum. He is also the alderman for Ward 6.

"I think the average person understands investigating unknown phenomena," Christensen said yesterday.

Christensen said most serious UFO investigators are more than willing to concede when a particular phenomenon being researched turns out to have a physical explanation.

"We're not looking for little

green men," he joked.

"In 90 percent of the cases, we come up with an answer. Then it ceases to be unknown. It's the 10 percent which remain unknown that we're investigating," Christensen said.

Fred Paulitz of Ipswich concurred.

"If they're (UFO's) not investigated properly, that's the sad part," said Paulitz.

Paulitz knows from personal experience the frustration of not having a UFO sighting investi-

gated and either confirmed or debunked.

"I have seen things over the Isles of Shoals which I can't explain," the Ipswich man said.

He described one of his sightings as appearing "like little suns, little circles." On one occasion, when he saw only one of the objects, "it appeared to be hanging in the sky, and it didn't appear to have any business there."

"But," he said, "in 1954, if you told people you saw something like that, they'd lock you up." 9

Others confirm area sighting

A bird, a plane or real UFO?

By GENE CONRAD
Capital Times Correspondent

BLACK EARTH — The night sky was brightly lit Aug. 2 at 9:45 p.m. when 10 people from Cross Plains to Blue Mounds saw a UFO moving slowly eastward, high in the southern sky.

It was a shining white, much brighter than the surrounding stars and projected a beam of light that "moved back and forth like a searchlight," according to one witness.

Local observers have been scratching their heads ever since, trying to come up with some rational explanation for what they saw. So, too, is the National UFO Reporting Center, a private agency in Seattle, Wash.

To date the center has 21 eyewitnesses in six states, from Iowa to Ohio, who claimed to have seen the same thing — a huge, white light — at approximately the same time.

Wisconsin Heights junior high school teacher Rogers Keene, 44, was the first to report his sighting to John Donaldson, editor of the weekly Dane County News.

Keene was walking his dog just a few feet from his rural home, five miles north of Black Earth, when he first spotted the light. He said it was moving slowly in an eastward direction, about 75 degrees above the southern horizon. When he first saw it, the light was due south — in the direction of Black Earth and Mt. Horeb.

The object stopped in the southeast and slowly descended in a zig-zag fashion until it was about 20 degrees above the horizon. The light then "disappeared into a pinpoint" and winked out.

Keene heard no sound for the two minutes he had the light in view. During that time the object had a white beam of light moving back and forth. "It was big as my thumb when I stretched my arm straight out" although "I couldn't tell how far away it was."

Keene said he has sighted "more than 2,000 aircraft," both helicopters and fixed wing, in the skies around his home but had never seen anything like the light before.

The teacher, since the sighting, has wondered if it was nothing more than a weather balloon or distant aircraft. Yet "it was different enough for me to run in the house and yell at my wife to get out there. But she didn't get out on time," Keene added. "I said to myself: 'Wouldn't you know it, just as the other person is going to see it, it goes away!'"

But others in the area claimed they saw the same object. After Keene told Donaldson about his sighting, the editor ran a small article in his paper for two weeks asking if others had spotted anything unusual in the skies that night.

Nine people responded, describing the same object. One lives in the Blue Mounds area, another was driving from Cross Plains to Black Earth on Wisconsin 14 and the others — all in the Black Earth area — included a teenaged boy and a Wisconsin Heights high school teacher.

Neither the National Weather Service or Federal Aviation Administration at Truax Field in Madison, however, reported any "echoes" on their radar screens, according to federal officials.

At first Donaldson wasn't sure how

to take Keene's claim. Following the other reports, he decided to write a detailed story about the sightings on Thursday's paper.

"I take (the claims) seriously," Donaldson said. "It may have been a weather balloon or something like that. But I've thought about it for quite awhile. I can't think of anything I'm aware of that could easily explain it away."

Eleven people in five other Midwest states reported seeing "a bright light, shining beams of light toward the ground," said Robert Gribble, a spokesperson for the UFO reporting

center.

In Batavia, Iowa, a man reported a light moving very low while crossing a highway about an eighth of a mile from the observer. Two observers saw a similar object in Lakeville, Minn.; one saw something in Mazon, Ill.; and two spotted a light in New Haven, Ind. Finally, five spotted a bright object in Orient, Ohio.

The center averages about six reports a night, with 10 being a "busy" night. Gribble asks that any UFO sightings be called into the center at 206-722-3000.

CR: M. Anderson

300 UFOlogists unite in search for the truth

By STEVE PATTERSON

MARGE CHRISTENSEN of Beverly Hills, Calif., has never seen a flying saucer when she put together the biggest set of meetings ever to study UFOs.

"I've never even seen one," says Christensen, "I just happened to read a book on the subject and found it fascinating."

But when some 300 people turned out for a conference on UFOs at the Beverly Hills and Tennis Club today, the 42-year-old Beverly woman will be at the center of a weeklong project to show that UFOs are real.

Christensen, Massachusetts director of the Mutual UFO Network, is the organizer of nationwide meetings this week expected to draw thousands of believers and skeptics — for serious examination of UFOs' existence.

"We're not in search of E.T. ... We're not fanatics," says Christensen, whose 1,500-member group is the largest UFO-sighters' organization in the country.

Support for the group's efforts have come from some leading experts, including Dr. J. Allen Hynek, former Air Force consul-

tant and head of the Center for UFO Studies, and John Schuessler, a top space shuttle technician, both of whom will be in Beverly today.

"A good number of our investigators are scientists. They're not people who appreciate being called flying saucer freaks or UFO buffs," Christensen adds.

They are also reluctant at times to identify themselves with their research, and MUFON's Vermont director says, "I was a close UFOlogist for years."

"I've observed over 10 kinds of objects," says William Chaplain, a Rutland carpenter and chapter head whose UFO-tracking has taken him to witnesses ranging from Vermont farmers to a New Hampshire police sergeant.

"I was always worried about telling people that I believed in UFOs," adds Chaplain, who says he spotted his first flying object as a youth.

"That's part of what this week is about. We want to bring evidence out so well sort of eliminate this stigma."

MUFON is studying a subject ignored by official sources for decades, Christensen says, and the

group takes pains to keep its research exact.

"We try to avoid people who are curiosity seekers. Our investigators have to be trained in... most of the fields of UFO research, including astronomy, aerodynamics and witness-questioning."

The search to identify the UFO has pushed MUFON members to follow leads government agencies have officially ignored, and Christensen says finance research from private sources.

"The official stand of the U.S. government is that UFOs don't exist," she explains. "However, what's being released through the Freedom of Information Act shows that nearly every government agency has been studying them."

"None of us wants any American secrets given out," says Chaplain.

"But if we're being visited by a potential enemy or someone who could be beneficial to us, it's our duty to let the public know."

"The problem now is that UFOs are being studied by a group of volunteers with very little money. Everything is out of pocket," he adds, as researchers

HERALD, Boston, MA - Aug. 18, 1985 CR: B. Greenwood

MORNING NEWS, Dallas, TX - Sept. 4, 1985 CR: T. Adams

3 who say sighting of UFO caused illness may get day in court

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Three people who contend the sighting of an unidentified flying object caused them medical problems may get their day in court if a federal judge decides their \$20 million lawsuit against the government should be set for trial.

U.S. District Judge Ross Sterling met with attorneys for both sides Tuesday and said he will decide if the case will go to trial or be dismissed.

The government filed a motion that the lawsuit be dismissed, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Frank Conforti.

According to the suit, Betty Cash, 57; Vickie Landrum, 62, of Dayton, Texas; and Ms. Landrum's 12-year-old grandson, Colby Landrum, said they saw a diamond-shaped object floating in the sky near Huffman the night of Dec. 29, 1980.

The three said they stopped their car along a lonely stretch of Farm to Market Road 1485 near Huffman and got out to view the UFO. They say their initial curiosity turned to terror when flames started spewing from the bottom of the UFO and heat began radiating from the hovering object.

Ms. Cash, who now lives in Birmingham, Ala., said she watched the object outside the car for about 10 minutes while the other two retreated. The object then headed

north accompanied by about 23 military-type helicopters, the plaintiffs said.

The three contend the sighting triggered medical problems and have asked for \$20 million in damages from the United States.

The medical problems started immediately, Ms. Landrum said, including blisters, hair loss, dizziness and headaches. To this day, Ms. Landrum says she cannot go outside in the sun.

"Even if I ride in a car during the day, I suffer the consequences," she said.

Her grandson, who lives with her, is ultrasensitive to the sun, she said.

Ms. Cash, who has been hospitalized for cancer, is living with her mother in Alabama.

Conforti said the federal courts have no jurisdiction over the matter because it cannot be proven that the government had control over the flying object.

"They didn't say this UFO was owned or controlled by the United States. You can't hold the government liable for actions it doesn't control," Conforti said.

But New York attorney Peter Gersten said the presence of military helicopters indicates the government knew about the object, whether or not it was responsible for it. Thus, it had a duty to warn people, he said.

HEADS CONFERENCE: Marge Christensen's in the spotlight today pay for trips, buy equipment and test reported UFO witnesses for medical symptoms from their own funds.

"I have two kinds of gelsper counters I paid for with my own money," says Chaplain, whose work has included interviewing possible UFO contacts, examining reported landing sites and checking soil samples.

Support for their cause, says Christensen, is growing.

"Every time a Gallup poll has been taken the percentage of people who believe that UFOs are real has risen," she adds.

"People are telling incredibly similar experiences from every part of the country... Whatever this is we may or may not ever be able to comprehend it."

"(But) the next step is to study it. You don't have to have an answer. But you have to examine these things."



Head Photo by MacLean/Leh

DANE CO. NEWS-SICKLE/CROSS-ARROW, Black Earth-Mazonian-Plains, WI - Aug. 15, 1985

Others concur on UFO sighting

Last week's issue of the News-Sickle-Arrow in Black Earth reported the sighting of an unidentified flying object on Friday, Aug. 2. Since the article's printing, six additional persons have contacted the newspaper office in Black Earth saying they saw whatever-it-was also.

The initial report was of a

glowing object projecting a beam of light that moved about, as if searching for something. The sighting was made at about 9:45 p.m. by a resident of Dunlap Hollow, which is about five miles north of Black Earth. Others who concurred in the sighting were located in that same area, at the southern edge of Black Earth, and between Black Earth and Madison in a car.

Further confirmations of the sighting can be registered by calling John Donaldson at the newspaper office at 767-3655.

CR: R. Heiden



UFOs — are they of this world?

By SCOTT McKEEN
Gazette Staff Writer

They came from the southeast, two brilliant orange globes darting across the clear September sky.

The moon was full that night in 1954 when James Johnston of Morinville saw the UFO. He was travelling with a friend in a 1932 Ford Coupe along a road two miles west of Alcomdale.

It was about 7:30 in the evening when the two men first caught a glimpse of it and they stopped the car at a crossroads to get a better look.

Johnston (not his real name) said later the objects were about 40 feet away, about 12 feet off the ground and hovering. They appeared to be spinning at tremendous speeds and they wobbled, not making a sound.

After 35 or 40 seconds the globes accelerated away, retracing the path they approached by. The men were frightened and after telling a friend — who didn't believe them — they observed three more objects in the distance dipping and diving in the night sky.

Johnston said later he was certain they weren't parachute flares. He also said prior to the sighting he had observed meteors and comets but this was much different.

Whatever the orange globes were, the sighting moved James Johnston enough that 23 years later he called a Ufologist to tell his story. The story now sits in a file cabinet in the home of John Brent Musgrave, an Edmonton man who has spent the last 32 years investigating the UFO phenomena.

Musgrave is not a cliché, off-the-wall UFO eccentric. He doesn't believe, or maybe more precisely, doesn't want to believe in extraterrestrials, or ET's.

He has other theories to explain the phenomena, some of them as bizarre or more bizarre than ET's, or "critters" as Musgrave likes to refer to them.

He is working on a PhD thesis right now, one which compares present day UFO cases to witchcraft in Medieval and Renaissance times.

Musgrave is the first one to admit he doesn't have all the answers, but after talking to people like James Johnston of Morinville, he is convinced people are seeing something.

Coming to grips with UFOs

By SCOTT McKEEN
Gazette Staff Writer

John Brent Musgrave has been chasing UFOs since the mid-1950s.

His interest was snared when, as an 11-year-old boy, he was treated to a spectacular light show in the night sky — a light show with no apparent explanation.

"There were these two orange circles — two large lights the diameter of the room, one travelling 15 degrees behind the other. They were moving south to north in the sky and they didn't make a sound; no sound at all ... I still don't know what they were."

Since the early sighting, Musgrave has seen "numerous" UFOs himself and has talked to or read about thousands of others who have shared the experience.

Today, Musgrave is one of Canada's foremost Ufologists. He lives in Edmonton, in a small townhouse in the city's east end.

His furnishings reflect the values of a man who has immersed himself in research and study and spent his last 14 years in university. His kitchen walls are hidden behind tiers of textbooks. In its centre is a tiny table, smothered by the latest magazines and newspapers.

To talk UFOs, however, Musgrave leads guests downstairs.

In a dimly-lit corner of the basement are more racks of books — hundreds of them on the subject of UFOs. Perched atop his filing cabinets — where he stores every UFO case he can get his hands on — is his index, the key to the files.

Frayed, yellowed cards lead him to the sightings he has cross-referenced into categories or types of encounter, from the "mundane" light in the sky to the abduction cases he says are "all the rage right now."

Not ET's

Musgrave is convinced UFOs are real. People aren't imagining all these sightings, he says. But, he believes they may have nothing to do with hypothetical life elsewhere in the universe.

"For me, the UFO phenomenon is not necessarily related to extraterrestrial beings.

"That's the most popular hypothesis, and I don't rule it out, but I would expect that out of all the

'legitimate' UFO reports, very few are ET in origin."

Musgrave says he is open to the theory but he sees too many other explanations to get hung up on "critters" from outer space, as he calls them.

"The dichotomy is that it is either ET's or something mundane; I don't agree with that. It might not be extraterrestrial, but we still have some interesting problems to answer, even physical problems.

"We have a lot of UFO cases where there are physical traces. Groups, even hundreds of people will see something in a field and you'll go out there and find burn marks.

"Those kinds of cases are legitimate and you have, as I see it, two kinds of explanations: military or commercial experiments or extraterrestrial drones."

He rules neither out but says another possible explanation for the evidence is unknown physical phenomenon. As he points out, many UFO sightings in the past probably were attributable to ball lightning which has only recently been accepted, more or less, as legitimate.

"And we know very little right now about solar winds and the interaction with the earth's magnetic field ... it could be that some luminous effects come from these phenomena."

Musgrave complains the ET theory gets too much attention and is often used by detractors to ridicule and ignore a phenomena which deserves extensive study.

He is presently focusing his energy on abduction cases (where people are allegedly picked up by alien creatures) which others have held up as conclusive evidence of ETs. Musgrave doesn't believe the abductions have anything to do with aliens or their spacecraft.

"It seems to me that what we are dealing with here is a continuation of a motif that has been in western culture for the last 1,000 years at least — the idea of dreams of flight, dreams of being abducted."

The UFO abductions closely parallel the legends in the Renaissance and the middle ages of the alleged abductions to the witches' Sabbath — a secret rendezvous for worshipping the devil, says Musgrave.

"Even the controversies around them seem to parallel: are they real abductions or aren't they; are they dreams; and if they are dreams, are they dreams into another world?"

One out of eight has seen a UFO

Wouldn't it be nice if we could write off the entire UFO issue as bunk?

In fact, wouldn't it be nice if we could write off all unexplained phenomena as bunk — we wouldn't have to worry and wonder about things we don't understand.

It would be nice ... and totally absurd.

As John Brent Musgrave, an Edmonton Ufologist, says in an article in *The Gazette* this week (see page A7, there have been too many sightings to write the issue off. People are seeing something.

Unfortunately, the UFO phenomenon has been tag-

ged with an association with extraterrestrials — that if you're talking UFOs you have to be talking about little green men in flying saucers.

As Musgrave explains, the sightings probably have several explanations, some of which may be more bizarre than little green men in flying saucers.

But, because the UFO phenomenon has been tagged as being extraterrestrial, the scientific community has ignored it, says Musgrave.

What do you think? Should the phenomenon receive greater study? And why do you think it hasn't? And do you think, as some do, that the governments already know some of the answers and aren't telling?

More importantly, do you have a story to tell? According to Gallup polls, as many as one out of eight Canadians have at one time or another witnessed an unusual object in the night sky which they could not identify. That means there are thousands of you in St. Albert.

If you have seen an unidentified flying object, call us at our News and Views Line at 459-2240.

We at *The Gazette* are interested in featuring more of these unexplained phenomena — particularly ghosts and the supernatural. If you have an opinion or a story to tell, please give us a call.

Your name doesn't have to go in print but we'll appreciate the information.

Musgrave is convinced that when he finds the answer to one he'll have the answer to the other. "I don't believe anyone was actually abducted to a wit-

ches' Sabbath and I don't believe anyone flew around on broomsticks; just as I don't believe anyone has been abducted to a real spacecraft and met creatures from another solar system."

As Musgrave points out, one of the reasons the ET theory is so popular is that some of the alternatives are in fact more bizarre. Some, people, he says, like to grab onto "nuts and bolts things" like alien spacecraft for the answer.

Classification inaccurate

"Some of the explanations involve altered states of consciousness, ESP, subconscious communication and even shared dream experiences, because whole families have claimed to have been abducted."

Musgrave leaves all the possibilities open; as he says, one of the problems with getting people to see UFO research as legitimate in the past is that all sightings have been lumped together — most often as being something extraterrestrial.

"There really are no UFO Phenomena. What we have is a whole bunch of little-understood phenomena which are lumped under the garbage can term, UFO. And some people think that because you can lump it that way you therefore have created an entity.

"But it seems to me, all you have accomplished is you've pointed out all the ways we don't understand the world.

"It's to me as if you and I were to go outside and write down all the identifiable objects we saw in the sky — the sun, the moon, the stars; frisbees, footballs; and birds and insects — all kinds of things. And then, we said, this is the subject of 'Identifiable Flying Objects.'

"The fact is, if we wanted to understand what those things were about, we would have to know sciences like astronomy, and maybe even sociology so we would understand why people throw frisbees.

"Others would lead us to zoology and other disciplines and sciences that have little in common."

Musgrave says the same problem exists in UFO research. "What we're dealing with are all kinds of phenomena that have, in some cases, nothing at all to do with each other."

The most popular theory, the one that has captured the imagination of the media, is the extraterrestrial theory. Musgrave agrees it would be conceited to think we are the only life form in the universe.

"I believe there is life elsewhere in the universe ... and I think it is quite likely that at one time or another and maybe even now, they are visiting here.

"I will underscore again, though, that it seems to me that's a different issue than the UFO phenomena. To me, what you have and what you start out with in the UFO phenomena is data you can't explain."

Explaining some of the sightings and abductions as being extraterrestrial in nature, still leaves many more unexplained, he says.

"I tend to look more seriously at man's myth making and fantasies (for the explanation to UFOs). These fantasies are extremely powerful and common, I believe."

And even though Musgrave admits he doesn't know what the abduction fantasies are; be they shared dreams, trips to other worlds or dimensions, he is certain they are not examples of psychosis, neurosis or anything psychologically abnormal.

He has talked to or read about too many 'solid citizens' who have reported abductions to pass them off as lunatic ravings.

"Whatever they are, I believe they are part of our culture, a part we tend to want to deny exists.

"It's this denial, I think, that has led us to explanations which tend to be more scientific and mechanical."

UFO over town?

We are not alone? This is the question in the minds of Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Lubbe of Steyn Street, Middelburg, after having sighted an unidentified flying object (UFO) in the sky on Tuesday night of this week.

Mr. Lubbe told the Observer that he and his wife were sitting in their private spa, out-

side their home (which is situated near Rex Motors) at approximately 21h45 when they noticed a very bright, silent, stationary light, the relative size of a 5c piece, in the sky above.

The whole area was illuminated for a few seconds, before the light began to fade away, in less than a minute.

The following day

Mr. Lubbe contacted the Planetarium in Johannesburg to find out if there was any logical explanation for the strange light he saw over Middelburg.

He was told that the Planetarium personnel did not know at this stage what the light was and that he should describe what he saw in writing and send it in the form of a letter to the Planetarium. Mr.

Lubbe was also told that other reports had been received by them from elsewhere about a similar light in the sky recently.

•A spokesman for the Planetarium confirmed that reports had been received from elsewhere in the Transvaal in this regard.

A Mr. André Allen of Kempton Park reported to the Planetarium that he had seen a

strange light in the sky between 18h30 and 19h00 on Tuesday evening.

Another woman, whose identity and address were not available when the Observer telephoned, had also reported a similar sighting approximately two weeks ago.

Meteorite?

•The spokesman stated that they were

inclined to think that the UFO had been a meteorite.

Extracts from Mr. Lubbe's letter to the Planetarium are the following:

"At approximately 21h45 on the night of July 9 my wife and I were in our outdoor spa when we were startled by an extremely bright light overhead, which illuminated the whole area.

"When we looked up into the sky we saw an extremely bright light

overhead, which faded in approximately six seconds. It appeared to be a large reflector emitting a very powerful white light, which faded as we watched it.

"It was similar to a flood light being switched off, in that the light faded before disappearing. The light was approximately half the size of a full moon, but brighter. There was no movement or sound at all.

NATAL MERCURY, Durban, South Africa - June 27, 1985 CR: C. Hind

It's UFO time again

UNIDENTIFIED flying objects which have been sighted either hovering suspiciously in the Durban night sky or shooting across the skyline will remain just that - unidentified.

And if little green men - from those 'UFOs' - have invaded this section of Planet Earth nobody knows about them.

Many callers to the Mercury in the past two weeks have reported a bright ball-shaped white light, multi-coloured when viewed through binoculars, crossing the sky south to north off Durban.

And Dr Sherman Ripley, senior lecturer at the Natal University Medical School, reported two sightings of a 'balloon-like object with a light coming from within which hovered in the sky near Virginia Airport'.

But the South African Air Force Base, Louis Botha Air Traffic Control and Virginia Airport are in the dark about the little mystery lights.

They have heard and seen nothing, they say.

Explanations of a sort were forthcoming from the Planetarium in Johannesburg and from Durban astronomer, Mr José Campos.

The ball-shaped white light could be meteors or parts of satellites re-entering the atmosphere, according to Mr Campos who is the Chairman of the Astronomical Society for Natal.

'But it is difficult to explain the numerous sightings,' he said. 'Fireballs or debris from satellites do not occur regularly and definitely not within two weeks of each other.'

Dr Ripley's sightings which occurred twice - both times at about 3 am on a Monday morning - could have been the planet Venus which is very bright at the moment according to Mrs Mary Fitzgerald, a lecturer at the Planetarium.

'Venus is appearing as a very brilliant morning star at about 2 or 3 in the morning,' she said.

But Dr Ripley said the light darted up and back and left and back but was otherwise stationary.

'This could be the twinkling effect which is caused by the atmosphere,' said Mrs Fitzgerald.

And Cynthia Hind, the African co-ordinator for the organisation Mutual UFO Network (Mufon) who is in South Africa lecturing on the subject of UFOs, explained the darting movement as autocinesis.

'It is a kind of self-hypnosis which occurs when you look at something for long enough. The object will appear to dart about.'

She agreed it could have been Venus that Dr Ripley saw but said she was 'worried about his balloon description'. 'I don't think the planet would appear to have the shape of a balloon with the light coming from within.'

And yet another explanation came from Mr Campos: 'Mr Ripley could have seen a weather balloon which went off course.'

But again, he said, it was just too much of a coincidence to spot a stray weather balloon twice at the same time of the day.

So watch the skies - you might just have a close encounter with an extra terrestrial tonight.

DAILY EXPRESS, London, England

May 18, 1985 CR: D. Speed

Space junk crash baffles experts

By FRANK ROBSON Air Correspondent

REPORTS that a Russian airliner may have been knocked out of the air by space debris, had aerospace experts baffled last night.

A radio message shouted by the pilot the moment before the 110-seat plane vanished from Japanese radar screens, said they had been hit by something from space.

At present there are some 15,000 satellites and other objects in orbit - two-thirds of which are space junk, falling slowly back to earth.

A Russian satellite fell on Canada in 1978 and the U.S. Skylab scattered a year later in Australia.

The experts say the odds against such an accident are many millions to one but no one in aviation discounts "Murphy's Law" - that any piece of equipment capable of going wrong will eventually go wrong.

Meanwhile the British aviation expert who first reported on Thursday that the Ilyushin Il-18 four propeller aircraft had been hit was trying to learn further details of the Sea of Japan crash.

GUARDIAN, London, England - July 13, 1985 CR: T. Good

Goodbye to little green men...

YOU ARE driving with friends in the country when you spot a strange object in the sky. It seems to come closer, then vanishes. Then you find yourself in a semi-dreamlike stage, further along your journey but on an unfamiliar road. Your shoes are unaccountably scuffed, you body hurts, and two hours have sped by.

Later, under hypnosis, you recall the incident. You find yourself on board an unidentified flying object being medically examined by small, robot-like beings with the aid of a large, eye-shaped device. A tall, humanoid creature oversees them. Telepathically, you answer their questions and to your surprise they answer yours. After a hazy period you are back in your car.

This is a fictional model of the rarest type of UFO experience, representing a fraction of the few "alien contact" incidents reported each year. Yet, according to Jenny Randles, national director of investigations at the British UFO Research Association, it is constructed from the common features found in hundreds of accounts in the UFO literature.

In her view, this is a close encounter of the fourth kind, fitting neither the prevalent atmospheric phenomenon (90-95 per cent) nor the typical UFO encounter (2-3



RANDES - UFO threat. Picture by Martin Argles

per cent). She believes this sort of case to be the province of psychologists and sociologists, reflecting the conclusion in Science and the UFOs, which she has written with Peter Warrington, that if Ufo-ology is left in the hands of non-scientists it will never escape the little green men.

Little green men are no longer runners. She says that no convincing photographs have been produced of aliens or UFOs on the ground, whereas atmospheric phenomena frequently mistaken for UFOs do show up on radar and film. This is as disappointing as the conclusion by the president of the Ghost Club that ghosts may

be the product of the collective unconscious.

She does not go as far as Carl Jung, whose book Flying Saucers (1959) suggests that UFOs may be psychic projections which throw back a radar echo. But she is keen that scientists study the possibility that the proximity of UAPs (unidentified atmospheric phenomena) exerts a "mind-scrambling" effect on the brain, releasing hallucinations deep in the human psyche.

Many of the cases she deals with involve as many as five witnesses, and she admits that five-person hallucinations are virtually unheard of. Investigating psychologists have found no

pattern of abnormality. "However the alien contact experience is subjective and can be real to one group of people, but a group over the road may have seen nothing," she says. She also suspects a form of "witness selectivity" at work.

She insists that BURA does not run away from little green men. In fact she has spent 4½ years challenging her own scepticism by investigating the bizarre UFO case near a US military base at Rendlesham Forest in 1980, when a "small triangular craft spewing fire" was seen by several witnesses.

Through the US Freedom of Information Act she obtained an MoD document describing the incident as a UFO encounter, and a tape made by US personnel on the spot. She suspects this is misinformation to disguise the testing of a secret military device.

"An MoD scientist told me recently 'You are messing with something so serious you could end up at the bottom of the Thames.' I want to keep pursuing it to the bitter end."

Science and the UFOs is published this week by Basil Blackwell, £12.50.

People is written by Stuart Wavell

...hello gushype

GROUND Saucer Watch, the American UFO group, should really investigate Carol Hill, who claims that her sexy bestseller about sub-particle physics shot into her noddle like radio waves from outer space.

"Unbelievable!" she recently told the Washington Post. "Like the story's coming from outside. Maybe it is. Maybe this sounds crazy. I believe in an enormous positive energy available to us."

Her book, unpromisingly titled The Eleven Million Mile High Dancer, is enormously and positively enhancing her bank balance. It is said to combine funk, fantasy, physics and feminism. The film rights have been sold, and both Kate Capshaw and Jessica Lange allegedly want to play Amanda, "the ultimate space-age romantic heroine" who wears skates and shorts.

Sadly Carol Hill (43) cannot skate, but is said to wear space-age earrings. Whereas Amanda has goddess proportions.

"Amanda is not me," she says. "I wish she were me. She's so strong and inspiring. Something's wonderful about her. She's the woman we'd all like to be. She makes me feel it's terrific to be a woman."

We are witnessing an easily explained phenomena here, gushype.

SALISBURY JOURNAL,

Wiltshire, England

July 25, 1985

CR: T. Good

UFO mystery baffles Paul

A UFO mystery has descended upon Fonthill Bishop where there were peculiar goings-on at the weekend.

On Saturday evening a large circle of flattened grass appeared in a field off the A303 near the village.

Traffic came to a halt as motorists stopped to inspect the circle - identical to ones seen around Winchester from time to time.

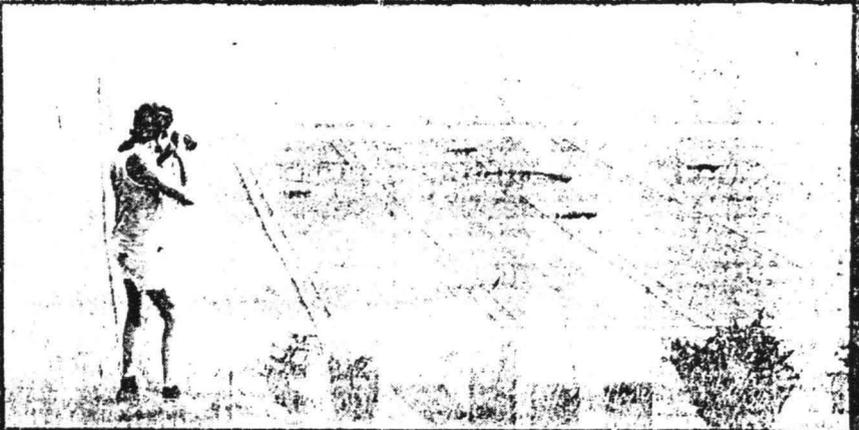
One witness, Mr Paul Mullins, a presenter for Radio Oldstock said: "There was one large circle with four little triangles of three circles at each corner."

"I don't see how anybody could have done it as a prank - there were no marks, leading to and from it. Besides, it would have taken a long time and the road was fairly busy."

"I've no idea what caused it - but it does seem odd."

No UFO sightings were reported to police over the weekend.

CURSE OF THE GIANT CIRCLES



FARMERS' crops have been wrecked again by Hampshire's most baffling phenomenon — the curse of the giant circles. Farmers are angry, experts baffled — but the cause of the weird and gigantic circles remains unsolved.

Four farmers between Winchester and Alresford are counting the cost after crops were swirled flat in perfect rings this month ... literally over night.

Four smaller rings surround the central circles, which measure more than 40 feet across.

For one Alresford farmer it's the sixth year corn has been lost

to the phenomenon — he says damage runs into hundreds of pounds.

"I'm fed up with it," he said. "As far as I'm concerned it's a bad joke. But you can't bring a case for criminal damage if you can't catch anyone doing it."

"We've thought of all sorts of things to stop this, but I'm not going to sit out in the fields

all night and every night."

Hoax?

But Hampshire's NFU chairman John Hazel says: "If it's a hoax, we cannot tell how it is done. There is a lack of any visible means how these things are being made."

"In one case these circles have appeared in one field for three years now, but not in the

same position, which would rule out a geological or archaeological cause."

Answers

UFOS, helicopters and local whirlwinds have been put forward as answers — all have been discounted by Wessex phenomena experts.

But if hoaxers are to blame their work would need military-style cunning, according to the Wessex Association for the Study of Unexplained Phenomena, WATSUP.

Somehow, the hoaxer would have to cross dense croplands by night without leaving a single mark.

The use of stunts has been ruled out because these would leave marks in the earth — none has been found despite painstaking searches.

Working in darkness — bright light would attract attention — he would have to create a geometrically perfect circle.

Every ear of corn would have to be swirled neatly in a clockwise direction — and made to lay flat. And that would be near impossible, even with a garden roller.

And this is before our hoaxer sets to work on the four smaller circles — each spaced exactly round the main ring, each edged with the neatness of a pastry cutter.

"We've never seen anything as baffling as this," says John Postans of WATSUP.

Truth

The group, which sets out to nail the truth behind weird

phenomena, has conducted detailed investigations into the circles. They have found absolutely nothing — except the circles.

"It seems to be mechanically created because the edges are so cleanly defined," says WATSUP member Steve Dyer. "Yet the corn is not actually broken at all."

then put forward an explanation. "We haven't got a clue"

Pursuit

Two police patrol cars sped to Stockbridge Down days before the circles appeared — in pursuit of a UFO.

Shaken pensioners Jack and Pat Collins spotted a brilliantly lit object hovering over desolate downland as they drove home at night.

Jack, of Fox Lane, Stanmore, Winchester described it as "A perfect circle".

"It was a huge circular thing and it was divided out like the spokes of a wheel," said Pat.

"Around the outside of it there were very bright lights, like huge light bulbs, and other lights in the sections."

"It was so bright — like something out of a fairground."

Jack, who had been driving their car, put his foot down when he spotted it hovering about 30 feet above the open fields.

File

The couple were so shocked at seeing the fiery circle they called the police.

Two cars from Andover raced to the scene — they found nothing, despite a 20 minute search of the open, rolling country.

A police spokesman said such sightings were noted in a UFO file.

He said they had never been asked to investigate the cornfield circles. "We have always recorded them as unexplained phenomena."

Andrew McKenna probes a mystery that has left UFO experts baffled

The circles always appear on sloping or hilly fields — as if they were meant to be seen.

Strange

Steve said: "What is strange is that it's not just a Hampshire phenomenon. It has been reported worldwide since the 1950s."

"If there's any kind of 'set up' it's on a global scale and it seems rather obscure to think of a hoax on that scale."

"I'd love to say it was an elaborate hoax, but somehow you've got to

'We haven't got a clue'

DAILY PROGRESS, Charlottesville, VA - Aug. 17, 1985

UFO Spotted In Northern Italy

FLORENCE, Italy (UPI) — Residents in central and northern Italy reported seeing a bright-colored unidentified flying object.

In the area of Pavia, 18 miles south of Milan, residents in scattered districts reported seeing a circular object emanating an intense green and orange light early Saturday morning.

They said the object appeared to be spinning on its axis and zig-zagged across the sky before quickly disappearing over the horizon.

In Florence, 120 miles southeast of Pavia, former schoolteacher Silvano Bacci told local newspapers he observed a similar object.

UFO sightings have been reported frequently in northern Italy.

CR: B. Pittman

HERALD EXPRESS, Torquay, Devon, England - July 30, 1985 CR: T. Good

Visitor who wore sky blue scales

A MOTEL proprietor in Argentina was walking home one night when he saw a mysterious object on the road, with two bright red lights. The beams were focused on the motel. Puzzled and alarmed, he ran into the building and found his daughter in a faint on the kitchen floor.

After she had been revived, she told him the place had been suddenly flooded with light. Then she found herself face to face with a tall man, wearing a suit of shiny sky-blue scales. He was fair-haired, and holding a sky-blue sphere. There was a huge ring on his finger.

Light came from his fingertips and feet, and it seemed as though he was draining the strength out of her. However, she had an impression of

Booklist edited by Judy Diss

goodness and kindness. The man was smiling. When he walked out of the room she fainted.

This strange story is one of many in "The UFO Casebook" (Orbis, £1.99), a large paperback filled with accounts of alleged sightings of flying saucers and encounters with aliens. There are numerous illustrations.

One is a still from a film taken in Florida in 1952. It has been established as probably genuine, and shows an object about 40 feet long in the sky.

The photographer gave his film to the U.S. Airforce. It was never returned. Some people see this as an example of the U.S. Government's apparent campaign to suppress evidence of UFOs. Fortunately the photographer had snapped off the first few frames of the film, in case it was lost.

The book explains that the term "flying saucer" derives from a phrase used by a U.S. airman in 1947, who said he saw strange objects "that flew like a saucer would if you skipped it across the water."

"Are UFOs real in the sense that, say, spacecraft are real?" asks the book. It takes a hard-headed view, but presents interesting reports and pictures. It even says there are persistent rumours that the U.S. Government has actually obtained a UFO, which is kept in total secrecy.



"The whole matter of government involvement, or the lack of it, is a further and fascinating aspect of the UFO controversy," it adds.

Other books in this excellent series are "Creatures from Elsewhere," which looks at the legends of the werewolf, the Abominable Snowman, the Loch Ness Monster and other mysterious creatures, and "Legends of the Lost." This contains accounts of Atlantis, King Arthur and the Holy Grail, the Lost Isle of Lyonesse, dragon legends and space visitors of ancient times.



"Legends of the Lost" — one of the evocative illustrations.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, London, England - Aug. 23, 1985

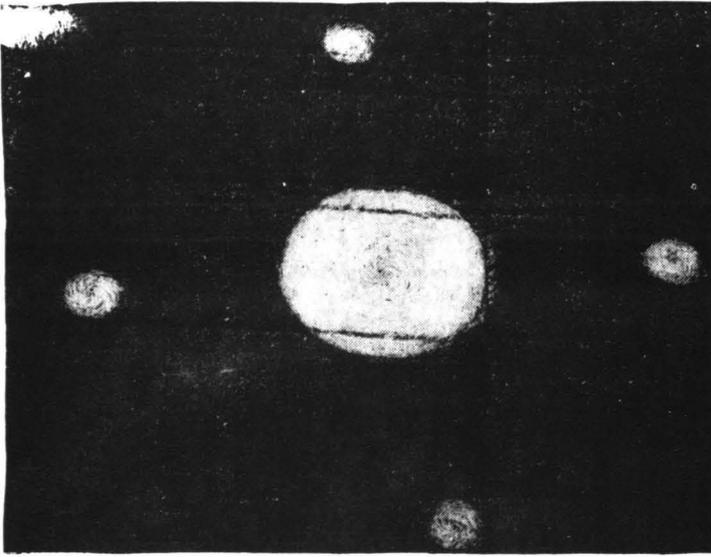
28 UFOs OVER THE ADRIATIC

By Our Rome Correspondent

More than 28 sightings of unidentified flying objects were reported along Italy's Adriatic coast soon after midnight yesterday. The objects continuously changed colour, ranging from gold to blue before disappearing over the horizon.

One remained fixed in the sky for almost 20 minutes before rocketing upwards and disappeared within seconds.

CR: T. Shields



The strange 'landing marks' pictured from the air



5321-C22 And a close-up of the cornfield from ground level

5321-C35

IT'S THE GREAT ANDOVER FLYING SAUCER MYSTERY

Has a flying saucer landed near Andover? That was the question being posed this week following the discovery of a series of strange circular 'landing' marks in a wheat field south of the town.

At least one man, an expert in aerial phenomena, is convinced that the indentations in the corn were made by an odd-shaped object coming to earth.

Mr Omar Fowler of the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena, who visited the site near Danebury Ring, said he was convinced the marks were not caused by a natural phenomenon such as wind or atmospheric pressure.

"I also believe that this is not a student prank," he said. "The edges of the standing corn are too uniform and there is not a mark that would explain how the depressions are so symmetrical. In any case there would be no point in such a hoax."

Thruxton pilot, 'Busty' Taylor, who discovered the markings at the weekend, is equally bewildered. He was flying in a twin-engined Commanche, with Thruxton Flight Centre flying instructor Barry Dyke when they made a low turn and Busty spotted the five perfect circles in an area covering the size of a large aircraft hangar in the corner of a field.

The centre circle is between 40 and 50 feet across and the four surrounding circles are about 15 feet in diameter.

The sight so amazed the four pilots in the Commanche that Barry Dyke promptly used a helicopter to fly only 500 feet above the wheat field. Busty, an Andover driving instructor who lives in Apple Tree Grove, borrowed a video camera and made a film of the circles.

"I have never seen anything like it before," he said after the second flight. "There is no mark on the corn to show that anyone or anything has walked into the field to make the marks. There is no sign of burning and the circles are so neat that it looks as though something has punched them out of the corn."

BY 'ADVERTISER' STAFF REPORTERS

Busty, whose keen eye started it all off is keeping an open mind, but admits he cannot help wondering whether the blot on the landscape is a calling card.

When the 'Advertiser' took a closer look there was no trace of footprints nor any sign that the marked areas had been trampled down. The corn was lying in neat circles and in a perfect clockwise swirl effect.

The Army have begun investigations into the markings for the Ministry of Defence and photographs were being taken by helicopter during the week. But Omar Fowler of the Surrey Investigation Group already has his theory: "It is obviously difficult to say exactly what caused them but my belief is that the marks were made by a large body landing directly from above."

Mr Fowler, whose organisation has been in existence for nearly 20 years and which works in conjunction with the British UFO Research Association said the marks in the field at Leckford were typical of a series of phenomena recorded throughout the world during the past seven years, some of which had been found after alleged sightings of UFOs. The similarity went right down to the fact that the corn was flattened in a neat clockwise direction.

Circles have appeared in the same design in Sussex and Wiltshire and near Winchester only four weeks ago and one of the many mysteries to remain is why there are no burn marks.

Lt-Col Edgcombe of the Army Air Corps at Middle Wallop inspected the scene, taking photographs from the air and at ground level and has passed his findings with a detailed description of the markings to the Ministry of Defence.

"None of us who visited the scene could offer any reasonable explanation, other than a very cleverly done spoof," he said.

WESTERN DAILY PRESS, Bristol, England - July 26, 1985

Encounters with the Thing

MYSTERIOUS UFO sightings which made Wiltshire town Warminster famous 20 years ago will be remembered at a special exhibition in the town.

Journalist Ken Rogers, who was a 15-year-old schoolboy in Warminster in 1965 when the sightings began to make national news, is staging the show in the town's library.

He aims to bring together press cuttings, books and historical documents to trace the history of the phenomenon which became known as the Warminster Thing.

The exhibition.



which opens on Tuesday and runs until the end of August, will bring back memories of the people of Warminster of the days when strange objects were seen in the skies and mysterious sounds were heard over the rooftops.

The problem reached its height in August 1965 when the local council called a public meeting to try and allay people's fears.

The world's press

descended on the town and scores of sightseers packed the hills around the town to keep watch and photograph the mysterious visitors from outer space.

Mr Rogers, who now lives in London, is returning to Warminster for the exhibition. He said: "It is interesting to look back on this. It is part of the modern history of Warminster."

Mr Rogers, who is among the many who claim to have seen the Thing was a founder member of the Warminster UFO society which became the British UFO Society.

CR: T. Good

CENTRAL WESTERN, Orange, N.S.W., Australia
July 30, 1985 CR: P. Norman

UFO sightings not reported to police

Mudgee police yesterday denied any knowledge of a string UFO sightings reported in the area recently.

For the past week Sydney papers have reported several sightings, but a police officer said yesterday he did not know of any reports to the station.

Usually UFO sightings were reported to police stations, he said.

According to a Sydney report, 17 people from the Blue Mountains travelling on a bus saw a UFO hovering in the sky near Mudgee last week.

They said two bright lights, which they described as being 10 times bigger than a normal star, hovered overhead for about three seconds and then disappeared.

The report also said a former detective-inspector and his wife regularly saw a UFO as they travelled

from Sydney to their Mudgee farm.

The couple said they saw a fluorescent-like white light tinged with red hovering below the mountain line at night.

"It doesn't seem to be a natural thing or man made," the wife said.

"It travels low down in the sky, much too slowly for a star or comet, and seems to follow you."

In another Sydney report last week, a Sydney doctor and his wife said they had also seen a UFO in the Mudgee area.

Dr John Warneford said he saw two flashing lights 600m above the ground between Lithgow and Mudgee.

Dr Warneford said the object was twice as big as a small plane and stayed in the one place for more than 15 minutes.

He said he did not hear any sounds.

A not so very far away encounter

Three people who watched in amazement as a UFO hovered over Petersfield asked this week, "Did anyone else see it?"

The RAF, the Army and the Meteorological Office have been unable to shed any light on the mystery.

But two women who contacted the Post separately to report their sightings believe that other people must have seen the object — and that there must be a logical explanation for it.

Mrs. Dorothy Smith, of Woodbury Avenue, Petersfield, said she was woken up by her cat at 3.45 a.m. last Wednesday.

"I looked out of the window to see what might have alarmed him and I just could not believe my eyes.

"There was a brilliantly lit object hovering above the fir trees four gardens away. At first I thought it looked like an enormous gondola lit up with electric lights.

"I kept staring at it and trying to convince myself it was really there. I even went back to bed to get warm, and when I got up again 30

minutes later it was still there."

Mrs. Smith was so mystified that she rang the Meteorological Office at Bracknell to see if they could offer any explanation.

Experiment

"They said it was nothing to do with them, or with the military. But I still think it could have been something connected with an experiment of some kind," she said.

The second person to see the UFO was Mrs. Peggy Jones-Parry. She saw the UFO just after returning to her home in Rogate with her husband at about 9.30 p.m. on Thursday.

She described it as a pinkish red colour with glittering lights. As she watched, it sank gradually in the sky and suddenly disintegrated.

Mrs. Jones-Parry called her husband Christopher who also saw the UFO, but neither of them could think of any explanation for it.

"I cannot believe that no one else saw it. I have watched the television news and read the papers to find out if anyone had reported seeing the same thing, and I am amazed that no-one did.

"I am glad my husband was there so that someone saw what I did. I am sure there must be a perfectly logical explanation, and I would love to know what it is."

Plane allegedly buzzed by missile

ROME (AP) — The Italian Air Safety Board opened an investigation Saturday into claims that a Greek Boeing 707 was skimmed by a military missile while flying over the Swiss-Italian border.

The investigation follows an emergency message Thursday to air traffic controllers in Milan from Olympic Airways Capt. Christos Stanulis, who said his airplane had come within 300 feet of colliding with an

object that looked like a guided missile.

Seventy people were on board the jet, which was flying from Zurich, Switzerland, to Athens.

The Italian Defense Ministry said Saturday that the unidentified flying object could not have been a guided missile.

In a statement, the Italian Defense Ministry said the aircraft was flying at 27,000 feet outside Italian airspace at the time of

the alleged sighting.

There were no Italian or NATO military exercises taking place in the area, nor were there any unusual signals on radar screens, said the statement.

But a Greek Civil Aviation spokesman, who declined to be named, said the projectile could have been a "remote control rocket."

The Greek Civil Aviation Authority will also investigate the incident, he said.

Lights mystery

STRANGE lights over Skelmersdale have been reported to the Advertiser twice within the last three weeks.

But the two reports of UFOs in the sky have both met with a blank response from both local police and RAF officials.

The most recent report was made by a Parbold couple returning through the town late on Monday night from the M58 motorway.

Mrs Edith Davies said: "We were driving through Ashurst at about 11.40 p.m. when I saw these strange red, blue and white lights in the sky."

"They seemed to stay still for a while and then they just moved."

"I am absolutely sure it was not an aircraft or a helicopter. So is my husband. We are completely mystified."

ADVERTISER, Ormskirk, England Aug. 15, 1985

CR: T. Good

TRANSLATIONS

City and country of incident: Urshult, Sweden

Date of incident: July 21, 1985

Name of paper and date of clip: KRONBERGAREN, July 25, 1985

City and country of newspaper: Vaxjo, Sweden

[CREDIT: Erik Fredriksson]

CAMILLA AND CARINA ARE SURE: IT WAS A UFO WE SAW!

That which we saw can not possibly have been a balloon or helicopter. No one of Earth can make craft able to fly so near to the ground and at once disappear. That was the testimony of Camilla Guldstrand and Carina Agren from Urshult. On Sunday night, they saw from only a few meters, a remarkable object with a twinkling light which abruptly disappeared.

That unpleasant situation began at 02:15 Sunday morning. They were on the way home from Idehults barn/box in their car when they were blinded by a strong shining light from a twinkling light or lamps.

Disappeared suddenly

"At first I thought it was a police patrol. But the revolving light was in the middle of the road and that was not quite right. I was scared and braked suddenly," said Camilla. "But the light only disappeared at once to the left. It did not take off, only vanished, and it was pitch-black. Not any sound was heard at all."

Camilla and Carina are quite sure that the light covered the whole roadway. The lamps were placed around and rotated with a yellow-white light. In the center shone a red light from a little "hillock."

On the ground where they saw the object floating, there is bush and branches which seem to be burned. Tops of grass and vegetation are black and carbonized in an area of 3-4 meters in diameter.

More witnesses

Five to six meters above the ground is a powerline running alongside the road. That, plus the burned vegetation, proves that something really did pass through here, said both Camilla and Carina. "We are quite sure we really saw it. We are both sober and normal people. It must have been a UFO we saw. No Earth-made vehicle has a chance to touch down and hover so near the ground silently and then disappear in a second sideways," say the girls.

A half-hour later, when they were home in Urshult, both observed a bright light moving in the sky. Once they saw a powerful flash of light which lit up the whole heavens. Later they heard that a girlfriend also observed the same flash. A police guard reported he saw a satellite-like object in the heavens about 03:00 the same morning.

City and country of incident: Ljungby, Sweden

Date of incident: July 20, 1985

Name of paper and date of clip: SMALANNINGEN, August 2, 1985

City and country of newspaper: Ljungby, Sweden

[CREDIT: Erik Fredriksson]

FOUR YOUNG PEOPLE FROM JUNGBY - TWO STRONG LIGHTS OVER ROAD E:4

What it really was, what we saw, is not possible to tell, but neither was it anything normal at all.

That was the conclusion of four youths from Ljungby after their experience on Friday evening two weeks ago. There was a big unknown object on the road between Ljungby and Lagan to the north. Also, outside Ljungby, there was an inexplicable observation during the past two weeks. There were four youths who witnessed the object, two boys and two girls, about 17 to 19 years of age. In case they are regarded as nuts, they remain anonymous and also because they didn't really know what it was they saw.

The four youngsters were driving on the old road E:4 from Ljungby to the small village of Lagan to the north. Suddenly, just after midnight, they observed two very strong lights about 200-300 meters in front of them on the road. The light looked like a police brakelights. But instead of continuing its course, the light began to move sideways toward the woods and at the same time, it abruptly disappeared.

It could not have been a car, the youths say, since they would not have been able to see both lights at the same time, side by side, after the UFO turned off the road.

The youths decided to take a closer look to determine what was going on. They took off on a sideroad leading in the same direction, but only came back onto the road E:4 and did not find a sign of anything at all.

Yes, it was unpleasant, they said. Anything could have emerged and they had seen many films, so afterwards, they were really afraid. There were no other cars or trucks in the vicinity which they might have mistaken for the mysterious lights. What it really was, they cannot say, but they still wonder.

MAINICHI DAILY NEWS, Tokyo, Japan - Aug. 25, 1985 CR: Y. Matsumura

UFO Sightings Up In Italy

TURIN, Italy (AFP-Jiji) — A record number of flying saucers — unidentified flying objects (UFOs) — were spotted in Italian skies this year, a specialist announced here Friday.

Eduardo Rosso, a director of the Italian UFO Center here, said that more than 50 sightings had been reported between January-July.

"In April two motorists reported meeting with armless beings outside Aviano, near Venice," he said.

A couple in the same region on Aug. 4 reported seeing a humanoid about 1.20 meters tall who jumped across the road and then disappeared into a ray of light from a strange disc which had landed nearby.

Rosso said that 90 percent of UFO sightings could be explained scientifically and rationally, but there were still 10 percent which could not.

EVERING CHRONICLE, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, England Aug. 19, 1985 CR: T. Good

ALWAYS ready to help unravel the great mysteries of life I am pleased to mention a letter which has arrived from deepest Yorkshire concerning strange flying objects.

It comes from Mr. Philip Mantle who can be readily identified by his letter heading as Overseas Liaison Officer and Sighting Investigator of the Yorkshire UFO Society.

Mr. Mantle is keen to hear more of reported sightings of something which went flash in the night in June over the Tyne.

The Evening Chronicle carried a brief article following scores of claims of a sighting during one night in June. Indeed two Denton Burn listeners sparked off a wave of reports to Radio Metro's Night Owl programme after claiming their car had been "buzzed" by a strange low-flying craft.

Mr. Mantle is anxious to learn more of these odd goings-on and would appreciate a line from anyone with more news. He keeps watch for aliens at 106 Lady Ann Road, Seothill, Batley, West Yorkshire.

In return for including the above he tells me he will be only too pleased to inform me of any further news of sightings hereabouts. Watch this space ...

MERCURY, Leicester, England - Aug. 15, 1985 CR: T. Good

Mystery flashlights in sky spark UFO probe

A UFO investigation is under way following the sighting of mysterious objects near Melton Mowbray.

They were spotted by 21-year-old shop assistant Stuart Weston as he drove from Leicester towards Melton.

Just before Kirby Belars he says, he saw a yellow ball in the sky about 11.30 p.m.

Little sound

"At first I thought it was a meteorite, but it appeared to stay in the same position."

Mr. Weston, of Hall Close, Glen Parva, who was taking his girlfriend,

Miss Janet Holland, to her home in Severn Hill, Melton, stopped his car.

"We spotted six red flashing lights and there also seemed to be white lights. There was little sound and they were definitely not planes, helicopters or weather balloons."

At one stage, he said, a triangular-shaped object passed over the spot, making a humming sound.

A police patrol car

checked out the report but found nothing unusual.

The RAF at Cottesmore were also contacted but said that the last Tornado had come down at 10.36 p.m. — about an hour before Mr. Weston made his sighting.

He is convinced that other people must have seen the lights as it was a clear night. His sighting has now been reported to a UFO organisation.

Name of paper and date of clip: O GLOBO, August 21, 1985
City and country of newspaper: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
[CREDIT: Cynthia Luce]

A FLYING SAUCER IN SAO PAULO: MYSTERY OF 28 YEARS REAWAKES

In September of 1957, Ibrahim Sued published, in his column in O GLOBO, a strange story from a reader who had sent him fragments of metal--and said they were pieces of a flying saucer that exploded on a beach in Sao Paulo. Now, 28 years later, Ibrahim has received a letter from a scientist from Stanford University in the U.S., stating that the analysis of the fragments shows them to be magnesium, but of such a degree of purity that, until now, this type has been produced in only a few laboratories and in small quantities. See Jornal de Ibrahim Sued in this edition.

[JORNAL DE IBRAHIM SUED] - SPACE CENTER SEARCHES FOR READER OF THIS COLUMN
- SUBJECT: MAGNESIUM

From the Center of Space Science and Astrophysics of Stanford University, in the States, I received this letter: "Dear Mr. Sued, - On the 17th of September, 1957, your column in the newspaper O GLOBO, printed a letter which you had received a few days before. To refresh your memory, I enclose a copy of this letter.

"Dr. Olavo T. Fontes (deceased) visited you on that afternoon when you, amiably, handed over pieces of metal that had come with the letter. I am curious to know what happened to the second letter (possibly with more samples of the metal), as the letter-writer said he was sending one letter to your office and one to your house. As you might know, it was proved that the metal was magnesium of uncommon purity. The level of purity is still being researched, but I can affirm that it is less than 100 parts to a million.

"Magnesium of this purity is only produced in small quantities in certain laboratories. The principal failing in this interesting case, is that we have no idea who sent this metal to you and how this metal came into the hands of the person who gave it to you. Given that this happened a long time ago, is it possible that this person is still alive and if so, that he is still reading your column? Perhaps a relative or close friend of the letter sender would know who sent this material to you. Sincerely - Peter A. Sturrock, Director of Center of Space Science and Astrophysics, Stanford University."

-- Answer: I remember that I gave one other letter to someone. I am trying to remember who it was...Let's wait. The letter said, the metal was from an explosion of a Flying Saucer...Really a mysterious subject....

City and country of incident: Santos, Sorocaba and Curitiba (Sao Paulo State and Parana State), Brazil

Date of incident: August 22/23, 1985

Name of paper and date of clip: O GLOBO, August 24, 1985

City and country of newspaper: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

[CREDIT: Cynthia Luce & Irene Granchi]

BRILLIANT UFO APPEARS IN THE SKIES OF SANTOS, SOROCABA AND PARANA

SANTOS, SOROCABA & CURITIBA -- A luminous UFO was seen yesterday morning in Baixada Santista and in the region of Sorocaba. Day before yesterday, beginning in the evening and continuing all night, a UFO was seen in various cities of Parana, first in Foz de Iguacu and Cascavel, in the western part of the state. Inhabitants of the two cities and also of the Southwest of Parana, said the object was luminous; some, using small telescopes, said that the object was the shape of an umbrella with the part corresponding to the handle, the brightest part; others described it as like a balloon with two antennae which emitted a green light.

In Santos, students, the operator in the control tower of the Air Force base, and even the officers on the ship Professor W. Bernard, known for its voyages to the Antarctic, saw the UFO. The operator of the control tower described the object as "a brilliant ball, with a tail the shape of an isosceles triangle on a body of a luminous milky color." He watched the object for about 20 minutes and calculated that it was at 10,000 meters altitude. Late that evening, the commander of the Air Force base that refused to receive the press, revealed his version of the matter, that it was a meteorological balloon.

This hypothesis was definitely ruled out by the commander of the Bernard, Waldir de Costa Freitas, who saw the brilliant object from his ship which was moored at the Valongo wharf.

"We've launched various balloons from the Bernard and I can assure you that this object was totally different. Balloons have a radio transmitter on the bottom which is visible from our point of observation. Besides this, the tendency of a balloon is to rise, while this object moved from side to side horizontally."

The commander stated further that he perceived the object ("basically silver with red overtones") "as having a sort of tail," and what caught his attention was the fact that it zig-zagged West-East, contrary to the direction of the wind.

In Sorocaba, many of the people also saw the object--described by all as a luminous sphere, apparently of metal. The journalist, Sergio Coelho de Oliveira, who also saw the object, but does not believe in UFOs, tried unsuccessfully to photograph it ("the morning was very light," he justified himself) and he did not believe the object emitted light. According to him, "that sort of luminous effect is typical of the reflection of the sun on aluminum."

Name of paper and date of clip: O GLOBO, August 25, 1985

City and country of newspaper: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

[CREDIT: Cynthia Luce]

FLYING OBJECT THAT FELL IN UBATUBA CHALLENGES SCIENTISTS FOR 28 YEARS

[Edgardo Costa Reis - Correspondent]

WASHINGTON -- An extremely rare fragment of metal that was found in Brazil has challenged a group of scientists and researchers for many years at the Center of Space Science and Astrophysics at Stanford University in California, which is still not able to establish the origin or the composition of the material.

The fragments were found on a beach at Ubatuba almost 30 years ago by someone who sent them in a letter to the columnist Ibrahim Sued, saying that they were fragments from an explosion of a flying saucer. The story of the flying saucer was ignored all this time, but magnesium of this purity attracts and maintains the curiosity of Brazilian and American scientists.

-- "It's a mystery," says the Vice-Director of the Center of Space Science and Astrophysics, Peter Sturrock, adding that, after more than four years of testing, they are still ignorant of the composition of the material.

The person who discovered the fragments--and which Sturrock and other American researchers continue to try and contact or at least identify--sent the material in September, 1957, inside two letters sent to the house and to the office of Ibrahim Sued. The columnist published the letters in O GLOBO, September 14th of that year and kept the pieces of metal, but threw away the envelopes and the signature on the envelopes was illegible.

So it is still a question of three small fragments that are extremely light, weighing less than one gram each. In the letters, the sender says that he was fishing near Ubatuba when he saw an object "at tremendous speed," looking as if it was imminent to crashing into the sea. The UFO made a tight turn, rapidly, and he witnessed the disintegration.... like magic.

Doctor Olavo Fontes of Rio de Janeiro (who died in 1968) became interested in the case and visited Ubatuba, according to Sturrock, to try and find people who remembered the incident. After that, he visited Ibrahim Sued and asked for the samples to be analyzed.

In 1957, the laboratory of the National Department of Mineral Production made a spectrographic analysis of the two fragments and the chemical analyst, Luisa Maria A. Barbosa, said the results showed a material of a very high degree of purity.

Afterwards, Dr. Fontes contacted an organization in Tucson, Arizona, called APRO (Aerial Phenomena Research Organization), founded in 1952 by a couple interested in registering and researching events attributed to Flying Saucers.

Coral, the wife of the director of APRO, James Lorenzen, stated, in a telephone interview, that before the fragments came to the U.S., they were examined in Brazil by an investigator, Elson Teixeira, of the Institute of Mines in Rio.

In 1959, he sent the results to APRO, asserting that the fragments were a rare type of magnesium.

The University of Arizona made a new analysis in 1968, but the conclusions were made little of, as they said that the samples could be duplicated. The truth, meanwhile, is that this type of metal is not found in nature and could not have been manufactured in Brazil, given the level of technology at that time, even though Dow Chemical had a subsidiary in the country.

Fascinated by UFOs, Coral and Jim Lorenzen believe that the fragments really could be from a Flying Saucer. This assertion many scientists avoid because it could damage their professional status. But Coral Lorenzen guarantees that the material could not have come from a strange meteorite in the atmosphere--"its composition doesn't even have half a gram of magnesium"--and she observes that the fragments are a product manufactured "by intelligent beings."

Sturrock became interested in the case after a dinner with the couple around four years ago and asked for a sample (the other sample remains in the safe at APRO in Tucson). In a telephone conversation, the scientist from Stanford University says that the research continues, but that as the results are still not conclusive, he prefers to avoid a great deal of publicity at this time.

Meanwhile, describing the charred and oxidized fragments, he did admit that tests already made were not able to detect any metal other than magnesium, with a high level of purity. Another study, made by the University of Colorado, indicated that there were two elements--barium and strontium--and Sturrock is now trying to resolve the two divergent opinions.

"I doubt," he says, "that they could have been produced in Brazil with that degree of purity. It is really uncommon."

Magnesium was used a great deal in that era in flashbulbs and the Germans used magnesium in incendiary bombs in the Second World War. For lightness, it is used in airplanes, but not with the level of purity of the fragments that were found.

INHABITANTS REMEMBER BLAST

Taubate, SP -- On the 17th of September, 1957, a tremendous explosion in the sky of the township of Ubatuba, which is in the northern littoral of Sao Paulo, shook up the inhabitants of this peaceful little town. The accident occurred at Cruzeiro Beach. Many of the people on the beach thought it was an airplane that exploded in the air. The fragments of the craft fell on the beach and were sent to the United States. It was thought that they were dealing with a UFO case as the material encountered was analyzed and found to be unknown. Today, almost 30 years afterwards, the subject is causing a great deal of discussion in Ubatuba. Some think it could have been only a meteorite, and others say it could only be a UFO. The attorney, Lincoln Hottum, a resident of the town for many years, is sure it was indeed a UFO.

A giant snake in lake is no fish story to terrorized anglers

"The serpent's body was larger, in my opinion, than the mast of any ship I ever saw: its tail appeared very ragged and rough, and was shaped like an eel's; and his head like that of a land serpent."

—Shubael West

By LAURIE ABRAHAM
STAFF WRITER

Shubael West, master of the packet boat Delia, described his encounter with this ferocious sea serpent in the first issue of the Cleveland Gazette and Community Register — July 31, 1818.

The leviathan he described "threw his tail from 25 to 30 feet in a perpendicular direction, striking a whale with tremendous blows." A far-fetched, antiquated piece of sailor's lore? Perhaps, but to some Lake Erie boaters, this fish tale may not sound so fantastic.

"I saw something big and black coming toward the boat," said Demetrius Gooden, of East Cleveland, who was fishing for walleye Monday with Frank Hughes. They were 25 to 30 miles offshore when they saw what looked like a "really long black alligator."

Hughes, owner of the 39-foot boat, said he saw the water churning, even though the lake was as "smooth as glass."

"The damn thing was two or three feet from the swim platform of my boat when I fired the engine up," said Hughes, of Shaker Heights. "I was shaking like hell."

Hughes radioed a mayday to the Coast Guard, said Jack Abbott, officer in charge of the Cleveland Harbor Station on E. 9th St. "He was scared to death," Abbott said.

The Coast Guard searched for 40

minutes but found nothing, Abbott said. But what the two saw was probably not a submarine, he said, because the water was too shallow.

Hughes said he was reluctant to radio the Coast Guard. "When you tell people something like this they think you need a straitjacket."

But Hughes is not the only Lake Erie boater who has recently seen some kind of "sea monster." At least three others have been baffled by something they think is a long, black, shiny log — until it moves.

"It moved like a snake would, undu-

lating," said Tim Kolar, who saw what looked like a 35-foot-long log with bumps on May 23.

Kolar and Paul Connelly, a Coast Guard chief petty officer, watched it for about 15 minutes from Wildwood Beach, off Neff Rd. It submerged when power boats went near it, said Connelly, who was not working at the time.

"I've never seen anything quite like it," Connelly said. "It was undulating up and down like a calm roller coaster."

These stories, though hard to

believe, should not be dismissed, said Dr. Andrew White, a professor of biology at John Carroll University. "People don't get that scared if they see nothing," he said. "One just doesn't snicker and forget it. They saw something."

The largest fish native to the Great Lakes are lake sturgeon, which have a maximum recorded length of eight feet and usually stay near the bottom of the lake, White said.

The heaviest one caught, in 1929, reportedly weighed 160 pounds, he

said, though sturgeons weighing more than 300 pounds were recorded in the 19th century.

But these figures may be low, White said. "Commercial fishermen don't run to a museum and say, 'Look what I caught,'" he said. "People have the impression that the biggest fish in Lake Erie is a two-foot carp."

In addition to a large sturgeon, the "sea monster" could be a fish native to the ocean that somehow entered Lake Erie through Lake Ontario's Welland Canal, White said.

Roy Mackal, one of the founders of the 1,000-member International Society of Cryptozoology, isn't satisfied with such a mundane explanation. He said that Lake Erie might be harboring a primitive whale, similar to the Loch Ness monster.

Cryptozoology is the study of animals that are unexpected in form or size, or thought to be extinct, said Mackal, an administrator at the University of Chicago who was an associate biochemistry and biology professor for 30 years.

The society tries to find proof of animals such as the Loch Ness monster or Big Foot, but Mackal said they did not study the "goblin world."

"We're talking of normal animals, unusual perhaps, but not monsters," he said.

Mackal said the creature that might be in Lake Erie was snakelike and up to 75-feet-long. At Lake Champlain in New York and Vermont, cryptozoologists have taken clear pictures of them, he said.

"These animals are occasionally observed on the high seas as sea serpents," said Mackal, who is going to Africa for the second time in March to search for a small dinosaur-like animal called the Mokaele-mbembe. "Every now and then they go up into fresh water following salmon migration. It's just a little farther south than normal."

Whatever the leviathan of Lake Erie may be, Gooden's fishing days are over.

"You'll never get me down on that lake again," he said. "I don't even want to get on the Goodtime II."



FORTEANA NEWS

JOURNAL, Albuquerque, NM - Sept. 3, 1985

Nearly Half of Americans Believe in Life on Other Planets

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Is there intelligent life on other planets? Nearly half of Americans think so, and they believe money is well spent searching for it, according to a Media General-Associated Press poll.

And while the idea of civilian space travel is no longer far-fetched, Americans are not overly eager to ride in the space shuttle.

Forty-seven percent of the 1,517 respondents in the nationwide telephone poll said they believed alien life existed, while 36 percent disagreed. Seventeen percent were unsure.

Forty-nine percent said the search for life on other planets, such as that done with radio telescopes, was a good use of research money, while 45 percent disagreed.

But fewer than half of those polled said they wanted

to ride aboard the space shuttle, despite the flight of U.S. Sen. Jake Garn earlier this year and a scheduled flight for New Hampshire school teacher Christa McAuliffe.

Forty-eight percent of the respondents said they would like a trip in the space shuttle, while 50 percent said no.

Not surprisingly, younger people appeared more eager for the ride than older people: Two-thirds of 18-to-34-year-olds wanted to ride in the space shuttle, compared with nearly half of 35-to-54-year-olds, one third of 55-to-64-year-olds, and only 19 percent of those 65 and older.

Although a woman was selected to be the first teacher in space, women were much less likely than men to want to ride in the shuttle. Two-thirds of the men and one-third of the women would like a space

ride on other questions:

■ Twenty-nine percent said the United States spends too much on its space program, while 17 percent felt more should be spent. Forty-three percent said the United States spends the right amount, and 11 percent were unsure.

■ Landing an astronaut on another planet held little importance to slightly more than half of the respondents, while about one-third said it should be a high priority. Ten percent were unsure.

■ Fifty-one percent said the space program had had a direct benefit on their daily lives. Half of them said the space program produced technological progress, 15 percent cited biomedical advancements and 14 percent cited improved communications.

Smaller percentages cited other benefits, including understanding weather better, improved defense and a better understanding of food and diet.

On the question of life on other planets, younger and more educated people were more likely to believe in intelligent alien life than older and less educated people. About half of the 18-to-54-year-olds said they thought intelligent life existed on other planets, compared with 43 percent of the 55-to-64-year-olds and one-quarter of the 65 and older group.

Fifty-two percent of college graduates believed in life on other planets, compared with only 27 percent of the high school dropouts. Forty-five percent of high school graduates said they believed life existed on other planets.

Respondents in the Media General-Associated Press poll included a random, scientific sampling of 1,517 adults across the country July 5-13. As with all sample surveys, the results of Media General-AP telephone polls can vary from the opinions of all Americans because of chance variation in the sample.

MAINICHI DAILY NEWS, Tokyo, Japan - Aug. 30, 1985 CR: Y. Matsumura

A Fish Story Of The First Magnitude

PEKING (UPI) — Chinese scientists have identified a species of 33-foot-long fish in a remote lake in northwestern China as the biggest salmon ever discovered, the official Xinhua news agency said Wednesday.

Numerous local legends are associated with the "monsters" of Lake Hanas in China's far west Xinjiang Autonomous Region. One old Mongolian resident spoke of seeing a "lot of big fish" in the lake in the 1930s, not long before a major earthquake hit the area, Xinhua said.

A massive earthquake that killed 80 people rocked the province Friday, a few weeks after scientists first reported sighting the huge fish, which they mistook for boats and a mass of seaweed.

Xiang Ligai, associate professor of the Xinjiang University Biology Department, observed the fish for a while and said the "big red fish" was a hutchi taimen, a species of salmon, Xinhua said.

"To further confirm the discovery," the professor went to observe the fish from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on July 23, Xinhua said.

"Professor Xiang could clearly make out the head, spiny rays and tail fin. He estimated it was about 10 meters (33 feet) long."

TIMES, New York, NY - Aug. 13, 1985 CR: B. Greenwood

Spores in Space May Have Spread Life in Universe

SCIENTISTS say new experiments suggest the possibility that hard, dry bacteria floating in space might be able to spread and survive in the far reaches of the universe.

In experiments carried out at the laboratory of astrophysics at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, scientists subjected the bacteria, known as spores, to the simulated rigors of deep space and were surprised to find better rates of survival than expected.

It has long been known that bacterial spores, if they were there — and it has not been proved that they are — could cope with the low temperatures and vacuum of space. The real danger is radiation, especially ultraviolet. Past scientific work had assumed that as temperatures in space dropped, radiation damage to spores would rise.

But in the Leiden experiments, which simulated the cold, vacuum, and radiation of space, Dr. Peter Weber and Dr. J. Mayo Greenberg found that the survival rate of the spores got better as temperatures were lowered. They calculated that under some circumstances spores could survive 45 million years or more. This would be sufficient time for spores to drift from one solar system to another, starting a process that some astronomers say might have started life on Earth.

The results of the Leiden experiments were reported in a recent issue of Nature.

The Face on Mars

An inquiry into an inquiry

BY JEFF GREENWALD

This means something...

Do you remember the scene? Richard Dreyfus in "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," dazedly sculpting his mashed potatoes into a model of Devil's Tower while his family looks on nervously... And then later, in his living room, Dreyfus with a shovel, muddy as a mole, piling dirt up to the ceiling in a butte-shaped mound; "This means something," he pleads, while his wife and children screech off down the driveway.

Poor Dreyfus; but we knew he was right.

In mid-February, the Associated Press and Reuters news services released a little story that was gleefully picked up by bureaus from San Francisco to Sydney. The story was accompanied by a grainy photograph, taken in 1976 by the Viking I spacecraft, of a face-shaped mesa nearly a mile long — staring up from the sands of Mars. According to the article, a team of scientists known as the Mars Investigation Group had reason to believe that this "face" was not natural; that it had been purposefully carved or constructed more than 500,000 years ago. A certain Richard Hoagland, "group member and science writer" from Berkeley, was quoted extensively.

Editors had a ball with the headlines: "A Monkey's Face on Mars." "Is This the Face of an Alien Civilization That Invaded Mars?" "Ruined Temples Found on Mars: Space Probe Discovers Remains of 50,000-Year-Old Civilization." They flashed through the news and then more or less died, leaving the public with a restless co-mingling of amusement, curiosity and doubt. The skeptics snickered; the believers yearned; the vast majority of people just flipped ahead to the comics.

But what if the Mars Investigation Group was right? What if Hoagland and these other scientists had actually stumbled upon the first true grail of an alien race? What if this grainy, gaping "monkey face" is not some fluke of erosion and shadow but really does Mean Something? I picked up the phone.

Richard Hoagland was dubious. For the first 10 minutes of our conversation I paid for the sins of every journalist who had come before me. Still, I was encouraged; Hoagland was disillusioned and disgusted, but not yet openly hostile.

"Everyone wants to sensationalize this thing," he remarked. "And that'll be fine, if my hypothesis is proved correct. But right now the real story is not that some of us are making a claim."

"What is it, then?"

"It's that this information from Viking is finally getting a hearing," said Hoagland, "after nine years of neglect."

During our telephone conversation I learned many things about Hoagland. He was science adviser to Walter Cronkite during the Apollo flights; he served as a NASA consultant to the Goddard Space Flight Center; and, ironically, he co-originated (with Eric Burgess) the famous plaque — affixed to the Pioneer 10 spacecraft — that may someday baffle the like-minded aliens who try to decipher its symbols.

For some reason this resume gave me the mental image of a doting academician slaving beneath a battery of stale fluorescent lights. I couldn't have been more wrong.

Richard Hoagland lives in one of the oldest houses in Oakland, amid the kind of fascinating clutter that invariably collects around a lively curiosity. Book, maps and sketches litter the study, which is entered through a heavy wooden door — itself plastered with posters of the Martian "face." My first reaction to this was a sort of uneasy surprise; it seemed almost obsessive. But Hoagland made light of it.



The "Face," photographed at a low sun angle of 10°. This photo is computer-enhanced by Mars Investigation group scientists from a shot by NASA's Viking orbiter

What if this grainy, gaping 'monkey face' is not some fluke of erosion and shadow but really does Mean Something?

"If this thing is real," he said, "this could be the doorway to a most incredible future."

I looked at the photos without comment. They were certainly more convincing than what I'd seen in the newspaper. In fact, they were pretty damned convincing, especially if you wanted to believe in Martians.

"These are fascinating," I admitted at last. "Why hasn't anyone mounted an investigation before?"

"Ah," Hoagland smiled and sat down. I felt a strange sense of commitment fill the room, as if this were a Passover seder and I had just asked the Fourth Question.

"In the summer of 1976," he began, "I was in California to cover the Viking story. My friend Eric Burgess and I commuted between his home in Northridge and Pasadena [the Jet Propulsion Laboratory], where the images were coming in. Burgess is British; we would spend the day on Mars, then drive back to have tea on Earth." (Burgess, aside from the Pioneer 10 plaque, also co-founded the British Interplanetary Society with Arthur C. Clarke.)

"The first time I saw a slide of the Face I was with a group of about 1000 people at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Everyone was amused; it was a silly, instant story that went away. No one for a moment took it seriously — that this mile-long mesa could possibly be anything but what Gerry Soffen [the Viking Project chief scientist] described as 'a trick of light and shadow.' Soffen also made the comment that in a second picture taken a few hours later the whole effect disappeared." Hoagland leaned forward. "That statement is totally wrong."

"Why did he say it, then?"

"You can speculate. My feeling is that in the press of all the excitement, and the real problems of the mission, it was a matter of

'Who in his right mind would pay attention to something so absurd?' Now, science shouldn't be that way! It should be open, calmly, dispassionately and logically, to any piece of data that is data. And this was obviously data; it was a real thing, in a real place. And Viking's mission was to search for life!

"This so-called Face," Hoagland said, gesturing at the door, "obviously calls into question a life scenario. It makes you wonder if somebody might have done it."

Thus began my seduction. The "obviously" seemed to gain power with repetition. I found myself wanting to believe. This is not to judge Hoagland badly; his contagious optimism seemed infinitely more palatable than the lame thumbs-down the Viking scientists had finally stamped on their own data. But it was always necessary to remind myself that in the world of theoretical science, what is "obvious" to one person is often "outrageous" to the next.

"Nothing happened for three years." Hoagland eased back into his chair. "The Viking team published its ambiguous biological data, and the public was left with a bad taste in its mouth. We went all the way to Mars, spent a billion dollars, didn't find any life, and agreed — as a nation — not to go back.

"And then, in March of 1979, two Lockheed imaging scientists — Vince DiPietro and Gregory Molenaar — became involved. Vince had been looking through the National Space Science Data File when he found — came face to face with — the Face.

"Vince was amazed, because he had previously assumed it was all just a hoax. He'd seen it somewhere before in, shall we say, a rather unscientific journal. So he and Molenaar decided — since it was such a bad photograph — to re-image it from the original data tapes, using some new techniques.

They gave it their best shot, and the results were promising."

The results were so good — the Face looked so symmetrical and real — that the two technicians decided they had to see this second picture made "a few hours later." They went back to the files, but no luck. They didn't find it. It didn't exist.

What DiPietro and Molenaar did find was a second well-defined image that Viking had captured 35 days later. This was also taken in the afternoon — in the cold, pink Martian afternoon. The Face was still there.

At this point DiPietro and Molenaar realized they might have something. Working on their own time, the two engineers subjected the raw Viking data to a trial by SPIT — the Starburst Pixel Interleaving Technique they had invented for this very purpose.

When Vikings send back pictures, they do so in the form of pixels: tiny squares that come in 256 shades of gray. Each one represents a plot of Mars roughly one-half acre in area. If you owned a small castle, a flock of sheep and two Maserati pickup trucks, your entire property would show up on the Viking imager as a barely distinguishable dot of gray. True, there are orbiters — around the Earth, in fact — that can "see" what kind of cigaret a Russian is smoking. But the Viking wasn't looking for cigarettes; it was trying to find a place to land.

The Face, being a small part of a large picture, does not contain many pixels. But DiPietro and Molenaar worked them hard, and ultimately prepared a paper for the annual meeting — in June 1980 — of the American Astronomical Society. By this time they had been involved with the Face for 15 months.

The two technicians presented their data, basked in the applause and waited for NASA to decide that someone (or something) had to return to Mars without delay to check this thing out. Nothing happened. And, when they offered to give their presentation in May of 1981 at the Case for Mars Conference, they were rejected.

"Suppression or skepticism?" I wanted to know.

"Neither." Hoagland laughed. "Inertia. Community politics. They weren't formally recognized by this group of scientists."

Undaunted, DiPietro and Molenaar held a clandestine briefing at the conference anyway. They set up their show in a room one night, and Hoagland wandered in. He was amazed by what had happened to the Face since he'd seen it last.

"That was my second contact," he said. "And what inspired me the most was how really professional these imaging techniques were, and how the Face looked even more like a face than it had in 1976."

Several years passed. In the summer of 1983, Hoagland was working on a project that required some very good image processing. He dug up DiPietro and Molenaar's business card. They sent him some samples, along with a letter requesting two things: that their work on the Face be verified, and that a manned mission to Mars be assembled.

(I received a similar letter from DiPietro after I'd spoken to him on the phone; it was almost a plea for vindication. "The story has been twisted so many times," he'd told me. "We've been accused of making up our data. The 'eyeball,' for example. Look, I'm an engineer — 10 years' experience with imaging — and I want someone to confirm that we are talking about eyeballs, not pixel-heads. We worked feverishly and spent about \$13,000 of our own money getting these results. If someone out there can do better imaging — show me.")

Hoagland laughed when he got the letter. Then he put the letter aside and sat looking at the pictures, finally getting down to the pixels with a jeweler's loupe.

"I sat right here," said Hoagland, "and I said to myself: 'If that thing is not natural, if in fact it is the product of intelligent design, it's obviously the most important discovery anyone has ever made.'"

Like Hoagland, I stared for a long time at the pictures and wondered if this face — this obvious face — was a message to the skies. Hoagland, however, went further; he took a conceptual leap. If this really were a Martian artifact, he reasoned, it would most probably want to be seen from the ground. The beauty of this hypothesis, of course, was that it gave Hoagland something

(continued on page 19)

new to look for: namely, the place — the Place — to look at the artifact from.

Richard Hoagland projected himself into the photos. He imagined himself standing in the various quarters of the compass — particularly the northeast and southwest, from which points one could regard the monolith in profile.

"I looked at the mosaic. To the left, several miles southwest, there was a collection of very organized and pyramidal-looking objects. And the more I looked at them, the more their form and organization became apparent. Furthermore, they were not just approximately to the left: they were in perfect line with the eyes and mouth of the Face."

Now it was Hoagland's turn to start taking this thing seriously. The relationships between the pyramids and the profile seemed too specific to be random; they seemed to Mean Something.

"All those years," he said, "the Face by itself was a wonderful floating enigma, incapable of resolution because it was just that: a face alone. But the other objects that related geometrically implied a conscious design — a complex."

The archipelago of features that Hoagland found southwest of the Face (all of these in an area known as Cydonia) contains

'Everyone wants to sensationalize this thing,' Hoagland remarked. 'And that'll be fine, if my hypothesis is proved correct'

a number of tantalizing features: an almost perfect pentagon of pyramid-like mountains, and a triangular object butting against two nearly perpendicular "walls." This latter Hoagland has christened "the Fort"; it lies at the edge of "the City."

The Fort seems unique on Mars; the pyramids are not. More than a few have been spied in the Mariner and Viking photographs — especially in another region of the planet called Elysium. Needless to say, their discovery sparked a lot of impassioned debate, particularly since some of them rest at the edges of what may have been ancient seas. Geologists have attempted to explain these sharply faceted monoliths (a few of which rise almost 10 times higher than their counterparts in Egypt) in terms of plate tectonics, faulting and erosion. They may succeed at Elysium, but will have a tougher time at Cydonia — where one five-sided pyramid seems to show evidence of deliberate buttressing. To complicate matters further, this enormous (structure? formation?) forms the third point of a huge triangle. The other two points, as you may already have guessed, are the City and the Face.

The fact that you could stand in the center of the City complex and see the Face up in the northeast rang a bell for Hoagland. The viewpoints seemed to parallel various earthly setups — at Stonehenge, for example. The scheme of these monuments usually relates to the summer solstice, when the sun rises at its most northeasterly point over the horizon.

This realization launched Hoagland into an ecstasy of calculation. He figured out where the solstice sun, seen from the City, would rise on Mars, and found — to his dismay — that it would be one head diameter north of the Face.

"Close, but no cigar," said Hoagland. "And then I said to myself: Dumb. Because the obliquity of Mars — its tilt — changes!"

To the best of our knowledge, Mars is a frigid wasteland, colder and drier than a bad day in Antarctica. The air is as thin as the Earth's at 20 miles above sea level. Pink dust lashes across the planet, hanging in the atmosphere and further chilling the temperatures. In fact, studies of the Martian dust contributed to the "nuclear winter" theories developed by Crutzen, Sagan and others.

But our second-closest neighbor wasn't always so cold. Water-erosion patterns indicate that rivers and even oceans once rippled across the surface of the planet. This is

because Mars, unlike the Earth, has a severe obliquity — a top-like wobble — that tilts the planet through million-year cycles of temperate weather and frost. Five hundred thousand years ago, some say, Mars may have had a watershed capable of sustaining life; that life may have been capable of engineering the Face.

Keeping this in mind, Hoagland made his measurements with a different attitude: Supposing it was a solstice relationship, when — if ever — would it have worked?

"I calculated the obliquity and found that, sure enough, if one had stood in the center of the City half a million years ago, one would have indeed have seen the summer solstice sun rising over the Face in all its glory. The geometry is inviolate; it would have worked. The question is: Was it designed that way?"

After pondering all the available images and measuring the symmetry of the Face, there was little else Dick Hoagland could do to break new ground. Between December 1983 and August 1984 he organized a computer conference called the Independent Mars Investigation Team.

One observer of this conference was Thomas Rautenberg, a charismatic 30-year-old social systems analyst who became fascinated by the larger questions raised by this kind of inquiry. Traveling across the country, Rautenberg garnered support for a new team — the Mars Investigation Group — that would once again apply state-of-the-art imaging techniques to the Viking data DiPietro and Molenaar had used.

Hoagland, who for obvious reasons is not considered impartial enough to be in the Mars Investigation Group, nevertheless feels confident the group will confirm his hypothesis: That we are dealing with a complex placed with specific purpose by someone, somewhere in the past.

"I almost have a bet riding on myself," he admitted. "But if I turn out to be wrong — if this is just a pile of rocks — I will have learned something profoundly important about me. It will show that I am no different from anyone else who can be led into a series of logical fallacies that ultimately reach a wrong conclusion."

There is a legitimate scientific question here that has no legitimate answer yet," Rautenberg told me in his office at the University of California at Berkeley. "The question is, is the current information [the raw data from Viking] sufficient to come up with a definitive answer? Over the past few years there has been a revolution in computer processing. There are certain things we can now do, given existing science."

What the Mars Investigation Group plans to do with the data finds a crude analog in Antonioni's film "Blow-Up." The basic information won't change; it will, however, be laboriously enhanced. This kind of data actually encourages new translations; the better our imaging tools, the more it reveals. Half a dozen formidable institutions have already invested in the project. These include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Artificial Intelligence Lab, the Earth Satellite Corporation and — not surprisingly — the Lucasfilm computer graphics division.

When I called the film company I was connected with Lorin Carpenter, who directly informed me that this was not a company project; he is working with Lucasfilm's machines, but on his own time. Carpenter was already getting some preliminary results from the data, which again recalled "Blow-Up." "The closer I look," he told me, "the more natural those objects look. But you really can't say. They could be so degraded by this time that, even if we were to land and start digging, it would be impossible to tell."

Of the 30-odd members of the Mars Investigation Group, four will take responsibility for the final document: Rautenberg; Dr. Brian O'Leary, an ex-Apollo scientist/astronaut; Dr. Jacob Schultz, a psychiatrist at the University of Pennsylvania; and Dr. C. West Churchman, a retired Penn professor and professor emeritus at UC-Berkeley. Churchman, who is 71, has spent his career focusing on the philosophy of science. He is the principal investigator of the group, and the onus of making any tie-breaking decisions will rest with him.

Churchman is, in some ways, Rautenberg's mentor. Tom met the older scientist several years ago while Rautenberg was touring the country on an ambitious project called "In Search of American Heroes." Churchman and Rautenberg share a strong



Thomas Rautenberg (left) and Richard C. Hoagland

interest in complex social systems — how people study things and come to a sense of "knowing." In this context, the appeal of the Martian Face to the two men is (to use a time-honored phrase) obvious.

"The mind's role in scientific inquiry is one of the greatest problems facing science today," Rautenberg declared. "So we were very intrigued with the response these images brought forth in people. One of the Mars Investigation Group members — Paul Waltzlawick, who is a brilliant psychiatrist at Stanford and the Mental Research Institute — pointed out that the images present the greatest Rorschach test of the 20th century. Everyone who looks at them comes up with some sort of scenario that tells much more about what's going on in their minds than it does about what's happening on the surface of Mars."

"How so?"

"What we've had from numerous people is the sense that this society destroyed itself. Many, many people saw Mars, and these objects, as the future of our own planet: desolate and lifeless."

(The talk about Rorschachs, incidentally, is not confined to the Face alone. A few days after my interview with Rautenberg I called the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and requested some copies of the controversial images. I spoke with Alan Wood, who seemed oddly reticent to admit he knew which photos I was talking about. Finally he complied — conditionally.

"I'm going to insist on sending along a couple of others," he said. "Just for fun."

"Sure. Thanks. Of what?"

"Two other strange Martian features: a happy-face crater, and Kermit the Frog."

But when I received these photos, I was disappointed. They were clearly topographical illusions. In their own left-handed way, they actually lent more credibility to Dick's so-called "intelligence hypothesis."

Another example of free association, Rautenberg noted, has been visible in the Mars news story headlines. Newspapers love to play on the public craving — by now almost a collective unconscious fantasy — to find proof that we are not alone in the universe.

"And what about you and Churchman?" I asked. "What kinds of fantasies do the images provoke in your minds?"

"Churchman and I don't look at rocks for a living," he answered. "If we didn't believe in the potential for an incredible discovery, we wouldn't be involved."

The Mars Investigation Group will need until year's end to pore over their images, models and measurements. One of two things will happen: They will succeed in coming up with geological alibis that explain the Face and City, or admit to a "distinct probability" that these objects are of intelligent design. In the latter case, a return to Mars — possibly in cahoots with the Russians — will be recommended. In the former, the debate will probably be dropped, leaving Hoagland, DiPietro and the others to sculpt their mashed potatoes.

But what if the objects are real? What if the images produced by the Mars Investigation Group reveal details that help ignite a

mission — conceivably manned — back to Mars?

Every unexplained phenomenon — every antediluvian mythology — will be pulled from the shelf and dusted off, from Stonehenge and the Pyramids to the Nazca Lines in Peru. DiPietro, Molenaar, maybe even von Daniken would be vindicated. Hoagland would be famous, and much in demand on talk shows.

There would be no end to the questions. Who, and what, were the builders? Where did they go? Did they come here? If so — are we they? And what about this "monkey face"? Does it relate to the search for the so-called Missing Link?

Would it explain everything? Would it explain anything?

The Mars Inquiry differs from things like the Atlantis controversy in that there is no legend or mythology connected with it. The objects in question are too old — at least 10 times older than the most ancient artifacts yet found on Earth. But the mythologizing process has already been initiated by Hoagland; and if the objects are deemed worthy of closer study, everyone will have his favorite theory.

Mine, since you've asked, is that the structures are real; and they are not eroded. They are simply unfinished — and will be completed as soon as the weather improves. ■

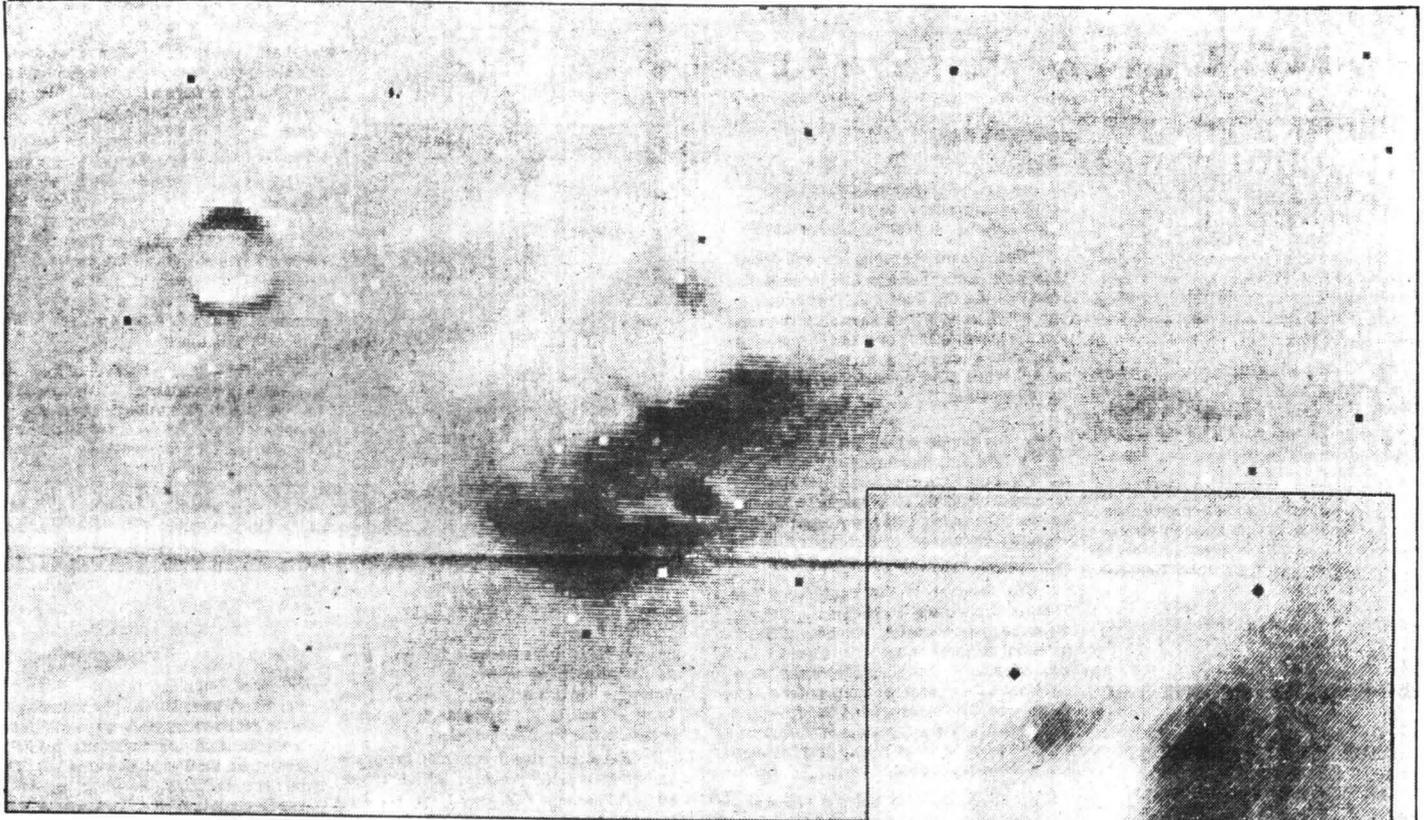
Jeff Greenwald, a San Francisco free-lance writer, is working on a novel set in modern Katmandu.

The Mars Investigation Group has moved into their third headquarters at the new GeoSpace Research Center in Arlington, Va. The project's first two hosts — UC-Berkeley and Brown University — eventually became, in Rautenberg's words, "sensitive to the unusual nature of the investigation." Meanwhile, Tom has been invited to present his material to the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and even the ever-skeptical NASA people have agreed that, although they don't exactly bless the project, they won't condemn it either. This may become a critical distinction if the Mars Investigation Group decides it needs a spaceship.

The late spring and early summer have seen a definite heating up of the controversy. Carl Sagan, in an article for Parade magazine June 2, derided the "Face on Mars" as a phenomenon comparable to the Man in the Moon. As far as Hoagland is concerned, this was a blatantly political move; Sagan is allegedly planning to champion a joint U.S.-Soviet mission to Mars and does not want to seem to be following someone else's lead. Rautenberg is a little more gentle; he believes the high-profile theorist is simply trying to balance all the sensationalism associated with the controversy, which has distracted attention from Sagan's own priorities for such a mission.

DiPietro and Molenaar have published a fascinating monograph on their work with the Viking images. The book — "Unusual Martian Surface Features" — may be had by sending a check for \$9 to: Mars Research, P.O. Box 284, Glenn Dale, Md. 20769. Updates on the Mars investigation itself are available from MARS, Suite 399, 1442 A Walnut Street, Berkeley 94709.

(continued on page 20)



Large photo:
The 'Face,'
photographed
in July 1976 by
NASA's Viking
orbiter. Inset:
A Viking
closeup from a
high sun angle
of 80°



'Wild man' exhibition opens in China

Scientists have opened an exhibition on the 3,000-year-old mystery of the Chinese "wild man," the Chinese news media said Friday in Peking.

The exhibition, which opened Thursday in the southern city of Guangzhou, "features data providing evidence of the existence in various parts of the globe of several wild men such as yetis," the Xinhua News Agency said.

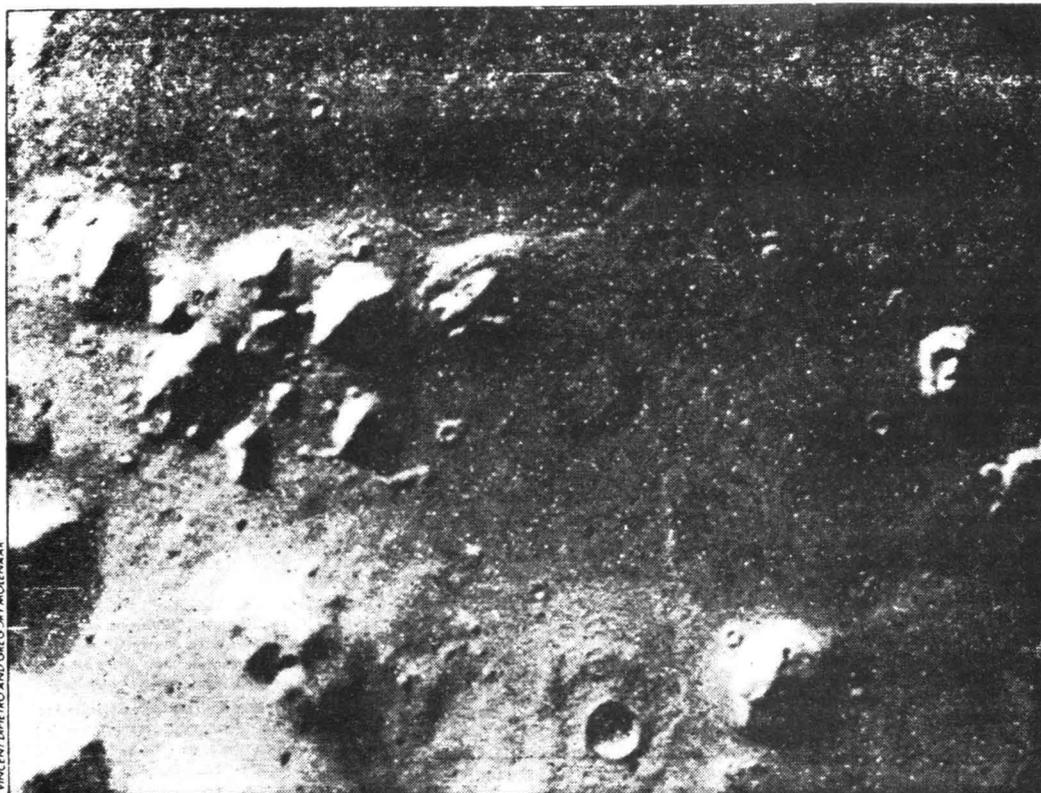
Plaster footprints, witness descriptions, historical data and photographs of caves believed to have been inhabited by "wild men," all provided by the "Chinese Wild Man Study Society," are on display, Xinhua said.

"According to the society, the wild man is a tall animal with hair covering its whole body, and without a tail, which can run fast and laugh," Xinhua said.

Findings from other parts of the world, such as the United States and the Soviet Union where "wild man" sightings have been reported, will also be on show, Xinhua said.

China has records of the wild man dating back 3,000 years and Chinese scientists helped investigate the "Abominable Snowman" of the Himalayas in the 1950s and 1960s. (AP)

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR
Aug. 17, 1985



'The City' (left) and the 'Face,' in the Cydonia region of Mars, computer-enhanced by the Mars Investigation Group from NASA's Viking shot

Ice from sky hits home in Pomona

Associated Press

POMONA — A 20-pound chunk of ice crashed through the roof into Claudette and Willie Walker's living room Wednesday, scattering plaster and insulation.

"I awoke with a jolt and thought that someone had smashed in through our patio windows," said Mrs. Walker. "We rushed to the living room and saw the big hole in the ceiling."

The rough, cloudy ice chunk struck the Kellogg Park Drive home at 1:30 a.m. It shattered as it hit the roof, but the impact was strong enough bring down plaster and insulation onto some living room furniture, Mrs. Walker said.

Firefighters and police arrived, and one official thought the aerial iceberg might have dropped from a passing plane.

"We can assume it didn't come from a bird," said Pomona Fire Capt. Rob Hecht.

Officials at Ontario International Airport, located 10 miles east of Pomona, knew nothing of the incident, airport spokeswoman Bea Martinez said.

George Clovis, noise abatement program coordinator at the airport, said he heard about the accident over the radio but that the airport had not been directly informed.

Clovis said that a Federal Aviation Administration official was investigating.

Pomona is located 30 miles east of downtown Los Angeles.

DAILY NEWS, Van Nuys, CA - Aug. 22, 1985 CR: W. Greenawald

VINCENT D'PIETRO AND GREGORY MOENAR