

# UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

## U.F.O. NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

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UFO's:

TELEPHONE, Sylvania, GA - July 23, 1987

## Reports Draw Nation's Attention

*Editor's note: The following is an account of recent sightings of unidentified flying objects in the skies of eastern Screven County. The people who have reported the sightings are not seeking publicity, and are very much aware that they are the object of much attention and some skepticism. The Telephone's objective is to report, as accurately as possible, what these people say they have seen and to encourage investigation of the subject in hopes that a rational explanation may be presented.*

Screven County made national news in the past week as reports of UFO sightings by residents from Buck Creek and Poor Robin areas caught the attention of radio station WLS in Chicago, UPI, The Georgia News Service and other media sources.

The reports center around two phenomenon; the sighting of a large craft, clustered with lights, making no sound; and the sighting of smaller (though larger than airplane lights or stars) "dancing" lights which move erratically over a wooded area, occasionally dipping down over the trees and lighting up the woods.

Numerous people seem to have seen "something" in the skies, and more than a few have confirmed the sighting of the large "craft" which was first sighted last Monday night and was subsequently observed on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, and possibly Thursday morning.

Though at least one individual reported having seen strange lights in the skies of Eastern Screven last Sunday evening, the series of sightings begins with an incident last Monday evening at 9:45, at the home of Frank and Wanda Alcorn, who have recently returned from living in Atlanta, and are remodeling an old home on county road 108, also known as the Hershel Bazemore Road. Wanda is the sister of Emerson Scott, who also lives a short distance from the Alcorns.

The Alcorns and the Scotts had been at a nearby pond for a cookout on this evening, and were returning home. According to Frank Alcorn, a Sheriff's deputy in Effingham County, "We pulled in to our driveway, with our kids, Lee and Tracy, and sitting out in the field beside the house was this huge 'craft', clustered with lights.

Alcorn then exclaimed "What in the devil is that?", and turned off his car ignition. They got out of the automobile, waiting to see what would happen next. "We didn't hear a sound", Wanda Alcorn reports. "It was an incredible sight."

According to the Alcorns, there was definitely no sound of engines, chopper blades, or anything else that would be expected from an airplane or



SHIRLEY MAHAFFEY, Lee Alcorn, and Wanda Alcorn, above, discussed the sightings last Friday with a reporter from Channel 6 television in Augusta. Directly behind Mrs. Alcorn is the area where the family says the object rested.

helicopter. There was also no sign of wings or a tail. "It was shaped like a huge cylinder, dark yet metallic, shaped like a tank on a gas truck", Mrs. Alcorn explained. "And it had three large red lights (see sketch) with a cluster of white lights underneath.

As soon as the Alcorns got out of the car, the thing lifted slowly, hovered, moved toward the highway, then rose. There was a slight zipping sound for a moment as it suddenly sped up and shot out of sight over the trees.

Mrs. Alcorn says that she went to the telephone, called her brother's house, which is just across a wooded area from their house.

Emerson Scott, his wife Julie, and their children, Will and Suzanne, confirmed the

sighting. Mrs. Scott reports that as they approached their house, looking in the direction of the Alcorn's home, they saw a large object with lights going down behind the trees. "We thought it was a jet about to crash", said Mrs. Scott, "but then we realized that it made no sound."

"We're not saying that we saw anything that can't be explained", she said. "We're just agreeing that we saw something extremely unusual that we can't explain yet".

On Tuesday morning, the Alcorns found at least three large impressions in the grassy field. The impressions were all either square or rectangular, approximately nine feet square, and the distance from the first to the last was 69 feet.

At exactly 9:45 the following

evening, the Alcorns report that as they sat on their back porch, they observed the craft descend into the field directly behind their home, move slowly around to the side of the house, dipping down just a few feet above the ground in the area where it rested the evening before. It then repeated the previous evening's performance by rising just above the telephone lines and zipping out of sight. WSYL had reported the previous evening's sightings, and a number of people had driven to the area in hopes of spotting the craft. According to the Alcorns several cars of onlookers pulled over and hollered out to them. "Did you see it? Did you see it?"

Mrs. Margie Scott, Mrs. Alcorn and Emerson Scott's mother, who also lives in the area, was returning from church and had a "close encounter" with the craft. She hurried to the Alcorn's home and said that she had followed the craft most of the way from church, but was unable to stay up with it. She says that she saw the object, brilliant with red and white lights, hovering just above the trees. "It was close enough and bright enough that it blocked out my sight of the trees", she says.

The object was also spotted on Tuesday evening by Mac and Shirley MaHaffey, Roxanne Joyner, Dee Morgan, and Philip Boston.

Mac and Shirley MaHaffey, who own and operate WSYL radio station in Sylvania, watched the craft for about two minutes as it passed over a wooded area near Poor Robin landing, about a quarter of a mile from where they were standing. The MaHaffey's report that the craft was huge, and had the same lighting configurations reported by the Alcorns. They also confirm the "zipping" sound as the object shot away.

Roxanne Joyner watched the object pass overhead and tried to get a better glimpse with a pair of binoculars. "It was lit up like a Christmas tree", she said. "It definitely had no wings, and there was no sound." She also reported that the "body" of the craft was cylindrical, rounded on the ends.

It was seen again at a higher altitude on Wednesday evening by the same group, along with Mrs. Louise Johnson, her daughter Joyce, and her son Chris.

Along with the sighting of the "craft", there have been numerous reports by these and other individuals of "dancing lights" which move erratically over wooded areas and occasionally dip down into the woods, lighting up the entire area.

According to an article in the Statesboro Herald Tuesday, Mark Rodeghier, scientific

director for UFO Studies, a private research organization in Chicago which catalogues sightings, is intrigued by the sighting.

The article, however, comments that he believes that the dancing lights are actually stars, and that UFO's typically do not return two nights in a row. "They are mistaking one for bright stars and planets", he said.

Mrs. Alcorn, and others who have seen the phenomenon, are indignant. "They're telling me that what happened the second night didn't happen?", she asks. "They're saying that I don't know the difference between stars and what I saw. That's a bunch of bull. Stars do not dip down into the trees, lighting up the woods. Stars don't land in a field next to your house.

We're not saying that we saw something from outer space", she says. "If someone would come forward with a confirmable explanation, I'd be happy to accept it", she says.

Added to the bizarre sightings is yet another one, this time occurring in daylight.

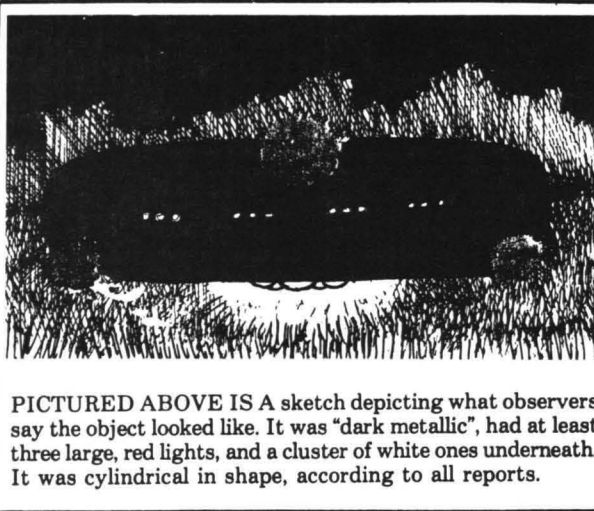
Sharon Sheppard, of Sylvania, reports that on Thursday morning, at 11:00 a.m., she was entering the old Jackson schoolhouse with her son, Richard. She was in a hurry, and hadn't heard any of the reports of UFO sightings. She reports, "My son Richard said 'Mama, what is that?', pointing to the sky just over the playground at the old school. I looked up and saw a silver, cylindrical object, hovering overhead, and not very high up at all", she says. "It was clustered with brilliant lights, even though this was during the daytime. I was in a hurry, because I had a music class to conduct inside, and so I simply said 'Gosh, I don't know.' I'm not a curious person about things like that, but it did cross my mind at the time that I had never seen any kind of aircraft like that. It had no wings, and it made no noise. I then went inside and forgot about it until I heard about the sightings. Then I could've kicked myself for not taking time to watch it closer."

At press time, the sighting of the dancing lights had been reported through Monday evening.

Since the events began to receive national attention, the telephone at the Alcorn's home hasn't let up. "We have received calls from individuals within fifty miles of here who have seen the same thing, and calls from as far away as San Francisco and Chicago from individuals who heard of the sightings and called to reassure us and let us know that they had seen similar sightings either recently or as far back as the 1960's.

A Statesboro policeman, Larry Rushing, reported a similar daylight sighting at his home South of Statesboro, and a woman from Augusta called to tell of an experience her daughter had as a "craft" similar to the one described here

(continued on page 2)



PICTURED ABOVE IS A sketch depicting what observers say the object looked like. It was "dark metallic", had at least three large, red lights, and a cluster of white ones underneath. It was cylindrical in shape, according to all reports.

(continued from page 1 - TELEPHONE, Sylvania, GA - July 23, 1987)

hovered over her as she drove home from Clearwater, South Carolina. According to the lady, her daughter drove right under it, as it lit up the road.

According to Rodeghier, between 300 and 500 UFOs are reported every year, and a "small percentage" are reported as having landed. He said his organization is arranging for one of its investigators to visit the site.

TIMES & WORLD NEWS,  
Roanoke, VA  
Oct. 14, 1987

## UFOs out in force in Wythe County; reason unknown

Southwest bureau

WYTHEVILLE — An unidentified flying object hovered above a car in Wythe County this past weekend, the family told the county Sheriff's Department.

It was the latest of nearly 50 reported UFO sightings within two weeks in the county, some of them by deputies and police officers.

The family, which was visiting from out of state, told the Sheriff's Department that a low-flying object flew over its car in the Grahams Forge area near the S&D Grocery and Hopkins Motel. It hovered above the car for five to 10 minutes, then flew off noiselessly toward Pulaski County.

The object was described as oval with red and white pulsating lights. A department spokesman said the family had been unaware of the earlier UFO sightings.

The family asked not to be identified.

Reports last week described two low-flying objects with red and white lights near Interstate 77. They appeared to stop and hover for long periods of time and then speed off with no apparent engine sound.

Other sightings occurred over Sand Mountain and in Cedar Springs, where a woman reported seeing a small object emerge from the bottom of a larger one and then appear to chase the bigger one.

## National center

# UFO calls descend on local man

BY TERRY McGUIRE

It was a book called *Flying Saucers On The Attack* that sparked Robert Gribble's interest and subsequent research into Unidentified Flying Objects.

He read it in the mid-1950s, and though he says the title may be melodramatic, the subject matter isn't.

Gribble is a believer in extraterrestrial life, and in the reported contacts aliens have had with earthlings. At age 61, the retired Seattle firefighter hopes to see the day when evidence forces governments to confirm these encounters.

Until then, Gribble will continue to research the subject, and publish periodic newsletters on UFO sightings for the organization he founded in the late 1950s, Phenomena Research.

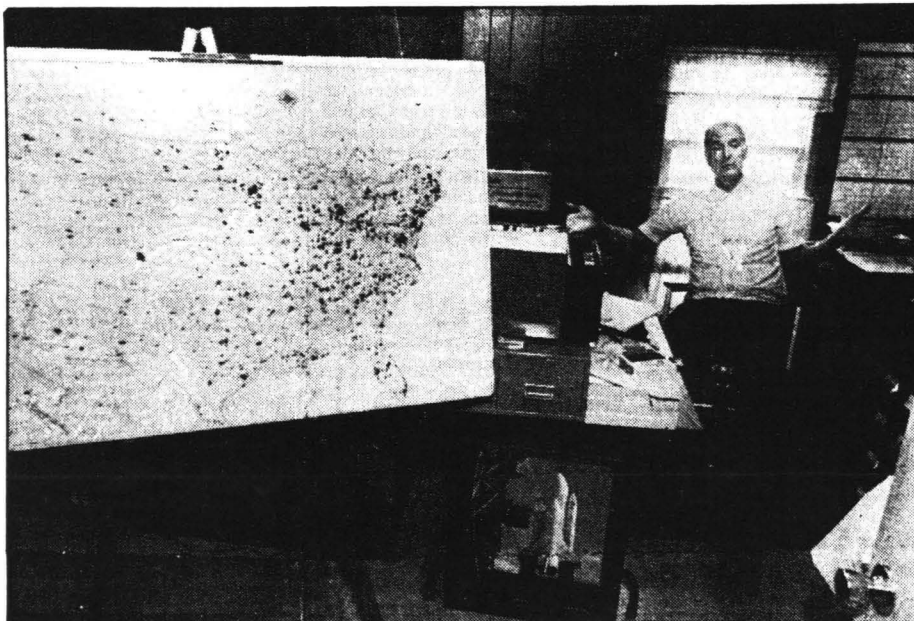
And he will continue, along with his wife, to operate the National UFO Reporting Center out of their Lakewood district home, a two-phone hotline that Gribble established in 1974.

The center, a converted upstairs bedroom, is where Gribble receives and records calls of UFO sightings from all over the U.S. and parts of Canada. He averages six calls a day; up to 20 on a busy day, and estimates that ten percent of the calls come from people reporting close encounters, that is, encounters where the distance between witness and wingless object is less than 500 feet.

"Those people, obviously to me, have been selected for some particular (yet still unexplained) reason," says Gribble, who has never seen a UFO.

He takes the close encounter reports, and any other reports warranting followup — such as strange markings on the ground, or objects falling from the sky — and forwards each to the Mutual UFO Network in Sequin, Texas, an organization with 700 volunteer investigators around the country. The network then sends Gribble a written copy of its investigation.

Last Jan. 15, for example, it investigated Gribble's report from an



Robert Gribble and a pin map of close encounters.

Photo/Greg Farrar

Illinois man who had seen a group of four bright lights in the sky that was stationary but then moved. The investigator determined that the man had probably misidentified a small airliner. But the man, who had grown up near an airport, insisted that the lack of sound made it unlike any aircraft he had experienced.

Lights in the sky reports sometimes leave little to investigate, Gribble said. And he can usually determine after a couple of questions whether the caller has mistaken a bright star or meteor for a UFO. But he documents all the calls nonetheless, and keeps the information for 30 days in case of similar reports. Many law enforcement agencies around the country likely have the UFO Center's orange sticker on their phones, Gribble says.

Besides passing on the close encounter reports to Texas, Gribble locates each such incident with a pin map in his office. Since 1955, the map has acquired 3,000 red pins.

When the map was started, Phenomena Research, which had 800 members at its peak, looked for patterns in the sightings, including correlations in frequency, planetary alignment, and moon phases, but they found none, Gribble said.

If there's been a pattern since the first UFO sighting was reported near Mt. Rainier 40 years ago this month, it's that the majority of sightings in the late 1940s and early 1950s was made during daylight hours, while since then, it's been mostly during hours of darkness, Gribble said.

One thing is certain, he added — the entire research effort into UFOs is sporadic because it relies on volunteers like Gribble, who estimates he has poured \$60,000 into operating his center.

"If we had half of them paid investigators, the story would be a lot different," he said.

Gribble, who started his UFO hotline five years after the Air Force

closed down its investigatory agency, believes the U.S. government and other governments are covering up UFO incidents.

"In the past 10 years there's been a lot of government documents declassified" and obtained through the Freedom of Information Act that point to that, he said.

One case that UFO researchers often cite is the reported recovery of wreckage of a crashed disc on a ranch near Roswell, New Mexico in 1947. Gribble says civilian investigators have witnesses, documents, "everything but part of the wreckage."

But he is encouraged that the current generation seems more willing to accept the possibility of UFOs and extraterrestrial life.

"In my opinion, we're dealing with civilizations many years ahead of us," he said. And he predicted they will give us a story of creation that "will raise chaos with our religions."

# Ex-pilot says officials have eye on UFOs

By BILL KACZOR  
of The Associated Press

FORT WALTON BEACH — A retired Air Force pilot says he suspects, contrary to official denials, that an unknown federal agency is investigating reports of unidentified flying objects and other close encounters with extraterrestrial beings.

Donald M. Ware, Florida state director of the Mutual UFO Network Inc., a private "ufology" organization, says he doesn't have any direct knowledge, but that nearly a lifetime of study leads him to believe probes are secretly being conducted by some national intelligence agency.

"That idea doesn't bother me. I don't mind being an unequal partner," Ware said in a recent interview. "I support the policy of secrecy."

He said secrecy would be necessary because, official statements notwithstanding, he is convinced the subject involves national security in the form of advanced alien technology.

Ware said he intends to take that message to the Annual MUFON UFO Symposium next weekend at American University in Washington, D.C., where he is to be part of a panel discussion on UFOs and the government.

His position is unlikely to be shared by many UFO investigators, Ware admitted. A common complaint of ufologists is the government's professed lack of interest and its failure to cooperate with private UFO studies.

"I'm so bold as to suggest there is a possibility of cooperation with some unknown government agency if we show a little more tolerance of their policy of secrecy," Ware said. "As long as we publicly take such an antagonistic attitude, as long as we place the government in an adversarial relationship," Ware said, "we are not going to get much cooperation from them whoever they are."

The Air Force closed its Project Blue Book investigation of more than 12,000 UFOs in 1969 after a panel of scientists found no evidence of visitors from outer space. Most sightings were found to be such things as planets, stars, meteors, weather balloons, satellites, false radar echoes, marsh gas, clouds, aircraft or optical illusions, but a few have remained unexplained.

The official word ever since has been that the government has nothing to do with UFO investigations and whatever they might be, they pose no threat to national security.

Ware, 51, joined the service in 1957. He said he was uninvolved in

the Air Force's UFO activities during his 26-year military career as a teacher, staff scientist and fighter pilot, including two combat tours in Vietnam.

"That's one reason I can speak so freely," he said. "I have no information from the Air Force."

His interest began as a teen-ager in 1952 when he saw star-like objects streaking through the sky while walking near his home in the nation's capital. Similar sightings, including radar returns, had been reported a week earlier, and Ware said they remain unexplained.

He began reading everything about UFOs he could get his hands on, including books in the library at Duke University, where he received a mechanical engineering degree. He later earned a master's degree in nuclear engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology.

Ware kept up his interest in UFOs, building up a personal library on the subject and questioning other pilots.

"I had no qualms about saying, 'Anybody seen a UFO?'" Ware said. The answer, he said, usually was "yes."

However, until March 1970, military personnel were ordered not to talk about UFOs, Ware said.

"I think that in the late '40s and early '50s, the U.S. government really wanted the public to tell them

what they saw and that those people primarily responsible for investigating UFOs were not listed in the phone book," Ware said. "The U.S. Air Force was chosen as Uncle Sam's public relations agent because they were listed in the phone book."

No one thing has convinced him of government involvement, Ware said.

"Two years of study after I saw the UFOs in 1952 convinced me that somebody is watching us," he said. "Ten more years of study caused me to think somebody in our government has known that as a fact at least since 1947."

Ware said his goals in becoming state director of MUFON, an international scientific organization based in Sequin, Texas, were to improve relations between "ufologists" and the government and to learn all he could about alien technology from abductees and other witnesses of close encounters.

Ware said he hasn't seen any more UFOs since 1952.

He still scans the skies, but not for UFOs. When he's not investigating UFO reports or giving talks about the subject to civic groups, he is bird watching. He runs an annual bird count for the Choctawhatchee Audubon Society and does surveys for the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas project.

TRIBUNE, Tampa, FL - June 21, 1987 CR: M. Romano/R. Pratt



# Close encounters of the fourth kind?

By Zenia Cleigh  
Tribune Staff Writer

**T**HIS IS HOW the former Spring Valley reserve police officer, 29 at the time, told the story:

He was driving home from Alpine about 10:30 p.m. on the night of August 30, 1981, on a lonely road near the Cottonwood Country Club when he saw something that indelibly marked his life.

Hovering 15 feet above the road was a huge, dark, disc-shaped object at least 60 feet wide, about the size of a railroad freight car.

His car came to an instantaneous halt, even though he did not apply the brakes. There was a brilliant glow, as if a continuous flashbulb had gone off in his face. Then, he told investigators, two small creatures removed him from the car.

Not more than 15 minutes later, he found himself back in his moving vehicle. The strange, dark object rose rapidly, shining a beam of white light on the ground around the car in circles. He fired four shots with his service revolver out the left window and drove home wildly at 90 mph, narrowly escaping accident.

He got home clearly terrified, locked the door and grabbed a gun, saying: "They're out there. They're going to get me." Then — the man described by investigators as an extremely stable person with the bearing of a Marine — rolled up on the couch, telling his wife, "I'm crazy. I'm crazy."

But he is not alone.

The telephones have been unusually busy this spring at the headquarters of the country's major organizations devoted to investigating claims of unidentified flying object (UFO) sightings. Both the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) in Seguin, Texas, and the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago have averaged two calls a day from people with experiences they cannot explain.

Said Walt Andrus, international director of MUFON: "Right now we're getting (reports of) so many cases, we can't possibly handle them."

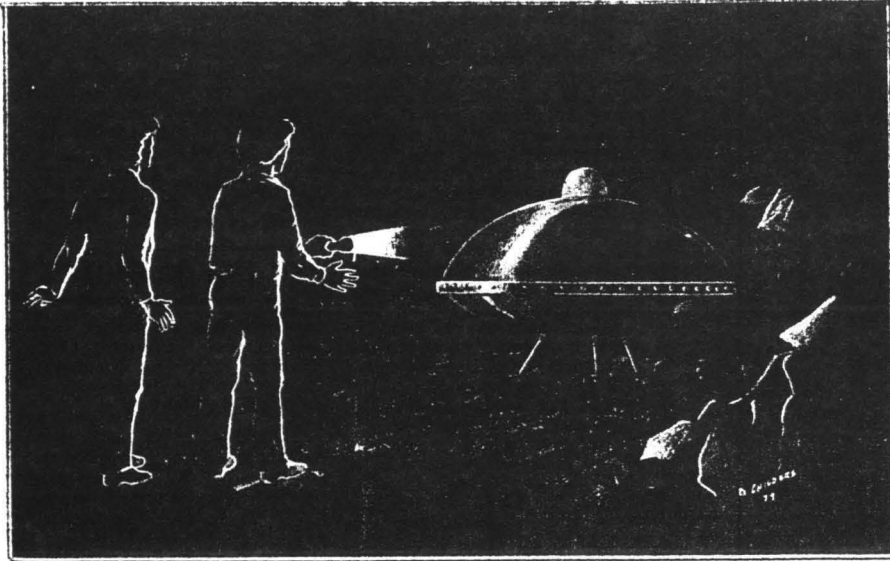
MUFON is an invitation-only organization whose 1,500 scientifically oriented members seek to rationally explain UFO experiences and sightings. The group has approximately 40 members in San Diego, headed by a retired chemist for a major aerospace company named Melvin Podell.

Andrus said many of the calls have been sparked by the fact that this spring, three major publishing houses — William Morrow, Atlantic Monthly Press, and Random House — all came out with UFO books, two of which described instances in which human beings say they were abducted by alien visitors.

One such book was the No. 1 non-fiction best seller on the New York Times list for several weeks — Whitley Strieber's "Communion," an attempt by a successful, skeptical author to come to grips with what he claims was his abduction by strange-looking creatures from his remote cabin in upstate New York in 1985.

So far, Strieber has received more than 800 letters from people claiming to have had UFO experiences, some of them similar to his.

A second book, Budd Hopkins' "Intruders: The Incredible Visitations at Copley Woods," is on the best-seller lists of several chain booksellers. It documents stories from "hundreds of otherwise credible people who have described being somehow immobilized in their cars or homes or wherever and then taken by UFO occupants into landed UFOs for what appears to be a kind of physical examination conducted while the abductee is stretched out upon a table." Extensive tests of a dozen of these people showed a mild paranoia, common to that of a crime victim,



An artist's depiction of the story of two Lemon Grove boys in 1973. UFO investigators have studied the case.

**T**HE LATE astronomer J. Allen Hynek, founder of the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, was the man who coined the following definitions of "close encounters" with unidentified flying objects:

- Close encounters of the first kind: sighting of a UFO within 500 feet.
  - Close encounters of the second kind: evidence of interaction with the environment — such as burns in a tree branch, scars or burns on a witness, a spooked pet.
  - Close encounters of the third kind: sighting of occupants or humanoids in and around a UFO.
- And now, UFO researchers have added a new classification.
- Close encounters of the fourth kind: ABDUCTION.

to be their only psychological abnormality.

According to Elizabeth Scharlatt, Hopkins' editor at Random House, "When he goes on radio call-in shows ... the phones start ringing off the hook. There are an awful lot of people who seem to have experienced (encounters with UFOs) — not me, thank God. And for those who haven't, there is maybe a willingness now to consider something that was previously unthinkable."

Of course, the best scientific minds in the country still regard as unthinkable the theory that Earth is being visited by creatures in spaceships from other worlds — the current "take me to your reader" trend notwithstanding.

The fact is, no substantial physical evidence ever has been collected to scientifically justify such a belief. In 1969, the Air Force shut down its UFO investigation Project Blue Book, citing insufficient evidence. From 1947 until 1969, 13,134 UFO sightings were reported to them. Investigators came up with rational explanations for all but 587 of the cases.

But the subject remains endlessly fascinating to many people, so much so that the Federal Aviation Administration began selling information kits through the mail in the wake of an alleged UFO sighting last November by three Japan Air Lines crewmen flying over the Arctic Circle. The packages, available for \$194.30, contained tapes of interviews with crew members, an air controller's statement, four glossy photos of regenerated radar data, and a space-ship drawing by the pilot.

"It's one of the enduring mysteries: Are we alone?" said Jim Landis, Strieber's editor at William Morrow.

And the mystery stays enduring because although there is no concrete evidence to prove the existence of UFOs, there is a large body of shreds of evidence. Not to mention the personal testimony of dozens of otherwise upright citizens, who appear sincerely baffled by what has happened to them.

Said Dennis Myers, manager of HydroClear Water Systems in Santee and a MUFON investigator: "Any court in the land will tell you you can't prove a case without evidence." But, he said, "Those shreds of evidence are enough for us to continue looking at it."

Take the 1981 case of the Spring Valley reserve police officer, who, fearing ridicule, never reported his experience to the local police or press.

His experiences were investigated here by Neil Davis, a successful Rancho Santa Fe physicist, and Eric Herr, an inventor who works for a local electronics firm.

In 1971, Herr, Davis, local MUFON head Podell and more than a dozen other local scientists banded together to develop equipment to aid in the sighting of UFOs. Davis developed a magnetometer for the group, which called itself Precision Monitoring Systems. The device was designed to record unusual magnetic fields six miles away and set off an alarm.

The devices functioned properly, but skies were overcast every time they went off, so no sightings resulted. According to Herr, however, one such unit given to France did result in a sighting, but the film and data taken became the property of the French government and local investigators were not allowed to see it.

Over the years, the group has responded to 150 UFO reports, and narrowed those down to 20 serious investigations. (According to Herr and Podell, there have been no recent local reports.)

When Herr and Davis went to visit the Spring Valley man, he told them that he had made a point of checking his brand new Chevy Malibu before going to bed the night of his UFO experience.

According to Herr and Davis, he found signs of "electromagnetic disturbance" — a phenomenon widely reported by others alleging UFO encounters. The headlamps were dim, the engine was difficult to start, the alternator light would not go out. Magnetic cassette tapes in the car were partially erased. The car had been dirty before the experience, but the front end afterwards was clean. The man's wrists, neck and ankles showed signs of abrasion.

Later, under hypnosis, he refused to describe the creatures or talk about what happened when they took him, saying he had orders not to talk about it. In May, after six years of strained credibility with his neighbors, the man moved to another state for a fresh start.

Herr and Davis also investigated another case that never was reported locally until now. The story goes like this:



Dennis Myers Investigates UFOs

About 7 p.m. on Nov. 16, 1973, two 11-year-old Lemon Grove boys — Daniel Flemming and Richard Thiel — were taking a shortcut through a neighbor's back yard on Crane St. when they came across a dark, disc-shaped object about 12 feet in diameter with a dome on top.

Richard banged the object with his flashlight, and, said Herr: "When he did that, a light came on, brilliant red, and the object, which had been on its legs on the ground, then rose up three or four feet off the ground and a row of green lights began to blink on the periphery."

"The object began rotating and making a whooshing noise. The rate of rotation increased, the red light went out for a moment and came back on, and then the object rose into the air. At this time, the boys tried to run away. One said it was like running under water. The other said it was like running in slow motion. They felt a tingling sensation. Then the object took off to the south."

Herr and Davis canvassed the neighborhood several days later, and found two adult witnesses who said they had seen a large, lighted object take off to the south from that site. There were nine homes nearby where people reported strong interference with their television sets when the object supposedly took off, around 7:20 p.m.

On the site, Herr said, grass was swirled in a circle counterclockwise, and on the ground were two D-shaped holes. According to Herr, the

Naval Ocean Systems Center's geomagnetic observatory in La Posta reported an unusual perturbation on its recording magnetometer at 7:20 p.m. that night.

Herr doesn't know where the boys are anymore, but he'd like to find them and ask if they'd be willing to be hypnotized. With the recent blitz of abduction stories — in which those abducted often report losing track of time during the experience — he wonders what went on between the time the boys first came upon the object at 7 p.m. and the time it left at 7:20 p.m.

All of this severely strains normal credulity, of course, especially when Herr, at the request of a reporter, drew a hamburger-shaped object on a piece of paper to represent what the boys said they saw.

But physicist Davis said he was reluctantly forced to this conclusion as the most compelling explanation of the data.

"I'm convinced it's a real phenomenon," he said.

For one thing, both the Spring Valley police officer and the Lemon Grove boys were too sincere for Davis and Herr to write off their experiences as a hoax. "He would have had to be a professionally trained actor" to communicate the level of fright he did, Herr said of the Spring Valley man.

It could be that those involved in the sightings were victims of some sort of psychological delusion, Davis admits. But this explanation doesn't explain the shreds of physical evidence like the magnetic disarray in the Spring Valley man's car, the abrasions on his body, the swirled grass in Lemon Grove.

"I think these are real extraterrestrial entities that are interacting with our people," said Podell. "I'm satisfied with that."

Said Herr: "I would say that is the most economical observation. ... They are real physical objects — I'm not saying where they're from. Only physical objects produce physical effects."

Myers, who investigated UFO reports in Michigan before moving here, said, "The social behavior of those who've seen a UFO for real is dramatically different from those who are making up a wild story."

"Those who have really experienced something unknown to them, something very traumatic, come off to you that way. You can see it in their eyes, how they talk to you. There's a hesitation, a slow presentation of what they've experienced. Those who are dreaming up a story, it's almost as though they're reading from a script. You can really tell. I find this true about 80 percent of the time."

According to Herr, not every UFO sighting results in such bizarre tales as these. Hoaxes, "the crackpot element," although noisy, account for no more than 5 percent of UFO reports, he said. Eighty percent are "honest mistakes" and misinterpreted natural phenomena. He considers the remaining 15 percent to concern "honest fide alien vehicles — not necessarily extraterrestrial — not our technology."

There are other interpretations. Famed astronomer Carl Sagan, behaviorist B.F. Skinner and biologist Steven Jay Gould formed the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP) several years ago specifically to debunk tales of UFOs and other "fringe scientific claims."

Bill Gray, a philosophy instructor at Grossmont College and a member of San Diego Skeptics, the local affiliate of CSICOP, says he is dismayed at the inability of many people to think critically on the subject of UFOs. He blames people's willingness to believe in the possible reality of UFOs on the media's exploitation of the subject.

Gray said it's not impossible that alien spacecraft and creatures exist.

(continued from page 3 - TRIBUNE,  
San Diego, CA - July 1, 1987)

"We're not saying we know it's not true." But, he said, in the absence of any compelling evidence, "It's simply not rational to believe it."

Psychiatrist Alan Bergsma, former head of public affairs for the San Diego Society of Psychiatric Physicians, said he leans toward the explanation that people who report UFO experiences are "prone to a personality disorder that might lend them to this kind of experience. They might be very prone to suggestion or something like that."

Still, Bergsma said, "We can't say these people are wrong. All we can do is speculate on why they might be having that kind of experience. Actually the category this thing falls into is the philosophy of science, what is public knowledge, what is private knowledge and how you can verify disputes about it."

"If a person says God talked to them last night, what can you say? There's no way you can verify it. The only way you can settle disputes in this regard is with a club, not with an argument. That's why it can be dangerous."

Herr, Davis, Podell and Myers are the first to admit they don't have the answers about the UFO phenomenon. They are careful to distinguish between the stories of distraught "abductees" who appear to be normal folks and the semireligious claims of the "contactees."

Local contactees who have aroused skepticism in UFO circles are San Diego's Ruth Norman, head of the Unarius Academy of Science in El Cajon, who has claimed for years that 33 spaceships containing "space brothers" will land on her property in Jamul in 2001.

Also included in this category is the late George Adamski, a theosophist who operated a hamburger stand on Mount Palomar. He entertained La Jolla society matrons in the '30s and claimed in 1952 to have had an encounter in the desert with a being from Venus come to warn about the ill effects of nuclear radiation. The national UFO community considers his report to have been a hoax.

What the local UFO investigators do seek is careful research and open minds when it comes to the truly unexplainable cases.

"The sightings keep happening. They don't go away," said Myers.

And they often mark the people who have had them for life.

"I think these people have experienced something very real, something I can't explain, that remains unexplained," Myers said. "And there's a lot of them out there. There are a lot of people who won't talk about it."

SUNDAY POST, Bridgeport, CT - June 21, 1987 CR: G. Earley

## UFOs: 40 Years And Still A Mystery

The 40th anniversary of the as-yet-unsolved mystery of the flying saucers occurs on June 24.

On that date in 1947, near Mt. Rainier, Washington, private pilot Kenneth Arnold, searching for a lost U.S. Marine transport plane, saw nine crescent-shaped, tailless objects. He measured their speed at well over 1,300 miles an hour, far faster than any jet planes then in existence.

They "flew erratic," he told newsmen later in Pendleton, Ore., "like a saucer would if you skip it across water." A newsmen coined the term "flying saucer" and the name stuck.

News accounts of Arnold's sighting triggered a rash of similar reports and the newly-created U.S. Air Force began what was to be a 22-year investigation of flying saucer reports.

Recognizing that, like Arnold's, many of the mysterious sky objects weren't saucer-shaped, the USAF adopted the term "Unidentified Flying Object" or UFO.

A year after the Arnold sighting, USAF investigators concluded that the saucers were of interplanetary origin. Their report was stiffly rejected by the USAF chief of staff, a rejection that set the tone for the next two decades of saucer "investigations."

By determining that some 80-90 percent of all "saucer" sightings were misinterpretations of various conventional astronomical and aerial objects seen under unusual circumstances, and by harping on the few kooks — people who claimed to have flown to the Moon and/or met lovely ladies from Saturn — the USAF hid the sightings it couldn't explain behind a "laughter curtain."

At times, the curtain slipped. Implying that airline pilots were flying drunk when they reported UFOs, and "solving" other sightings by blaming them on stars that hadn't even been visible resulted in a growing clamor by private UFO investigators and some scientists, for an independent study of UFO reports.

When the USAF summarily dismissed sightings by scores of Michigan college students as "swamp gas," the public, political and media outcry forced the government to sponsor an 18-

month, \$550,000 study by a team of University of Colorado scientists headed by Dr. Edward Condon, a respected physicist.

But the study's objectivity quickly became questionable when Condon bluntly remarked, "My attitude right now is that there's nothing to it."

A year later, Condon's 1969 study report, despite listing 30 percent of the cases studied as

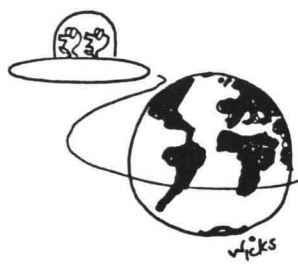
### George W. Earley

unsolved, concluded that "further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation science will be advanced thereby."

The USAF, with a sigh of relief, promptly stopped its investigations, sent its files to dead storage and dismissed astronomer Dr. J. Allen Hynek, their part-time science consultant.

For their part, the UFOs refused to go away.

Sighting reports have always been global in nature. England has reported more sightings per square mile of territory than has the U.S. In China, UFOs were suspected of being Soviet spy devices, while the Soviets claimed UFO "fever" a capitalist provocation to keep up the manufacture of war materials.



"You see. I told you there would be no form of intelligent life."

Peasants in remote areas of Third World countries knew nothing of the political and scientific arguments over UFOs — but they reported seeing them nonetheless.

And so the mystery continues today, only compounded now by a new and disturbing angle.

Almost since Arnold's sighting, some UFO reports have included claims that human-like beings were seen in or near landed UFOs. Such claims were almost universally rejected, scorned along with those tales of space trips in flying saucers.

But while it is one thing to see a supermarket tabloid that screams "I Was Kidnaped by UFO Aliens" — we expect that of such papers — it is disquieting to learn that a growing number of sane, sober, publicity-shy people, both here and overseas, have made similar claims.

Their reports, given quietly to UFO investigators and not to the news media, have been remarkably consistent. They tell of abductions by small, grey-skinned beings who subjected their captives to apparent physical examinations.

While it can be argued that some abductees may have generated their stories from subconscious memories of those tabloid tales, no evidence of this has been found among those who have been professionally examined by doctors and psychiatrists. Nor can that argument hold for overseas abduction reports.

This leaves us with two uncomfortable possibilities: The abductions are real events, imperfectly recalled. Or they represent the visible tip of a growing, worldwide psychosis unprecedented in psychiatric history.

Either possibility demands compassionate professional study, not the shallow cynicism of sneering skeptics.

Forty years and no solution ... isn't it time for a truly objective and scientific study of all aspects of these UFO reports?

(George W. Earley, a Bloomfield free-lance writer, has been curious about UFOs ever since 1951 when, as a young lieutenant, he was told by a USAF colonel not to ask questions about flying saucers.)

JOURNAL-TIMES, Racine, WI - July 16, 1987 CR: R. Heiden

## What was it they saw, anyway?

By Sara Lamb  
Journal Times

UNION GROVE — A Waunakee policeman's description of a UFO sighting struck a familiar chord with a 13-year-old boy here.

Nicholas Trudeau, of 1777 Mill-drum St., said what the Waunakee officer described in news accounts this week as a moon-shaped object with red and blue lights sounds a lot like what he saw on June 27.

Nicholas said he was standing in his parent's back yard about 4:30 p.m. when a "brilliant red" object "popped" into the sky above a grove of trees about 60 feet from him.

He described the object as a perfect sphere — "the size of a giant beach ball" — that glowed in the middle.

"It had something like an antenna coming off the bottom," he said.

Nicholas said he watched the object for about two minutes before it darted into a cloud.

"It gradually gained speed until it was traveling really fast," he said.



Paul Roberts, Journal Times

Nicholas Trudeau with notes about his sighting.

The object also changed colors, from red to blue to black, Nicholas said.

There was something strange about the cloud, too, he said. "It was just a nice breezy day,"

but the cloud the object dodged into resembled a thunderhead, Nicholas said.

The cloud was the only one of its kind in the sky, he said.

Nicholas said the object, black inside the cloud, was visible for about 20 seconds before suddenly disappearing.

What happened next was just as surprising as the first appearance of the object, he said.

"The cloud just sort of folded up on itself," Nicholas said. After five minutes, the cloud had completely disintegrated, he said.

"I was just awed by how fast it went," he added.

His brother, Andy, 12, saw the same thing happen to the cloud, but did not look up in time to see the object, Nicholas said.

"I've studied a lot about UFOs," Nicholas said. He added that what he saw didn't look like a balloon or airplane exhaust, or any of the things that are commonly mistaken for UFOs.

Nicholas took notes of what he saw and is sending for an application from the Center for UFO Investigation to report his sighting.

## UFO spotters sought by Wythe station

Southwest bureau

WYTHEVILLE — People who have spotted unidentified flying objects in Wythe County over the past three weeks are being invited to call their accounts in to radio station WYVE Friday between 9 and 10 a.m.

Because many of those reporting UFO sightings to law enforcement agencies in the county have been reluctant to give their names, WYVE news director Danny Gordon said, no names will be asked in the call-ins. The information from callers will be recorded for broadcast later.

Some 50 sightings of noiseless UFOs have been reported to authorities or called into the radio station in the past three weeks. Because the people who have seen them have not been available for interviewing, Gordon has found himself a kind of unofficial UFOs spokesman for other radio stations seeking someone to interview about them.

Gordon says he is hesitant to glance at the sky these days, out of concern that he might see something unidentifiable and then become a participant in the story.

He contacted public relations officers for the Navy at Oceana, the Marine Corps at Cherry Point, N.C., and Langley Air Force Base, all of whom said no military craft like those described in the sightings have flown over Wythe County. The descriptions have included hovering craft with blinking lights.

TIMES & WORLD-NEWS, Roanoke, VA - Oct. 15, 1987





Times photo — BOB MORELAND

Citra residents pose at place where they saw mysterious object in sky above dirt road off of Pine Church Road.

# No clues to mystery aircraft

## Government officials can't explain hovering object

By BRYANNA LATOOF  
Times Correspondent

OCALA — Government officials said Friday they have no clues about the mysterious aircraft several north Marion County residents and a police officer saw hovering in the sky Wednesday night.

Spokesmen for the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, National Guard and Forest Service — plus two government meteorologists — could not explain the brightly lit object that hovered in the Citra area for about an hour.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for a national UFO organization said an investigative team may be dispatched to Marion County.

"It sounds like it could definitely use an investigation," said Mark Rodeghier of the Chicago-based J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO studies.

Officials all said they have received no reports of recent unidentified aircraft sightings. And they said they had no unusual aircraft dispatched to Marion County Wednesday night.

Residents and Marion County sheriff's deputy Jay Manifold described the craft as resembling a large Volkswagen with two headlights, two back wheels and a string of red and green lights in the back. They said the object was soundless and had sparks shooting from it.

The accounts also describe a large beam of light that shone from the underside of the craft to the ground below.

Stephanie James, her sister Wanda Lasher, 10-year-old Rickey Monroe and his 13-year-old brother Jason, were driving home about 11 p.m. when they saw

## Two men camping in forest report seeing unusual aircraft

By NORMA WAGNER  
Times Staff Writer

OCALA — Two St. Petersburg men camping in the Ocala National Forest this week claim they saw an unusual aircraft similar to the one residents and a sheriff's deputy spied Wednesday night in another part of Marion County.

But they described it as looking more like the top half of a huge egg than the Volkswagen-shaped vehicle described as hovering over Citra.

The St. Petersburg men — Alan Stricof, a 29-year-old free-lance artist, and his camping companion Rob Dahl — said during a telephone interview Friday that the craft Citra residents described in a Friday *Citrus Times* article was close to what they saw.

"Except it looked more like half an egg — the top part," said Dahl, a 23-year-old musician and part-time laborer.

"The stuff about the lights was exactly what we saw, though."

Several Citra residents reported seeing a strange aerial object between 10:57 p.m. and midnight Wednesday. They described an object shaped like a Volkswagen van with sparks shooting from the rear. Green and red lights formed a half circle along what appeared to be the back of the object, and the aircraft moved at rapid rates of speed, residents reported.

Stricof and Dahl said they saw the aircraft both Tuesday night and Wednesday night at the southern end of Farles Lake in the southwest section of the forest. The area is 35 to 40 miles from Citra.

"(The craft) was on the other side of the lake, the northwest side," said Dahl. "There seemed to be a lot of red lights toward the center of the thing with a few green lights on the other portion.

Something in the center of the craft seemed to spin around. There was also a light, a beam of light with a broad view, pointing toward the ground.

"It didn't make any noise. You know how when someone stands behind you and you have a feeling they were there without actually seeing them? That's the way I felt with this craft."

Dahl said he learned of the Citra sightings while at work Friday morning at a retail produce business in St. Petersburg.

"I was at work and one of the guys there was reading the newspaper while I was cleaning up," said Dahl, a part-time helper at City Produce on Fourth Street.

"I asked him if he believed in UFOs, and he said kind of, but not really. I told him that I saw one. He didn't really believe me. He thought I was a little bit messed up, I guess.

"About five minutes later, he yelled, 'Rob, Rob!' Then he shows me the paper with the article about what we saw," Dahl said.

The man Dahl was talking to, 20-year-old John Gonos, supported Dahl's story.

Gonos works for his parents, who own the produce business.

"I was sitting here reading the sports section and (Dahl) comes up and he goes, 'John, do you believe in UFOs?' I thought he was joking around," Gonos said.

"He says, 'Me and my friend were in the woods and we saw this strange thing that I swear was a UFO.' And then he went outside to do some work. After the sports section, I looked at the metro/state section and I saw this report about the UFO sighting in Ocala. I said, 'Rob, look! You might be right.'"

"It's strange," Gonos added. "I didn't believe him. I thought he



Times photo — BOB MORELAND

Wanda Lasher of Citra poses with her 21-month-old son, Brandon.

might be drunk, y'know? But now I think, well, maybe he really did see the thing."

A *New York Times* article published June 16 says belief in unidentified flying objects has again become popular, a generation after an upsurge in reported sightings during the 1950s.

In fact, one book on aliens — *Communion* by Whitley Strieber, has been on the *New York Times* best-seller list for 16 weeks.

the object.

They reported that the craft seemed to "watch" them, and hovered over their car as they inched forward in fear.

Manifold saw the object about an hour later after being dispatched to the area when the sheriff's department received several reports from residents who said they saw the silent craft.

Said Ron Humble, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Hillsborough County: "We don't have anything close to (witnesses descriptions). I can't think of anything atmospheric that would cause anything like that. It sounds like a good sighting. I'm sorry I missed it."

A spokeswoman for MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Capt. Diane Lawhon, shared Humble's thoughts on the matter.

"It doesn't sound like any Air Force plane I have seen or read about or heard about," Lawhon said.

Lawhon said different Air Force offices usually notify each other when "they're doing anything unusual."

But no such reports have come into her office.

In Jacksonville, Lt. Greg Beck of the U.S. Naval Oceanography Command Attachment, a weather agency, was also baffled by the craft's description.

"That doesn't sound like any phenomenon I've heard about. It certainly doesn't sound like a (weather) balloon."

Paul Henkemeyer, public information officer for the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, said the descriptions of the craft sound similar to those of a Harrier or a Tiltrotter, both military aircraft.

"But the Harrier's going to make a lot of noise — the same with the Tiltrotter — because they're both jets," Henkemeyer said.

Maj. Ken Forrester of the Florida National Guard headquarters in St. Augustine, said a Cobra helicopter is "weird looking," but it also makes a lot of noise.

Witnesses who described the aircraft said it was completely silent.

"The only thing that's completely silent that I know of is a jet at about 30,000 feet," Forrester said.

Bob Dorr, editor of *Aviation Digest* in Brookfield, Conn., said he has no idea what might have been flying in the sky Wednesday night.

"It could well be something military, but I never heard of anything like it. If it is military, we probably wouldn't know anything about it," he said.

— Staff Writers Barbara Behrendt and Norma Wagner contributed to this report.

## UFO comments lacked basis

To the editor:

In the July 17 AP article about the UFO report in Waunakee, Mark Slovak of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP) was quoted. Slovak put down the Waunakee sighting without having spoken with the witnesses. (As of two weeks later he still hasn't spoken with them. I know, because I did.)

The purpose of this letter is not to engage in a public debate about Slovak's armchair analysis of UFO's. Rather, it is to inform your readers about the organization for which he serves as "unpaid scientific consultant."

In May 1976, as soon as I heard about the founding of CSICOP (pronounced sigh-cop), I eagerly wrote in to subscribe to its planned magazine. A couple of years later I cancelled the subscription, as I could no longer stomach its unscientific prejudices. CSICOP is rabidly anti-

paranormal, and instead of responsibly investigating claims of the paranormal, CSICOP debunks and scoffs at them.

In 1981, a scandal in CSICOP was revealed. CSICOP had attempted to disprove a certain study by two prominent French neoastronomers, Michel and Francoise Gauquelin, but failed miserably. So it fell back on its own results, and then covering them up. The story eventually came out, however, and has been documented in *Fate* magazine (October 1981) and the *Zetetic Scholar* (No. 9, 1982). The scandal prompted the resignation of some members of CSICOP in protest of its very unscientific behavior (which belied the outfit's name!).

If Slovak is still a member, either he is unaware of the affair, or he simply doesn't care.

Richard W. Heiden  
Milwaukee

FREEMAN, Waukesha, WI - Aug. 8, 1987

CR: R. Heiden

# Area farmer reports UFO observations

by Michael Burke

A week before Belleville Police Officer Glen Kazmar and his ride-along companion, Jeff Furseth, reported the first of a long series of reported UFO sightings in this area, the mysterious flying objects were apparently already being observed.

A Mount Vernon farmer, Gregg Kahl, revealed recently that a UFO visited his farm a week before Kazmar saw strange lights in the night sky, and that the craft was evidently also aware of his presence.

Kahl consented to an interview this past week after the Center for UFO Studies reported to this newspaper that it had begun an investigation into a Mount Vernon UFO sighting. Word of Kahl's report reached the Center through a third party, after which Kahl decided to talk about his experience.

When the farm couple heard about Kazmar's UFO sighting in mid-January, "My wife said there was somebody else just as crazy as I was," Kahl said.

Jan Kahl's remark was made in jest, however, — she also saw what Kahl first was on the night of Jan. 7, give or take a day.

When Kahl first noticed the group of red, white and blue lights moving around at the top of the hill across the road from his house and barn, he "thought it was someone up there messing around with the cattle" that he had fenced into that field.

Kahl described the lights as appearing to be about three feet in diameter, "and they moved, although (the object) sat right there."

When Kahl drove around the hill and approached from another direction, the lights began flying across the field. "It came to the trees and went over them," he said, drawing perfect right angles in the air to show how the craft lifted straight up and then moved forward again.

Kahl then followed the lighted object, taking Hwy. 92 to County Trunk A to "Vineyville," north of Belleville and south of Paoli. There he stopped, got out of his truck and watched the object which hovered motionless in the sky.

Coincidentally or not, that is exactly the same area from which Harvey Funseth and his friend said they made their daytime UFO sighting in February.

At no time did the UFO make a sound, Kahl said.

Then, as the strangeness of the experience seeped into Kahl's consciousness, he got cold feet. "I got scared and said, 'That's enough of this,'" he related.

Kahl got back in his vehicle and drove home. "When I got back to Mount Vernon, there it was again," Kahl stated.

And, he added, "When I got back here, there it was back on the hill again."

"My wife saw it from here," Kahl said. "She said it left shortly after I left."



THE HILLTOP IN THE BACKGROUND is the location where Gregg Kahl, pictured at his Mount Vernon farm, observed a UFO in January. photo by Michael Burke

When I stopped it seemed like it stopped. It was almost like it was playing Catch with me."

Later, Kahl said he tried to estimate the size of the object as it appeared at the top of his hill, perhaps 300 yards away. It looked to be as large as "maybe three hay wagons together."

Telephoning several family members that night, Kahl said his brother's reaction was to ask Kahl if he was "drinking again."

"I don't drink," Kahl said with conviction.

### Sightings continue

There were at least two other occasions, and maybe more, on which Kahl saw the lighted object, but it was never as nearby as the first time.

"If I heard that a UFO was seen that night, chances are I'd seen it the night before."

Several times, Kahl tried to get a closer look with the use of his high-powered hunting scope, his small telescope and a better telescope owned by an acquaintance. But each time, the lights merely seemed to converge, he said. For whatever reason, the naked eye provided the best view.

Similarly, his acquaintance's attempts to photograph the UFO failed to produce results.

Kahl said, "It takes me about two hours to do chores. It would be there before I started, and it would still be there when I came out of the barn."

What does Kahl think it was that he saw? "I don't know," he replied. "I ruled out a helicopter or airplane" because of its hovering, its silence and the way it moved through the sky.

However, he added, he "firmly" believes that, whatever it was, it did not come from this planet.

## UFO sightings excited 19th century Nebraskans

NEWS-PRESS, Nebraska City, NE - July 8, 1987

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — To those who think UFOs are 20th century phenomena, consider this report from the Feb. 26, 1897, Nebraska State Journal.

"People of Beatrice, Wymore and Hastings were excited last night over the appearance of a strange light about half a mile above the ground."

This was years before Wilbur and Orville Wright took to the skies over Kitty Hawk, N.C. There were no airplanes or helicopters to be used as convenient explanations for unidentified flying objects then.

"The light was kite-shaped and the color of a lantern ... It is claimed that fully 100 saw it," the State Journal said. "It was traveling in a northwesterly direction. At Hastings it seemed to be about half a mile above ground and was moving toward the Kansas line."

Yes, there were kites, and a 1978 Nebraska State Historical Society publication indicates that Juniata resident M.R. McLean often flew kites as a hobby. Sometimes, he flew them at night, with lanterns attached.

OK. Maybe it was a kite. But what about the reports of the early afternoon crash of an "aerolite" northwest of Benkelman in Dundy County on June 6, 1884?

According to a story in the Nebraska Daily State Journal, rancher John W. Ellis was riding herd 35 miles northwest of Benkelman with three ranch hands when a blazing metallic ball fell to the earth.

"Galloping toward it with all their speed, they were astounded to see several fragments of cogwheels and other pieces of machinery lying on the ground," the story said.

"The aerolite, or whatever it is, seems to be about 50 or 60 feet long, cylindrical, and about 10 or 12 feet in diameter," the story said.

Thirty minutes later, a driving, blizzard-like rainstorm hit. When it was over, the vessel was gone.

"They were astounded to find that the queer object had melted, dissolved by the water like a spoonful of salt," a later story said. "Scarcely a vestige remained. Small jelly-like pools stood here and there on the ground, but under the eyes of the observers these grew thinner and thinner till they were but muddy water joining the rills that led to the current a few feet away. The air was filled with a faint sweetish smell."

Despite these early reports, the first official reported sighting of a "flying saucer" was 40 years ago Wednesday over Mount Rainier in Washington.

A 35-year-old so-called top-secret

government document regarding the activities of Operation Majestic-12 — "a top secret research and development-intelligence operation responsible directly and only to the president of the United States" — recently was made public by UFO researchers William L. Moore, Jaime H. Shandera and Stanton T. Friedman. They claim someone leaked it to them.

The document allegedly was prepared Nov. 18, 1952, for President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower as a preliminary briefing on the activities of Operation Majestic-12. It details the June 24, 1947, sighting by a civilian pilot of nine disc-shaped aircraft over the Cascade Mountains in Washington. Investigation of the incident revealed little, but the government moved in after a later report that one of the craft had crashed northwest of Roswell Army Base in New Mexico.

"Aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small humanlike beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site," the report said. "All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one-week time period which had elapsed before their discovery."

The document said the bodies and the craft were removed from the site, civilian and military witnesses in the area were debriefed and "news reporters were given the effective cover story that the object had been a misguided weather research balloon."

"Since it is virtually certain that these craft do not originate in any country on Earth, considerable speculation has centered around what their point of origin might be and how they get here," the report said.

"Mars was and remains a possibility, although some scientists ... consider it more likely that we are dealing with beings from another solar system entirely."

Although the Moore-Shandera-Friedman team is not certain of the document's authenticity, a statement accompanying the document said, its contents appear to be genuine.

"Implications for the National Security are of continuing importance in that the motives and ultimate intentions of these visitors remain completely unknown," the 1952 document said.

The government no longer investigates UFOs.

## 3 report sighting of UFO locally

PRESS-ENTERPRISE, Bloomburg, PA - July 1, 1987

By the Press-Enterprise staff

A bright, round, definitely unidentified object flashed across the skies Tuesday night, callers said, zipping from Iola to Jerseytown to the Washingtonville area in a space of 25 minutes.

Dennis Shultz of Iola made the first sighting shortly before 11 p.m., describing the UFO as a round object with lights of red and blue and other colors. It seemed high in the air and stayed in one place for two to three minutes before it flashed away, he said.

Minutes later, a 16-year-old girl in Jerseytown described the same kind of object. "It looked like it was quite large," she said. The object seemed to come from the direction of Millville, she said.

It first appeared on one side of her home, she said, then disappeared and reappeared on the other. "It was almost like dancing in the sky," said the girl, who declined to

give her name. "It stood still for a few minutes, then in a flash it was gone."

Asked if she believed in UFOs, she replied, "I'm sure there are other life forms besides ours."

When the object finally flashed away, it seemed to be headed toward Washingtonville, she said.

Minutes later, Jeannie Roberts of that borough reported she had seen a "large object in the sky, with lights" about 11:20 p.m. She spotted it near a hill between Danville and Washingtonville, she said, and it appeared headed toward the Pennsylvania Power and Light Co. plant outside Washingtonville.

Roberts said she has seen UFOs before, but this one was larger than the others. "I wished to God it would have picked me up," she said.

Attempts to reach the Lycoming County Airport to determine if there were any radar sightings of the object were not successful.



# Citizens claim close encounters with aliens

By Nick Lackeos

Journal staff writer

It was one night of many that Charles Hickson and a buddy had spent fishing along the woody bank of the East Pascagoula River near U.S. Highway 90 in southeast Mississippi. And even though it happened 14 years ago, Oct. 11, 1973, Hickson will never forget that particular fishing trip.

At 56, he still vividly remembers the terrifying experience. Hickson, a foreman at a shipyard, and Calvin Parker, 33, of Gulfport, had just gotten off work in Pascagoula and headed to the river.

"I just turned around and there it was, a craft of some kind — it was just hovering there, with a kind of pulsating blue light," said Hickson in a recent telephone interview from his home in Gautier, Miss. "The only thing I could move was my eyes. The wall opened up and there was a brilliant light inside."

Three robots floated out of the craft, Hickson claimed, and took him into the craft where they examined him. "Calvin fainted," Hickson said.

Although there are fewer reported sightings of unidentified flying objects now than in the 1950s, claims of alien abductions are higher now than in 1973 when Hickson reported his abduction, said Walt Andrus, director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) in Seguin, Texas. Andrus himself claims to have seen three luminous disks over an Arizona desert in the 1940s.

The current surge of UFO euphoria ignited last November when a Japan Air Lines crew spotted an object over Alaska. And riding the crest of that surge are new books, classified as non-fiction, on alien abductions, such as Random House's "Intruders" by Budd Hopkins and William Morrow and Co.'s "Communion" by Whitley Strieber.

"As Hopkins piles on his findings, I think the reader becomes more and more convinced, as does Hopkins, that maybe there is something to this," said Elizabeth Scharlatt, a Random House editor.

Many abductees tell of three-foot-tall, human-like beings with no hair, grayish-white skin, large black eyes and

a large head. Hopkins' theory is that the elusive creatures are conducting genetic experiments on human victims, sometimes on three generations within the same family.

Hopkins said women remembered their bodies being intimately examined by the aliens who took them aboard the craft and made them pregnant by inserting an instrument into their vagina.

"But two or three months later their pregnancy disappeared, with no explanation and no sign of a miscarriage," he said.

About five years later the women, in separate incidents, were abducted again, taken aboard a craft and shown a small hybrid child, their offspring of the two species, human and alien, according to Hopkins. The psychological examination of the women showed they had certain emotional characteristics, such as low self-esteem, similar to those of women who have been raped, he said.

Hopkins said he recently interviewed a 32-year-old mother of two who claimed she had been abducted. He said she has an unusual, unexplained scar along her biceps, which he feels aliens made when they took tissue samples. Her son has an identical scar at the same place on his arm.

Hopkins said some victims remember the entire experience while others recall only sketches of the encounters unless they are hypnotized, and Hopkins believes aliens can induce amnesia.

In "Communion," Strieber claims his series of encounters with aliens began on a winter night two years ago when he and his family were asleep in a cabin in a desolate area of upstate New York.

Strieber said he awoke and saw a strange being standing in the bedroom doorway, then he fainted. He said he woke up naked in the woods and was surrounded by three aliens. According to Strieber, he was then whisked away above the treetops and deposited inside a small, gray room where he believes medical experiments were performed on him.

"When it was over with that night, I was left sitting on the couch in a state of profound confusion, similar to what somebody feels after being in a devastating automobile

crash," said Strieber, 42. "I was cold, freezing. And I had a horrible taste in my mouth. The taste was so bad that my head was splitting open."

"I think they put the taste in my mouth to take my mind off what had happened, to confuse me. I ran upstairs and brushed my teeth. I felt exhausted. I fell across the bed and went to sleep. The next morning I could only remember seeing these big eyes in the night, like an owl in the window."

A few days later Strieber said he began remembering more details about the incident.

"I thought I was going mad," he said. "I was in some pain. They had stuck a needle in my head behind my ear, and they had done a rectal probe. I was sore. I could hardly sit down. I was remembering bits and pieces of what had happened. I began to wonder if I had been raped in reality, and on some unconscious level I did not want to admit that I had been raped, and my mind was substituting something else."

Strieber said he underwent psychological therapy and hypnosis and was able to recall other incidents of being abducted, some dating back to his childhood in San Antonio.

The first alien abduction case involving amnesia and hypnosis conducted by a competent physician involved Betty and Barney Hill of Portsmouth, N.H., in 1961, Andrus said. Abduction reports have increased from about a dozen 10 years ago to about 300 now, he said.

Edward Planz, a retired engineering professor of the University of Alabama who lives in Tuscaloosa, said he has investigated UFO sightings for about 25 years.

"I'm still confused," said Planz when asked if he believes Earth has been visited. He recalled investigating a sighting north of Birmingham in the 1970s in Hayden.

"People told me they saw a UFO hovering over a lake. It was big and round with lights on the bottom and it made no noise. I don't think they were hallucinating. These people were country folk. They saw something. I believe there are other civilizations out there. Whether they've come here — I don't know."



## Rutledge reviews tape

SEMO University professor Dr. Harley Rutledge takes some measurements off a video taped image of an alleged UFO

displayed on a television screen. The tape was made last year by an amateur photographer in

California. To date, Rutledge has spent about 120 hours analyzing the tape. (Photo by Fred Lynch)

# SEMO professor called upon as UFO expert for CNN on Monday

By Mark Bliss  
Staff Writer

CAPE GIRARDEAU — A SEMO University physics professor's efforts to analyze a video tape of an alleged UFO (unidentified flying object) will be featured Monday and again next weekend on a segment of a Cable News Network (CNN) show.

A CNN film crew and Charles Crawford, the host of the program, "Science and Technology Week," traveled to Cape Girardeau earlier this month to interview physics professor Dr. Harley Rutledge.

The segment including Rutledge will be aired Monday between 7:15-7:30 a.m., 5:15-5:30 p.m., and 11:15-11:30 p.m. It will be rebroadcast at 10:10 a.m. Aug. 1, and at 3:10 p.m. Aug. 2.

Part of the filming was done on a Piedmont hilltop which has been the site of a number of UFO sightings by Rutledge and others over the past 14 years.

Rutledge, who began investigating the reports of UFOs in the small Wayne County community in 1973,

has had 162 UFO sightings at a number of locations over the years and has more than 700 photographs that he either has taken or witnessed being taken in connection with his UFO investigations.

In the past two years, Rutledge said, he has had two sightings of UFOs near his home in Cape Girardeau.

According to Rutledge, the UFOs can generally be described as strange lights — hovering lights, lights that switch on and off, lights that jump about in an unusual manner, groups of lights that burst on like flashbulbs, and moving lights that make sharp turns.

The video tape he is now studying was provided to him by Dale Goudie of Seattle, who has established a UFO information service out there and is involved in investigating reports of unidentified flying objects.

The five minute, 40 second tape was shot by an amateur photographer in the Los Angeles area at 4:30 p.m. on April 2, 1986.

It shows a bright, white light which

appears to change shapes and darts through the sky and moves in and out of a cluster of trees near a row of houses.

Rutledge said he has calculated that the alleged UFO would be about 10 feet in size. The light appears as only a small pinpoint on television screen. Rutledge said that his review of the video tape indicates that the light may have been a mile away from the camera.

Rutledge said he calculated the light generally appeared to be about 400 or 500 feet above the ground.

In a written statement, Rutledge noted that "the tape depicts an object that moves erratically and showing bright flashes of light. The object may be a thin, flexible sheet of some known shiny substance, such as mylar, blowing in the wind and reflecting sunlight or it may be something strange."

Rutledge pointed out that he has viewed the 10,000 frames of the video tape about 50 times since it was first given to him around Christmas. In all, Rutledge said, he probably has

REGISTER-GUARD, Eugene, OR - Oct. 10, 1987

## Reports say UFOs seen in Gardiner

"I've racked my brain. But I can't figure out what it could have been," he said Friday.

David said there was a ceiling of clouds about 2,000 feet and the material may have fallen from a high-flying aircraft. He heard no airplane, but said the mill noise could have drowned it out.

GARDINER — Unidentified falling objects were spotted over the Umpqua River on Thursday and Friday.

Dan David, an employee of International Paper Co., said he and five other people were loading a truck behind the paper mill when they saw what appeared to be five rectangular objects flutter down from the sky about 2 p.m. Thursday. He said at first two fell, then two more and finally a single one.

He was too far from the river to see them land, but said it looked like they would have dropped into the river. The objects appeared to be flat, 2 to 4 feet by 4 to 8 feet, and gray or aluminum in color, he said.

The sky was clear when George Helkey and a companion were eating lunch on the oil dock behind the mill Friday. Helkey said they saw many objects about the size of sheets of paper fluttering down from very high altitude.

He said the objects landed in the river, floated for a brief period and then sank. He said he saw about 10 such objects, and his companion spotted twice that many.

No plane was in sight, and Helkey said he is mystified about the origin of what he saw. "I've never seen anything like this in my life," he said.

The U.S. Coast Guard searched the river both days but found nothing.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN, Cape Girardeau, MO - July 26, 1987

spent about 120 hours analyzing the video tape.

"I've watched that thing about 50 times and I still pick up things I didn't see before," he stated.

"Your first inclination is that it's something blowing in the wind," noted Rutledge.

But he said his research indicates that the light was moving faster than the wind was blowing that day. He noted that the darting action of the light and its movement in and out of a cluster of trees would seem to rule out any possibility that the light was sunlight reflecting off a kite.

Currently, Rutledge noted, he is using a "fairly simple approach" in studying the video tape, making use of a magnifying glass and a plastic ruler to calculate distances and make measurements off the television screen.

Rutledge said the light doesn't maintain a constant shape. At one point, it appears to unfold like "magician's cards," he observed.

Based on his analysis, Rutledge has concluded that "anomalies exist."

Rutledge said he believes the tape is genuine and not a photographic hoax.

One of the significant things about

this tape is that the light appears for such a lengthy period of time. Often, UFO reports refer to lights that were visible for only 10, 20 or 30 seconds, explained Rutledge.

The SEMO professor said he would like to undertake a computer analysis of the tape. But to do that would be expensive.

"I'm going to try to raise my own funds when it comes to the computer because that's going to be expensive," he noted.

Rutledge stressed that he has not reached any conclusions about the image on the video tape. "I can accept the possibility of almost anything."

The physics professor acknowledged that many people are skeptical about the existence of UFOs.

But Rutledge said, "I don't think it's a matter of belief. I don't believe in them. I know they exist."

Rutledge believes one reason he has been involved in so many UFO sightings is that he is more receptive to mysterious lights and unusual sky phenomenon.

"When you're going duck hunting, you're looking for ducks," remarked Rutledge, suggesting that the same premise holds true in regards to UFOs.

**MY VIEW** By Dick Dorworth

**The unexplained facts**

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

— Hamlet

In a long life of reading, I have read but two works purporting to be other than science fiction concerning the mysterious flying saucer or UFO. In a less long life of writing, this is the second time I've written on the same subject, except for my one published piece of science fiction.

I've just finished *Light Years* by Gary Kinder. It is called an investigation into the extraterrestrial experiences of Eduard Meier. It is thought-provoking material that touches the gut in somewhat the same way as do things that go bump in the night.

I know Gary Kinder. I like him personally and I admire his writing. I respect his intention and, more, trust his judgment both as researcher and writer.

Kinder is trained as a lawyer and he is thorough and not afraid of painstaking effort in his work. He is not one to be easily duped. So far as I am concerned, Kinder is reliable and a damn good writer and I highly recommend *Light Years*.

Near the end of his book, Kinder writes, "After three years of research, I have concluded that UFOs exist: something we cannot explain indeed sails through our skies from time to time. This does not mean that representatives of extraterrestrial societies visit us, though there is some evidence to suggest that. I find it difficult to believe that anyone who looks seriously and objectively at the evidence... can come away insisting the whole matter takes seed in the

human mind."

Yea. When I was a young adolescent, my best buddy reported to me that he had had an encounter with what he called a "flying saucer." I didn't believe him and told him so and, with the exquisite cruelty available to the innocence of that age, chided him for spreading tall tales. My buddy never mentioned it again.

A few years later, when I had reached advanced adolescence, my girlfriend and I would regularly take evening drives into the desert hills above Reno, Nev. We would park there in order to conduct intensive experimental investigations into the mysteries of the universe.

One late summer night we were startled away from our empirical research and development by several green lights that hovered around the car, sped off with amazing velocity and then returned, the whole time emitting a pulsing green light. We were perplexed and fascinated, but I do not remember being afraid. We watched them for a length of time and then they went away with amazing speed.

We returned to town at a slower pace. Others had seen the lights and they were reported, but not explained, in the local newspapers. My girlfriend and I spoke of the experience only to each other. Advanced adolescents of the 1950s I came from did not communicate with the adult world about certain matters. One of them was strange green lights that hovered around your car and moved with astonishing speed. Another was empiricism. The '50s were a repressive era in certain ways, and in time I nearly forgot about the pulsing green

lights in the desert outside Reno.

Around four o'clock on a December 1964 morning, I was walking down a road in Sestriere in the Italian Alps. It was a mile walk to a hotel where I was meeting the Italian Ski Team with whom I was riding across Italy that day to Val Gardena in the Dolomites. It was cold and the sky clear and full of stars and the snow squeaked with each step. Suddenly, six round objects of intense white light were in the sky above me. They stayed in formation above me for an indeterminate time, and then they sped away with astonishing speed.

For several reasons, including my rudimentary grasp of Italian, I didn't discuss the experience as we rode across Italy that day.

That night, in my room in Val Gardena, I wrote about UFOs for the first time. I wrote in my notebooks in careful detail what I had seen. Shortly afterward, I tracked down the only other piece of UFO literature I've read, Carl Jung's essay, *Flying Saucers*. Jung was my favorite for what he taught us about the human mind, but he was no help to me in this case. I knew there was more to what I had seen than what was going on in my own mind.

More than 20 years earlier and with no research and for very different reasons, I came to the same conclusions about UFOs as Gary Kinder: they exist and they are not aberrations of the human mind.

There have been long periods when I've forgotten entirely about UFOs, about my own experiences, about their implications. Kinder's got me thinking about the damn things again.

**Doubting author now finds credible UFO visitations**

By DAVID MONEYPENNY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SALT LAKE CITY — Gary Kinder thought he would be dealing with people who claim to have eaten "space potatoes" when it was suggested he write a book about extraterrestrial visitations.

"My agent was the one that came up with the topic," said Kinder. "I told him I didn't want to do it. I didn't put much stock in that sort of thing."

However, Kinder, whose first book, "Victim: The Other Side of Murder," had focused on Utah's notorious Hi-Fi Shop murder case, agreed to look at a Swiss man's claims that he had met and conversed with beings from outer space.

The result is "Light Years: An Investigation into the Extraterrestrial Experiences of Eduard Meier." The book, published by Atlantic Monthly Press, is based on voluminous materials provided by Meier, who changed the way Kinder viewed the whole subject.

Meier took hundreds of clear photographs of what he called "beamships," had several video and audio tapes, thousands of pages of notes and several scraps of metal which he claimed were used in the hulls of the spacecraft.

"What really surprised me was the video," Kinder said. "Technicians said it would be impossible for them to produce something of that quality and be undetectable."

While many UFO cases are based only on eyewitness accounts, Meier had an abundance of evidence, Kinder said. "It was extremely frustrating to make sense of all of it. What made it difficult wasn't all of the crazy claims that Meier was making, but the massive amount of evidence he had to support what he was saying."

Meier, who is 50 and says he hasn't been visited since the 1970s, said he was first contacted by extraterrestrials at age 5. He said he was told he had a mission to help the beings educate the world about the existence of life on other planets.

During his contacts, Meier said the beings gave him hundreds of opportunities to photograph their spaceship and document their existence with metal samples and other information.

Much of the evidence was examined by American scientists, an investigation outlined in the book. But no consensus emerged about the authenticity of the photographs because the examiners couldn't determine if Meier's negatives were originals. A metal sample disappeared shortly after it was examined under an electron microscope by Marcel Vogel, a scientist with International Business Machines.

"I cannot explain the metal sample," Vogel told Kinder. "By any known combination of materials I could not put it together myself."

Sound recordings made by Meier of the "beamship" were found to be impossible to re-create even with a bank of electronic synthesizers, according to sound technicians quoted in the book.

Notwithstanding the mountain of evidence, Meier's case still comes under sharp criticism from some members of the UFO community. Groups such as the Mutual UFO Network Inc. labeled it a hoax and claimed to have proof that many of his photographs had been faked. Several wrote the publisher after word got around that a book was planned.

Kinder said that Meier indeed had been caught faking a photograph of a yet-to-occur earthquake in San Francisco. Meier claimed his space contacts had taken him into the future to see the earthquake, which he said he photographed.

However, the photograph turned out to be an American artist's conception of what an earthquake might look like, a drawing that had appeared in several magazines before Meier took a picture of it.

Kinder said the incident cast doubt on Meier. "I think he might have felt compelled to keep producing information even when he wasn't having contacts," Kinder said. "By that time, hundreds of people were constantly on his doorstep looking to him for more information."

And for Kinder, who studied law, Meier's evidence is too strong to ignore. The author, who hadn't given UFOs much thought before, believes today that they exist.

On a recent promotional tour, Kinder, who lives in Sun Valley, Idaho, was amazed at the number of people who approached him about extraterrestrial experiences.

"These aren't people that you would ordinarily think of as having these kinds of experiences," he said. "These are respected people; sane, down-to-earth people."

**UFO sightings to be studied**

WAUNAKEE (UPI) — The co-director of J-Allen Hynke Center for UFO Studies says he will be in Waunakee this weekend to investigate the strange object two police officers saw early Tuesday morning.

Don Schmitt said Thursday he will be in the Waunakee, near Madison, to determine if officers Scott McElroy and Kevin Plendl saw an unidentified flying object.

The officers were dispatched about 2 a.m. Tuesday to the home of a local woman who reported seeing red and blue lights in the sky.

McElroy described the object as four to five times brighter than stars and six times as bright as the north star. Plendl said it moved north to south and hovered for long periods.

The Waunakee sighting is one of a series that began in January in the Belleville area, south of Madison. Last month, Schmitt officially classified the Belleville sighting by a local police officer as a UFO.

Of 30 Wisconsin sightings this year, about two dozen have been reported in Dane County since mid-January.

"It is the highest concentration of activity in the country at the moment," Schmitt said of the sightings. He did not have an explanation for the rash of sightings and did not discount



Someone in the dairy community of Waunakee decided Wednesday to add a sign to the official Waunakee welcome sign just outside of town.

the notion that some unidentified flying objects are operated by alien beings.

Of those Madison-area sightings, only six have been explained, he said. About 90 percent of all investigated sightings eventually are explained.

The J-Allen Hynke Center for UFO Studies, of Chicago, is a 13-year-old volunteer group which collects and investigates reports of unidentified flying objects around the country. Schmitt is a free-lance technical illustrator from Milwaukee.

**Strange Lights Seen**

Strange red and green lights were seen northwest of Marquette, Iowa, at 9:17 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25, according to Prairie du Chien Police Department Detective James Rider.

Rider said a Prairie du Chien citizen reported the strange lights. The lights were verified by Officer Gerald Tippery and the dispatcher on duty that night, he said.

Rider said the LaCrosse weather office was called that night and they

reported there were no planes, weather balloons or military aircraft in the area at the time of the incident.

Rider said the unidentified lights remain unexplained.

COURIER PRESS, Prairie du Chien, WI - Sept. 30, 1987 CR: R. Heiden



# Resident, authorities still can't explain UFO

**David Wolbrueck**  
The Daily Tribune

Local authorities and a Bay City resident still can't explain what they saw hovering over the area early Tuesday.

Johnny Sidney Jr. of Bay City says he used to laugh at reports of UFOs but is not as skeptical after seeing a huge oval object he

claims was the size of the Astrodome hovering in the air with flashing lights.

It was around 1 a.m. when Sidney, who works for a courier service, says he felt a peculiar urge to look skyward. At the time, he was in the yard of his parent's home, about four miles east of Bay City near the Sargent highway.

"It's like I got a strange feeling

and just looked up into the sky," Sidney says. "I couldn't tell you what it was, but it was something like I had never seen before."

Sidney grabbed a pair of binoculars and took a closer look.

He says the silent, stationary hovering object was illuminated by fixed spinning lights, one of which was on top of a dome. It appeared to have a metallic skin. Sidney says this unidentified fly-

ing object was "huge" — like "seeing the Astrodome in the sky" or a "(battleship) destroyer."

The 1-million-gallon elevated water storage tank now under construction in Bay City "didn't have nothing on this thing," he swears.

"It wasn't like an ordinary flying saucer," says Sidney, as this object was longer and oval-shaped. Periodically, the object would light up from within in a lime-green hue, he says, though even then, additional features were not easily distinguishable.

"When it did that, my eyes bugged and my mouth dropped," says Sidney. "... It was the damndest thing I've ever seen."

He says he watched it hover in the sky over Bay City for about three hours, before it moved off in a westerly direction toward Midfield and Blessing.

Sidney's not the only person who saw something in the Matagorda County skies Tuesday.

Shortly before 1:30 a.m., he called law enforcement authorities and Matagorda County Sheriff's Deputy Aaron Green was dispatched to the Sidney home.

"The first thing I thought is, 'Man, this guy is trippin','" says Green. "But I know this guy — he doesn't even drink."

Green saw the object, too, though he in much less detail.

"He saw something. He wasn't imagining it. I saw it, too, but I don't know what I saw," Green says.

Several other deputies saw it, as did at least one officer on the Bay City police force.

Green says the object was about the size of a football field, with three lights spaced about 100 yards apart in a triangular formation. The lights were red, white and blue and flashed at regular intervals like a traffic signal light.

It made no noise and hovered about 100 yards above the ground, northwest of Bay City before finally moving off in the direction of Midfield, the deputy says.

Green says he saw no body, frame or other support, only the lights.

Nor was it easily discernible. "You would have to really be looking for it. You'd have to pay attention," Green says.

"I didn't see anybody, nobody came out of it, no beams or anything — just the lights," says Green.

Bay City officer Chuck Singleton was on patrol Tuesday morning and met up with Green at Seventh and Ave C, where he says he ribbed Green about the sighting.

But, with the help of binoculars, Singleton says he could see two of the three distinctive lights the deputy described — the dominant top light and one other.

"I couldn't tell you what it was. I have no idea what it could have been," Singleton says.

Both Sidney and Green have served in the military and say they are certain it is not any type of aircraft, nor was it likely a weather balloon — frequently the object of UFO sightings.

Green says he checked with the National Weather Service in Victoria and they reported there were no weather balloons in the area. Steve Harned, with NWS offices in Alvin, said he did not think it likely that a weather balloon would be sighted at that time of day.

"This was no weather balloon," swears Sidney.

Sidney maintains he's not the kind of guy who goes around seeing flying saucers.

"I've never seen a UFO before, but if there's such a thing, then this is it."

Green says he doesn't believe in UFOs.

"I don't believe in UFOs. I believe in flying objects. Everything can be identified," Green says.

But then what did he see? "I still don't know. What he saw, I just don't know."

TELEPHONE, Sylvania, GA - July 30, 1987

## Alcorns "Tired" Of UFO Investigators

Following last week's sightings of UFO's in Screven County, at least one new sighting has been reported and harrowing circumstances involving UFO investigators has left the Alcorn family "tired of the three-ring circus" that has resulted from their openness about the UFO sightings.

On Tuesday evening, July 21, the Alcorns were visited by two men claiming to be investigators from MUFON (Mutual UFO Network), who left them unnerved and scared after the two asked them for information concerning the sightings, took soil and grass

samples, and examined their dog without offering any explanation. The two asked the couple and their children if they had had any illnesses since the sightings occurred, if there had been any strangers in the area and if anything unusual had happened.

Walt Andus, national director for MUFON, said the men were not members of the organization.

On Friday evening, the Screven County Sheriff's Department received a call from a man reporting a sighting near the Savannah River just south of Highway 301. The man, who asked to have his name withheld, told The Telephone

Monday that what he saw was "egg-shaped, but hovering vertically". He said that a band of green light appeared at the base of the object, then it would go out and a band of orange light would appear at the top. This alternating lighting continued as the object, which was larger than a helicopter, and traveling just over the treetops, and he saw it fairly close. Deputies patrolled the area but said that by the time they got there the object had apparently left the area. The witness also said that until he saw this object, the recent reports to him "were

crazy".

An investigator representing the Center for UFO studies visited the site of the UFO encounters Saturday. The investigator, who also asked that his name not be published, was reluctant to discuss any of the details of his research and refused to do any research as long as journalists were present. He received his doctorate in astronomy and said he would share his data with other UFO research organizations, including MUFON.

Visitors from as far away as Louisiana have visited the Alcorn residence in hopes of seeing the craft or the impressions in the grass which were supposedly made by some type of landing pods.

Mrs. Alcorn said that people are still visiting nightly. Cars continue to line the road in hopes of seeing the craft, which appeared July 13 and 14 and briefly on July 15.

No more sightings of the dancing white lights which accompanied the first sightings and continued several days thereafter have been reported, but people still continue to visit and "harass" the family, and Mrs. Alcorn comments that "It's getting to where you don't know who you are talking to, friend or enemy". She said that she wishes people would just leave them alone.

## Another UFO?

### Resident Reports Strange Lights

Another resident of western Wilkes reported recently seeing unidentified lights in the nighttime sky.

Last week a report was published in this newspaper about people in Ferguson who saw moving lights at night. They asked the newspaper to help find out if someone could come up with an explanation.

Instead of an explanation, the item stirred up a few other descriptions of unexplained lights, apparently unrelated.

The latest reported sighting occurred on a Tuesday night in early July around 10 p.m. A woman and her 12-year-old daughter were driving home on Mount Pleasant Road

past the school when they saw lights ahead just above ground level, red and blue on one side and white on the other side and slowly descending. She stopped the car, the report says, but couldn't make out the shape of anything behind the lights. As she started up again and headed toward the lights, they rose up over the trees and passed on to the north, without a sound.

Mystified, she and her family, too, have looked for an explanation.

Her husband said he mentioned it at his place of work and heard that another woman was said to have seen something similar the same night in the same area.

But so far, no one has offered to explain these or any other lights.

JOURNAL PATRIOT, North Wilkesboro, NC - Aug. 31, 1987

TIMES, Huntsville, AL - July 14, 1987 CR: M. Hall

## Man Plans Sequel on UFO Encounter

MOBILE (AP) — One book is not enough to tell of his experiences, said a man who claimed he and a fishing companion saw alien space creatures 14 years ago.

"It doesn't bother me that people think I'm crazy," said Charles Hickson, who was in Mobile last week recovering at a hospital after surgery. "Just let them wait and see. It's beginning to come out in the open."

Hickson, 56, a native of Gautier, Miss., and Calvin Parker, now 33 and living in Gulfport, Miss., were fishing off a pier of the East Pascagoula River on the Mississippi coast in 1973 when, they said, a spaceship appeared.

"There was a hissing sound like air escaping from a hose," Hickson said.

"It just hovered about 10 feet off the ground and there was a pulsating light at the top of it. An eye opened up in the center of it and we could see a strange light within.

"Three creatures appeared in the doorway and they floated toward us. Calvin was screaming and I couldn't move."

He said the creatures were about five feet tall with wrinkled skin, no neck, hands shaped like mittens with no fingers. He said they floated him into the spacecraft, where he was examined with a football-shaped instrument. He said the creatures later took him back to the pier, where he found Parker "in shock."

He said they then had two choices.

"We could report it and let people think we were crazy or not report it and go crazy," he said.

They reported it to the Jackson County, Miss., sheriff, whose office soon was deluged by calls from news reporters from around the world.

Hickson recently went to Washington, D.C., for an international symposium on UFOs, and has been plugging his book, "The UFO Contact in Pascagoula."

In an interview with *The Mobile Press Register*, he said he has had "many experiences related to my experience in 1973. I'm not prepared to go into it. I plan to write another book next year. I've had good reaction to my first book. It's in a second printing."



SWISS FARMER BILLY MEIER'S 1979 PHOTO OF A UFO  
Critics call Meier a 'charlatan' and his photos a hoax

## Farmer's tales of space travel won't fly with many UFO buffs

By Keay Davidson  
EXAMINER SCIENCE WRITER

To Billy Meier's fans, he's a gentle Swiss farmer who has befriended UFO pilots from the Pleiades, a powdery star cluster more than 2 quadrillion miles from Earth.

To Meier's foes, he's the biggest hoaxer since the UFO fad began four decades ago.

Meier's tales of flying aboard UFOs with lovely spacemen have triggered civil war in the weird, wacky world of "ufology," an international movement whose members slog through swamps and forests, night and day, to investigate sightings of unidentified flying objects or "flying saucers."

Wednesday is the 40th anniversary of the first "modern" UFO sighting June 24, 1947 — when a private pilot sighted saucer-shaped objects zipping past Mount Rainier in Washington state — and ufologists are celebrating with conferences from Burbank to New York City and Washington, D.C.

Although few are trained scientists, they like to form clubs with grandiose names such as "Intercontinental UFO Galactic Spacecraft Research and Analytic Network Inc." and "Aerial Phenomena Research Organization."

But in four decades they've gained little scientific respectability, and some fear they'll lose even that because of the Meier controversy — a steaming stew of bizarre claims, ugly accusations, crude fakery, financial exploitation, "stolen" and "vanished" evidence, and alleged death threats and assassination attempts.

"If you ever want to see a parallelism to Jim Bakker and PTL, you're seeing it right here," snarled one anti-Meier ufologist, William Spaulding of Phoenix. "I get emotional about (Meier) because I've just seen ufology go down the drain. ... It just reeks of money, a slick way to make a buck."

He isn't alone. The Meier case is "probably one of the most obvious hoaxes in the history of the subject," said ufologist Ronald Story of St. Petersburg, Fla., author of "The Encyclopedia of UFOs."

Meier is a "damned charlatan — I wouldn't touch his stuff with the proverbial 10-foot pole," said Don Berliner, an official at the Maryland-based Fund for UFO Research.

The Meier fad is part of a "credulity explosion" that is helping to wreck ufologists' credibility, said one of the men ufologists fear most, Robert Sheaffer of San Jose, author of "The UFO Verdict." Sheaffer has exposed some famous saucer sightings as hoaxes and misidentifications of natural phenomena. Ufology "isn't dead yet, but it's dying," he said.

Ufologist Jim Speiser firmly disagrees and accuses Sheaffer of "wishful thinking." But he acknowledges that trying to gain scientific respect while Meier is in the news is "like trying to get a date when your little brother who picks his nose is always hanging around."

Speiser, of Fountain Hills, Ariz., runs an electronic "bulletin board" that allows saucer buffs to rap via personal computers.



**Billy Meier**

Says he traveled to future aboard UFO and saw The City in ruins

So why on earth has Atlantic Monthly Press, one of the nation's most respected publishers, just released a book — "Light Years" by Gary Kinder — that suggests there may be something to Meier's claims after all? A book whose sources include an imprisoned child molester and a San Jose chemist who tells ghost stories to plants? A book that, some say, whitewashes what has been called "the most infamous hoax in all of ufology?"

It's a strange story that began in the mid-1970s in the green hills of Switzerland.

Eduard "Billy" Meier, a one-armed, bushy-bearded farmer, amazed local residents by saying he had established psychic contact with saucer pilots from the Pleiades.

He also said he had photographed and filmed UFOs that resembled hubcaps; tape-recorded their noises, which resembled sound effects from old science-fiction films; conversed with female UFOonauts, who taught him cosmic truths; flew aboard a UFO into space, where he photographed God's "eye" and the Apollo-Soyuz docking of 1975; and traveled by saucer into the future, where he saw the ruins of San Francisco after an earthquake.

But Meier's "evidence" dissolved under scrutiny, ufologists say. Ufologist Spaulding used a computer to clarify blurry details in Meier's photos and, he said, detected threads holding the "UFOs" aloft — evidence that they were small models suspended near the camera. Also, critics said, the photos of quake-ravaged San Francisco turned out to be copies of an artist's rendering from the September 1977 issue of Geo magazine. And in Meier's 8mm movies of UFOs, the objects sway back and forth as though they were lightweight models bobbing in the breeze.

Yet the Meier story has survived partly because of the relentless advocacy of his American backers, the Arizona ufologists Lt. Col. Wendelle Stevens (U.S. Air Force, retired), Tom Welch and Lee and Brit Elders. Years ago, they obtained the legal rights to market Meier's photos and other memorabilia, threatened to sue anyone who used the material without permission and built a small publishing industry, Genesis III. The publishing arm sells books and videocassettes (for as much as \$29 apiece) about Meier's adventures.

Now they've landed a much bigger fish: royalties from Kinder's 266-page book, published May 26. They're sharing royalties in return for giving Kinder access to Meier's photos and other documents.

Much money may be made by all: Kinder will take 50 percent of the royalties, then the rest will be divided among Meier, Stevens, the Elders and Welch.

Sales have gone "extremely well," Kinder said. The best-seller list is in sight, said the book's backer, New York publishing whiz-kid Morgan Entrekin, 32, who paid Kinder an advance of more than \$100,000. Bay Area bookstore owners say it's selling moderately.

The book has infuriated many ufologists who think it lends an undesired patina of respectability to a vulgar hoax, although Kinder doesn't reach a specific conclusion about Meier's claims. "Face it, you're in it for the money like the rest of the writers of superficial paranormal literature," Spaulding said in a bitter letter to Kinder.

"It's been a real ordeal trying to fend off the entire UFO community," joked Kinder, 40. "There were times when I would look at Meier and think, 'He's nothing but a clever con man.' There were other times when I would look at Meier and think, 'Here is a sincere and warm individual who has experienced something far above his understanding and intellectual capabilities and is trying to deal with it.'"

The Elders say they've received threatening letters and phone calls and that Meier has been the target of several assassination attempts. They're not disturbed by evidence that Meier faked photos of, for example, the San Francisco earthquake; in fact, they haven't even discussed it with Meier, Lee Elders said. His wife insists that just because Meier faked "one or two things" doesn't mean all his photos are phonies.

To Lee Elders, the best evidence for Meier's contentions is an analysis of metal samples from an alleged

UFO. The analysis was conducted by Marcel Vogel, formerly a chemist at an IBM research center in San Jose. In the New York Times Book Review, a full-page ad for "Light Years" quotes Vogel as saying the metallic composition was one "we could not achieve ... on this planet."

However, the book doesn't mention that Vogel is a very, very imaginative fellow. In fact, he also has claimed the ability to communicate psychically with plants.

The 1973 best-selling "Secret Life of Plants" includes an entire chapter on Vogel. In one scene, he attempts to determine whether plants wired with electrodes show a physiological response to "spooky stories." The book says that at "certain points in a story, such as ... 'Charles bent down and raised the lid of the coffin,' the plant seemed to pay closer attention."

Vogel, 70, said Meier's UFO movies convinced him the farmer had been in contact with "some form of extraterrestrial intelligence." However, Vogel doesn't regard the metal samples by themselves as proof of extraterrestrials because he didn't have a chance to consult with other experts before the samples mysteriously disappeared. Vogel added that since his plant work of the 1970s, he had founded a psychic research institute in San Jose, employed his "mental energy" to bend spoons and studied the use of crystals to cure illness.

"Light Years" also quotes authorities such as Robert Post, head of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's photo lab in Pasadena, as saying: "From a photography standpoint, you couldn't see anything that was fake about the Meier photos. ... I thought, God, if this is real, this is going to be really something."

Or is it? In an interview with The Examiner, Post recalled that several years ago, Wendelle Stevens visited him at JPL and requested an expert opinion on the pictures. Post acknowledges he was fascinated by the images but was unable to perform a scientific analysis for two

reasons: First, he isn't a photo analyst but rather the operator of a photo processing lab ("like you take your film to K mart," he said); and, second, the pictures weren't originals but rather copies of originals — perhaps even copies of copies of copies. Such multiple copying tends to obscure delicate details, making it hard to detect evidence of fraud — e.g., threads supporting hubcaps.

In addition, when Post examined some images with a magnifying glass, he realized "a lot of the pictures weren't really photographs at all — they were lithographs," or high-resolution ink prints made from photos — and, hence, were worthless for purposes of analysis. Furthermore, the photos were "a lot fuzzier than the stuff on the lithographs, and I thought that was a little strange."

For that and other reasons, Post began "to think, 'Nuts, maybe this guy is just a con man.' That's not the kind of guy I want to have anything to do with."

In 1983, Stevens was convicted of child molestation in Pima County, Ariz. He is now serving time in the Arizona State Prison and declined to be interviewed. But he did send The Examiner a cryptic letter in which he said a "number of high officials ... have taken a personal interest in some of the things we were doing, but they could neither support nor tolerate them official-ly."

Stevens' conviction triggered a wave of paranoia among Meier buffs. Some phoned Vicki Cooper, editor of California UFO magazine in Los Angeles. They told her Stevens "was 'set up,' that certain witnesses were being killed," said Cooper, who is not unsympathetic to Meier's claims. "I was discouraged and disgusted with the people I was talking to."

"It's a cesspool out there," she said. "Personality conflicts are rabid in this field. ... There are hoaxers, there are fraudulent people who are claiming outrageous things all throughout the UFO field."

STAR BANNER, Ocala, FL - June 19, 1987 CR: L. Whitehurst

## UFO Sighted Here

What if you were cultivating beans about mid-morning and as you made the turn at the end of the row your eyes caught a bright glare just over your neighbors corn field. What's your first reaction? This happened to Dale Kitts, and his first thought was, "I wonder what the neighbor is doing?"

On June 17th, about 10:30 a.m. Dale saw the shiny object as he dismounted from the tractor to clean the cultivator shanks. When he looked more closely at the hovering object he guessed it to be about eight to ten feet long and five or six feet wide. He said it was shaped like a cigar, except that the bottom of the vehicle appeared flat and a darker color than the upper parts. He estimated that the initial distance from the tractor was about 40 rods - - about two hundred yards. (The distance being several yards further than this writer can hit a golf ball).

It is obvious from Dale's account of his experience that his reaction was one of curiosity. He noted that the strange vehicle had no means of propulsion - - no propellers, no jet engines - - there

was no turbulence in the field under the vehicle and there were no wings. While he stood near his tractor the object moved very slowly forward, then gained a little altitude, then dropped lower. It was near the highline wires that cross the farm and then slipped under the wires.

It is interesting that during these few minutes Dale said that his only reaction remained that of a curious bystander - - What was it? How did it work? He decided to drive the tractor closer.

Dale's impression is, that as he started to turn the tractor for a closer look, he was observed by the vehicle and in one or two seconds it had disappeared.

He said he did not think to look at his watch, but he estimated that this strange vehicle hovered and maneuvered in his vicinity for about four or five minutes. Neither was he able to say whether the vehicle made a sound, since he forgot to shut off the tractor.

He said that later in the day he and his wife went out into the fields to look for any kind of damage and found nothing that indicated that the mysterious visitor had been in the

area.

Dale has told this story to some people who are interested in Unidentified Flying Objects and to a radio station. As is the case with sightings of UFOs, no one is able to confirm or reject such stories. What makes this UFO story different is the fact that Dale is a man known by many people here and the sighting was practically in our back yard. Obviously, in our miracle-technological era people are reluctant to admit the possibility of the impossible - - that there are other relationships between time and space as we perceive them.

I also find Dale's emotional reaction, of untainted curiosity, as being perfectly normal. I recall the story of a submarine sailor, whose boat was caught on the surface by dive bombers. He said he was standing in the control room when the first bomb went off. He said, "I looked up calmly, curious, waiting for the big hole to open up."

Someday we'll know the secrets of UFOs, in the meantime, they are part of the unknown, the unexplainable - - and there are so many!



## U.F.O. Stakeout: A Polite Request To Land in Rain

By MICHAEL WINERIP

PINE BUSH, N.Y. The worst thing about being a U.F.O. photographer is it's a full-time job and you don't make a cent. "It's ridiculous," said Ellen Crystall. "I've got over 500 pictures of U.F.O.'s — I spend thousands on developing — and I get no funding at all."

Ms. Crystall was sitting in her favorite U.F.O. field here, off Searsville Road. It was pouring and she wasn't optimistic. "Hey ships! Come on ships!" she called. "It's pointless — ships don't come out in the rain."

Ms. Crystall doesn't have time to waste. She is studying for her Ph.D. in the highly respected New York University music program. She holds a part-time word-processing job. "U.F.O.'s cut into my work time," she said. "Oh yeah, and my music." Several days a week she makes the 90-minute drive to this popular U.F.O. spot from her parents' New Jersey home.

She gets no cooperation. "The ships intentionally interfere with the camera," she said. Ever try to get U.F.O. pictures developed at Fotomat? The lab guys think there's nothing on the negative and don't print it. They don't realize the little dots surrounded by black are U.F.O.'s. "You've got to take it to a custom lab," she said.

Ms. Crystall and her U.F.O. associates, who all hold down jobs during the day, know some people think this is crazy. "I don't care," she says. "If a friend isn't interested, I don't impose my views." However, she does feel a duty to complain to newspapers if their U.F.O. coverage is weak. Her letters are well written. The letterhead says, "Ellen Crystall, U.F.O. photographer." The signature says, "Ellen Crystall, Ph.D. candidate."

Some have suggested that she stick to more traditional photo subjects — Ms. Crystall won a 1981 contest in The Bergen Record for a photo of the Capitol in Washington. Her music has been played on radio stations WNYC and WFMU. But Ms. Crystall says that ever since she saw her first alien in 1971, she has believed in U.F.O.'s. "The being had a very large head and a rust-color stretch-knit jump suit," she recalled. "I said, 'Oh my God, they have stretch knit fabric!'"

She estimates she has seen 1,000 U.F.O.'s. "It's ridiculous," she says. "So many!" There are a couple of airports near here, but Ms. Crystall says it's easy to recognize a U.F.O.: "It comes from looking at so many. I can feel them. Even if something looks like an airplane, I'll say, 'wait a minute, that's a ship.' It might have yellow lights — planes don't have yellow lights."

She joined several U.F.O. associates for dinner at the Magic Chef here recently. There was John White, a speechwriter for a Connecticut company who has published 13 books on

paranormal phenomena and is running a U.F.O. conference at the Ramada Inn in North Haven Nov. 7 and Nov. 8. Dan Shenefield, a postal worker was there, too, with his wife, Marianne.

"I was 11 when I was first abducted by aliens," Mrs. Shenefield said between bites of the lobster special. "What did I know? I thought he was from the next town. He looked like a Chinese guy in a scuba diving outfit."

"Naive," said Ms. Crystall. "Naive."

"In '52, what did anyone know?" said Mrs. Shenefield. The Shenefields like to U.F.O. watch near a New Hampshire airport. "A National Enquirer reporter came once," Mrs. Shenefield said. "He was a skeptic and then U.F.O.'s came and it blew his mind."

"Marianne has info there should be something at 8:40 tonight," said Mr. White.

"Eight-twenty," Mrs. Shenefield said, "What we're looking for is a triangle-shaped ship." "Triangles are a dime a dozen up here," said Ms. Crystall.

After dinner, they stopped by a home owned by a local teacher who is a U.F.O. regular. Over cake and coffee, Ms. Crystall showed photos she had taken. To the untrained eye they looked like dots of light in dark skies, but the more experienced U.F.O. people were impressed. Suddenly the teacher said, "What's that light out the window?"

"A car," said Ms. Crystall.

"Oh, right," said the teacher.

Later, four of them sat in their cars in the rain for more than an hour. Mr. White stood in the field with his umbrella and tried for a better view, but there was nothing. "When you see one, it's fantastic," Ms. Crystall said. "Makes up for all the wasted nights." She was home early, by 11.

TIMES, Beverly, MA - Aug. 10, 1987 CR: B. Greenwood

# UFO stories keep public's attention

By CORIA HOLLAND  
Times staff

WENHAM — When Raymond Fowler, now an expert on UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects), told his friends he saw a flying disc, his friends thought he was crazy. This was the sentiment shared by most Americans in the 1940s.

Forty years and thousands of UFO sightings later, UFOs are a household word. The UFO phenomena may be attributed to movies like Steven Spielberg's "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "E.T." or even more recently to books that tell the stories of little creatures coming to earth.

"Communion," a book written by Whitley Strieber, recounts what the writer says is a true story of a visit of an extraterrestrial creature that inserted a needle behind Steiber's right ear.

Budd Hopkins' book, "Intruders," tells about the experience of a young Indiana woman, Kathie Davis, who claims she was tampered with by aliens. "Light Years," by Gary Kinder, is another book that tells of an encounter of Eduard Meier with an alien from outer space, complete with photos of a flying saucer.

Fowler, national director of Investigations for the Mutual UFO Network, receives numerous calls about similar UFO sightings from all over the world. The network's mission is to investigate and document UFO reports. The network's membership includes 1,500 to 2,000 people mostly of armed services background. Fowler served in the Air Force during the 1950s, where he was later assigned to its Security Service under the National Security Agency. He now teaches courses at North Shore Community College on UFOs and astronomy and runs his own planetarium.

Although Fowler served in the Air Force, he blames the government for trying to hide UFO sightings from the public and therefore trying to make us believe that UFOs do not exist.

"They know how to downplay it. They set up a policy when people report seeing UFOs. No information was released on the subject, so they couldn't be identified. It was very, very discouraging for those who report UFOs," said Fowler.

"There was a classic sighting in Exeter, N.H. of a close encounter of the first kind when a policeman, obviously a responsible citizen, was confronted with something as big as a barn."

The officer was ridiculed by his co-workers and supervisor. He was so marred by the incident and the fact that no one believed him that he left his job, his relationship with his family was diminished, and he ended up leaving town, according to Fowler. When the man contacted the Air Force, he was again encouraged to think that he had seen a natural phenomena.

"The Air Force would make anyone who reported UFOs feel ridiculous," said Fowler. "They felt that public participation (reports of sightings) was a headache."

Fowler has worked on several cases which he says were also "explained away" by natural phenomena by the government. He studied for more than two

years and wrote several books on the Andresson Family of South Ashburton, Mass., who reported seeing a UFO and aliens on Jan. 25, 1967.

The family lived in a rural area near a field. The mother and children were in the house one evening when she looked out the window and saw orange lights flashing and pulsating. She told the father who went out to investigate and found five creatures that looked like people with halloween masks. They were not walking on the ground. They were sort of floating in an up-and-down movement. The family remembers the aliens walking by and before they knew anything they had entered the house — coming right through the walls, according to Fowler.

The aliens, although they did not talk, told the family that they would not be harmed. They were taken aboard the ship, where the mother's naval was inserted with a needle, he said.

This type of incident is termed a close encounter of the third kind, when humanlike or "humanoids" are reported being seen with a UFO. In this case, temporary detainment of the UFO witness has been reported, according to Fowler.

Close encounters of the second kind include reports of UFO sightings nearby which might result in interference with car ignition systems, impressions or burned marks on the ground.

Betty and Barney Hill, a New Hampshire couple, experienced both types of encounters, a second and third, on Sept. 19, 1961, and was later depicted in a movie starring actor James Earl Jones.

Fowler did not participate in the investigation but followed the case. Hill and his wife were driving down a secluded road near Hampton Falls, N.H. when he noticed something in the sky. He pulled over, put his gun in his pocket and took his binoculars out. Later, under hypnosis, Hill recalled seeing creatures with wraparound eyes. He tried to move but was being held by some force.

Fowler recounts Hill saying while under hypnosis, "I felt like a rabbit cornered by a dog."

"He tried so hard to get away, he even broke his binocular straps. He ran to the car and drove down a dirt road. The car came to a halt and the UFO slid over the car. Hill and his wife were taken out of the car and examined."

"Next thing they knew he (Hill) was driving on the dirt road again," said Fowler.

In many instances, people are not sure what has happened. After experiencing a close encounter of the third kind, many people can not account for the lost time, said Fowler.

A close encounter of the first kind is a UFO sighting within 200 yards. The Center for UFO Studies receives reports on at least 70-80,000 UFO sightings and that is "just the tip of the iceberg," according to Fowler.

However, the number of sightings does say something about the awareness factor, he said.

"There is an awareness factor of 98 percent. People know what they are talking about when they say they have seen a UFO. More people are willing to go on record," he said.

PRESS, Sheboygan, WI - July 20, 1987 CR: R. Heiden

## Many UFO Sightings Go Unreported

MADISON (AP) — Thea Hefty and police officers Kevin Plendl and Scott McElroy may discover in the weeks ahead that they have far more in common with strangers than they had imagined.

Hefty did something unusual when she saw a strange, bright object hovering in the sky over Waunakee early Tuesday. She called the police.

When Plendl and McElroy arrived at her home and spent an hour watching the unidentified flying object hang in the sky, they also did something out of the ordinary: they filled out a report on the incident.

Lavonne Freidig of Belleville said friends and strangers alike have confided similar experiences to her after reading of the sightings she and other residents reported.

She described the object she spotted from her back door last March as a cigar-shaped object with three spheres attached to it, hovering just above the tree-line in the afternoon sky.

The Stewart Airport fire chief, Arnold Messer, has heard the U.F.O. tales. "There's a group of pilots from the airport near here at Stormville who like to pretend to be U.F.O.'s," he said. "They fly in formation for just that reason." He said they put different color lights on their planes to fake people out. "We see them," he said, "we just say, 'the boys at Stormville are at it again.'"

Asked about this the next day, Ms. Crystall said, "They told you that? That's the old story! Apparently he doesn't know what the heck's going on."

"A reasonable estimate is that only one in 10 sightings are reported," Mark Rodeghier, a sociologist at the University of Illinois Chicago Circle campus and scientific director of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, said in a telephone interview.

"Very few policemen go public with their sightings," he added.

"I was stunned," was how Plendl described his reaction to the glowing object with red and blue flashing lights, from which an egg-shaped object separated, then flew off at high speed.

"I have to admit I have never seen anything like that," police chief Frank Balistreri chuckled the day after the sighting. "I don't know if I would admit it if I did."

The sighting, which prompted some Waunakee wags to dub their community "The Land of Milk and Martians" is one of about 30 reported in Wisconsin so far this year.

That doesn't come close to constituting a "wave" of UFO sightings, which Rodeghier defines as hundreds or thousands of reports of sightings.

The UFO scene actually has been pretty quiet for 14 years, he said. The Waunakee report also is unlikely to provide many clues to the mystery of UFOs, he added.

"It's a typical light-in-the-sky case," Rodeghier said. "Lights in the sky aren't that interesting. The reason is they aren't of research value."

Nevertheless, Don Schmitt of Milwaukee, the center's Wisconsin coordinator, was planning a visit to

the area over the weekend.

Schmitt also investigated the Belleville sightings, and concluded there was no ready explanation for the objects people reported seeing — they were genuine UFOs.

Rodeghier is more intrigued by UFOs that leave behind physical evidence. While no piece of metal or alien form of life has been recovered from a UFO sighting — which would pretty well pin down its origin as extraterrestrial — he said there have been inexplicable marks left on the ground where UFOs are reported to have landed.

"Those traces don't mean extraterrestrial spacecraft," Rodeghier said. "They do mean phenomena that can't be explained."

But there are a lot of things that Rodeghier can't explain about UFO sightings, even the sporadic attention that news media pay to the phenomena.

His own theory on UFOs?

"I'm scientific enough not to go out on a limb," Rodeghier said. But he added, "The best evidence is not inconsistent with the hypothesis that some sightings are indeed alien spacecraft."



Ellen Crystall

# Researcher interviews those who report UFOs

By MITCH WEISS

Associated Press Writer

LIMA, Ohio — When John Timmerman gazes at the night sky for stars he also looks for unidentified flying objects.

Timmerman, a marketing vice president for a Lima savings and loan, is also vice president of public relations for the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago. He has interviewed hundreds of people who claim to have seen UFOs and some who said they had been abducted by extraterrestrials.

HE SAYS he's not trying to persuade anybody that space aliens exist.

"I'm just trying to let the people who have these experiences know that we'd like to talk to them and make their cases part of our study," he said.

Timmerman said a man in Delphos had recently seen something that looked like a UFO on the outskirts of the northwest Ohio town. He said he would investigate the sighting.

"I'm not saying it was an extraterrestrial craft or UFO ... it's just that we don't know yet what it was. Many of these things end up being explained. But the ones that don't ... are the ones that remain in the file as the material from which we do studies of the phenomenon. And we have thousands of those. We have over 80,000 good cases on file in Chicago."

TIMMERMAN has never seen a UFO, but says he asks a battery of questions of those who have to determine if the sighting can be explained.

"Often they see the planet Venus and they don't recognize it," he said. "Sometimes under the right conditions, Venus, and sometimes Jupiter, can be seen in the daylight. You have to know a little bit about astronomy and a little bit about human psychology."

He says there have been 40 to 50 UFO sightings in the Lima area that he considers valid. Because he has gone public with his research, he feels more people in the area are apt to come to him if they see something in the sky they can't explain.

"THEY KNOW I'm interested in the subject so they're willing to talk," he said. "That might occur elsewhere if there were a John Timmerman in Toledo or someplace else who had equal visibility to trust and take the information."

He became interested in UFOs shortly after graduating from Cornell University in 1947, the year he read a newspaper account of a pilot who said he had seen nine silver objects hover near his plane. Timmerman calls that the first publicly discussed UFO sighting.

Later that year, he became involved in a study at Ohio Northern University which examined UFO sightings in the Midwest.

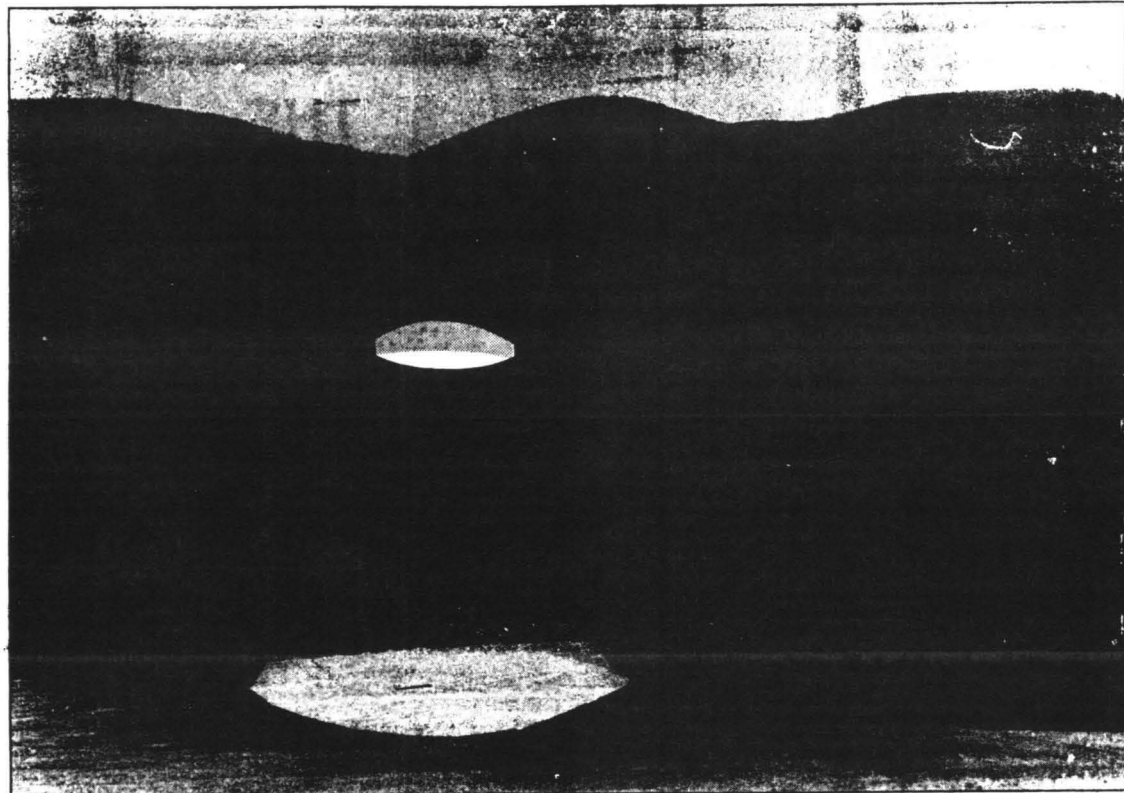
HIS INTEREST in the subject waxed and waned until 1979, when someone from Ohio State University who was active in UFO research spoke to a local group. After the lecture, Timmerman told her of his interest, and she recommended he contact the Chicago center.

He was asked to join its board of directors. He now helps the center with publicity and recently attended the 40th annual Mutual UFO Network International Symposium in Washington. About 450 people attended to listen to UFO specialists talk about developments in the alien world.

The major topic at this year's symposium was the abduction phenomenon.

He said reports of abductions by some type of space entities were not new, but that widespread understanding of them was.

"I BELIEVE the people are thoroughly convinced it happened to them," he said. "I can't say I'm thoroughly convinced it happened



## Close encounters on Mount Spokane

By MINNIE HORSMANN

You wouldn't believe there was a fleet of spaceships zipping around Mount Spokane just a few years ago, would you?

But according to several reliable witnesses, such sightings were made.

Eleanor and Harold Opsal, who lived on Feehan Road on the north side of Mount Spokane on Feb. 6, 1969, and now Loon Lake residents, give a most graphic picture of such a sighting.

Harold, who worked the swing shift for the Spokane County Road Department, was returning home at about 12:45 a.m. when he saw what he thought was the moon reflecting on his eye glasses. Upon taking a closer look, he saw a large round dome, which emitted a bright blue light, parked in a steep little field just below the rim of the ridge that runs up to the mountain.

Harold parked his vehicle and went into the house. He woke his wife and told her of the strange visitor in the upper field. He went to bed while Eleanor sat up until 3:30 watching the "saucer." The blue light was the color of a welding arc, she said, and the whole ship, which she estimated to be the size of a hip-roofed barn, seemed to pulsate. No openings, windows or landing ramps were visible. No little space-suited beings were running around checking the tires, either.

Mrs. Opsal said their watchdog snoozed through the whole thing and at 3:30 the spaceship vanished, and she did not see the manner of its going.

About 10 days later Mrs. Opsal went to an eye specialist because her eyes were troubling her. The doctor asked if she had been watching someone weld with her eyes unprotected. Eyedrops cleared up the irritation, but Mrs. Opsal said her nose, ears and lips also suffered a slight burn.

That same year a neighbor, Dale Barbour on Holcolm Road, was awakened at 5:45 a.m. by her Norwegian elk hound, which, she said, was having a fit. In her back yard between the barn and the house, was a saucer — 30 feet in circumference and as tall as

a two-story barn — with a bay window. It was pulsating, as if a turning light flashed rainbow colors. She couldn't see very well, as it was foggy. She had the impression that the ship furnished its own fog.

Others saw strange sights for up to two years—flashing lights in the sky, darting erratically, hovering as no plane could. One New Year's Eve something paralleled the car the Opsals and some Spokane friends were driving in, its flight about a quarter-mile to the right of them. It came southwest over the ridge and finally shot straight east and up to the top of Mount Spokane.

After the Opsal and Barbour sightings, the incidents were reported to the authorities at Fairchild Air Force, and six weeks later the USAF came to investigate. There was nothing to see — no burn circles or deeply scorched earth, but radioactive readings at the purported landings were high. The investigators suggested a high magnetic field in the area and the existence of high-power electrical line strung shortly before by Inland Power and Light might have something to do with the manifestations.

Some neighbors thought the ships were using the electrical lines as a source of free power.

One former neighbor claimed there was a circle in his field where nothing would grow. He thought a saucer landed there.

And Ben Milne, who lives 13 miles from the Spokane highway, a truck driver who also drove a Mead school bus for 22 years, said he and his wife first saw something odd in the Spokane skies in the summer of 1950. The young couple, not yet wed, were babysitting near the Downriver Golf Course when they saw what they first thought was a commercial plane dawdling at a very slow speed. The silver fuselage looked like a circle, however, and the ship had no wings or tail. It was late in the afternoon and remained in sight for two minutes before vanishing.

Milne said his wife often saw strange lights in the sky when she cleaned at the Mount Spokane ski lodge after they moved to the area, complete with blue pulsating illumination, erratic darting. Once they saw a formation of lights moving through the sky at 9 p.m.

Milne, braver than most, attempted signaling in Morse Code with a flashlight, but received no answer.

He also tells the best story of all, and the one that's uncheckable, since the man whom it allegedly happened to is no longer living. The man, referred to as "Old Swede Erickson," was a Mount Spokane pioneer who made his living logging.

Many years ago, as the story goes, a domed space ship settled on some brush a few feet from where Erickson was skidding with a horse. The shiny saucer was accompanied by a big wind, had bay windows and balanced on three legs. When the wind died down a landing ramp descended from the ship and three men came out, wearing shiny coveralls. They spoke no understandable language, but looked, Erickson claimed, like us. They took considerable interest in his horse, which was shaking in fright. The whole works vanished leaving Erickson and his horse standing there.

"I tell nobody but you," Erickson told Milne. "Others, dey tink I'm crazy, but it was nothing from here."

Opsal also mentioned a mare and a colt that were pastured near where he saw his domed saucer. When the owner came to check on them, the colt had vanished and the mare, heavily in milk the day before, was dry as a bone. No one found the colt, so maybe the spacemen found they could take one with them (or a mountain lion had a dandy breakfast). At any rate, the mare's health declined until she finally died.

Craig and Marian Opsal, who bought their parents' 120-acre farm in 1979, haven't seen anything odd there or any of the neighbors for many years.

But they all agree they saw many odd manifestations over a two-year period almost 20 years ago.

Mrs. Opsal said she had an eerie feeling about the whole thing; Harold Opsal said he didn't worry about it, although he'd like to know exactly what it was.

When asked if they thought it was something from outer space, Mrs. Opsal said "I do—I certainly do." Mr. Opsal: "I don't know." Milne said, "I think it was far beyond our understanding."

But everyone agreed it was "a weird two years."

to them myself. It's possible that things may be occurring and we just don't comprehend them because at this point it's beyond our understanding."

Alien beings are thought to impose some sort of memory loss on victims so that the event may be recalled only by reaching into the subconscious, he said. No one knows what these entities hope to gain from abducting humans and subjecting them to various physical indignities, but Timmerman hypothesized that perhaps they come from a dying planet and enter our environment for a genetic boost.

TIMMERMAN says those who ridicule his work are entitled to their opinion.

"I think there are things in our environment that we can't begin to understand ... I think that really we are not as far from the door of the cave as we sometimes think we are.

"One of the things we need to explore carefully is the human mind," he said. "If these events are not occurring as people think they are, if they're not really happening in real time and in our environment as we think they are, then there's something very interesting about the human mind and its ability to perceive this."





SPECTATOR, London, England - Aug. 1, 1987 CR: T. Good

## Danger from little green men supporters

Adrian Berry

ABOVE TOP SECRET: THE WORLDWIDE UFO COVER-UP by Timothy Good Sidgwick & Jackson, £14.95

I do not know how many trees were cut down to produce this 590-page diatribe, but I wish they had been left standing. It is an evil book. Little of it is original, much of it is false. The implications seem to recommend a witch hunt. Mr Good's thesis is that thousands of alien spacecraft, filled with alien beings, regularly visit the Earth. And the reason we know nothing about them is that there is a vast inter-governmental conspiracy to keep their existence secret.

Now there are two good reasons why this is extremely improbable, and Mr Good, to his discredit, does not mention either of them. Any spaceship capable of crossing the vast gulfs between the stars, even if it only carried a dozen crewmen, would have to weigh more than 50,000 tons. It would be as big as a supertanker. It would need this mass and volume to accommodate both its engines and its immense quantities of fuel.

For the distances between the stars are on average a million times greater than those between our local planets. Mars, at its closest approach, is a 'mere' 49 million miles away. But the distance to the nearest star, Proxima Centauri, is a staggering 26 million miles. A ship that could cover that distance within a reasonable voyage time would need stupendous capabilities of acceleration and deceleration. It would be a vehicle of truly monstrous power and size. In no way could its dimensions be shrunk, as Mr Good glibly assumes, to the size of an executive jet.

Nor, if it landed on Earth, could it be concealed by any terrestrial government. It would be equally impossible for it to remain secretly in Earth's orbit while its scoutships descended to the surface. It would be spotted within hours by observers in Jodrell Bank and Norad — not to mention any competent amateur with binoculars. And it does not occur to Mr Good that the creatures who would undertake such a voyage would be very much cleverer than we are. It is ridiculous to suggest that our government officials, with their puny technology, would be able to

arrest them or do away with them.

Mr Good shows no signs of being aware of the progress in space science, or even in terrestrial exploration, that has been made in the last two decades. 'I have been informed by reliable sources,' he writes, 'that some of them [the aliens] have bases within the solar system, or even here on Earth.' How strange then, that Nasa's unmanned space probes, which have scoured the solar system, and the explorers who have examined every part of our own planet's surface, have found no trace of such 'bases'.

I have called this book 'evil' and I mean it. Mr Good's ideas are those of a maniac. But he writes with a certain coarse eloquence, and there is a danger that he might infect others as uneducated as himself. In 1965, that great science writer Arthur C. Clarke wrote a denunciation of people like Good. He refused to see them as harmless cranks, but rather as a threat to our society. His words ring as true today as they did 22 years ago:

You cannot hope to build a stable democracy out of people who will believe in little green men from Venus. A willingness to accept unsupported statements without demanding proof is the greatest asset of the demagogue and the dictator. It is not so long ago that some people were saying: 'The Jews are plotting against the Reich!' and: 'I have in my hand a list of 205 Communists in the State Department'. Those voices are stilled now, but there will be others like them.

It is Mr Good's implied course of action that I found most sinister. Since government officials are concealing knowledge of the aliens, they must be made to come clean. He does not state this openly, but he hints at it. 'The intelligence community must be reminded that they are accountable to the Congress or Parliament . . . and we are entitled to some of the truth.'

Despite the silken tones, that passage reminded me of one of the most terrifying historical narratives I have read: Hugh Trevor-Roper's account of the 17th-century European witch hunts. The accused were guilty, whether they admitted or denied their guilt. They were questioned under torture, and whatever the outcome of the questioning they were condemned to death by torture. The worst crime was to deny the existence of witches, for that was to abet them. Hundreds of thousands perished.

I have no reason to believe that Mr Good advocates torture and murder. But he does not seem to realise that such things could all too easily happen if a frenzied mass movement were to take up his ideas. Perhaps without intending it, he encourages such a movement. For evidence of this, we need look no further than his title. 'Cover-up' openly implies criminality, and criminals have to be punished.

The dust jacket tells us that he is also a professional violinist. Better for the world if he and his kind were always so harmlessly employed.

## We saw a UFO, say York women

YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS, York, England - Oct. 1, 1987 CR: T. Good

A YORK mother and her two daughters froze in fear as a mysterious oblong object hung shimmering in the dawn sky.

They watched the huge bright red apparition for about four seconds before it disappeared — and all are convinced it was not the sun coming up.

Astronomers in York are treating the incident as a genuine sighting of an unidentified flying object after listening to descriptions given by Mrs Val Sutcliffe and her daughters, Amanda and Louise, of Marston Crescent, Acomb. All three work at Terry's factory, in York.

### Knavesmire

Amanda, aged 19, a cake packer, said: "It was frightening, all of us were very scared. It was like a big red semi-circle with a long oblong bit on top. It definitely was not the sun coming up, it was far too big and close for that."

After its brief appearance the UFO dropped down then quickly

disappeared from sight. Amanda said: "I didn't believe in them before — none of us did — but now we all firmly believe we saw a UFO."

The Sutcliffes' sighting occurred at 7.10 on Tuesday in Tadcaster Road, York.

Two other sightings, also by Terry's workers, could confirm the UFO theory. A girl cycling across Knavesmire and a driver in Tadcaster Road also saw something very large in the sky.

The secretary of York Astronomical Society, Mr Martin Taylor, said the description of a cigar shape with a red hemisphere underneath was "unusual."

"The fact that several people saw it at different places makes it more convincing. We are very interested in the sighting," he added.

But officers at RAF Linton-on-Ouse reported blank radar screens at the time of the sightings. A spokesman said: "Yorkshire seems to be becoming the place to see UFOs — but nothing has shown up on our screens yet."

SPECTATOR, London, England - Aug. 15, 1987 CR: T. Good

## UFO frenzy

Sir: I found Mr Adrian Berry's review of *Above Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Cover-up* (Books, 1 August) as bizarre as the subject matter concerned, in particular his fear that the author's statement '... the intelligence community must be reminded that they are accountable to the Congress or Parliament . . . and we are entitled to some of the truth' may lead to the 20th century equivalent of the 17th-century witch hunts. Mr Berry's suggestion that the author's innocuous desire could easily lead to 'frenzied mass movement' must be one of the most ludicrous things I have ever read in your magazine, and also quite the most hilarious. The image of thousands of rampaging UFO loonies burning to death members of the intelligence services across the USA and Britain in order to learn the truth about flying saucers is very funny.

What is even funnier is that Mr Berry seems unaware that at the moment the media is full of people making that same demand of the intelligence community (though not, admittedly, to find out the

truth about little green men) but who haven't, so far, set off the conflagration that he fears.

I look forward to reading future contributions from Mr Berry. He is almost as amusing as Jeffrey Bernard.

John Brosnan

Flat 2,  
6 Lower Road,  
Harrow, Middlesex

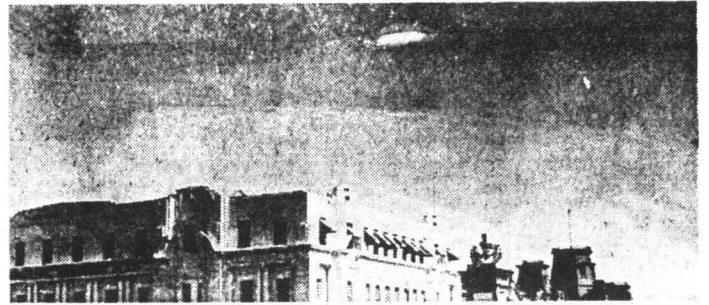
SUNDAY SPORT, London, England - Sept. 20, 1987 CR: T. Good

## IT'S A FLASHER

A UFO with flashing lights was seen by FIFTY people on the same night.

Scores of independent reports flooded in about the sighting of a floating circular machine between 10 and 12 pm on August 16.

The UFO was seen throughout Derbyshire.



File photo of a "flying saucer" seen over the United States in 1961.

## Believers, skeptics look to skies

Events have a way of overtaking memory. Thirty years ago, when I was a teenager, (do I dare admit it?) the cold war was heating up. The call went out for anyone who was interested in being a member of the Ground Observer Corps to attend a meeting of right minded citizens and to sign up as a volunteer. We came in all shapes and sizes, both sexes, from a diverse range of backgrounds. The common thread weaving us all together was a love of country coupled with keen eyes.

Over a period of time we learned to identify aircraft by a silhouette, using a complex instant scan system that we stored in our memories. Those of us who passed the skills test at the end of the training period received a badge, pin and certificate attesting to our competency as observers.

Then one day an event took place that challenged my sharp eyes. Accompanied by a friend (who was also an observer), the two of us set out through the woods, talking and gossiping as girls are wont to do. Both of us were woods smart, having been raised in a country setting. We became aware that the normal hum of the forest had stopped, and the absence of reassuring sound made us both comment on how quiet everything had become. Looking up at the sky through a canopy of forest boughs, we observed three jet aircraft flying at a very fast rate of speed. Training took over. No contrails appeared in the sky and no sound of the planes could be heard. Perhaps by this time, we were both noting something unusual. At any rate, all three craft suddenly veered toward us and literally hovered, motionless. I can still feel the tingle of fear that made itself known on my spine. It seemed like ages, then suddenly the craft simply disappeared.

We left the woods faster than we had entered, and my parents were the first to hear the story. It was met with disbelief, and the final clincher was when my mother said "I wouldn't tell that story around here, you won't get any babysitting jobs."

The following week both of us attended the Ground Observer Corps meeting where we timidly relayed the report of our encounter. It was met with guffaws, shakes of disbelieving heads, and the occasional index finger pointing to the temple. The matter was politely laid to rest by one sage observer who briskly said, "You've seen your first unidentified flying object . . . we'll note it in the logbook." then more quickly, "Next item of business."

Thirty years have gone by and there

has been little time to think about that day, until the other night driving along the Bicentennial Highway. It was to be a night of meteor showers, but any rate, those of us in the car experienced what looked like a rocket attack whizzing over our heads in a burst of silver followed by an explosion of fiery light. "What the heck was that?" as we instinctively ducked its trajectory. The fireball was large and awesome. The next day the astronomy department at Dalhousie University assured me that there have been other calls in other years describing the same phenomena. All of which leads me to the finale of this recounting.

## Perspective

By Francene Cosman

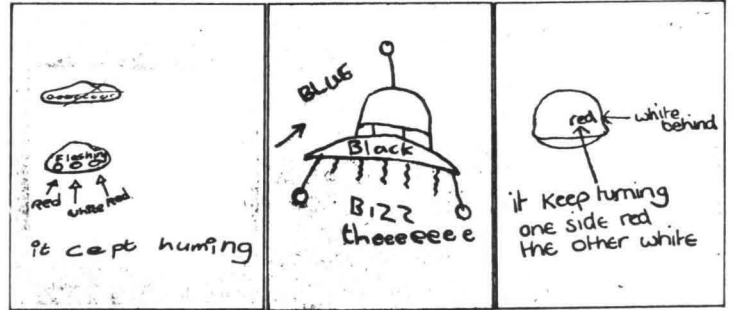
Sitting around a campfire this past weekend, a group of us remarked about the clear sky in the country and how great the stars looked. I relayed the experience of the rocket burst over the car and the story picked up from there. My farmer friend, who will appreciate remaining, told us all of his experience last winter while driving his truck in Uniacke. Overhead he observed a saucer shaped object, approximately 75 feet in width, with brilliant lights directed downward in a cone shape. He described how the trees looked as though they were illuminated from the lights of the craft and how it appeared to hover. His comment that he thinks it mesmerized him was intriguing. He could not remember actually driving his truck over the next two miles yet he did. He was aware only of becoming more alert and aware after the truck had passed along from the point of encounter. He was accompanied by another farmer who also experienced this. For what it is worth, this man is what I describe as the salt-of-the-earth farmer. Hard working, decent, and a family man, not prone to making up tales in the dark to pass the time away.

The skeptics out there will simply say daft. The believers will affirm another recounting of what they already consider to be true. I am on the believing side, and encourage anyone else who has had similar experiences to identify them. It is time to re-open the Canadian equivalent of the government blue book on unidentified flying objects.

MAIL-STAR/CHRONICLE-HERALD, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada - Aug. 24, 1987 CR: G. Eberhart

Children see flying saucer . . . and hunt is on for helicopter that buzzed it

# The junior UFO gang set poser for experts



CLOSE encounter . . . three pupils' drawings of the saucer.

Schoolchildren who spotted a UFO have baffled extra-terrestrial investigators.

In two separate incidents youngsters at St Joseph's primary school in Leigh claim to have seen mysterious objects hovering over their playground.

The 10 and 11-year-olds are so certain of what they saw they have drawn sketches and given detailed accounts to the experts. Now the sightings, spread over two days, are being checked by UFO investigators from the direct Investigation Group on aerial phenomena.

North West investigator Steve Balon said: "The reports given by the youngsters are very detailed and, despite checking with both airport and Met Office representatives I have been unable to find anything to explain what they saw."

Steve, who lives in Woodlands Avenue, Leigh, added: "The first incident was at lunchtime last Tuesday when about 30 youngsters in the yard say they saw a helicopter chasing a circular object which was flashing red and white lights."

"The craft appeared to be dodging the helicopter in the clouds and then it suddenly pulsed very brightly and shot up into the sky."

Excited pupils dashed in to tell dumbfounded staff what they had seen. Steve said: "Two days later several more children, this time attending an early evening youth club at the school, reported seeing an identical object."

By Evening News Reporter

"I have tried everything I know to identify the helicopter but unfortunately without success. The pilot obviously has a lot to tell."

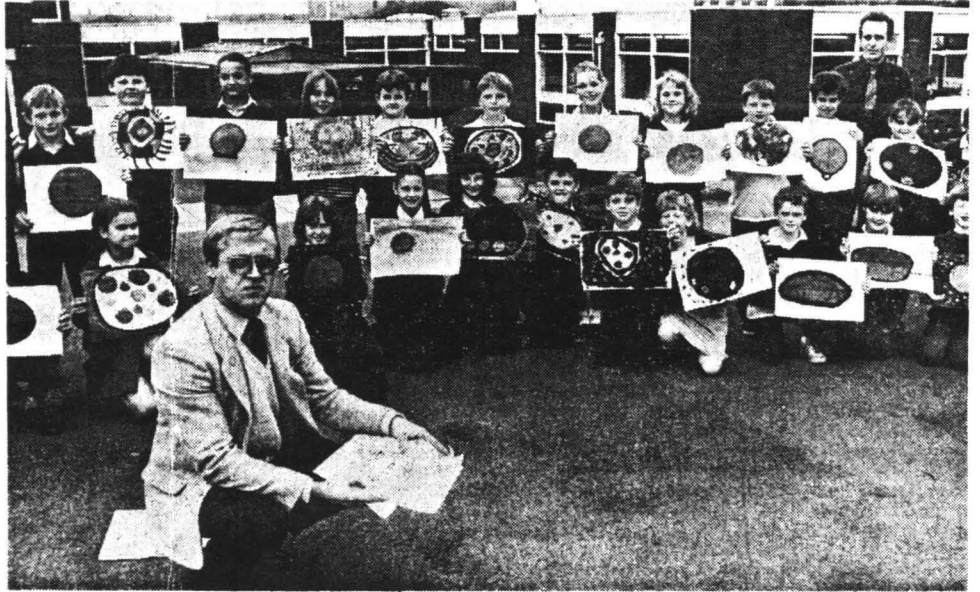
Deputy headmaster Mr Bruce Nutter said: "I can only repeat what the children told me. They were adamant that they had seen some kind of UFO being followed by a helicopter."

"Descriptions vary slightly but most of them describe an object going round and round with red and white flashing lights."

"Several youngsters did sketches of what they had seen."

"There is bound to be some scepticism but the children are convinced that they saw something strange."

Steve said: "For the past 20 years I have been involved in investigating these kind of incidents."



UFO investigator Steve Balon with the saucer spotters of St Joseph's and their sketches.

# Maltby UFO spotter says: 'I'm no loony'

A MALTBY COUPLE who spotted mysterious flashing lights in the night sky spoke this week of their 25 minutes of horror.

Welder Mark Jones (25) told the Advertiser that they were convinced that what they saw as an unidentified flying object.

While Mark kept an eye on the bright green, red and white flashing lights, Mrs Jones went to alert Rotherham police.

And what happened next really baffled them!

Explained a startled Mark: "What threw me was that we had been watching the thing for 25 minutes, but as soon as my wife began speaking to the police on the telephone it vanished."

"It really put the wind up my wife."

"If someone had told me what I'm telling you I would probably have said they were crackers. But I'm no loony and we both know what we saw."

The couple were at home at about 11pm on Monday when Mark's attention was aroused by a noise outside and he went to the window to investigate.

Then he called Mrs Jones, a clerical worker, to

look at the mystery lights.

He went on: "I couldn't make out any shape but as we watched, a white object came out from between the lights and flew off at speed. It was really shifting."

"Whatever it was we were watching it was not an ordinary aircraft because it stayed in one place for at least 25 minutes. How long it had been there before that I don't know."

"I don't think it was a helicopter because of the way it just disappeared as my wife was reporting it."

"That told me it wasn't an aircraft or anything like that and it was too low to be a star. I just rubbed my eyes."

The couple say they were unable to determine the height of the lights or their distance from Maltby, but said they were looking towards Rotherham when they spotted them.

Rotherham police said that after receiving Mrs Jones's telephone call they checked with RAF Finningley who suggested the lights could have been on an aircraft waiting to make a landing.

GAZETTE, Gwent, England  
Sept. 3, 1987 CR: T. Good

## UFO sighting claim

The RAF are investigating a 'UFO sighting' by a Rassau resident Mr M Sullivan, of Graig Ebbw, who told police he spotted three 'revolving objects' in the sky through his binoculars at 9.30 pm last Thursday.

He said one of the lights zig-zagged around the others before they all disappeared.

A police spokesman said UFO sightings were reported to the RAF for aircraft flight path checks.

DAILY MAIL, London, England - Aug. 20, 1987

## Spaceman in a shed takes off for Down Under

By ROGER SCOTT

A BRITON'S garden shed invention that could make flying saucers a reality is to be developed by an Australian high-tech company.

The firm flew in three executives to snap up Sandy Kidd's brainchild, developed in his shed in Dundee.

The machine, a combination of two gyroscopes, a model aeroplane engine and an electric drill, appears to defy a law of physics by producing thrust without reaction.

Now it is to be shipped to Melbourne, where a team of physicists, mathematicians and engineers will do more work.

Mr Kidd, a 49-year-old Dundee engineer, is going to Australia with his project. "I've never doubted that it will work," he said.

CR: D. Speed

# Pupils in UFO quiz

A UFO investigator was today quizzing children at a Leigh primary school after two sightings of a possible flying saucer over the last week.

claim to have seen a strange spacecraft during playtime on Tuesday afternoon. And there was a second sighting two evenings later outside a youth club run by St Joseph's Church.

The craft was described as round with flashing red lights, mainly round its lower rim, and less than 100 feet long.

Investigator Steve Balon said the children also saw the craft "run rings round" and play "cat and mouse" with a helicopter which appeared to be giving chase.

"On the second occasion, the two lads who saw it said it swooped down over them quite low," added Mr Balon, the North-west representative of the

group Direct Investigations of Aerial Phenomena.

"I've checked with Manchester Airport and the Met. Office to see if there were any planes or weather balloons in the area, and they have no record of any. It's very interesting and could well be significant," said Mr Balon, who lives in Woodlands Avenue, Leigh.

SUNDAY STAR, Auckland, New Zealand  
July 17, 1987 CR: R. Collins

## UFO sighting gets campaign off ground

An unidentified flying object dropped into Auckland on Friday afternoon — only hours before the Aetherius Society launched its UFO campaign.

Auckland volunteer Coast Guard said a Howick engineer reported seeing an oval saucer-shaped hovering between Rangitoto Island and Shelly Beach for several minutes before it zoomed off vertically and disappeared.

Aetherius Society temple president Dr Margaret Kilbey said "This is a marvellous start to our UFO campaign. How lovely."

The society is an international brotherhood which believes UFOs visit earth to offer guidance. Members believe the next Messiah will come to earth in a flying saucer.



# 'WE'VE SEEN UFO 20 TIMES'

THREE West Country women this week told the extraordinary story of their 'close encounters' with a UFO.

The shop assistants say they have seen the strange craft an amazing 20 times and even claim that on one occasion it followed their car.

So mesmerised are they by their weird experiences that they regularly stay up until the early hours of the morning waiting for the object to return.

And they are not alone. No less than 11 other people in South Devon also claim to have seen the UFO during the past few weeks.

Stranger still is that none of the people who say they have seen the UFO says it has any defined shape. And all of them say it is totally silent.

The women, aged 20, 25 and 27, agreed to talk to the Sunday Independent on condition we did not reveal their names.

One said: 'People will think we are crazy.'

But the women, who live in the Teignmouth area, were anxious to tell their story.

It starts about six weeks ago when they were returning from a

trip to Torquay. They were driving through Shaldon when they spotted a strange object in the sky. It had red, green and white lights which flashed intermittently and hovered above the area for about an hour.

'We were simply curious. Not surprisingly when I got home my mum just laughed,' said one of the women.

A week later one of the three

by MIKE BEEVERS

was driving alone towards Teignmouth when she saw the 'thing' again. This time she flashed her car headlights and indicators and she was certain the object flashed back.

'It had about 20 lights of different colours and I am sure it was answering me,' she said.

Another week passed with the three patiently waiting for the UFO to return a third time.

Then it re-appeared in the sky over Stokeinteignhead and, since that third visit, they claim to have seen it about 20 times.

Three weeks ago they were parked in the Point car park when 'we saw the lights, like great big stars moving. It was sort of round with flashing white lights and

hovering above the water.

'When he headed for home about two hours later one of us was really suffering from shock. And it seemed to follow us home.'

The three are almost matter-of-fact about all the other sightings. One said: 'We have got to carry on waiting for it. In a funny way it has almost become part of our evenings out.'

**Disappeared**

'But at the same time it petrifies us. We are upset by it all and still can't really believe it.'

One of the women recently bought a new car. When they saw the UFO yet again the transmission suddenly refused to work. Yet when it disappeared the car was back to normal.

On another occasion they were waiting for it in two cars. When it appeared over the Shaldon area both temperature gauges shot up.

None of the women drinks and all described themselves as 'non-believers' on the subject of UFOs.

They have tried to get proof of their sightings. On Tuesday this week they took 10 snaps of the object from Bishopsteignton. But when the film was developed not one came out.

During the first few weeks of their sightings they took friends with them in the car. But each time they had a fourth person with them the object failed to appear.

On Tuesday they stayed out all night, each taking a day off work on Wednesday to catch up on some sleep.

Meanwhile they are determined to continue their vigil. 'We have no idea what will happen, nor do we really have any idea what we want to happen. But we will carry on whatever happens,' said one.

## Women claim: It followed our car

### OTHER SIGHTINGS SO FAR

THE current spate of UFO sightings over South Devon is the biggest since 1980.

Most of the recent reports started on Tuesday September 15. With a total of 14 people saying they had seen a UFO during the past few weeks the sightings rival June, July and

August 1980 when a similar number contacted local newspapers with their strange tales. The best-known UFO sighting in the area was in 1966 when dozens of people saw a cone-shaped object hovering over Torquay harbour.

## Close encounters in Putney Bridge Road

A report from a Wandsworth UFO Investigator

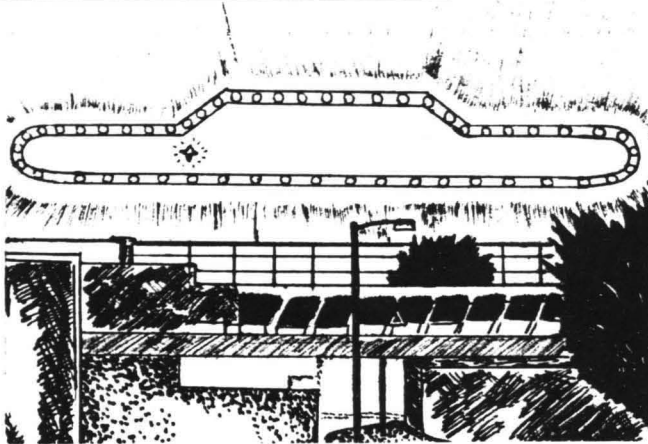
WANDSWORTH has had more than its fair share of sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects over the past years, says Accredited UFO investigator Albert Budden, who lives in the area. He personally has sighted a diamond-shaped object over Merton Road one evening, and he has conducted investigations into other sightings for the British UFO Research Association, to which he belongs.

One of the most extraordinary of these occurred in Putney Bridge Road. Albert Budden describes it:

'A young footballer, John Loughrey, was walking to the bus stop near the railway bridge in Putney Bridge Road late at night when he saw a strange yellow light hovering high in the sky. Almost as soon as he noticed it, it came hurtling down and came to a sudden halt over a small railway bridge and hovered there. The usually busy road became still and eerily quiet. Both astonished and frightened, John could see that it was a glowing cigar-shaped object of enormous size which filled the sky and was outlined by dozens of round yellow lights. It had a vast turret or dome on top, and a bright star-like light twinkled within the main body of the object. John then remembers nothing until he "came to" and found himself half way home on the top deck of a bus. On getting off at his stop in Earlsfield, he looked up and could still see the object as a yellow light high up in the sky once more. It turned towards him and he ran home in panic without looking back.'

Most of us may be inclined to scoff at this type of tale — and ask whether young John Loughrey had just come from the pub!

However, those in authority take these phenomena seriously, and many countries have set up teams of scientists to collate and investigate sightings. In the Ministry



of Defence, Defence Secretariat Eight is reputedly a special department set up to deal with reported sightings from both civilians and the military. The French have a team of scientists known as 'GEPAN' who conduct research in this area. In the United States six major research projects into UFOs are funded by the Air Force, the CIA, the FBI and the National Security Agency. And in Russia, the Commission for the Investigation of Abnormal Atmospheric Phenomena is a tongue-twisting name for another official UFO-watching group.

As well as the Ministry of Defence's Secretariat Eight, in Britain there are dozens of voluntary study groups spread across the country. Most well known of these is the British UFO Research Association based in London. Members of such groups attend lectures, and eventually take part in investigating the hundreds of UFO reports throughout the British Isles each year.

In June this year Albert Budden reported another sighting in Wandsworth:

'I was walking along Merton Road one evening with my daughter Verity, when we both spotted a small white diamond-shaped object which glided slowly down from tree-top

level and then vanished.'

However, Albert Budden is not convinced that such sightings are visitors from another planet.

Recent research has shown that people who see UFOs are often the same people who see ghosts and have other psychic experiences. This is not to imply that UFO sightings and other psychical phenomena are purely imaginary. Instead it shows that these mysterious objects in the sky are not simply some kind of sci-fi 'nuts and bolts' machine, but that UFOs are in the same family of strange events as other well-documented phenomena such as telepathy and poltergeists. It could be the human mind

has some part to play in them being here.

'Some people prefer to opt for the easily understood idea of beings from another planet,' says Albert Budden. 'However it is becoming increasingly evident to many of those who have studied UFO witnesses that the human mind and the UFO are closely linked in some way.'

Further research may solve such mysteries one day. But in the meantime, any sightings should be reported to the British UFO Research Association. Your local investigator can be contacted on 947 7887.

And remember — Wandsworth has been UFO active in the past. It could be again!

## UFO PROBE

A CYLINDER which crashed on to the roof of a country house sparked off a UFO investigation yesterday.

Saddler Nathaniel Underwood and his wife Elizabeth narrowly escaped when the 12in. long, red-hot metal object fell from the sky at Wychanger Barton, Somerset.

Police who took it away said they assumed it was part of an aircraft, but West Drayton air traffic control said there were no planes flying over the area at the time.

## FROM THE BOOKSHOPS

This week's report is from Austick's Headrow Bookshop in Leeds, where dictionaries score particularly heavily. Otherwise the main sellers are:

### NON-FICTION

**Above Top Secret** by Timothy Good (Sidgwick, £14.95).  
**Behind the Wall** by Colin Thubron (Heinemann, £10.95).  
**Coast to Coast Walks** by A. Wainwright (Michael Joseph, £13.95).  
**Marilyn Among Friends** by Sam Shaw (Bloomsbury, £14.95).

### FICTION

**Chatterton** by Peter Ackroyd (Hamish Hamilton, £10.95).  
**Savages** by Shirley Conran (Sidgwick, £12.95).  
**Serenissima** by Erica Jong (Bantam, £10.95).  
**The Book and the Brotherhood** by Iris Murdoch (Chatto, £11.95).  
**Sarum** by Edward Rutherfurd (Century, £9.95).

CR: T. Good

WILTSHIRE NEWS, Trowbridge, England  
Aug. 14, 1987 CR: T. Good

## FACTS ABOUT THE CIRCLES

Dear Sir: May I comment on the recent mystery circles discovered at Westbury, affectionately known as saucer nests to UFO researchers. The explanations that seem to follow in the wake of these phenomena do become after a time rather tedious in their regularity.

The facts are: No tracks or or from these circles have ever been found; surely this rules out human hoaxers.

Meteorological conditions (whirlwinds, heavy rain, etc) also seem unlikely; indeed when these depressions appeared in 1980 the Met Office stated that it was most unlikely the weather was to blame.

The sharply defined perimeter of these circles would certainly rule out a helicopter as the cause.

May I add at this point that these odd depressions are not unique to the Wiltshire area. In recent years they have also been observed in the Winchester area, another place like Warminster where UFO sightings have been reported.

One can only deduct from the evidence that whatever caused these depressions approached from the air and left the same way.

Yours faithfully,  
STEWART PAYNE  
18 Foresters Park Road,  
Melksham

# WAY TO GO, GRAN!

By IAN AUSTIN  
Staff Reporter

Dorothy Wilkinson has close encounters of the video kind.

The Richmond grandmom has taken over 300 films of UFOs that she claims have defied analysis by experts.

And she says her high-flying films have gained her worldwide fame in UFO journals and books.

But the spry 65-year-old is more interested in exploration than evangelism.

"My biggest concern is what they are, why they're here and what they're doing," she said. "I'm not trying to convince anybody."

Her first, and toughest, converts were her family, after her first sightings 14 years ago.

"There was a light outside our home about four in the afternoon," she said. "Then it started darting in and out of the clouds and I thought: 'Good grief, that thing is real.'"

But her family thought otherwise.

"They were talking behind my back, blaming it on menopause hallucinations. But my six-year-old granddaughter reassured me and said: 'Never mind if they don't believe you — I do.'"

With what she calls her ability to forecast when UFOs would appear, Wilkinson was able to film what others merely talk about.

"The films help a lot because I have something tangible."

Wilkinson's mysterious movies made her an instant paranormal star. She appeared on TV and radio



Staff photo by Colin Price

Dorothy Wilkinson shows off some of her hundreds of UFO shots made over the years.

and in the papers but soon the pace became too much.

"There were so many media people, skeptics and naysayers bugging me, I wanted to get rid of all my movies, burn them in a

bonfire.

"Then a friend told me: 'You can't burn those movies — they're for everybody, not just you.'"

Wilkinson's films feature multi-colored lights skimming across the

sky and split-second "phenomena" when the sky suddenly explodes in flashes of light.

To some viewers other films appear to show huge spacecraft with beings on board.

WESTERN MORNING NEWS, Plymouth, England - Aug. 6, 1987 CR: T. Good

## UFOs 'seen in West'

by ROGER MALONE

A NUMBER of UFO sightings have been reported over Plymouth and Cornwall. Strange configurations of lights have been seen in the night sky where no civil or military aircraft were flying at the time.

Mr. Leonard Hall of Penkenna Close, Crackington Haven near Bude, described what he and his wife saw around midnight on Monday as both "exciting and disturbing."

Looking out the door of their bungalow towards the east they witnessed what appeared at first to be two very bright stars. "They took ten minutes to cover an arc of 90 degrees from east to south, flying at a trajectory of about 20 degrees," said Mr. Hall, a retired Civil servant, who noted the time at about 11.20 p.m.

"As they moved towards the south-east each single light became double and as they moved farther to the south more lights appeared to form a triangle shape composed of many lights — mostly white but with some red flashing ones," he said.

### Clear

Mr. Hall, who observed the phenomenon with a number of neighbours, said there was a 45 minute gap followed by a second sighting. Again two single lights became double lights and moved away slowly through 120 degrees gradually disappearing towards the south.

In Plymouth 40 year-old Bob Boyd, chairman of the local UFO Group was awoken by a phone call from someone who saw strange lights over the city at much the same time as the Crackington Haven sightings.

"As I approached the Tamar Bridge I saw a big low light in the sky over Saltash. At first it appeared stationary then it moved slowly towards the bridge and divided into two," he said.

Plymouth Airport said yesterday there were no civilian aircraft in the area at that time. A spokesman for RNAS Culdrose said that, "occasionally night flying Sea King helicopters were mistaken for UFOs." However there were none on exercises in the Plymouth or Bude areas when the phenomena were sighted.

NORTH WEST STAR, Mt. Isa, Queensland, Australia - Aug. 7, 1987

## NIGHT DRIVER SEES MIN MIN

A Mount Isa builder has seen the fabled Min Min Light.

And he is certain that no intoxicating liquor had passed his lips before the sighting.

Mr Tony Grubic and his associate Ilya Pit-chugin were returning from the Northern Territory in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

They stopped off at Camooweal about 12.15am to refuel their vehicle.

But before they'd gone 5km out of town a large bright light rose from the ground on the right-hand side of their vehicle.

The light then travelled to the left hand-side of the vehicle and kept rising.

Mr Grubic said there was no way that the light could have been the moon as the moon was on the right-hand side of the vehicle.

"The light just kept on

rising and stayed with us all the way to the Mount Isa Airport stopping when we did and then resuming its passage when we did.

"It was a very large bright light, almost goldish in color that at times appeared triangular. We stopped the car and listened for the sounds of a motor but there was none.

"It could not possibly be confused with a helicopter or light aircraft, it was the wrong shape and too bright.

"I attempted to take a photograph of it but my camera was unsuitable," said Mr Grubic.

He said that once they reached the airport the light disappeared.

"We were not frightened but we were a little concerned especially when it continued to follow us. It was definitely something unusual and I'll swear to the day I die that we saw that light," said Mr Grubic.

The Min Min Light is a phenomenon which has attracted a great deal of publicity especially in the Boulia area.

When a North West Star journalist checked with a Boulia resident she was told that the light was not confined to Boulia.

It had been sighted in other areas although the majority of sightings had been reported to the Boulia district.

The legend of the Min Min Light is part of Australian folklore and has even prompted a producer to make a horror film about it in the Boulia area.

There are many Boulia residents and identities who have sighted the light over the years and many stories abound about its origin but actually proving what the light is has baffled many for years.

CR: P. Norman

WESTERN INDEPENDENT, Plymouth, England

Sept. 27, 1987 CR: T. Good

## UFO spotted in the night

SEVERAL sightings of a mysterious UFO with six bright lights have been reported in Torquay and Newton Abbot.

A woman from East Street,

Newton Abbot, said she spotted the strange craft in the early hours of Tuesday morning. It hovered motionless over her house before disappearing into the night.

EVENING NEWS, London, England

Sept. 18, 1987 CR: T. Good

## Pilot in a close encounter

A BRITISH airline pilot claims he saw an Unidentified Flying Object during a flight from Greece.

The UFO was also seen by pilots of two other aircraft as it crossed the sky above the Italian city of Vicenza, near a U.S. base.

The sightings were confirmed by police.

The Italian defence ministry has refused to comment on the incident, but the country's civil aviation authority has ordered an inquiry into the fast-moving, bright objects.

BROMSGROVE WEEKLY MAIL, Birmingham, England Sept. 25, 1987

## It came from outer space!

An unidentified flying object has been seen in the skies over Bromsgrove.

The close encounter of the first kind took place as a woman was travelling from Birmingham to Bromsgrove on the A46 road.

She saw an orange object with a green light on top which seemed "to light up the sky".

And more sightings of the mystery object have been reported to the lo-

cal office of UFO Studies Investigations.

Mr John Hurley, chairman of the British Aerospace-funded organisation, said all the reports had come from people he regarded as reliable witnesses, including a retired police officer and two workmates just finishing their night shift.

Anyone else who saw anything should contact Mr Hurley on 021-360-4580.

CR: T. Good

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Sept. 28, 1987 CR: G. Conway

By IAN AUSTIN  
Staff Reporter

A starry-eyed North Vancouver man is planning a second overnight video vigil on a Mission mountain.

Inspired by Province stories on Fraser Valley UFOs, Ronald Marcel is sure something alien is up there — and that the government is hiding it.

This week, he'll spend another night on Dewdney Peak near Mission to videotape his sightings.

"If I'm there and I'm close enough, I can zoom in and get it on film," Marcel told The Province. "The govern-

ment has many secrets we don't know about."

Last week, Marcel camped out on the mountain looking for UFOs — without success. "I only saw a planet, bright stars, airplanes and falling stars."

But this week he's teaming up with UFO devotee Diane Easton, of nearby Hatlic. Easton gave us her account of extra-terrestrial sightings on Sept. 18.

That was the day after Marcel saw a UFO at Lions Bay.

"There was a jet flying across the sky over Bowen Island," Marcel said.

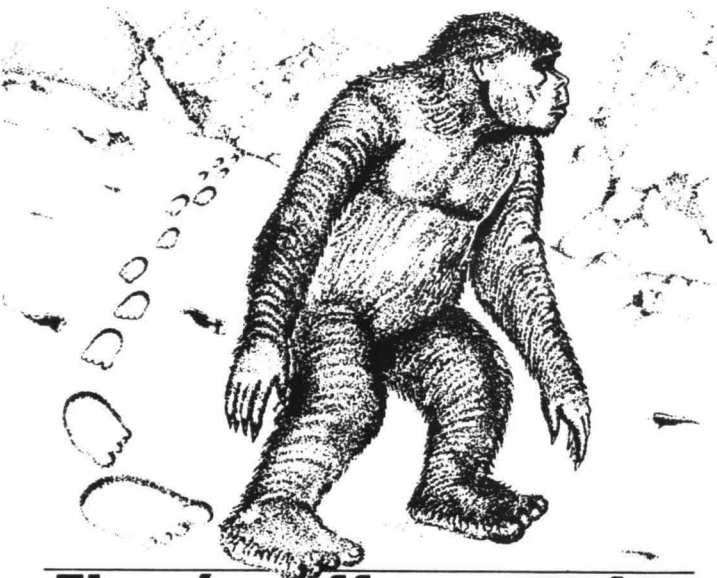
"Then a UFO passed over it going five times faster — it must have been going 3,000 miles per hour."

The next morning he opened his Province to see Easton's story about the Hatlic UFOs. And he decided to launch a probe. "It's very possible we've been visited," he said. "And if we've been visited, it's very possible the governments are covering it up."

Jack Bantosh, of Aldergrove, said he's been seeing strange lights since May 10. And on Sept. 6, Matsqui police Const. John Skorupa reported sighting "dazzling" lights in the Fraser Valley.

## New vigil to sweep skies for UFO lights





**They're off to see the**

**YETI**

By SHARON O'REILLY

**SALESMEN James Barry and Wayne Robinson have made their wills. And now they are off to look for the yeti, the "Abominable Snowman" of the Himalayas.**

They believe they will be the first hunters of the mysterious hair-covered creature that people have glimpsed but never caught.

For the border region between Nepal and Tibet has just been opened. And this is where the yeti is believed to roam.

To save money for the three-month expedition, James and Wayne have stopped smoking and going out with girls. And they have both given up their \$50,000-a-year jobs.

When the two set off on their yeti hunt, they hope to have \$10,000 with them. And they will be armed with only a camera.

James, 30, explained: "We believe the yeti lives in this region of the Himalayas. The opening of the border will start a series of yeti expeditions. We are just the first of many."

"We know the yeti will be found within the next five years. It's just a question of who is lucky enough to get to him first."

"We are convinced he is out there somewhere. There have been so many sightings of the creature — footprints seen in the snow and the discovery of yeti scalps — that it is just a question of finding him ourselves."

If James and Wayne, aged 29, from Leicestershire, in England, do find the legendary creature, they don't plan to bring him back to civilisation. Wayne said: "We will probably sit and stare in amazement, and then photograph it. But it would be unfair to take the yeti away from its natural environment."

The two friends, who have little mountaineering experience, know they are taking a big risk and might not even come back.

A yeti is reported to have attacked a

young girl and killed two of her yaks. Then there are dangers lurking in the wild country where the half-man half-beast is said to roam.

James told me: "There are so many risks, but our greatest will be wild animals like tigers, then there are snakes and insects."

"Even though we've had all the inoculations there are strange killer diseases, such as mountain sickness, which we could catch."

"Also, the rapid climatic changes will affect us. And we might even get lost."

**Into the unknown**

Wayne added: "People think we're crackers, but they thought that about Christopher Columbus. We hope to unlock the mystery of the yeti."

So soon the intrepid salesmen, who have been friends for 15 years, will venture into the unknown.

In their bags, they will have the bare essentials for survival — sleeping bags, thermal underwear, food, compasses, cameras and maps. They are also taking some books to read when there is nothing else to do.

James and Wayne have already drawn up their plan of campaign.

Most people believe that the yeti hides in the mountainous regions of the Himalayas. But the two friends believe he is more likely to be lower down, in the forest regions.

Here the vegetation is dense and there is often fog that would allow the creature to remain unseen. And there are few humans in the area to disturb the yeti.

Wayne said: "He probably comes out into the snow at night to look for food and fresh water. Then he brings it back to his home — a hole in the ground or a cave."

"This would explain those tell-tale footprints in the snow. I believe the yeti eat rats and that is why people who claim to have been near him say he smells terribly."



★ THE two adventurers and (above left) an artist's impression of the yeti, the mysterious creature they hope to find in the Himalayas.

James and Wayne have also worked out a novel approach in their quest for the yeti. James said: "Instead of going in search of him, we will try to let him come to us."

"Our idea is to stay in one location, remain discreet and draw knowledge from the local people. This is a facet most expeditions ignore. Whenever anything happens near a village, the natives always know. So we will pump them for information about the yeti before doing anything else."

"Even if we don't find the yeti, we can't lose out. For we will bring back a wealth of knowledge about him."

And, even before they start on their strange expedition, the friends are building up a comprehensive picture of their quarry.

James and Wayne recently spent an afternoon with 72-year-old Slavomir Rawicz, who claims to have watched the man-beast for two hours from a distance of 80 yards.

Slavomir tells the story in his book *The Long Walk*. This describes how eight men walked from a Soviet prison camp to India. They tramped across the Gobi Desert, Mongolia, Tibet and Nepal for more than one year. Only four of the eight survived.

And, in the Himalayas, they had the longest-ever recorded sighting of the yeti. Slavomir read about James and Wayne's trip in the local paper and invited them to come to see him.

James recalled: "It was amazing to sit in the same room as someone who had watched the yeti for two hours. We had already read the book but we never dreamed we would meet the author. Slavomir helped to confirm everything we believed in about the yeti. After speaking to him, we are even more enthusiastic."

Slavomir told James and Wayne: "He was up to eight feet high and his body was covered in reddish-brown hair."

"The yeti's face was hairless and,

along his chest, hair hung down in long strands. His shoulders were huge and he had long arms, like a gorilla. The yeti seemed to be very shy and frightened of people."

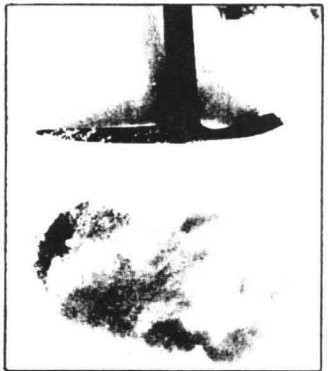
Although James and Wayne believe they have chosen the most likely place to find the elusive yeti, many similar creatures have been seen elsewhere.

The man-beast has been reported in North America, China, Africa, the wastes of Siberia and in Australia.

Here, it's called "yowie." In North America, it is known as "sasquatch" and people often call the mysterious creature "the abominable snowman."

But, whatever the strange animal is called, John and Wayne's magnificent obsession is to come face to face with the mystery.

"You've got to get out and live. What's the use in thinking about the yeti if you're not prepared to go and look for him? If we sat and worried about the pitfalls, we would never go."



★ A yeti footprint photographed by a mountaineering expedition.

**MYSTERY OF VANISHING HOUSE**

**MOUNTAINEERS Donald Watt and George Bruce were left standing in stunned silence when the house they'd been heading towards suddenly vanished into thin air.**

And now the case of the disappearing house is to be investigated by paranormal expert Professor Archie Roy, from Glasgow University.

Donald and George, members of the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team, were out walking in the hills in Ross-shire when they spotted the house on the banks of Loch Mullardoch, from the top of a nearby mountain.

**Shock**

Since they were looking for somewhere to set up camp for the night, the house seemed like the ideal spot, and they began heading towards it.

Donald Watt, from Fort William, takes up the story.

"It was a clear, bright, sunny day when George and I noticed the house," explained Donald.

"I was about to call out to George when he turned around and pointed to the house himself, so, together, we decided to head there for the night."

"For the first part of the descent, the house was always in our view, but for the final stretch it was obscured by a ridge."

"But it still didn't prepare us for the shock of the house

completely disappearing by the time we made it down to the loch side.

"We were so stunned that we spent ages searching up and down the banks for the house."

**Explanation**

"That night, as we bunked down in a lean-to shed, we compared what we'd seen."

"We both came up with an identical description of the house—granite-coloured,

with a slate roof and attic windows."

Later the two men discovered that an old shooting lodge used to stand at the side of the loch over 40 years ago, which was demolished to make way for a hydro-electric dam.

This intriguing "glimpse into the past" is not uncommon.

"If we wanted a logical explanation, I expect sceptics would suggest that Donald and George were lying, but these kind of sightings happen too often for them all to be made up," explained Professor Roy.

"What I'll be looking for are photographs of old houses in the area to see if they can match up to the description of the lodge that the two men put forward."

UNION BULLETIN, Walla Walla, WA

Oct. 9, 1987

**Bigfoot hunter seeking information**

Longtime Bigfoot hunter Rene Dahinden of Richmond, B.C., is calling on local residents to share information on the elusive beast believed to roam the Blue Mountains.

Dahinden, who has been tracking Bigfoot for 30 years, will set up camp at the Whitman Motor Inn to continue his search for information on the animal and to search for Bigfoot himself in the mountains.

There have been reports of Bigfoot tracks in the area for the past five years, and in 1982, former U.S. Forest Service patrol rider Paul Freeman reported seeing the phenomenon.

WEEKLY NEWS, London, England - June 6, 1987

CR: D. Speed

# Bigfoot Controversy Emerges Again With First Suburban Sightings

**COUGAR, Wash.** They are said to walk on two legs like people but to bound through the woods leaving huge footprints that dwarf the largest human boot.

They are reported to be over seven feet tall, up to 800 pounds, enormously strong and covered with fur.

According to legend, these rare monsters lurk in remote forests of the Pacific Northwest, where they hunt for their food and are said to have dismembered human intruders.

The Indians called them "Sasquatch." White settlers coined the term "Bigfoot."

By any name they have captured the public imagination and stirred continuing argument between scoffers and believers. A current movie, *Harry and the Hendersons*, tells of a Bigfoot captured by a Seattle family.

Skeptics dismiss Sasquatch stories — like those about Abominable Snowmen, Loch Ness Monsters and other scary creatures the world over — as myth and say that if Bigfoot were real, one surely would have been captured by now.

"There's no question that it's folklore, like fairies, ghosts and witches," University of California anthropologist Prof. Alan Dundes said in an interview.

But amateur investigators and even some anthropologists — 13 percent, according to a recent survey of scientists — believe Bigfoot may well exist as a hidden species of a subhuman primate that has survived for millions of years.

Among other evidence, the believers cite thousands of huge footprints found in the forests and film of a supposed Sasquatch shot in a remote northern California area.

There have been so many Sasquatch reports in the wilderness of southwest Washington state that two areas near the Mount St. Helens volcano, not far from this town, are named Ape Canyon and Ape Caves. Skamania County, which surrounds those sites, has passed a law making it illegal to kill a Bigfoot.

And now have come the first "sightings" in an urban area with reports from the Seattle suburb of Bellevue.

Residents along Bellevue's Eastgate Drive, not far from a wooded ravine, told Reuters they saw huge tracks in the snow last year, the prints of one set measuring over 20 inches.

"It was like a human foot, but the length," said Gladys Totland, who lives in the neighborhood. "There was a definite heel, a very definite arch, a splay of toes — huge."

Two residents also say they saw huge hairy creatures near their houses in 1981.

Joe Downham, who designs aircraft manufacturing parts, said he saw a large brown furry creature standing on its hind legs peering into a neighbor's window late one moonlit night.

Joined by a smaller black creature, the animal emitted a howl — "one continuous rising and falling note, very mournful, very loud" — and the two then strode into the night, he said.

Rubye Pang, a neighbor several doors away, told Reuters she saw a big black two-legged animal pushing on her sliding glass door one night. It spooked her dogs, who covered in a closet, and dug a deep hole in her yard, she said.

"I don't know what it was," Pang added. "It couldn't be a Sasquatch because they don't exist — do they?" Skeptics say such eyewitness reports must have a

mundane explanation — misidentification of a real animal, perhaps, or an outright hoax. They point out that one man, retired logger Rent Mullens, recently admitted creating at least eight sets of fake "bigfeet" in the Washington woods.

But some experts insist certain footprints are genuine, and so deep they could only have been made by a heavy beast.

"These footprints tell us it is a high primate, not a human," said Washington State University anthropologist Grover Krantz, an expert on primates who is convinced Bigfoot exists.

Krantz is studying 15-inch footprints found in a wooded area near the Washington-Oregon border after a U.S. Forest Service worker reported seeing a huge gorilla-like creature. Plaster casts showed the prints had distinct skin ridges that Krantz said would be "almost impossible even for the best hieroglyphics expert to fake."

Despite Krantz's analysis, even some Bigfoot believers doubt the authenticity of those particular prints. But University of Idaho anthropologist Roderick Sprague, editor of a recently published study, "The Scientist Looks At the Sasquatch," said in an interview, "Based on the written evidence, there is something out there."

University of Wyoming anthropologist George Gill said he had studied hundreds of Sasquatch reports and found there were "larger tracks and larger reported sightings as we move from south to north."

That was consistent with zoological law, he said, because members of a species are larger as one moves away from the Equator.

Gill said the pattern suggested some Bigfoot reports are true unless they are part of a "grandiose hoax" carried out over thousands of miles with careful attention to size.

Krantz and Gill speculate Bigfoot could be a surviving species assumed extinct and known as Gigantopithecus. Fossil remains of this big primate have been discovered in Asia.

Film of a purported Sasquatch, made by a Bigfoot hunter in California in 1967, shows a large hairy creature lumbering through the woods and peering back at the photographer.

Paul Kurtz, a philosopher at the State University of New York who chairs the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of the Paranormal, said it looked like a man in a monkey suit.

But Gill said: "It didn't look like a hoax at all. It looked how I'd expect a living Gigantopithecus to look."

In Skamania County, Ed McLarny, former editor of Skamania's *Pioneer* weekly newspaper, says he interviewed many people who reported glimpsing ape-like creatures in their headlights or seeing huge footprints.

"Everyone can't be drunk or crazy," he said, adding he too scoffed until he personally tracked huge prints for miles and decided, "There's no way anyone could have phoned this up."

But Dundes, the University of California scholar, said the desire to believe in Bigfoot was a "psychological projection of the primitive — the wild man" lurking in civilized people.

*Christopher Hanson is a writer for Reuters news service.*

# Shy serpent? Robot to join hunt for legendary creature in B.C. lake

Associated Press

**PEACHLAND, B.C.** — A robot is part of the team going beneath the waters of Okanagan Lake to search for the shy, legendary serpent known as Ogopogo.

Hank Pronk, a 25-year-old inventor from Canal Flats, B.C., and his brother, Sjac, are arriving soon in Peachland with a small, submersible robot to videotape any underwater action.

Pronk's robot began as a 100-pound propane tank. Now it is so sophisticated it has a mechanical arm, a video camera and a stereo system. It was actually built for salvage operations, but Pronk figures the hunt for Ogopogo will be a good test of his robot's capabilities.

"I believe in the possibility that Ogopogo exists," Pronk says. But he is not convinced to the extent that he'll take out a bank loan to finance a wide-scale search in this slender body of water 75 miles from the U.S. border.

The brothers will use a sailboat equipped with a television monitor to view the underwater sights captured by the robot's video camera. An umbilical cord will connect the robot to the sailboat.

"I'm going deep because nobody else has gone deep, and sitting on the surface hasn't worked for anybody," says Pronk, an auto-body repairman who has incorporated some car parts into his yet unnamed robot.

Pronk has taken the world of underwater robotics a step further with his model — it can detect metal and pick up objects as well as play music to creatures of the deep, something he hopes will woo Ogopogo into camera range.

Even if Pronk gets Ogopogo on tape, he won't be the only cameraman to make that claim.

Earlier this summer, an ABC television crew shooting an episode for a series called "Secrets and Mysteries," to be aired this fall, reported sighting Ogopogo — with its several humps — in the lake near Kelowna. Los Angeles-based cameraman Michael Tabor and producer David Frank say they have three minutes of the "friendly and free creature" on film.

# Ogopogo answers ABC casting call

Canadian Press

**KELOWNA** — Ogopogo, the legendary monster of Okanagan Lake, seems to be a bit of a ham.

It didn't take him long to make an appearance when an ABC television crew from Los Angeles came beckoning.

The TV crew was shooting an episode this week on Ogopogo for a new series called *Secrets and Mysteries*.

On the first day of shooting they reported sighting Ogopogo — with its several humps — in the lake across from Kelowna.

They even claim to have three minutes of the serpent on film.

Cameraman Michael Tabor and producer David Frank were aboard the Okanagan Princess to hunt Ogopogo's haunts.

Also along was the manager of the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce, Gerry Frederick.

"We were just about ready to turn around and go back and the cameraman said, 'What the hell is that?' At first it appeared to be a wave," said Frederick.

Tabor zoomed in on the object and suddenly yelled, "There it is, there it is," Frederick said.

"It was quite visible," said Frederick. "There wasn't a boat in sight. You could see the dark humps and the wake behind it. We got probably three minutes of video footage."

# Loch Ness monster remains elusive, but Tech professor still a believer

By JEFF DeBELL  
Staff writer

Henry Bauer still believes in the Loch Ness monster. The Virginia Tech chemistry professor revealed his belief last fall in a book titled "The Enigma of Loch Ness."

Last week, Bauer observed firsthand the extensive sonar sweep of Scotland's huge Loch Ness. Operation Deepscan, as it was called, did nothing to change his mind.

"It was disappointing that there were so few contacts" with large underwater objects, Bauer said by telephone from his home in Blacksburg. The failure of follow-up scans to confirm even those few contacts means they were "either spurious or something moving," Bauer said.

He believes it was the latter. "A believer can still be reasonably encouraged," he said.

Bauer watched the sweep as the guest of Lowrance Electronics Inc., the Oklahoma company that produced the sonar gear. He was an observer rather than a participant in the project.

"Even before going, I thought it could not settle things one way or the other," he said. "And that of course was the case . . . I saw very clearly that it by no means covered the whole loch."

That's not to say Operation Deepscan was barren of achievement. It succeeded in scanning the two deepest basins of Loch Ness for the first time. Presumably, maps will result.

Secondly, Bauer said, the precedent-setting mass application of sonar was regarded as a technological success.



Bauer

Two dozen boats, arranged side-by-side, sent a "sonar curtain" into Loch Ness as they moved slowly along its length.

Bauer's interest in the Loch Ness monster dates back to the early 1960s, when he happened onto a book about the subject. Not until he had spent a decade in further investigation did he overcome his scientist's skepticism and decide he actually believed in Nessie.

It is a "personal" belief, he stressed in "The Enigma of Loch Ness," rather than one that has met conventional standards of scientific proof, and it is a position taken by few other establishment scientists. Most of them either dismiss Nessie outright or lump her in with UFOs, Bigfoot, extrasensory perception and the other unexplained phenomena of what they call "pseudo-science."

The professor's conversion actually receives relatively little space in the book. Bauer's investigation into Nessie turned him into an amateur specialist in the philosophy of science, and "The Enigma of Loch Ness" is mostly about the adversarial relationship between science and pseudo-science.

Though he continues to believe, Bauer doesn't expect the existence of the Loch Ness monster to be proved by sonar. Instead, he said, "It will take a carcass or specimen, or an extraordinarily detailed set of photographs taken in time lapse, like a movie."

Operation Deepscan attracted hundreds of reporters from around the world, and Bauer shared a boat with some of them as they covered the search. He said he watched them struggle for hours, sometimes leaping across choppy waters from boat to boat, to put together a few paragraphs for readers or a few minutes for the electronic media.

Though inconclusive on the matter of the legendary Loch Ness monster, Bauer said, the expedition "gave me some feeling of what it's like to be a TV or press person: 'It's a hell of a life.'"





PD/DAVID L. ANDERSEN

Raymond L. Broderick's eyes shine like Chevy headlights at midnight. His toothless mouth opens wide enough to sing an aria, but only one word spills out: "Bigfoot!"

## 'I was afraid, boy . . . I just kept on chasin' it'

Well, so we goofed. Last week's adventure — in which thrill-seeker Cuyahoga Jones and his partner, Nikon Dave, went in search of aliens who were supposed to be on ice slabs in an Air Force base in Dayton — didn't work out too well.

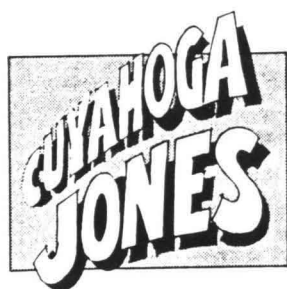
CJ, the Roving Rogue of the Rust Belt (who's recently traveled 1,200 miles in search of Startling But True Phenomena), didn't find any aliens.

We haven't read this week's story yet, but we're sure it's different. See, Jones and Nikon promised to find the man/ape/creature called Bigfoot, who people say has been spotted in Central Ohio.

Don't be too hard on Jones, the alter-ego of a dull PD reporter who gets eight hours of sleep every night. He hasn't been the same since Tangiers. By the way, never mention Tangiers to Jones. And never, ever bring up the woman.

So, hang in there, because Chapter Two follows. We're sure it'll be better than last week's.

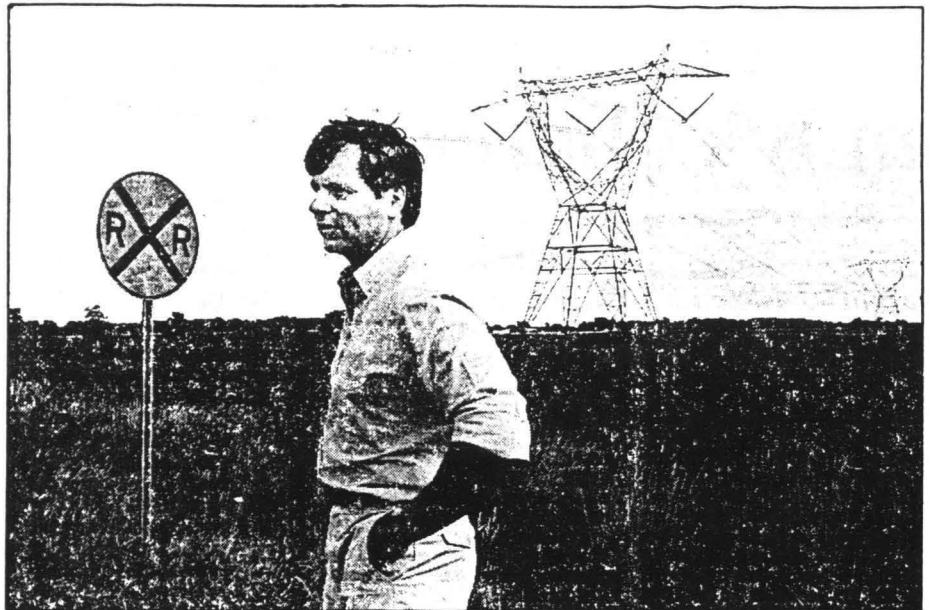
By **ALFRED LUBRANO**  
STAFF WRITER



**MARYSVILLE** — Folks, Nikon Dave and I must confess that this week's adventure is a bit out of control:

You see, there's the preacher who says Bigfoot is in the Bible; then there's the Great White Hunter

feud of Columbus; as though that were not enough, we have the anthropology professor who says his career's ruined on account of spending all his time looking for Bigfoot; then naturally, the truth has not been served by the two woman reporters from the National Star who've used their bodily wastes to try and lure Bigfoot, which has already been stalked by the iron-pumping 33-year-old



PD/DAVID L. ANDERSEN

Sheriff John Overly stands near where Bigfoot was sighted in 1980. Bigfoot seemed to follow powerlines and railroad tracks through Union County.

sheriff, who also chases after satanic ritualists, who have nothing to do with the bicycle-riding aerobics instructor from Toledo who says Bigfoot doesn't look at all like Harry in that movie about Bigfoot, "Harry and the Hendersons."

Maybe we ought to slow down and sort this mess out. To start with, Nikon's been all broken up about not finding aliens from outer space, like we promised we would last week. But he has a good feeling about going after Bigfoot, the hairy, partying primate who's said to be 8 or more feet tall, weigh 800 or so pounds (females weigh less) and eat mostly vegetation, along with the odd rodent or two.

People say it exists, despite the small detail that no one's ever proved it in the 200 or so years they've been talking about it.

Eager and ever-hungry for encounters of consequence, Nikon and I ride the blue Adventure-Mobile into this Union County town in Central Ohio, blasting Jimmy Buffett tunes all the way.

Six times in 1980, and once in 1985, sober locals around these parts saw a creature that walks like a human and looks like an ape.

Generally, folks associate Bigfoot, or Sasquatch, as the Native Americans call it, with the Pacific Northwest, where the creature supposedly has been spotted maybe 1,000 times.

Some off-base observers theorize that the explosion of Mount St. Helens in Washington in June 1980 scattered the

big dudes and dudettes, sending some our way. Myself, I think the Seattle Seahawks traded a couple to the Browns for anthropoids to be named later.

If it is around, Nikon wants to photograph one, so he can use it in his custom-made Christmas cards this year. I'd like to help him out.

**W**e motor past noisy tractors on quiet roads. The land's so well-groomed and fussed-over out here, with carefully plowed corn and soybean fields that look like fresh haircuts.

In the map-dot, one-half-horse towns around Marysville, we see cars with those ubiquitous yellow signs that announce who's "On Board." Except in these environs, the signs say, "Christians on Board." Back in Cleveland, they read, "Mother-In-Law in Trunk."

The place is alive with growing things: lawns and crops and babies, who ride the hips of their young mothers, not much older than kids themselves, outside post offices and two-pump gas stations.

Then there are the critters: horses, cows, ducks, pigs you could saddle and ride, indiscernible road kills, even plastic pink flamingos and loyal orders of Lions and Moose.

And Bigfoot? Well, let's find out.

Say hello to John Overly, at 33 the sheriff of Union County. Reticent, muscular and slow to laugh with strangers, Overly has himself stalked Bigfoot. He's also gone after satan-worshipping Union Countians who've mutilated

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animals, so he's no stranger to the bizarre.

"We've had seven good old country people say they saw the creature," Overly says. "We take it very seriously. People were petrified."

"I pretty much believe everything they've told me."

Overly and his deputies have discovered footprints, and studied Bigfoot's patterns, he says. Each sighting was near high-power lines or railroad tracks. "We assume it might be following the lines or the tracks to not get lost," he

says. "I can't sit here and swear there's Bigfoot, but it's pretty convincing."



PD/ROBERT COOKE  
Footprints mark where residents say they saw Bigfoot.

No need to convince Robert Gardiner, president of the North American Bigfoot Research Team, who lives in that worthy wilderness city, Columbus. He says Bigfoot's been spotted as recently as May of this year in southern Ohio's Vinton County.

A big-game hunter who's lived in African jungles, Gardiner has been tracking Bigfoot for 20 years. He hasn't ever seen it, although he believes he's heard the creature a time or two, in the Pacific Northwest and in Vinton County.

"Not much in the world scares me," Gardiner tells me in his native Kentucky accent, after I call to pick his brain. "I been charged by a bull elephant, buddy, and it didn't bother me. But this sound Bigfoot makes, this raises the hair on your arms."

Like Dick Feagler's voice? I ask.

"Well, it's sort of a high-pitched, three-note type, whistle-scream sound," Gardiner says. Oh, I conclude, more like Andy Rooney's.

"I used to believe you could hunt or track anything," Gardiner continues. "But this one can keep back from you. It has the instincts of an animal and the intelligence of a human."

Gardiner has looked for Bigfoot around Marysville with no luck. He's also searched for the creature in the Wayne National Forest and the Experimental Forest, in Southern Ohio. (Nikon and I like that name. The Experimental Forest — where they cultivate squirrels who sing "My Way" and trees that give milk.)

Gardiner's not fond of reporters. He wants to make sure I don't work for the National Star. I ask him why he's so jumpy about that.

"Well, the Star, they bug me to death," Gardiner says. "They had these girl reporters go with me one time in the Wayne Forest to look for Bigfoot. They had a jar of their girl ... (urine) that they poured around the creek bed. Thought they could catch Bigfoot with the scent."

"I sort of frown on that type of thing."

Not everyone believes Bigfoot hangs out in Ohio. Jack Hanna, the head of the Columbus Zoo and a frequent guest on "Late Night With David Letterman," says he'd stake his life on the notion that Bigfoot is no Buckeye.

This causes Gardiner to scoff and chortle. "As far as knowing animals," Gardiner says, "I don't think Jack knows the difference between a zebra and a jackass."

It seems Bigfoot breeds controversy. Grover Krantz, anthropology professor at Washington State University in Pullman, says he's devoted his life's work to finding the hairy funster, with unfortunate side effects.

"It's making a shambles of my career," Krantz admits. "I'm not getting promoted, or pay raises."

Krantz figures 80% of scientists don't believe Bigfoot exists. The 20% who do aren't saying anything publicly. Krantz finds himself, then, in a one-man academic office at the end of Lonely Street.

"Bigfoot definitely exists," the beleaguered professor maintains. "But it's really rather scarce, with around just 2,000 in North America."



Robert Gardiner says these are Bigfoot prints.

PACIFIC STARS & STRIPES, Tokyo, Japan  
Oct. 8, 1987 CR: W. Moyer

### ■ Texas

#### Mysterious lights keep 100-year glow

MARFA, Texas (AP) — No one can explain the ghostly lights that have shimmered in the mountains east of town almost every night since they were discovered more than 100 years ago.

So, lacking an explanation, local residents held a parade.

Almost all of the town's 2,400 citizens participated in the first Marfa Lights Festival to honor the "ghost lights," as many West Texans call them.

"There have been a lot of people from New York and places around there who have come down to find out what ... they are, but they never did," Gene Reyes said.

Witnesses said the lights are yellowish-white and do not glow very brightly. Some people say they are stationary, while others say they move just a little bit. Some scientists have suggested the glow comes from swamp gas.

"But how many swamps do they have around here?" said Jettie Whitlock, sweeping her arm across the desert mountain horizon.

Other experts have suggested that bats with radioactive dust on their wings are responsible, but most observers have said the lights don't move much.

TELEGRAPH & ARGUS, Bradford, England  
Sept. 25, 1987 CR: P. Bennett

## Chris steers clear of yeti sex beasts

### Bigfoot walks tall

CHRIS Frost wants to get close to a Yeti — but not too close.

Frost, a 31-year-old English biologist, was a slightly worried man when he set off alone from Lhasa earlier this month on a six-week search in the wilds of Southern Tibet for the creature commonly known as the abominable snowman.

Judging from some of the more bizarre yeti stories circulating in China, he might have to fight off the creature's sexual advances.

Before leaving Peking for Tibet Frost said he lacked only one piece of equipment for the trip — a can of anti-mugger spray he had hoped to buy in case a yeti encounter got too close for comfort.

"Reported Chinese sightings of the yeti suggest that the female may be sexually attracted to the human male," he said, citing sensational tales which appeared in a book published last year by China's Wild Man Research society.

Anthropologist Zhou Guoxing said there was no evidence to back up the book's accounts about the Yeti's alleged erotic tastes. Zhou, vice-director of Peking Natural History Museum, said he had resigned from the society after

two years as co-chairman because he did not think its work sufficiently scientific.

#### Accounts

One of the society's accounts, Frost said, concerned a soldier who went missing on patrol in a forest in 1972. Months later another patrol saw him jump to his death from the mouth of a cave.

As the soldiers examined their dead colleague, a wild woman appeared and swung off on a vine. The missing soldier's uniform was in tatters

and his hands and feet covered in animal skin.

In another account, a furry, large-breasted woman was said to have entered an official's bedroom at midnight with clearly amorous intentions.

The official and a colleague were supposed to have captured the creature and tied her up, but she escaped during night, leaving no trace.

The research society said that incident occurred in 1976 near Zhangmu on China's border with Nepal.

tells of a Bigfoot captured by a Seattle family.

Sceptics dismiss Sasquatch stories as myth and say that if Bigfoot were real one surely would have been captured by now.

But amateur investigators and even some anthropologists — 13 per cent, according to a recent survey of scientists — believe Bigfoot may well exist as a hidden species of a subhuman primate that has survived for millions of years.

Among other evidence, the believers cite thousands of huge footprints

There are 100 bears for every Sasquatch."

Krantz has collected enough plausible eyewitness accounts and giant footprints to convince him to go on looking.

Still, it can't be easy. Adding to Krantz's woes is this friend of his, Milford Wolpoff, anthropology professor at the University of Michigan.

"Don't the damn things ever die?" Wolpoff wants to know. "Where are the Bigfoot road kills? The longer Grover looks for it and doesn't find it, the more suspicious it becomes."

If it's evidence the skeptics want, then let's go find the big galoot.

Nikon and I first visit an old, remote farm house at the corner of Soybean and Corn, in the middle of downtown Nowhere Special.

There we meet Raymond L. Broderick, a 72-year-old former body-shop worker who's got a story to tell.

Droplets of motor oil cover his face and clothes, tiny black liquid beads that hang on him like dusky jewelry. His hands are caked with car grease.

I introduce myself, then ask him whether he's ever seen anything unusual around the area.

His eyes shine like Chevy headlights at midnight. His toothless mouth opens wide enough to sing an aria, but only one word spills out: "Bigfoot!"

"We had a picnic one night on the Fourth of July in 1980, and I seen him," Broderick says. "He was big — two of you. Hair all over his body. I had my searchlight and I ran after him."

"I was afraid, boy. Afraid I'd have a heart attack. My wife told me, 'Come back, come back, come back!' I just kept on chasin' it."

The creature disappeared into the woods, the same woods Nikon and I are traipsing through now. But the only Bigfoot is my own, size 12-EEE. This is discouraging.

We go on to talk to the Rev. Lee Birt, a reporter-turned-pastor of Jenkins Chapel in Woodstock, just outside Marysville. The fresh-turned dirt on the ride out there smells like renewal — like showers and hanging laundry and maybe like what grace and salvation in Jenkins Chapel might smell like, if it had an odor. Birt would know best, I suspect, but I ask only about Bigfoot; my soul can wait.

He once saw it, he tells me: "Large, brown, hairy, you know. He moved with a swinging motion, like maybe it moved more from the hips than the knee joints."

Birt found 16-inch-long hair strands that he sent to Ohio State University for analysis. They said they didn't know what kind of animal the hair came from.

Adding a touch of mystical legitimacy to his descriptions, Birt says that Bigfoot's mentioned in the Bible. I check his citations, and can't find anything about it.

Undaunted, we talk to a third witness, aerobics instructor Claudia Beeson, who now lives in Toledo. She was bicycling on a road near a Union County creek on June 19, 1985, and saw the creature running near her, like a boxer doing roadwork.

"I saw the movie 'Harry and the Hendersons,' and that's not what it looks like," Beeson says, citing darker hair and longer arms. "But it's all very intriguing, now that I've seen one."

That does it. Nikon and I go crashing into the woods, then visit every spot where Bigfoot was supposed to have been in the Marysville area. It takes hours. The result? No Bigfoot, no Smallfoot, not even a Little Toe.

It ain't in the woods, it ain't in the Bible. Nikon and I have failed again. We ponder our bad fortune at the Dairy Queen. Deep in double-cone depression, we realize that all these "witnesses" could not have been lying.

They saw something. What it is, we'll never know. But we vow to return one day and take the Christmas card picture with the creature. Nikon's sentimental that way.