

UFO

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RONALD M. OVERDAHL / Sentinel photographer

Duane Schmid (from left), Bob Kuehn, Judy Green and Diane Schmid walk on Dundee Mountain, a UFO-watching spot near Campbellsport.

Long Lake area spawns tales of UFO sightings

By **BETSY THATCHER**
Washington County Bureau

Town of Osceola — For the price of a can of Point, a customer can hear some pretty good tales of UFOs at Benson's Hide-A-Way on the north end of Long Lake.

Owner Bill Benson, 47, has been pouring beers and serving up stories of strange sightings for nine years.

Eerie airborne lights and large spaceship-like objects are as common as dairy cows and whippoorwills around Long Lake and the Kettle Moraine State Forest's northern unit, Benson said.

Benson acts as the unofficial keeper of the stories his customers spill over the bar.

The tavern became so popular for such conversations that he added "Martian Melody" and "The Flying Saucer" to his jukebox selection.

The clientele ranges from local farmers to

out-of-state campers, and most have added something to the local lore.

Even Benson says he has seen an unidentified flying object.

It happened on a summer night in 1983 outside his mother's Long Lake home. As he puffed on a pipe and enjoyed the lake view, something he described as the size of four Goodyear blimps appeared over the 3-mile-long lake.

The object, which Benson said was darker than the night sky and rimmed with orange lights, hovered silently for several minutes.

"I don't know what it was, but whatever it was, it was big," he recalled.

Local dairy farmer John Dins, 42, said he saw something similar in August 1988. Several others reported seeing the same thing that night.

"It was a UFO or whatever you want to call it," Dins said of the 100-foot circular

object that drifted silently over his silo.

Dins had just finished milking the cows about 11:15 p.m. and was herding them out of the barn when the animals suddenly bolted back in.

The cows' behavior was unusual, he said, especially since they had "a whole load of feed out there waiting for them. I thought, 'What the heck happened to them?'"

When Dins discovered what had spooked them, he ran for the house to wake his wife and three daughters.

"I thought, 'Geez, I've got to get somebody out to see this.'"

When Dins returned to the silo, the object had left, but was visible on the eastern horizon.

"When you see something like that, you get the chills," he said. "I still get the chills thinking about it."

That same night, at Regal Ware Inc. in

Kewaskum, Duane Schmid, of Campbellsport, was working the evening shift. He and some co-workers were eating lunch outdoors when six orange lights appeared above them. The lights went off one by one, in perfect sequence, he said.

"You can't explain it away. It was there," said Schmid, 49, who estimates he has seen 15 UFOs.

Probably the best-known local UFO-watcher is Schmid's friend Bob Kuehn, of Campbellsport.

Kuehn, 58, figures he has seen hundreds of unexplained lights but puts the number of "definite" close encounters at 40.

Kuehn, who rebuilds and sells racing bicycles, says he's observed disk-shaped objects with orange lights at close range and has seen several teardrop-shaped versions with tails.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL — Sept. 28, 1989

CHARLIE'S CORNER

BY CHARLIE SOMERBY

Interest in the subject of unidentified flying objects cooled down for awhile before being fanned into a blaze again by new events.

Soon after nightfall on September 12, visitors from outer space put on a show for a membership meeting of the Mutual UFO Network at the Unity Church on Ninth Avenue in Pensacola. Why, the *News-Journal* was impressed enough to carry a front page story (in the local section) a few days later. *Sentinel*, of course, gave it a big splash!

A week later, on the 20th *Unsolved Mysteries* devoted a major portion of its hour-long program to the crash of an alien craft in New Mexico in 1947 and the alleged cover-up by the government.

The re-creation of the event with pertinent comments by key personnel was well done. We'll bet if a survey was taken of area residents to find out how many watched that program the results would be quite amazing.

Back to the night of September 12. Wife Dori keeps a diary and noted that for the first time new downtown Milton street lamps had been turned on giving Caroline Street (U.S. 90) a white-way look.

Workmen are in the process of tearing down the old theater west of the court house, so we make a nightly look at that worthwhile deletion to the downtown scene.

We continued our nightly stroll taken after the sun has set. Dori, who scans the sky regularly seeking interesting cloud formations, called attention to a deep red light to the southwest that seemed to hang motionless.

At first we thought it was a plane, then a star and then finally "something else."

It should be noted that the missus often sees something up there and comments on her sightings to which the hubby usually pays little heed. Like that star to the northwest that's in view each evening.

We'll have to start paying more attention to what she's pointing at!

State Highway 67, is the best place in the area to watch for UFOs, Kuehn said.

The group climbed the hill at sunset. As stars began to dot the sky, several airplanes appeared and crisscrossed the horizon.

Kuehn pointed out several glowing orange lights that evening. Many stood still in the sky and alternated between dim and bright. Because the lights, on average, were at least 10 miles away, it was difficult to determine what they were.

After about an hour and a half, a faint glow appeared over the forest about 4 miles southeast of the hill.

The motionless light hung low in the sky and appeared similar to the half-dozen lights spotted earlier. Unlike the others, the light gradually increased in size. It began moving slowly to the west, picked up speed and brightened to a flaming gold. It transformed into a diamond shape and shimmered brilliantly.

The diamond suddenly jerked in a 90-degree turn and headed south, appearing to accelerate until it disap-

peared from sight. He believes he has seen so many because he faithfully watches for them nightly and knows what to look for.

"A lot of people will feel they are seeing space debris," the former pilot said. "But a lot of these are UFOs that people are seeing. They think it's just a meteorite."

UFOs often will "perform" if they know someone is watching, Kuehn said.

"They do know I'm watching them," he said. "One I saw, it was really cute. It was just like a kid with a hot rod. And I'm telling you the truth: He backed the thing up."

"They don't have a heck of a time confounding people or hiding, because people aren't looking for them."

On a recent evening, Kuehn, his friend Judy Green, 47, and Schmid and his wife, Diane, 35, took a reporter on a hike up Dundee Mountain, a large hill that juts out of the state forest and overlooks Long Lake. The hill, accessible by trail off

peared from sight.

Kuehn was overjoyed at the night's finale.

Karen Kerans, a naturalist at the Wehr Nature Center in Franklin and program director for the Wehr Astronomical Society, said she never had encountered a UFO.

"There are a lot of things that people are not accustomed to seeing in the night sky," Kerans said. "Airplanes and helicopters can be foolers. They can appear to make sudden turns."

Some people, she said, actually may be seeing the aurora borealis, or northern lights, which have been quite visible this summer.

But Kuehn maintains the sightings cannot be explained by known phenomena. Life forms from other planets or solar systems regularly monitor activity on Earth, he believes.

And then there is the Long Lake Monster. Benson can tell you about the two fishermen who saw it. It was 25 feet long with a head like a football, and black and yellow . . .

But that's another story.

UFO issue hovers between science, belief

By Jim Dawson
Staff Writer

Soviet journalist Pavel Mukhortov stood before several 13-foot, three-eyed, glow-in-the-dark aliens and, given the circumstances, asked a good question: "Where are you from?"

The aliens, using illuminated letters to communicate with the reporter, named the constellation Libra, "Red Star, our Homeland."

The sensational story swept through the media in both the East and West and could have been the journalistic scoop of the century, but instead it suffered the chimeric fate of previous alien-contact stories. The creatures didn't stay around for a press conference, and the journalist apparently forgot his camera.

What made this latest Unidentified Flying Object-alien contact story news was that it came from the historically staid Soviet media. A similar tale in the United States wouldn't have caused much of a stir, said Mark Rodeghier, the science director of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS).

Does Rodeghier, a man who takes UFOs very seriously, believe the Soviet reports? "Not at all," he said. "At best, it was a normal report or made up by the kids" who first reported the aliens.

The stories did serve to bring the UFO question to the forefront of public discussion, however, and raised the more fundamental question: Are UFOs real?

It is a subject that involves more than space creatures flying around in amazing crafts, tantalizing a civilization by allowing themselves to be seen, but only fleetingly. The belief, or disbelief, in UFOs involves questions of religion, value systems, humanity's view of itself and a host of other metaphysical questions.

For most scientists, including many astronomers who believe there is other intelligent life in the universe, UFOs amount to misinterpretation of natural phenomenon combined with wishful thinking.

"The believers just don't understand how big the universe really is," said Robert Kirshner, an astronomer at Harvard University. "Everybody thinks a UFO has been on a long trip, but it took years for Voyager 2 to get (from Earth) to Neptune. And Alpha Centauri, the nearest star, is 2,000 times as far away, at the edge of the solar system. It's hard to understand how material things could be sent across these distances."

Even traveling at near the speed of light, the theoretical speed limit in the universe, it would take thousands of years to tour much of the Milky Way Galaxy from Earth's remote lo-

cation on an outer spiral arm. Travel to other galaxies would take millions or billions of years, one way.

Critics of that scientific view say astronomers simply lack imagination, especially when it comes to traveling faster than the speed of light. Scientists, the criticism goes, are bound by parochial thinking and are not open to the possibility, centuries hence, of using cosmic "wormholes," warped space and other exotic methods to move faster than light. Some advanced alien civilization already has figured it out, many believers contend, and made it to Earth.

Kirshner isn't a believer. "We shouldn't assume our knowledge of the physical world is wrong," he said. "I think it's even more arrogant to assume that we don't know what's going on and others (aliens) do."

For Kirshner the question is not are UFOs real, but what is the evidence. There is none, he said, so the question turns to why a person believes or does not believe in something.

Science, by its nature, is uncertain and tentative, and that puts it at a disadvantage when debating those who claim to know the truth, he said.

Ed Ney, a University of Minnesota astronomer, wants hard evidence of UFOs before he will believe in them, and he has yet to see any. "I don't know of any good observing astrono-

mer who has observed one, so I'm going to take a dim view. I really think the chances are high of extraterrestrial life, but UFOs, no."

Ney also turns to the vast distances involved and, in a dark view of civilization, the brief period he believes advanced civilizations can exist without destroying themselves.

"I think it is about 100 years and not over 1,000 years," he said of the expected life of a civilization similar to ours, "because nuclear weapons will destroy the civilization." Given that time limit, he said, advanced civilizations don't last long enough to travel the stars. "I don't believe we're the only one, but we might as well be," he concluded.

One of the leading UFO advocates, Stanford Walter of the Mutual UFO Network, thinks that the government is covering up hard evidence of UFOs and that scientists generally have closed minds. The network, an international organization founded in 1969, has about 2,000 members and several hundred investigators around the world.

Based on years of investigating UFO sightings, Walter said he has a good idea of what the aliens are doing: "Actually, they are conducting experiments. They come and go as they want to."

At first, he said, the aliens, small

creatures with large, black, glassy eyes, picked up vegetation and rocks to study. Then they started mapping coastlines and oceans. Now they are abducting humans, using them in cross-breeding experiments and returning them to Earth.

The aliens, who have been visiting the Earth for hundreds of thousands of years, he said, are fragile creatures and are trying to develop a half-human, half-alien offspring that can better survive on Earth. They don't want to take over Earth, he said, "but they do scare the living daylight" out of people who are abducted.

Rodeghier, of CUFOS, takes a more conservative approach to UFO research. CUFOS "stands firmly on the fence" in the debate over the existence of alien visitors, Rodeghier said.

If the research indicates a sighting was the planet Venus, a weather balloon or some natural phenomenon, Rodeghier says so.

But when the evidence is gathered and sifted, he said, there are cases that simply can't be explained. "The UFO phenomenon is real, and there are unsolved reports."

"There is evidence for something physical," he said, "but a definitive extraterrestrial? No."

Author hopes film validates UFO sightings

By JENNIFER TUCKER
Tribune Staff Writer

TAMPA — Even in telephone conversation, author Whitley Strieber's voice sounds with irascible conviction — his startling revelations underlined by a vocal intensity of quadraphonic proportions.

"Oh, yes, I'm still having experiences. Actually, I have a relationship with them ... and on one tier, intellectually, I hold their origins and nature in question. On the other, I relate to them as entirely real," Strieber said recently.

He's referring to what he considers to be a lifelong pattern of extraterrestrial contact.

Strieber, author of the non-fiction blockbuster, "Communion," is one of the thousands of Americans who say they've been abducted by aliens, taken aboard unidentified flying objects, and in total, been subject to the greatest conceivable terror of human imagination.

And like his terrified peers, Strieber — who has written two other books on alien contact, "Transformation" and "Majestic" — said he's not dreaming these nightmares.

"Honestly, it is like my own imagination had dragged me out of my bed in the middle of the night," he said.

'Communion' now a film

Now, Strieber has one more thing to worry about. The film "Communion" opened in theaters recently, and although some critics have given the objective devil its dues, others have punched big, black holes in the extraterrestrial argument — at least, the one according to Strieber.

Directed by Philippe Mora, an old friend of the author's, the film is a chronicle of Strieber's frightening story. A faithful adaptation of the book, the film follows Strieber's life as a successful writer living in Manhattan who also owns a rustic getaway in the mountains.



Whitley Strieber turned his tales of extraterrestrial contact into a book and now a movie.

Initially, strange things begin happening in the city — jumpy appliances, a jittery Halloween — but it's at the cabin that Strieber, his son and wife begin experiencing specific terrors. Blinding lights fill the home in the middle of the night; dreamlike images of aliens appear to Strieber and his son.

Strieber's continuing hysteria about prowlers, or who-knows-what, sends him to a psychiatrist whose specialty is trauma victims.

Through hypnosis, Strieber confesses a bizarre, lifelong horror of alien abduction, corroborated by his son's description of "little blue doctors" who regularly visit to perform physical experiments.

The film, which stars Christopher Walken as Strieber, is appropriately scary without being ludicrous. Yet the most important visual effects, the alien creatures themselves, are oddly cartoonlike.

And the philosophic dialogue,

TRIBUNE, Tampa, FL - Nov. 22, 1989



Photograph provided by New Line Cinema

Christopher Walken, playing Whitley Strieber in "Communion," struggles with what he has seen.

'Encounters' still scare writer

To critics who think a film negates Strieber's professional credibility, the author is steadfast.

"I have long since ceased to measure my credibility," he explained. "Much of the scientific community has reacted hysterically, as if I were trying to spread superstition."

"It's a meaningless issue. My experiences don't prove contact with aliens or contact with anything. I'm merely asking a question. It isn't an attempt to evoke a response or belief."

He said he will be "forever branded" by these latest publications; readers are likely to overlook Strieber's additional novels, such as "Warday," a tome about limited nuclear war, and "The Wolfen" and "The Hunger," which were both made into films.

Abductees respond

Since writing "Communion," Strieber has earned celebrity status among fellow abductees, and he receives mountains of correspondence every day from people who claim alien contact, either now or in the past.

This summer, Strieber said, alien encounters increased by astounding numbers, and he still gets 30 to 50 letters a day.

Yet Strieber has decided to for-

go the subject of alien abduction in future novels; his work-in-progress is about childhood. He reasons that he "owes" the public something more than just one man's word on the whole alien and abduction phenomenon.

"I need to find an answer to what the origin of this is, or I can't write about it any further," he said. "I have to go back to the scientific community with either physical evidence or some sort of explanation that can be proved by experiment."

"And second, I want to bring people together in private social groups around the world so they can talk about their experiences ... without embarrassment and unrestrained by social approval."

The latter has been achieved; however, Strieber said a time will come when talking simply isn't sufficient.

"Nineteen people have had experiences at my cabin now, witnessed encounters. So, this isn't something that happens in isolation at all," he said.

"Yes, it's still scary ... but if the chance came, I would go with them. I just hope I don't get treated to some fabulous interstellar journey without coming back with proof. If that happened, I wouldn't say a word. I'd just continue to ask the question, 'What is this?'"

Greenville couple's close encounter:

'It appears to be a little alien'

By Matthew Burns
News staff writer

A cat out for a late night prowling, a visit from ALF or a Halloween hoax. Gina Jones doesn't know what it was she saw a week ago, but she would prefer it was a close encounter of the explainable kind.

"If someone could come along and tell me it's a cat, that's fine with me," Mrs. Jones said Tuesday. "Frankly, I'd prefer if it was a cat because I don't want any aliens running around my house."



Jones

Mrs. Jones and her husband saw some strange lights in the sky above Greenville last Tuesday, and Mrs. Jones videotaped the sight. But when they viewed the tape later, they saw something mysterious beyond the lights — a shadowy figure moving across a window at the rear of their Eastside home.

"The bathroom light was on, and you could see plain as day something scurry across the window. It appears to be a little man, a little alien," she said with a laugh.

"I'm not saying that's what it was. I'm saying that's what it looks like."



This is the image captured on Gina Jones' videotape

Mrs. Jones' tape shows five orange lights in a "W" shape in the sky. A small plane flew beneath the lights, which later changed formation as some began to rotate around one another.

As two of the lights disappeared, Mrs. Jones swung the camera around enough to catch the southwest corner of her house and unknowingly film the unidentified scurrying object before focusing the camera again on the sky to watch the final three lights fade into the darkness.

The short, squat figure was approximately 18 inches to 2 feet tall, she said, using the size of her window as a gauge. It moved along on two tiny feet, and its two arms were held up to its face "like someone trying to see through a foggy window," she said.

Mrs. Jones said she has repeatedly viewed the tape with family and friends, trying to determine what the figure could be. Her husband also held their month-old kitten up to the bathroom window, but determined that it was too small to be the figure on the film.

"It's easy to say what it isn't: It's not a cat, it's not a squirrel, it's not a bird," she said. "We're just having a hard time trying to

say what it is."

Federal Aviation Administration area supervisor Elbert Elmore said there were no reports of any unusual activity in Greenville's skies last Tuesday, but he added that doesn't mean nothing happened.

A UFO expert from Seattle will visit Greenville in the near future to view Mrs. Jones' tape and check out her story, she said. "This may turn out to be nothing, but I just want someone to tell me what this is," she said.

Meanwhile, her video has become the hottest piece of film since actor Rob Lowe's taped sexual exploits hit the underground circuit in Atlanta last summer.

Mrs. Jones appeared on a WFBC-AM talk show Wednesday morning, where the switchboard lit up with callers and a dozen people told her they also saw strange lights in the sky last week. She has turned down requests for television exposure.

"Everybody laughs at me until they see the tape. Then they're my best friend and they're on my side," she said. "I'm still confused and amazed and curious about what happened last week. I just don't want people to think I'm a lunatic."

LIFESTYLE

Leominster man tackles the 'unexplained'

By Anna L. Bisol
Review Staff Writer

The Feb. 10 evening commute on Route I-93 in Woburn rolled along as usual, until several motorists spotted what looked like a large, domed-shaped object hovering over the highway. The object was seen by at least 20 people, including two state troopers.

"We didn't hear about the incident until the next day," said Steve Firmani, Leominster resident and executive director of the Massachusetts Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network. "Then we received a call on our hotline number from a mother and her daughter who were driving in the area at the time and said they observed this Unidentified Flying Object for approximately 15 minutes. I sent an investigator out to start working on the case."

Preliminary investigation showed there had been reports of sightings from Reading to Derry, N.H. The *Lawrence Eagle-Tribune* also contacted Firmani for information.

"We went back and forth with the newspaper. They were giving us information. We were giving them information. Finally, someone came out with the fact that the object came out of New Hampshire and was an advertising plane." Indeed, a check with one of the skywriting companies in New Hampshire showed that the UFO was actually a Cessna 150, with Nighttime Skywriters of Londonderry, N.H.

The company had been hired by a person appearing on a radio talk show, and was promoting the appearance over the Route I-93 area when it was spotted by commuters.

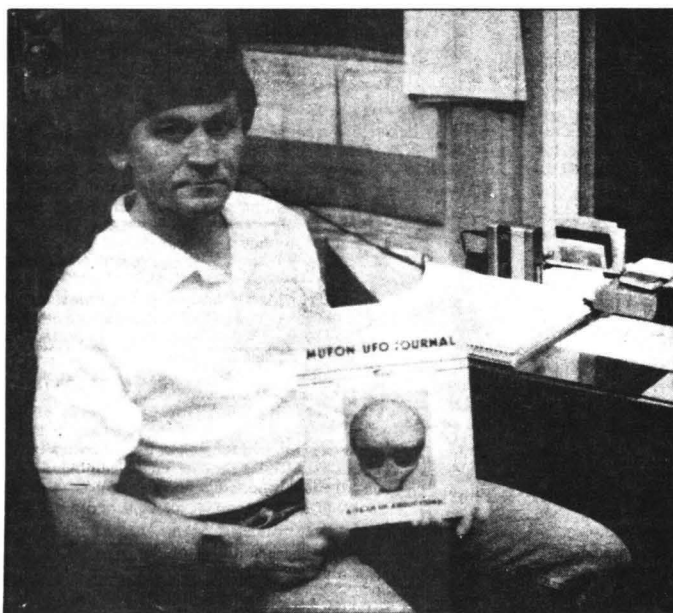
"It's a common mistake. The pilot was running lights on the bottom of the plane, but when you view the object from the side, it looks like a domed-shaped object, also known as a flying saucer. These types of sightings are very common."

Mass MUFON is part of the larger world-wide MUFON organization, which began in 1969 in Seguin, Texas as a volunteer tracking group keeping records of UFO phenomena. The organization acts as a reporting and investigating

group for UFO sightings. Firmani has been director of Mass MUFON for the past six months.

Firmani said his work in MUFON is part of a life-long interest in UFO phe-

abductions in the state. We are also starting a branch of Mass MUFON that will deal with people who are interested in just receiving information about what is happening with the whole world of



Steve Firmani of Leominster investigates UFO sightings, but doesn't always have the answers.

nomena. "I have always been interested in UFOs, even as a kid," he said. "There seems to be an increase in interest regarding UFO phenomena. With the publishing of a couple of books such as Whitey Streiber's *Communion*, and Raymond Fowler and Betty Andreasson's *The Andreasson Affair*, the focus on UFOs seems to have shifted to abduction cases. But there is still a substantial interest in UFO sightings."

The organization currently has 30 members, and Firmani said they are always looking for more people to join. "The organization is looking for people who are willing to become involved in the investigation of UFO sightings or

UFOs and who might not be as willing to get into the actual investigation of the matter."

There are several investigations going on in the state involving both abductions and sightings. "There hasn't been anything in the Fitchburg and Leominster area for quite a while, at least anything that we have been made aware of." Firmani said sometimes his cases come from the MUFON headquarters in Texas. "They are a little bit more visible organization and people are more apt to contact them about the cases. The cases are then referred to us and we act on them."

Investigations can take from a few

days to a few years. They involve a long process of interviewing those involved in the incident and then, in the case of UFO sightings, checking with various facilities such as Army and Air Force bases, and municipal airports to see if there were any known aircraft in the area at the time. Then comes the process of elimination. "Sometimes UFOs become IFOs (Identified Flying Objects); sometimes not. We don't always have the answers."

Investigations are free, and information compiled is added to the growing collection about UFOs world-wide. "It's not a matter of just shrugging your shoulders and saying, 'There's nothing going on, it's all a matter of someone's imagination.' Well, there's something going on and what we're doing is collecting that information so that maybe we can find out what it is."

Information investigators request include dates, times and locations of incidents. Other things investigators look for include the size, shape and color of the object, where it was traveling and how fast, and if it was glowing or had any exterior lights visible.

"These questions all help in narrowing down what the UFO might be," Firmani said. "The more information, the better." Firmani said photographic evidence is not always reliable, but is welcome nonetheless. "The person taking the photograph should note the aperture and shutter settings as well as the type of film used. This will help us in determining the authenticity of the photograph."

Firmani and members of Mass MUFON conduct lectures for interested organizations. "We sent out our hotline number to police organizations across the state," Firmani said. "We did this so that if they get a phone call about a sighting, they can direct the call to us. There are a lot of people who aren't satisfied with just reporting the incident to the police. They have to know more. We're the logical organization to give them that information."

The MUFON information number is (508) 537-6478 and the MUFON hotline number is (617) 944-3775. □

The UFO question still topic for study

By Kathy Mellott

ALTOONA — A young man identified as Steve was sitting in his car with his girlfriend one night recently when a circular-type aircraft flashed into view.

The craft had a green light coming from its narrow tail that illuminated the interior of the car. It hovered over the Westfall Park area for two to three minutes, then suddenly disappeared.

Steve, a maintenance man at Station Mall, was relating his experience to John Timmerman, vice president of public relations for the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies. The center, based in Chicago, is one of two that monitor and record sightings of unidentified flying objects. The second organization is Mutual UFO Studies, based in Texas.

"We were sitting there in my girlfriend's driveway and it just appeared," Steve told Timmerman. "It came from nowhere, hovered near the car, then just disappeared."

Steve noted that his sighting was similar to one that took place in May. Two women reported that they were driving along Route 220 south of Altoona when they saw a greenish glow in the woods. It then approached the highway and passed over the car.

Timmerman, a Lima, Ohio, resident, listened intently to Steve. He nodded his head from time to time, indicating that similar sightings had been reported.

Steve produced a drawing depicting the craft. Timmerman pointed to a craft on the back of one of his extensive displays at the Station Mall and Steve nodded his head in affirmation.

The UFO expert spent the weekend at the mall talking to people, showing movies about UFOs and manning displays that depict some of the more outstanding UFO sightings. What he really was hoping for was people who would come forward with information about sightings similar to Steve's and tangible evidence such as photographs.

"There is something going on out there," said Timmerman, who is a former heating and air conditioning contractor and now vice president of the savings division of South Side Savings Bank in Lima.

Timmerman is a UFO believer, even though he never has experienced a sighting.

"I've never seen anything myself," he said. "My wife hopes I do someday."

The Center for UFO Studies has 100,000 recorded sightings, reports considered worthy enough to record. All together, 13 million Americans say they have experienced a UFO, Timmerman said.

Timmerman said the mall's maintenance man had what has become known as a close encounter of the first kind.

A close encounter of the second kind is where physical traces are found, such as mysterious markings in a field or loss of hair or a physical injury to an observer.

A close encounter of a third kind is when contact is made with an alien.

The three designations were developed by the late J. Allen Hynek, founder of the UFO center, Timmerman said. Hynek, who died in 1983, was an astronomer and consultant to the movie, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

Timmerman became interested in UFOs after serving as a consultant for the Air Force's Operation Blue Book, which was disbanded in 1969. Timmerman said the results of the intensive investigations were inconclusive.

"The conclusion was that UFOs are not a threat to the security of the nation," he said.

One of the most-interesting encounters, Timmerman said, was in 1953 and involved an aircraft and its pilot, who disappeared off Australia.

"He was in radio contact with the people and disappeared with no trace of him or his aircraft," Timmerman said.

UFO sightings occur in waves, he said, with large numbers of sightings reported every three or four years beginning in 1952. It has been several years since there has been a rash of reports.

UFO Believers Land In Earth City

This is the biggest story of the millennium and — it's being ignored!

By John M. McGuire
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

EARTH CITY, once touted as the development of the future, was the appropriate setting for the all-day-Saturday (and into the night) Show-Me U.F.O. Conference.

Situated on an impressive Missouri River flood plain, Earth City was once a grand dream and only now is beginning to sprout glass-and-steel high rises from its mucky flatness. One thing is certain, Earth City would be a dandy landing strip.

That is the silly remark of an uninformed person, of course. As any knowledgeable "ufologist" knows, unidentified flying objects don't need landing strips.

The UFO gathering, attended by about 450 people, was held in the Harley Hotel, Earth City's original tall building. There were six scheduled speakers, a couple of them billed as "mystery guest speakers," although one didn't show. Cause for speculation? Who knows?

Each speaker sold UFO documents of one sort or another — copies of purported government papers showing that Washington knows UFOs are real. The truly significant exhibits belonged to Stanton T. Friedman, the featured guest, a self-employed nuclear physicist and ufologist, who has made a serious business of unidentified flying objects.

Friedman is a ufologist of such stature that his presence in Earth City brought out a crew from Fox Television, which is doing a segment on extraterrestrials for the show "A Current Affair." Vince Lipari, of Fox TV in New York, interviewed Friedman in a Harley Hotel suite.

Before the taping began, Friedman sat on a sofa, eyes fixed on the television set, which was showing a rerun of "Star Trek." It was a love scene, between humanoids. Then the camera started running. Like a political candidate on the hustings, Friedman repeated his five-point theme:

- The evidence is overwhelming that the aliens are out there.
- We are in the midst of a "cosmic Watergate" coverup.
- None of the objections of the debunkers from the scientific community stands up under scrutiny.
- His colleagues in science and journalism have grossly neglected and are ignorant of the relevant data.
- This is the biggest story of the millennium — and it's being ignored!

"Flying saucers finish what Copernicus began; it takes man out of the center of the universe," said Friedman, who's big on phrase making. Then referring to his critics, and those who persecuted Copernicus, he added: "Men in white lab coats have replaced men in prayer robes."

Even his detractors, people such as Phillip J. Klass, a retired editor of Aviation Week & Space Technology, acknowledge that Friedman is a heavyweight in the UFO field. Klass spoke by telephone from his home in Washington D.C.

"In the early years, Stanton and I were a little more friendly," said Klass, who is also the Washington chairman of the Committee for the Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, the debunking outfit that publishes the Skeptical Inquirer, which periodically raps Friedman, accusing him of fanciful "theatrics" and specious UFO research.

"When we first met, he was employed by Westinghouse in Pittsburgh in nuclear-powered ram jets, and later with TRW, his fifth job in the nuclear field in 14 years. He was always getting laid off."

"The UFO lecturing was a part-time thing at first, but now he probably makes 60 to 80 percent of his income from UFO work. UFOs are his first love, his true love."

Friedman has bachelor's and master's degrees in physics from the University of Chicago. He was at Chicago in the late 1950s at the same time as Pulitzer Prize-winning astronomer and author Carl Sagan, who does not share Friedman's UFO views and has been rather vocal about it. Friedman, of course, has fired right back: "I rather nastily critiqued Sagan's latest book."

The list of people who do not agree with

Friedman — and whom he lumps under the catch-all of "noisy negativists" — include many of the stellar science and science fiction writers — Isaac Asimov, Arthur C. Clarke and Ben Bova.

Friedman's critics often cite the ballistic missile warning radar systems, which can detect things as small as nuts and bolts. Why haven't these systems picked up UFO visitors?, ask people like Clarke, who wrote "2001: A Space Odyssey."

"Nonsense once again," says Friedman. "Does he have the appropriate-level security clearance and the appropriate need to know for radar information about intruders in U.S. airspace?" he asked. Besides, he added, Clarke is English and therefore would not have access to our

which he says are fraudulent and counterfeit.

From this point on, the debate gets real complicated, with Klass citing "unnecessary commas" and "zeroes" in the alleged military documents. Klass also noted that all 12 people listed as being members of MJ-12 are now conveniently dead.

Friedman counters: "There is simply no way any rational person can deny that the U.S. government has been officially withholding data about UFOs for many years."

Klass said a "highly respected document examiner," whom he calls "P.T.," claims that Friedman and his collaborators were told that the Truman document was a counterfeit.

"It was typed on a Smith Corona machine not introduced until '62; the letter was dated Sept. 24, 1947," he said.

And so it goes in these arcane debates, which at times are like watching a brisk tennis match.

The Earth City UFO confab had some of the usual fare, slide-show lectures and videotapes showing bright things in the sky. Booklets and photocopied documents ranged in price from \$2.50 to \$10.

One series of photos presented an object that looked like an old-fashioned toy top, with lights; other angles made it appear like the underside of a hot-air balloon, with the propane burners on.

"Like a cork in the bottle, it bobs up," said Robert Oeschler, an engineer from Annapolis, Md., who gave a lecture titled "Correlating the Physical Enigma of the UFO With Photos."

Oeschler also had a videotape from Soviet television of the recent UFO business in the Russian city of Voronezh. According to the translation, the Russian announcer gave a "on the one hand, and then on the other" account, noting the long Soviet fascination with the occult.

In between sessions, there was serious hallway talk with various guest speakers about measures to take to keep children, and adults, from being abducted by aliens and taken aboard you know what.

Sitting on chairs inside the large meeting room were four paintings done from the famous (at least in UFO circles) Hudson Valley, N.Y., sightings. The pictures showed crafts with colored lights, in various shapes and sizes. The paintings were done in sort of a Grandma Moses, extraterrestrial style.

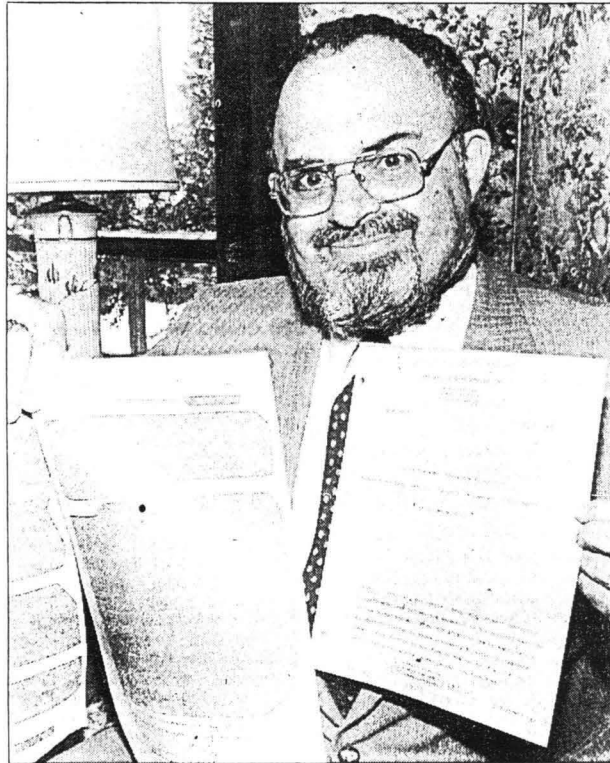
"Instead of chasing lights in the night skies," Ted Phillips, a professional photographer from Branson, Mo., has investigated more than 4,127 cases of physical traces left behind by UFOs.

"Close encounters of the second kind," he calls them, "footprints and landing imprints."

"October is a big month for [aliens] leaving things behind," he said, adding that Gordon Cooper, one of the original seven U.S. astronauts, is interested in his research.

One of his most well-reported cases was the 1967 "sighting" by a farmer in Tuscomb, Mo., who said he saw 3½-foot green-gray beings near a disc-shaped object in a field where his cattle were grazing.

Imprints were reportedly left behind.



UFO believer Stanton T. Friedman with documents that he believes prove that the government knew of UFOs.

secrets.

Friedman's big thing these days is a collection of photocopied documents that he and his collaborators say show, within a 90 percent degree of certainty, that U.S. administrations under presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight Eisenhower knew of the existence of UFOs and, in fact, had saucer samples and the bodies of four small E.T.s, collected from a crash in Roswell, N.M., in July 1947.

Stories that an Army Air Forces lieutenant had reported a "flying disk" burned up the news wires in July 1947: "Disk as Big as House Reported; Plane-Saucer Crash Tale a Hoax."

Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Mississippi and Rhode Island were the only states not reporting flying saucers or discs in the summer of '47. It got so bad that one news account noted: "Scientists said today that the hysteria stirred up over the 'flying saucers' could well mean that psychological casualties in an atomic or rocket war would far outnumber deaths from atomic bomb explosions."

The theory of relativity's Albert Einstein, contacted at Princeton, N.J., gave an "absolutely no comment," but then added that he had not been aware that the "saucers" were flying.

According to Friedman, a secret group was formed for investigating UFOs, led by former Central Intelligence Agency head Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, which was called Operation Majestic-12, or MJ-12, for the 12 government officials assigned to the top-secret project.

Klass and his skeptical colleagues scoff at this claim and charge that there are numerous flaws and inconsistencies in the so-called top-secret papers,

TIMES, Los Angeles, CA
Dec. 29, 1989 CR: C. Jines

Mystery Fireball Puts on Sky Show Over Wide Area

A large, greenish fireball flashed across the sky at high altitude Thursday evening, putting on a celestial display visible from the Grand Canyon to San Diego, authorities said.

Pilots flying between 13,000 feet and 35,000 feet reported seeing the fireball over Arizona and Nevada, Federal Aviation Administration officials said. Coast Guard officials in Long Beach said they had received reports of sightings from San Diego to Santa Barbara.

A spokesman at Griffith Observatory said they did not have sufficient information to determine what caused the fireball.

Exline farmers spot UFOs in evening sky

EXLINE, Iowa (AP) — Several people in southern Iowa saw bright reddish lights in the early evening sky, causing one to rethink her skepticism about UFOs.

"I wish somebody would give me a logical explanation so people would stop teasing me," Carol Drake, 48, a farmer near Exline, said Thursday.

The Iowa sighting coincided with two other reports of unidentified lights to the UFO Reporting Center in Seattle.

"We had reports from Lexington, Ky., and Topeka, Kan., about a group of lights at very high altitude," said Robert Gribble, director of the center.

"We don't have any explanation. Everybody is looking at the sky after the Soviet report."

The Soviet news agency Tass reported this week that citizens there saw aliens with tiny heads and large bodies.

"Usually I just get a chuckle when I hear reports about UFO," Mrs. Drake said by telephone. "I've been getting a chuckle out of the Russian story. The little kid in me wants to believe there are such things, but I think it's not sensible."

"I did not see any people nine to 12 feet tall, or whatever the Russians saw."

Mrs. Drake was one of many people who saw the lights early Wednesday evening near Exline, 60 miles southeast of Des Moines and only a few miles north of the Missouri border. She said a visitor to her house saw the same thing as did her daughter, who lives several miles away.

"I got her on the phone and said, 'Would you run outside and see if you can see any flying saucers, or whatever it is.' She was gone for quite a while and then came back and said, 'That's bizarre.'"

Mrs. Drake said the two lights changed colors, first reddish and then changing to mostly yellow,

and were like bright headlights in the distance. It wasn't bright enough to create light on the ground, however, and it wasn't too bright to look at, she said.

She said the lights neither blinked nor made any sound and they were far above the horizon, thus ruling out lights on farm machinery. She said she could see transcontinental jets in the night sky but that their blinking lights were minuscule compared to the unidentified lights.

The lights moved independently of each other, she said, and frightened her when they moved directly over her house.

"I'm sure there's a logical explanation for it," she said.

Although the lights appeared to be high in the sky, the source was apparently close to her farm, she said, since she reported the lights to be east of her house at the same time her daughter several miles away saw them to the north.

Mrs. Drake said she was alone at the time but that a visitor, John Heubner of Fairfield, stopped by and saw the same thing. Heubner's wife, Pat Heubner, said her husband called her Wednesday night and was breathless.

"He was so excited. Now I believe in UFOs, but I don't think he did until now," Mrs. Heubner said.

Heubner could not be reached for comment.

Another person who saw the lights was David Foster of rural Exline.

"There were two lights in the sky, then they separated and one went off," he told radio station KBIZ in Ottumwa. He said the lights were too high in the sky to be mistaken for farm machinery.

The Appanoose County sheriff's office in Centerville said nobody but the media called about the mysterious lights.



Strange circular depression discovered in Shoreline Park

The above strange circular depression of spiraled grass located in South Shoreline Park was reported on Wednesday Nov. 15, 1989. Of particular interest is the similarity between this Gulf Breeze grass spiral and those reported recently by the national media. *Time* and *Wall Street Journal* reported that this year alone there have been almost 250 such mysterious circles in Hampshire, England. (Hampshire is in southern England which is also the location of Stonehenge). The circle formation range from single rings to more complex quintuplets.

According to *Time*, "These puzzling circles - large sweeping areas neatly flattened in a swirling pattern - do not exhibit the kind of rough damage caused by harsh weather, animals or humans. Researchers studying the phenomenon have convincingly ruled out man-made hoaxes, yet they differ on how to explain the occurrences."

Dr. Terence Meaden, Physicist, speculates that the disturbance may be a "plasma vortex phenomenon," a previously unknown atmospheric disturbance.

Possibly of more interest in the

Gulf Breeze area is the book, *Circular Evidence* by Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews, who attempt to link the circles with UFO sightings. The photos of the Gulf Breeze circle were taken on November 16 and clearly show the odd swirling pattern that survived the wind and rain storm from the night before. As with the England circles, this Gulf Breeze circle remains a mystery.

As of Tuesday (a week after it was first discovered) the spiral of pressed grass and weeds is still as flat as it was several days ago, according to Rex Salisbury who is investigating the spot for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

Salisbury told the *Sentinel*, after visiting the area today with Santa Rosa County Extension Agent, Dan Mullins, that Mullins found no damage to stems or roots of the plants in the spiral.

Mullins, who took a soil sample from the area for laboratory analysis, reportedly said his first impression was that the spiral was caused by a whirlwind.

Don Ledbetter, using a gieger counter from the county radiology office, examined the site Monday and found no radio activity.

CR: R. Reid

NUMISMATIC NEWS, [City of Publication Unknown] - Nov. 14, 1989 CR: J. Barbour

Use of money universal

There are few journalists who would not welcome the chance to do a story that could conceivably be considered as "out of this world." I am not an exception, but do profess to be somewhat of a skeptic. Nonetheless, the assignment was accepted with the knowledge that it could be written while keeping both feet planted on *terra firma* and with the satisfaction of knowing that subscribers to *Numismatic News* would be the first to learn that money, of a different sort, is indeed in use in other galaxies!

Dr. Hal Wilcox, a 57-year-old former school teacher and Korean war veteran, has been the subject of newsmaker articles in the *National Enquirer* and similar tabloids, and he has made guest appearances on the Joe Pyne Show.

Wilcox says every known Central Intelligence Agency/Federal Bureau of Investigation polygraph test substantiates his claim to have been a passenger on an Extra Gamma Traversing Cycle, a vehicle we earthlings are apt to call a scout craft, flying saucer or IFO (Identified Flying Object).

In 1964, and again in 1968, Wilcox ventured to where no other earthling had been known to tread, to the planet Selo, in the Barnard Star System some 5.9 light years distant. In all, Wilcox has spent a total of almost four earth days on Selo. The second visit, undertaken in 1968, was of three and a half days duration and Wilcox reports that he saw "all that was possible to see."

Computers, advises Dr. Wilcox, play a major role in Selocian society, which is part of an Interplanetary Cultural Exchange incorporating a total of 49 principle colonized planets, not counting hundreds of thousands of planets, moons, satellites and manned craft developed afterward.

"My first physical contact with the Galactic Society was grasping a simple handrail on a scout craft that had

Ed Rochette



landed near a University of Southern California campus and receiving an electric shock," says Dr. Wilcox. Zemkla, the extraterrestrial commander of the spaceship from Selo, explained to Wilcox that the electric shock had been rendered by the onboard computer for the purpose of mind-printing him and accessing the knowledge he possessed. The shock was a one-time occurrence and the information gained has been programmed to be shared by all participating in a Galactic Interface. This identification is stored in an ID card similar in appearance to electronic bank cards used on Earth.

"It is half of the story of the Green Trading Discs," advises Wilcox.

"I have been physically contacted many times since. (Each encounter) usually starts with a phone call, a drive and receiving my 'ID Card' upon entering the ET vehicle," says the former school teacher. Dr. Wilcox has no example of the identification piece to show, explaining that he has to surrender the card each time upon his return. The card contains coded data required by their computerized devices — information as to his clearance and functions that he might witness.

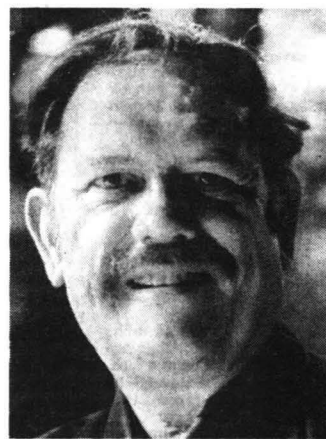
According to Wilcox, the Green Trading Discs mentioned are "similar to poker chips and are silver dollar in size, shape and weight." These are inserted, along with the ID card every time a person enters "into or onto another field of experience." Traveling from one

major land mass or continent on Selo to another, between planets, or stepping aboard a commissioned vehicle, involves the use of both card and disc.

"While I do have an 'assigned suit' and an ID card, given to me upon my entrance into their society," says Wilcox, "I have never been given a Green Trading Disc." He further explains, "(The disc) appears to function like a type of bank book, storing memory of credits earned or credits spent. As I am not part of their social system, I am unaware of having any credits. However, as I have received food and shelter, to say nothing of transportation twice to Selo, my efforts 'here' must have earned me something 'there' within their credit system.

"I have frequently been asked to describe or compare their society to ours. Ours is based upon a system of economics, dependent on obsolescence and devices designed purposely to break — (to) wear out as quickly as possible. In contrast, objects, devices and human bodies within the Galactic System of which I report, are made to remain stable, not break, wear out or require any replacement.

"This has a great bearing on their lifestyle and handling the Green Trading Discs — what we call 'currency.' The purchase of one object is enough for a life span and their 'vocation' is more or less when they want to work. (For this reason) most of their needs are well



Dr. Hal Wilcox explained to the columnist how "Green Trading Discs" serve as a form of money in at least one other civilization — the Interplanetary Cultural Exchange in the Barnard Star System.

within their purchasing ability. From age three, they start learning in the home — how to use a computer and how to generate (earn money) credits for their Green Trading Discs. The idea that any of them would or could ever run out of credits (under their system) is unthinkable."

Dr. Wilcox adds, "I personally would like to think or believe that someday, these systems could be made available to our world. However," he notes, "a delegation of ET humans offered to help our government in the 1940 period, but was rejected!"

Selo, says Hal Wilcox, is a principal planet and he was given to understand during his visits there that they use the same language, currency and lifestyle of every other civilized world in their galaxy. If true, not only is money different in other worlds, so is the nature of man.

Hatfield couple see UFO hover near state line

An unidentified flying object that reportedly toured Jefferson County Monday night might have made an earlier appearance in Polk County.

Fred and Faye Anthony said they watched a bright floating object for about 45 minutes Sunday evening from their home 1.6 miles west of Hatfield on Arkansas 246.

Fred Anthony, 65, said he first saw the object around 8 p.m. when he stepped outside for a moment. "It looked like a firecracker on the fourth of July that explodes —

only this wasn't exploding. It had bright straws of light all around it, and it was so bright in the middle it hurt your eyes to look at it, kind of like driving into the sun at noon."

The object was round and appeared to be the relative size of a refrigerator, said Anthony. He estimated it to be as far away as Oklahoma, more than five miles to the southwest, and hovering one-half to one mile high.

The "straws" of light were "all different colors," he said. Faye Anthony joined her husband on their porch, and the two watched through binoculars and a rifle scope as the object dimmed and dropped a short distance. After about 30 minutes it dimmed completely out, he said.

The couple went inside for a few minutes, then came back out. The object was again visible in the same place, but soon dimmed to darkness.

It was the first time he has seen a UFO, said Anthony. "It sort of puzzled me. It was a weird-looking outfit. It wasn't a falling star — nothing like that. Whatever it was, it was a machine."

Monday night, a bright light globe that hovered over treetops and disappeared somewhere over Watson Chapel bewildered residents and law enforcement officials and kept the phones busy at a local radio station.

Larry Simpson, a disc jockey for KCLA radio station, said he was flooded with phone calls from people in the area who saw the strange light.

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

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

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

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

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

The object was also seen by Sgt. Bernard Adams of the sheriff's office and Deputy Mark Bradley. They watched the object until it disappeared somewhere over Watson Chapel about 9:30 p.m.

Sheriff's dispatcher Glen Hopkins said several deputies reported seeing the bright light moving from the west to the east and then back again. He said it was also seen in Grant County.

Hopkins said the Federal Aviation Administration reported no radar contact with the object.

Hopkins said he had no idea what the object was.

"All I can tell you is I had three officers who saw it," he said.

Adams couldn't identify what he was looking at, either.

"I don't know really what it was," he said. "Whether it was a weather balloon or a satellite or what, I don't know. To me, it was just bright lights in the air."

"It did move, and it completely disappeared afterward," he said. "It was real bright."

Adams said Pine Bluff Arsenal employees also reported seeing the object.

Bradley was on patrol just south of Pine Bluff on Arkansas 81 when he saw the bright white light hovering about 150 yards above the treetops.

"Someone asked me if I had seen a UFO, and I told them I saw an object and it was unidentified and it was flying," Bradley said Tuesday. "When I put the binoculars on it, it was just a white light and every once in a while you could see some red mixed in it. The light was so bright you couldn't determine any shape to it."



THE THING: Night watchman Tony Arias drew this picture for the police report.

HERALD, Miami, FL - Dec. 10, 1989 CR: L. Howe

Guard at shopping center spies something strange

By JON O'NEILL
Herald Staff Writer

At 4:30 a.m. Thursday, some "thing" walked through the Colonial Palms Shopping Center. Whatever it was, it was big and ugly enough to scare the daylights out of the night watchman, who ran from the center and phoned police.

Police help him hunt for 'alien being'

The result was one of the most unusual police reports ever seen, complete with a composite sketch

of the "thing" drawn by the guard, whom police identified as 27-year-old Tony Arias.

Arias described the "thing" as being 7 feet 5 inches tall, weighing 150 pounds, bald, with a "big head and cat eyes."

The sketch he drew for police resembles some sort of alien. On the bottom of the drawing, officer Juan Santana wrote: "This sketch was provided by the reporter. We are not joking, this is what he drew."

"I've been on the force for 18 years and this is one of the weirdest reports I've ever read," said Sgt. Joe Wyche of Metro's Kendall station.

Arias works the midnight shift at the mall, 13601 S. Dixie Highway. He has no phone at home and could not be reached for comment.

The phone number listed for his employer, King Security, was disconnected.

According to police, Arias called at 4:30 a.m. and officer Santana responded. Arias immediately told Santana he had not

been drinking, then tried to explain what he had seen.

Santana wrote: "Upon my arrival an extensive search was conducted for the described 'thing,' with negative results. Reporter thinks he also saw two other 'things' with the first one."

Wyche said there isn't much police can do about Arias' bizarre sighting.

"My first thought was that it was someone in some kind of scary costume," Wyche said. "But I just don't know. Whatever he saw shook him up enough to call us."

There are no plans to open a special hot line for any additional sightings of the thing, police said.

TIMES, New York, NY - Oct. 13, 1989

At the Movies | Lawrence Van Gelder

Philippe Mora will film a modern sci-fi tale set in the past ■ C. Thomas Howell's career has been family-oriented from the start.

Sci-Fi Specialist

To keep up with Philippe Mora, it pays to keep an eye on Hollywood, an eye on a map of the world beyond and an eye on the best-seller lists.

Did somebody count three eyes? Well, in discussing the French-born, Australian-reared, Hollywood-based Mr. Mora and his latest movie projects, that seems altogether fitting. Lately, Mr. Mora has been concerned with beings from outer space.

On Nov. 10, New Line Cinema will be releasing the director's "Communism," based on his old friend Whitley Strieber's nonfiction best seller about his encounters with extraterrestrials, and starring Christopher Walken and Lindsay Crouse as Mr. Strieber and his wife, Frances, and Frances Sternhagen as Mrs. Strieber's psychiatrist.

And next, Mr. Mora will be making a film that deals with an actual reported encounter with alien beings near Roswell Army Air Field in New Mexico more than 40 years ago. It's titled "Majestic," and it is based on Mr. Strieber's new novel of the same title, published by Putnam.

The other day, Mr. Mora was on the phone from an airport in Albuquerque, N.M., at the conclusion of a location scouting trip. "The novel," he said, "is based on quite a famous incident when the Air Force put out a press release saying they'd come into possession of a crashed disk. Then the next day it was retracted, and ever since then it has been sort of a legendary incident in U.F.O. lore. This is the origin of all the stories of finding alien remains and Air Force cover-ups."

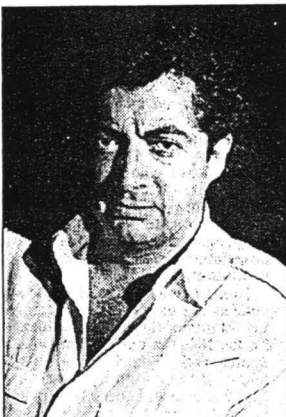
Majestic, he explained, was the name of a supposedly top-secret committee set up by President Harry S. Truman to look into the report of the downed flying saucer.

Discussing the challenge of "Majestic," Mr. Mora said, "Well, it's going to be very interesting to do a science-fiction film set in 1947. That really appeals to me. Usually these things are very futuristic or contemporary. This is futuristic in the past."

"It means that obviously the look of the picture will be very accurately 1947 but with these very advanced spacecraft and beings."

Mr. Mora has a production company with Mr. Strieber, whom he first met in London in 1968 when he was in film school and Mr. Strieber was a Pop artist. Mr. Mora expects to begin filming "Majestic" from a screenplay by Mr. Strieber in February or March in New Mexico, on a 12-week schedule.

Mr. Mora also knows what he wants to film after "Majestic." It's



Philippe Mora

"The Duchess of Windsor," based on the Charles Higham best seller about Edward VIII, who abdicated the British throne to marry an American divorcee, Wallis Warfield Simpson.

"I found the political revelations in Charles's book fascinating — the English aristocracy's incredibly close connections to the Fascists in Italy and the Nazis in Germany," Mr. Mora said. "That, combined with the racy elements, have the making of a very good film."

He conceded that the Windsor project would be a departure from his recent preoccupation with beings from outer space. "As far as I know," he said, "there aren't any aliens involved with that one, but you never know."

CR: D. Stacy/COUD-I

NORTHWESTERN, Oshkosh, WI

Oct. 12, 1989 CR: R. Heiden/COUD-I

There's a sign post up ahead — Queens?

NEW YORK (AP) — That extraterrestrial story from the Soviet Union was finally cleared up Wednesday — those 12-foot, tiny-headed guys who landed in the U.S.S.R. were just trying to get back to New York City.

"Anything's possible," said Bill Knell, a local UFO researcher who firmly believes there was an alien presence in a park in the borough of Queens seven months ago. "Absolutely, there was some type of UFO in Kissena Park."

Knell's assertions — he also said there may have been a return visit two weeks ago — came two days after the Soviet news agency Tass reported the presence of ETs in the town of Voronezh.

Since then, scientists have disparaged the report, attributing it to rising sensationalism in the Soviet press under "glasnost," or greater openness.

Neither story seemed to impress local residents, who were more concerned with Knell's presence in the park than any report of visiting ETs.

"This is my haunt. I've been coming to this park for years, and there's nothing going on here," said Julie Ford, shaking her head and laughing. "They say that tree there was burned by a UFO — it was broken by kids swinging on the branches."

Sure enough, Knell did offer the damaged willow as evidence that something had beamed down there. But he also offered a mineralogist's report that a burned oval on the ground con-

tained particles of a type of feldspar quartz found on the island of Aruba, not in Queens.

"We find this amazing," said Knell, who was joined by several other believers in UFOs.

According to Knell, five people riding a bus on March 9 saw "very bright lights" hovering near a lake in the park. Since the park is located between Kennedy and LaGuardia airports, they initially thought it was a downed aircraft, said Knell.

Based on their accounts and other evidence, Knell said, UFO investigators determined this was a legitimate sighting.

Knell thinks he knows why the people who spotted something in Queens never saw aliens or spoke with them.

"I believe they have their own agenda, and at this time it doesn't include communication," said Knell, who addressed several skeptical reporters at the site where the UFO allegedly burned the ground.

Unfortunately, that's also the site where the remnants of a downed tree were piled, killing off all the grass underneath, said park maintenance man Joe Mackey, 60.

"If there was a spot around here burned out, I woulda known about it," said Mackey, who spends three days a week in the park. "It's a figment of somebody's imagination."

Lee Abide Jr. said he first saw the object about three or four months ago.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

UFO sighting hot news

By **PAT MOORE**
Of the Tribune staff

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

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

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

The disc didn't touch down. No three-eyed aliens strolled through the Hillsboro city park or zapped anyone, as Tass, the Soviet news agency, reported they did in the Russian city of Voronezh. Tass didn't send any senior reporters to talk with Harley and his wife, Betty.

"I told three people about it," Harley said. "I never told nobody else. But somebody reported it to the newspaper office."

On Thursday the

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

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

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

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

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

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

Harley agreed. "We never intended to have any publicity," he said. "That's why we didn't say much at the time. I think different people seen something that night but didn't say anything about it."



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

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL
Dec. 7, 1989 CR: R. Reid

MUFON discloses Four More UFO Sightings

BY

CAROL AND REX SALISBERRY

PENSACOLA MUFON reports that the UFO sighting activity is continuing in the Gulf Breeze area. In addition to the swirl in the grass, and the 15 November sighting reported in the *Sentinel*, there have been at least four other sightings thus far reported for November. At about 9:30 p.m. on 2 November, a teen-aged brother and sister were walking home from a nearby convenience store in the Whisper Bay area of Gulf Breeze. As they arrived at their home, they saw two bell-shaped UFOs about 500 feet ahead of them to the north toward East Bay. The objects were about 500 feet in the air. They were gray-blue in color and were illuminated with a bright white glow on their bottoms.

They appeared to be larger than a helicopter, but smaller than an airplane. The objects sped away very rapidly to the north-northwest and disappeared out of sight. Almost immediately thereafter, a third object appeared from the direction in which the others have departed and sped toward them. It had the same bell shape as the first two, but glowed a much brighter yellow color from its bottom. It disappeared behind the trees to the north over East Bay. There was a moderate humming sound coming from the direction in which the third object had disappeared. Most of the neighborhood dogs were barking during the episode, but they stopped shortly after the humming noise stopped.

November 30th was a bee-hive of activity. At about 6:30 p.m. that evening, a professional couple, whose place of business is in Gulf Breeze were driving home to their residence in Pensacola Beach. As they arrived in Pensacola Beach, they noticed a huge glowing object which was hovering at about 500 feet altitude out over the Gulf of Mexico. They parked their car by the side of the road and watched the UFO for a few minutes until it started to move away in a westerly direction. As an airplane approached its position, the object just "blinked out" and disappeared. They then drove down Ft.

Pickens Road in hopes that they would see it again. They waited for a brief time at Ft. Pickens, and when it did not reappear, they drove on home. At about the same time, two residents of the Tiger Point area saw the same or a similar object in the same general area as that reported by the Pensacola Beach couple. The object was farther from them but seems to have much of the same description as that given by the first two witnesses. At least two other witnesses are reported to have had similar sightings at about the same time, but they have not as yet been interviewed by Pensacola MUFON investigators.

Later that evening at about ten p.m., a resident of the Midway area saw two triangular shaped UFOs moving to the east on the south side of Highway 98. The objects were very large and not more than 100 feet above the ground. The first one hovered directly over the car of the witness for about a minute and then "shot up" very fast and disappeared out of sight behind the trees in the direction of East Bay. The witness tried to follow the UFO with her car but the car malfunctioned. After the UFO had disappeared, the car started functioning properly again, so the witness started again on her way toward Gulf Breeze. She had gone only a short distance when she saw the second UFO over the trees to the south side of the road. She in an attempt to get a closer look at the object, turned left onto Route 191C and turned left onto Soundside Drive. It was moving along slowly and passed very near to her. It was only slightly above the level of the tree tops as it passed her position. When she turned off the headlights of the car, the UFO "shot away" to the north very rapidly and disappeared behind the trees. The witness followed it back toward Highway 98 but did not see it again.

Pensacola MUFON is continuing their investigation of these sightings. Anyone having UFO related phenomena to report are encouraged to contact the Pensacola MUFON hot-line number, 477-7777.

BEACON JOURNAL, Akron, OH - Nov. 28, 1989 CR: J. Barbour

A circle of intrigue

In Holmes, some talk of a UFO

By **Carl Chancellor**
Beacon Journal staff writer

At first glance it's not much to speak of — just a large circle, faintly impressed in the grass.

As a matter of fact the ring is barely visible, but it has the folks in and around this rural Holmes County community talking.

And the buzz is UFO. "It's been the major topic of conversation around here. . . . No one can figure out how it got there or what made it (the circle). . . . It's strange," said Capt. Tim Aurand, 42, with the Holmes County Sheriff's Department.

tread design inside the ring, which he said eliminates the possibility of it being made by a bike or motorcycle tire.

"I find it hard to believe it was an extraterrestrial phenomenon but I can't explain it," he said.

The Nevilles don't have an answer, either.

Judi Neville said there is no "reasonable explanation" for the ring that her oldest son, Rhett, 16, discovered in their front lawn after he climbed on the roof of the house to retrieve a football. "He wouldn't have noticed it if he hadn't been on the roof," said Judi.

Aside from the circle, Mrs. Neville doesn't recall anything strange or out of the ordinary occurring near their ranch home recently — no flashing lights or loud noises.

"The only thing that was unusual was that the dogs barked for about 45 minutes straight around 2 (Saturday morning). . . . But I didn't get up to look to see what it was they were barking at," she said.

But the ring has rattled some of Mrs. Neville's views.

"I just don't know. I didn't believe in them (UFOs) before, but now this ring has me kind of wondering."

Millersburg

The only thing that is known for sure about the circle is on an incident report on file at the sheriff's office.

According to the report, the Nevilles, who live in nearby Monroe Township, discovered the ring, which is about 7 inches wide and 46 feet in diameter, late on the afternoon of Nov. 11.

"It is as near a perfect circle as you can get," said Aurand, who investigated the ring two days later. He said the ring left a half-inch depression in the ground.

"Whatever it was it had some weight to it," said Aurand.

Aurand also noted that there was no

After discovering the ring, the Nevilles didn't immediately call the sheriff. It was only after the urging of friends and family that they reported the incident.

Holmes County Sheriff Arlie R. Croke said it's not unusual for his department to receive periodic reports of unidentified flying objects.

"They are mainly sightings of strange lights in the sky," said the sheriff. He said most of those sightings can be chalked up to low-level military flight drills in the area.

But the Neville ring is something different.

"It's definitely a very unique ring," said Walter Andrus, director of Mutual UFO Network. The private, Texas-based UFO investigation agency recently dispatched an Ohio member to investigate the Holmes County circle.

"He checked for radiation and took soil samples . . . but at this point we don't know what caused it. Our investigation is not yet completed," said Andrus.

In addition, Andrus said the investigator reported that the grass inside the ring depression was discolored.

"The rest of the yard was really nice and green," Andrus said.

She, too, watched the object in the sky.

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

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

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

"The first thing I thought about was jumpin' in my car and followin' it around but it disappeared too fast."

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

Did she ever see anything like it before?

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

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

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

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

Two Ozarkers puzzled and frightened by encounter with UFO

Curiosity turned to alarm when the women noticed the bizarre ball of light following them along the almost deserted highway. That ruled out smoke or gas rising from the ground, they figured.

"We were so busy watching that thing and so upset by what we were seeing that we missed the turn-off to War Eagle and went almost all the way to Springdale," Underwood says. "It disappeared again as we approached the town. We turned around and started back. We topped a hill, and there it was again! This time it was above us. We were looking at it out the windshield. I tried a couple more pictures. Then Joanne said, 'This is too much for me. I can't drive anymore. We were both really stressed out by this time.'

The ball of light retreated a few hundred feet to the side of the roadway, but again began pacing the truck. "This time we were looking at it out the window on Joanne's side of the cab," Underwood notes. "Finally, the thing seemed to hover over a trailer house. Then it settled down out of sight behind the trailer. That's the last we saw of it."

The remainder of the ride to War Eagle was uneventful — and silent. "We both were just real quiet," says Wilson. "We didn't talk about it all day, except for a

couple of times when we'd say to each other, 'What was that?'"

On the drive home that evening, they decided to tell their husbands.

"I made Joanne come in the house with me when I told Jeff," says Underwood.

"I asked them what they'd been doing — drinking?" says Jeff Underwood, knowing full well his wife doesn't imbibe alcohol. "I kidded them at first. But then I could tell they were serious."

The women were in for a second shock when the roll of film was developed. Some of the photos show tinges of red and streaks of white — not as distinct as the glowing object they saw, but still recognizable to the women. What startled the pair were prints showing a silvery metallic object that appeared to be just outside the truck — much closer than anything the women remember seeing in person.

"I thought, 'Gosh, was it reaching out to get us?'" Underwood says. "I got scared all over again."

Wilson likens the surprise images

to "taking pictures of an ice glacier and then later seeing dinosaurs in your photographs."

Among the first outside the families to see the photos was KYTV reporter Ed Fillmer, who says he came away impressed with the sincerity of Wilson and Underwood but also convinced the unexpected silver object visible in some frames is a reflection from the dashboard of Wilson's 1989 Chevy Silverado pickup truck. Others (including me) agree with Fillmer's theory.

However, frames showing a red glow and streaks of light are not so easily explained. And Underwood and Wilson say all the photos seemed to impress two investigators from the Mutual UFO Network, which has its headquarters in Washington, D.C., who journeyed to Harrison a few days ago to interview the women and inspect the pictures.

"Both men seemed pretty amazed by the pictures," reports Underwood. The investigators told the women to keep a tight rein on the photos, lest the pictures disappear

into a locked government file. And, to possibly help fill in memories of their "lost" half-hour, the men suggested the women undergo hypnosis — an option they still are weighing.

"I asked those fellows why they thought that thing, whatever it was, was following us," says Underwood. "They said, 'It could've been because you were chosen.' I said, 'Whoa! I don't want to hear that!'"

What Underwood and Wilson do want to hear is an explanation. They granted an interview to a Harrison newspaper reporter, hoping others had seen the glowing object and would step forward. They say there has been some vague response, but that an incorrect date in the article hampered the effort.

"We know what we saw, but so far nobody has told us what it was," says Underwood. "I want there to be a simple answer. I want to know what it was, so I can put it out of my mind and sleep at night again."

□ Mike O'Brien is former associate editor of The News-Leader.

By their own description, Underwood and Wilson seem an unlikely pair for such a strange encounter. Underwood, 33, is the mother of four; Wilson, 48, is twice a grandmother. Both are interested in country crafts, especially old-fashioned, handmade dolls.

Neither had seen a UFO before the morning of Oct. 20, when they huddled into Wilson's pickup truck for the hour's drive from their hometown of Harrison, Ark., westward to the annual War Eagle Crafts Fair, where they'd reserved an exhibit booth. They were a few miles west of Huntsville, Ark., on Arkansas 68 when they first saw what they both call "the redness."

"I first saw it on a hilltop out the window on my side of the truck," says Underwood. "It's hard to describe. It was sort of a huge red oval, with two white columns of light contained within the redness. It had a softness around the edges, and there was a kind of smokiness in it. It had a definite shape — but, then again, it didn't."

Underwood checked the time: 5:10 a.m. She called Wilson's attention to the glowing object in the distance. "I thought maybe it was a balloon or clouds, maybe with sunlight reflecting," recalls Wilson. "Then I said to myself, 'Wait a minute! The sun's not even up yet, and there are no clouds in sight.' All you could see was stars in the sky."



MIKE O'BRIEN

The only thing worse than being ridiculed for claiming to have seen a "flying saucer" is to be tormented by the haunting mystery of an unidentified flying object.

So Debbie Underwood and Joanne Wilson have gone public with their sighting of a UFO in the Ozarks, in the hope someone can provide them a plausible answer.

"I've been having nightmares," says Underwood of her troubled sleep since she and Wilson spotted the strange red ball of light following their pickup truck along a lonely stretch of highway. "This whole thing has been real unsettling. I've been trying to reason it out for myself, but I can't. I just want an explanation."

Her companion on that harrowing morning agrees. "It just blows my mind to think about it," says Wilson. "It was so eerie, so spooky."

ENQUIRER, Battle Creek, MI - Dec. 26, 1989 CR: T. Sullivan

He seeks a scholarly look at UFOs

The Associated Press

KALAMAZOO — A Michigan professor is trying to encourage serious research on the UFO enigma by reviving a professional journal.

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

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

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

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

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

The analyses couldn't pinpoint

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

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

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

JOURNAL, Winston-Salem, NC - Dec. 27, 1989

Blind Faith

Seeing Isn't Necessary to Believing, Organizer of UFO Network Inc. Says

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LINCOLNTON

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

Not George Fawcett. Fawcett, an advertising sales representative for Park Newspapers and the executive director of the N.C. Mutual UFO Network Inc., says he has seen no evidence to convince him that such a pact — or community for that matter — exists.

"Now, some people believe there's a whole nation of humanoids living underneath the Arizona desert, but I don't believe it. Never have," said the 60-year-old Lincolnton man, who has been monitoring UFO activity in North Carolina and elsewhere for nearly 45 years.

FOR FAWCETT, such reports only degrade what for him has been a serious pursuit that began Dec. 18, 1944. On that day, Fawcett read a news item about shiny silver balls in the sky.

It changed his life. Since then, in his spare time, Fawcett has filled 35 filing cabinets with 30,000 to 40,000 reports of sightings.

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

"WE WANT TO pool our time, talent, money and other resources to continue what we've been doing informally for about 20 years," Fawcett said.

Among their first actions was to elect eight officers — with Fawcett at the helm — and to establish an investigative arm, called the Greater Charlotte MUFON Investigative Team.

The investigative unit, with George Lund of Charlotte in charge, trains members how to check and verify or discredit sightings. Using films, manuals and lectures, leaders of the unit teach members what to look for in the reports, such as descriptions of land markings; severe animal reactions; sounds similar to a swarm of bees; and odors like ammonia, sulphur or burnt electrical wire.

FAWCETT SAID that the team will probably be asked to look into more than 100 sightings this year, but he said that only 20 percent to 30 percent of those will be deemed real.

The rest can be written off as electrical towers, shooting stars, meteors and so on, he said.

Fawcett said that the proliferation of books and movies about aliens has opened the minds of many people to the possibility that UFOs exist.

But he is as disturbed by people who believe without investigating as he is by people who don't believe.

"THERE'S FOOLISH faith as opposed to blind doubt. They're both wrong," he said.

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

"In that respect, my experience is unusual," he said. "I saw one year ago above Lynchburg College — it was 10:15 a.m., July 10. It looked like an orange," he said, describing the 4½-minute encounter.

Although Fawcett is convinced that alien life may pose a threat to the nation's security and human survival, his next project, proposed construction of a UFO museum in North Carolina, capitalizes on UFOs.

"I think it would be a great tourist attraction. North Carolina is first in flight, why not first in UFOs?"

CR: G. Fawcett

Group probes UFO sighting

by Esther Mears

Tom Stults, UFO investigator from Downers Grove, has reported that a new UFO sighting downstate is being investigated by the nationally known organization, Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network (MUFON), which he heads in Illinois.

According to Stults, the sighting was reported by an investigator, Poe Clark, 35, who lives near Pekin in a small town called Bernadotte.

On Oct. 4, Clark, a machinist at Caterpillar Tractor, allegedly observed a torpedo-shaped object flying at an estimated alti-

tude of 25,000 feet or higher. The craft was accompanied by numerous luminous spheres.

Globs of a white substance, dubbed "Angel Hair," in previous UFO sightings, fluttered down over the soybean field at the site. Stults describes Angel Hair as being extremely fragile, often dissipating rapidly, especially if touched by human hand.

In the late '60s, according to Stults, a similar substance was reportedly analyzed and revealed to be cotton which had been burned by Gamma radiation.

Clark was able to capture some of the substance in open

jars as it fell to the ground in the field. Some material was caught on the soybean stalks and placed in jars also. The latter cannot be considered "pristine" samples since the substance has been contaminated by the soybean plants, says Stults.

He invites any reader who wishes to have more information about this incident or MUFON to call him at 963-4542.

CR: T. Stults

But after a lot of personal investigation and research into UFOs, Greenen came out of the closet.

The Orlando resident investigates UFO sightings in Orange and Seminole counties.

"We don't see too many here, but I am investigating one in Orlando where a 10-year-old boy says he was abducted from his bedroom," he said.

Greenen said the case appears to have some validity. "He remembers a lot of the details. It sounds like they had him most of the night," he said.

The boy told Greenen he was taken out of his room by four aliens, each about 4 feet tall, thinly built with almond eyes. They went from a small craft to a "mother ship" with about 12 to 14 rooms.

Greenen is convinced about the existence of UFOs and that the U.S. Government knows about them as well and has been involved in a cover-up for years.

After talking with Greenen on the phone for about an hour, I've got to admit I was ready to hit the road and start searching the skies for flashing lights.

Of course, the only flashing lights I'll ever find will be in front of a gift shop advertising T-shirts for 99 cents.

There were no lights, heat or air associated with the object. It was estimated to be about 50 feet in diameter.

"I wasn't going to say anything about this," Setvin said, "because people say these pictures are faked, but there wasn't anything done to this one."

James Greenen, a state section director with the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), an international organization of people seriously interested in studying and researching UFOs, said he is familiar with the Kissimmee case, but has never investigated it personally.

"The photo is remarkable," said Greenen of the Polaroid picture printed in the Kissimmee newspaper. Greenen, who is a manufacturing engineer at Martin Marietta in Orlando, had his own "close encounter" with a UFO in 1957 while stationed at a base in Maine.

"It came very close, about 75 feet away," Greenen said. His UFO was about 80-foot long and "cigar-shaped."

"They used to call them flying saucers back then and since my UFO wasn't saucer-shaped, I didn't know what it was," he said.

Greenen said his reaction was like many people who have seen UFOs. He didn't say anything about it for a long time.

Peter's Principle

By Peter Covino
News-Gazette Staff Writer



According to *The Sun*, Setvin was in one of the buildings at the campground, when he heard several women screaming outside. When he ran out, he saw a huge object hanging in the sky.

"I don't have any idea what it's intention was," Setvin told *The Sun*. "At the time, I thought somebody was pulling a trick out there and didn't think too much about it. But now I don't think it's a trick. I'm not really sure what I've seen."

Looking at *The Sun* photograph of what Setvin saw, it kind of reminds me of what a pistachio nut would look like if a pistachio nut could get impregnated.

Setvin described the UFO as resembling two bowls with the rims together and another dome on top. At the bottom were three holes, equidistant from each other.

UFOs? I'd just rather not even know

By Sarah Overstreet

CHRONICLE, Marshall, MI - Nov. 10, 1989 CR: T. Sullivan

If this were 25 years ago, my cousins and I would be right in the middle of a ghost hunt.

Billie Jo and Ginger lived in a tiny Kansas town, and about all there was for kids to do was go down to the tavern for some chewing gum, climb boxcars, and play in the many decaying houses whose families had moved away years earlier in search of jobs in the bigger cities.

No one paid much attention to the houses, because no one wanted to live in the town. The hapless owners just gave up and let us have at 'em.

They were exquisite places for calling forth ghosts, a practice we never tired of. We never tired of it because we never actually found what we were looking for. Sometimes we felt "cold spots" and occasionally we even heard strange voices cut the still air — just enough to keep us coming back without truly frightening us.

As I grew older, I gradually lost my belief in ghosts; a combination of changing philosophy and, I'm sure, having never actually seen one. My cousins and I gradually stopped looking for flying saucers, too; our faith a victim of our failure to experience.

But recently in Kansas folks were seeing UFOs — about 100 people in southeastern Kansas and northeastern Oklahoma reported sightings. Reading their accounts, I realized I

graduate and graduate school, White came to believe UFO's are real and not just fiction.

He began to study the subject and in the process built an international reputation. He has written 14 books and numerous magazine or newspaper articles about UFOs and contacts with aliens. The primary focus of his research has been of the religious or psychic aspects of the UFO phenomenon.

"I'm trying to bring education and credibility to the subject," White said.

As part of that continuing effort, White has organized his third annual UFO conference, which will be held on Nov. 11 and 12 at the Ramada Inn in North Haven. White and 11 other leaders in the field of UFO research will speak to about 150 people who have paid \$150 apiece to attend the gathering.

People will be coming from as far away as Seattle, Wash., and western Canada. A total of 20 states and Canada will be represented at the conference, White said.

Among the speakers will be Walter Andrus, the international director of the Mutual UFO Network, the largest UFO organization in the world, and Whitley Streiber, a best-selling author of non-fiction books. A University of Connecticut psychology professor also will report on the result of his

extensive interviews with people who claim to have seen UFOs.

"It is a chance for people who attend to have direct access to researchers and contactees (those who've met aliens). Essentially, it's a forum for public education," White said.

Despite his long-time belief in UFOs, White has only seen an unidentified flying object once in his life, and that sighting occurred just two years ago in April in New York state. White said the sighting also was witnessed by his oldest son, a neighbor and some of their friends.

"It was a brilliant red rectangular light that rose from behind a tree line," White recalled. "It hovered motionless, and as it did so ... it changed its dimensions to about three times its previous size for about 10 seconds. Then it returned to its previous size and sank behind the tree line."

White said he attempted to locate the exact area where he had seen the light, but he was unable to get to it because it was a swampy area. But he said he's conged it was a UFO.

"What it was I can't say. It didn't have a valid structure that I could see," he said.

GAZETTE, Schenectady, NY
Nov. 8, 1989 CR: D. Wemple

haven't stopped believing in flying saucers as much as I just stopped thinking about them; and I think that's because I'd just rather not know.

The Kansas UFOs did all the usual things — hovered, zipped swiftly while making no noise, rose straight up in the air. They had colored, blinking lights. One careful of folks reported a "round thing with two red lights" from which popped two 9-foot, green, glowing, thin beings that may or may not have had heads. Across the world in the Soviet Union, Tass, the official government news agency, reported sightings of a "shining ball or disc" from which emerged human-like creatures, 9 to 12 feet tall, with "very small heads."

A couple years ago, one of the reporters at the TV station where I work did a series on local UFO sightings, and one report really impressed me. In it, members of North Arkansas Community College's women's volleyball team, who had been returning from a match, told of seeing a round, blinking, "saucerlike" object come close to their bus, hover, then zip back and forth across the horizon. Although the whole busload saw it, only two or three were willing to tell the story on camera — the rest were afraid of being branded as wackos.

It's the same with my high-school friend's father: When he called the local airport to report what he'd seen, they guffawed and set the tone for all

future re-tellings. If you aren't a family friend and don't earn his trust, forget it. But it is the only UFO story I put any real stock in, because this man is about the straightest arrow I've found in this crooked old world. I know either he saw what he says he saw, or a cow kicked him real hard and he hallucinated it.

The way he tells it, a saucer-shaped object (like a "teacup upside down on a saucer") with red and blue blinking lights hovered and then landed on his back-40 one evening at milking time. When it took off again it left a circle of scorched earth behind.

Still, I won't think too much about flying saucers until one lands too close for comfort. I have enough trouble with my fellow humans to fret about aliens that I haven't ever seen. With my luck, anything that lands in my back-40 will be carrying a couple of single women, younger and prettier than I am, who'll work for less money and whom the men in my life will regard as exotic foreigners.

NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.



SARAH OVERSTREET

out the window about midnight when he saw a flash of blue light streaking through the sky. "It lit up the sky all the way to Socorro!" he said.

When Sheriff's Office Deputy Rudy Carey got wind of the reports his curiosity lured him outside to take a peek.

"I was coming out of Highway 151 near the Dam site and saw a flash of lightning. Then I saw a bigger flash while in my patrol vehicle shortly after 11 p.m. I asked at the Sheriff's Office if there were reports of any lightning," Carey said.

He said someone had called the Sheriff's Office saying they saw something hovering over the Elephant Butte Lake area so he called the Federal Aviation Administration in Albuquerque and they said there was nothing tracked by radar in the area.

Carey said a truck driver in Williamsburg also saw a flash light up in the skies in the Monticello area and that a sheriff's deputy in Socorro also saw a big flash in the sky. "Someone said they may have been asteroids, bluish type, that left streaks. It was like lightning!" he said.

Carey then went to Rock Canyon on the west-

ern shore of Elephant Butte Lake and didn't see anything. He then saw what appeared to be a westbound traveling commercial aircraft that was followed by another, both having the usual red and white lights.

He said the stunning flash he had seen earlier "had to be something big way up oin the sky - like an electrical bluish arch like lightning. All of a sudden it was bright."

About two minutes after midnight, the FAA in Albuquerque advised there was a meteor shower. "That's what it could have been but I'm not sure," said Carey, adding, "We called NASA and they indicated they have nothing up there."

Carey said FAA officials later reported something was picked up on radar but they couldn't identify it. The Albuquerque Tracking Center also couldn't identify it although its radar also tracked it.

"They tracked something...I said it could be Santa Claus but they thought I was a little bit crazy," Carey said.

No aerial missions took place over White Sands Missile Range, according to WSMR Public Affairs Specialist Monte Marlin. She checked with range control and weather personnel at WSMR and they reported nothing, she said. No rocket flights or other tests are scheduled during this Christmas holiday, she said.

Harvey the Elf, one of Santa's helpers and known to this reporter, wouldn't immediately confirm whether Santa was conducting a reconnaissance spy mission over New Mexico.

But when trickily asked why Rudolph's red nose was turned blue, the elf replied, "Oh, he's just maturing so he got a nose job - you know - red lights tend to blind old reindeer so he surgically had implanted a much softer blue light."

Strange Lights Fill Sky

By Bill Johnson

It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's Santa Claus...and Rudolph the blue nose reindeer?

Much speculation has been given the last couple of days to the strange flashes of blue light that luminated the sky over Sierra County and surrounding areas late Tuesday night, Dec. 19.

Sierra County Sheriff's

Office Dispatcher Theresa Tabler was flooded with telephone calls about 2 1/2 hours with persons reporting the appearance of strange lights in the sky. The reports came as far away as Pie Town west of Magdalena in Socorro County north of here and from White Sands Missile Range to the east.

Were they lights from U.S. warplanes enroute to

invade Panama? Were they the refracting lights from asteroids or meteorites as they entered the earth's atmosphere? Or was it really Santa Claus conducting a special spy mission here to determine which children have been good or which children have been bad?

Joe Kowbel of Williamsburg said he was sitting in his house gazing

'All I Can Say Is We Saw What We Saw'

Glowing Object Spits Fire, Zips Around Sky

By TOM MULLINS

Last night, a Roberta couple seated on the front porch of their rural home, spotted what they called "a glowing craft that spit fire and zipped around in the sky."

Robert L. Boston has seen a lot of things in his 66 years, "but nothing like I saw last night ... never seen anything like it ... we were real excited because we'd finally seen a real UFO."

Boston and his wife, Mary, live about 2 miles east of Rodger's Corner Store on U.S. 70E. Almost every summer night for the last 10 years, the couple has enjoyed the night sky and warm breezes from their porch.

Mary first spotted the object, throwing flames and undulating in the southern sky.

"She called the sheriff's department after we watched it a few minutes. She wanted someone else to see what we were seeing," Boston reported, adding that he was afraid no one would believe they had seen a UFO.

The bright globe appeared to be "spitting fire" and moved up and down from east to west, before hovering for about seven or eight minutes. "Looked like it was probably somewhere in the air between Greenville (Texas) and Denison. It was real bright and the lights flickered on and off."

Although the sheriff's dispatcher did not log Mrs. Boston's call and no official report was filed (or expected), two deputies and a district attorney investigator did respond to the sighting.

Boston said within 10 minutes of his wife's call to the sheriff's department, "three cars came sliding up in the driveway. They got here in a hurry and they brought their binoculars along."

He said deputies Earl Howell and Larry Brown and DA investigator Mark Gaither watched the object through their field glasses for about 20 minutes before the bright light sped off into the night sky.

"One of the deputies said he could see red, white, blue and yellow lights flashing on the thing. I know it wasn't a flare or fireworks or a weather balloon or anything like that. It was some kind of honest-to-godness UFO up there."

Deputy Earl Howell, when asked this morning about the sighting, said,

"I really don't want to say anything. No, I didn't see a thing. You need to talk to the sheriff."

Sheriff B. J. Moore said he suspects the Bostons actually observed a shooting star, not a spacecraft from another world.

"It was probably, from the description they gave, a shooting star or something else that s's easily explained," the sheriff said, but offered no other explanation.

"I didn't see it, so I'm not really the one to talk to about it. I'd have gotten concerned if a spaceship had landed and little green men were seen hauling off someone's cattle," the sheriff laughed.

"All I can say is that we saw what we saw," Boston said. "It was a UFO."



ROBERT BOSTON, seated on the porch of his home in rural Roberta. (Staff Photo by John McWilliams)

Researcher seeks UFO information

HEADLIGHT-HERRALD, Tillamook, OR - Nov. 29, 1989

by Carl Anderson
People who have sighted an unidentified flying object (UFO) can report that sighting to the local director of MUFON, or Mutual UFO Network, according to Skip Schultz, the state director and field investigator of MUFON.

Schultz said he is investigating the recent reports of a UFO in the Tillamook area Sept. 28, and needs more information (see 10/4 H-H). For example, he would like to know how far north people were able to see the UFO. He said he is in touch with three or four of the persons who claimed they saw a UFO in September, and has heard there are 30 or 40 other people who may have seen it.

Schultz said MUFON is "an international scientific organization composed of people

seriously interested in studying and researching the phenomenon known" as UFOs.

He noted that 95 percent of the sightings turn out to be some known phenomenon, "but there is still the 5 percent that is unidentified." MUFON was founded in 1969, according to a letter from Walter Andrus, international director. Andrus said the organization is non-profit, and "firmly believes that a concerted scientific study by dedicated investigators and researchers will provide the ultimate answer to the UFO enigma."

Andrus said MUFON's board of consultants consists of people who have advanced degrees in their fields and represent science, technology, medicine, psychiatry, psychology,

theology, engineering, astronomy, communications, political science, photo analysis, among other fields. They are "readily available" as an advisory group, he added.

MUFON has sponsored an annual international UFO symposium, with a record of proceedings published annually for worldwide distribution, Andrus said.

Andrus stressed that only "qualified, competent and sincere people may become involved" with MUFON, and therefore membership is "by invitation only." High standards of professionalism are required, he continued.

Those interested in the organization can contact Schultz at 1836 E. Hardcastle; Woodburn, OR; 982-6241.

Phil Ridings of Cabot has written a screenplay for a science fiction/fantasy movie.

However, much to his chagrin, he has found out that things in Hollywood are more weird than anything he ever dreamed up for his screenplay.

Perhaps this is best told in chronological order. Ridings, who works as a graphic artist in a Little Rock ad agency, wrote a screenplay called

"Abduction: Encounters of the Fourth Kind." "It's about an Arkansas busi-

nesswoman who comes in contact with UFOs," he said. "The catch is that rather than have the government get involved in keeping the contact secret from the public, as in the movie 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind,' the woman chooses to keep her experience secret from the government."

After receiving some encouragement from some people in the Arkansas Screenwriters Association in Little Rock, Ridings decided to send the screenplay to an agent in Hollywood named Marcie Wright.

Wright, who runs an agency called The Wright Concept, kept indicating she would get around to reading Ridings' script and get back to him about it.

Ridings had an idea that Steven Spielberg, who produced "Close Encounters" and "E.T.," might be interested in looking at his

idea.

After two months it became apparent that Marcie Wright wasn't doing anything to help Ridings get his screenplay to Spielberg's Amblin Productions.

So Ridings, an artist, decided to create a little poster about the screenplay and to send Marcie Wright a copy of the poster.

His poster said something like, "Abduction: Encounters of the Fourth Kind" and had an additional line at the bottom saying, "You Could Be Next."

Still no action from the agent Marcie Wright, according to Ridings.

So he decided to send a copy of the poster to Spielberg in care of Amblin.

Who-ee, did that poster cause some flak!

On Dec. 4, Ridings' wife received a phone call at their home

in Cabot. A man wanted to know about Phil Ridings and his poster.

Told Ridings wasn't at home, the caller terminated the phone call without further comment.

A week later Phil Ridings got a call at his office.

A man identified himself as an employee of Steven Spielberg's security force.

"Tell me about this poster," the caller said in an ominous tone. The man identified himself as Kevin Berman.

Phil Ridings asked if Steven Spielberg had seen the poster.

"He saw it," Kevin Berman said. There was no humor in his voice.

"Oh good," said Phil Ridings, his voice full of optimism.

"He didn't like it," Kevin Berman growled.

"Oh," replied Phil Ridings. "He saw the words 'abduction'

and 'you could be next,' and he got upset," Kevin Berman said sternly.

Phil Ridings tried to explain that the poster was just a gimmick to draw Spielberg's attention to the screenplay, which still was languishing unread on the desk of the fabled Marcie Wright.

He asked the humorless Kevin Berman if he thought Ridings would have put his home and office phone numbers on the poster if he'd been seriously contemplating the abduction of famous person Steven Spielberg. Ridings kindly refrained from referring to the famous producer Spielberg as a ratfaced paranoid playboy philanderer.

"We get all kinds of strange mail," security man Berman told Phil Ridings. Still no trace of humor or understanding in his voice.

Berman concluded, "Let me give you a little hint. Just don't write to us anymore."

A week later came a letter. This one was from the desk of Marcie Wright, truculent agent to the stars.

She tossed in some condescending remarks about Arkansas and threatened to sue the pants off Phil Ridings if he ever mentioned her name again.

Ah, Hollywood — land of fantasy and dreams.

Unless you get crossways with a paranoid movie producer and his security goons.

Or the ever-helpful, if potentially litigious, agent Marcie Wright.

Who was it who said you could take all the sincerity in Hollywood and put it in a flea's navel and have room left over for three cara-way seeds and an agent's heart?



Small Screen

Paul Johnson

"Abduction: Encounters of the Fourth Kind."

"It's about an Arkansas busi-



British regiment marched into a cloud—and vanished!

ALIENS KIDNAPPED GALLIPOLI TROOPS

ALIENS abducted an entire regiment of soldiers from a battle at Gallipoli before the eyes of ANZAC troops.

WE NEVER SAW THEM SAY TURKS ACCUSED OF WIPING OUT ATTACKERS

By EDWARD ROONEY

The eyewitness account of what three New Zealanders claim they saw on August 28, 1915, has just been revealed.

13/416 of Cambridge and J.L. Newman of Tauranga.

A written statement from that August day during World War I was uncovered as part of investigations into similar accounts of unexplainable abductions by Quest International, an English organisation which investigates the paranormal.

A copy of the report was given to Truth by an Auckland expert in the paranormal.

The formal report was signed by three New Zealanders who served in Turkey.

Truth last week tracked down a female relative of Sapper Newnes in Cambridge.

They are: Sapper F. Reichart, 4/165 of the Bay of Plenty, Sapper R. Newnes,

She said the old soldier passed away in the early 1970s. She said Sapper Newnes never spoke about the war to his family.

The Returned Servicemen's Association in the Bay of Plenty had no record

of Sapper Reichart or Mr Newman.

But, according to the statement the three ANZACs signed, the so-called incident occurred early on one of the severest days of fighting in the Great War.

At Suvla Bay, on hill number 60 the Australian and New Zealand troops were resting from a march into the area.

The hill was close to the British lines and the men of No.3 section of No.1 Field Company from New Zealand had a birds-eye view of the valley below.

"The day was clear, just a warm Mediterranean morning, not a cloud in sight except for a number of strange 'loaf of bread' shaped clouds hovering in the valley below the ANZAC positions," the report reads.

"The troops (numbering 22) noticed that despite a 5mph wind, the 'clouds' did not move."

The account said one of the strange clouds appeared to be sitting on the ground in the valley below and was described as about 800 feet long, 200 feet high and 200 feet wide.

DISAPPEARED

The cloud was also described as dense and "almost solid looking" in structure.

"A British Regiment, the First Fourth of Norfolk, of several hundred men were marching towards the grounded cloud," the report said.

"Without hesitation they walked straight at it. No one came out of the cloud."

The statement said the English regiment took more than an hour to disappear entirely into the cloud and once they were all inside, the cloud lifted up off the ground.

"It rose slowly and joined waiting companions [other clouds]," it said.

DAYLIGHT

"The clouds moved away northwards towards Bulgaria. All the soldiers watching stood in stunned silence."

"An entire regiment had been abducted in broad daylight, and in clear view of the 22 soldiers."

Records for the men of the regiment list them as either "missing" or "wiped out".

Further research by Quest International reveals that when Turkey surrendered in 1918, Britain demanded the return of the lost regiment.

The Turkish Government replied that its troops had not captured nor engaged the First Fourth Norfolk.

Quest International claims that the aliens responsible for this and other abductions are known to the United States Government.

SUN, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada - Oct. 23, 1989 CR: T. Stevenson

FLYING SPARKS?

Quake stresses unleash bursts of light: expert

By RENE POLLETT Sun Staff Writer

UFOs seen in the Winnipeg sky during the past few weeks could be connected to an increase in earthquake activity, says a Laurentian University professor.

Dr. Michael Persinger, a neuro-scientist and associate of the Centre of Mineral and Mining Exploration, said it's not uncommon for orange-yellow balls to be seen in the sky during times of stress in the earth's crust.

The recent San Francisco earthquake could be tied to UFO sightings in Manitoba because of an increase in strain in the earth's crust, Persinger said in a telephone interview from Sudbury.

"You have to take a look at a large number of reportings. Then that becomes more suggestive of tectonic phenomena occurring."

"Luminescent phenomena generated through localized transformation of strain energy is converted into luminous energy."

Like biting into mint

Or more simply, it's like the light energy you see when you bite into a breath mint in the dark — only on a much larger scale, he said.

The UFO sightings could actually be sightings of light energy, not physical objects.

"In the west, the luminosity will occur shorter distances away from where the earthquake occurs," Persinger said, explaining the earth's crust is made up of small plates in that part of the continent.

"In the midwest — all throughout Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the Dakotas and Minnesota — that's a very large, flat plate. In this area, the distances (be-

Once more into the unknown

In the wake of a spate of reported UFO sightings in the Vologda region of central Russia, Igor Tsarev asks Alexander Kuzovkin, a physicist who has been studying UFOs for almost 20 years, to comment

SOVIET NEWS, Moscow, USSR - Sept. 21, 1989 CR: R. Colllyns

ON JUNE 6, we had reports of flying saucers landing near the town of Konantsevo, Vologda region, and on June 11 and 12, several UFOs were 'spotted' in Vologda itself.

There is nothing unique about such reports: at least 10,000 eyewitness accounts have been recorded by the Moscow UFO research team alone. And, it is estimated that over 100,000 encounters with unidentified flying objects have been registered the world over.

As a rule, flying objects have a terrestrial or atmospheric origin. There are some, however, for which there seems to be no ready logical explanation.

In the Middle Ages UFOs had "religious halos".

In the late 19th Century, scores of "unidentified dirigibles" were reported in the United States.

While, during the Second World War, British pilots saw

"flying fire balls" in the German skies, something they believed to be a German "secret weapon".

Now, it seems, the majority of aliens fly "saucers".

UFO reports continue to come in at regular intervals. They have been seen by cosmonauts, pilots, sailors, divers, and thousands of ordinary people, to say nothing of signals received on radars and photographs.

The human eye, of course, is less powerful than a camera. Very often, we simply can't see what does exist in reality.

Numerous scientific studies testify that there are, indeed, anomalous phenomena in the atmosphere and on the surface of the Earth.

Though we can't see these clusters of energy, we do know a thing or two about their behaviour. All this gives ground to believe that there are ethereal forms of life.

tween luminescent sightings and earthquakes) can be in the order of 1,000 kilometres."

In the 1970s, there were a number of UFO sightings reported in Manitoba leading up to quake activity in Minnesota, he said.

But just because there have been a rash of sightings this summer and fall doesn't mean there's going to be an earthquake here, he added.

Instead, we can probably expect an increase in seismic activity, ranging from tremors to a possible quake in the next 1 1/2 years.

But local astronomer and UFO expert Chris Rutkowski disputes Persinger's tectonic strain theory.

He and Persinger have been debating the theory in scientific journals for the past few years, Rutkowski said.

This absolutely fantastic proposition is based on numerous facts illustrating "intelligent" behaviour of various objects and energy clusters.

In 1987 an international conference of astronomers held in Hungary stated quite clearly that, from the scientific point of view, the biological form of life is not the only one possible.

Of course, recognition of this fact is still no explanation of flying saucers.

The great variety of UFOs, all kinds of 'cigars', 'saucers' and 'spheres', can be explained by the way human eyes and brains work.

When an object moves too fast, our brain fails to match our eyes, and so produces its own 'pictures' instead.

That is just my hypothesis. Other Soviet Academicians are more pessimistic.

For instance, Academician Migulin, head of the Academy's anomalous phenomena research group, believes we still don't have enough information either to confirm or deny anything concerning UFOs. He maintains that all extraterrestrial phenomena have down-to-earth explanations.

"If he wants to suggest they're related, he has to come up with a real physical mechanism."

And even Persinger will admit there are cracks in his theory.

"We don't know how the energy is translated from the strain into the luminescent displays," he said.

"But in nature, you're not bound by a single design. You can have lots of different variables."

This is no place to get euphoric over

UFOs

Stories by Keith Schaefer
Staff Reporter

So what if a UFO was sighted last week south of Moscow? And three-eyed aliens appeared with large bodies and little knobby heads?

In British Columbia, there's nothing alien about aliens.

A B.C. woman says aliens even stole her reproductive eggs. Three times.

At least that's what Lorne Goldfeather told The Sunday Province.

Goldfeather runs the newly formed non-profit UFO Research Institute of Canada (UFORIC). He won't name the woman, from the Lower Mainland, but says the incidents happened in 1987.

"She later had a miscarriage and that triggered her memory of the aliens," Goldfeather says. "She remembers them taking her eggs while she sat in a stirrup. The aliens later showed her a hybrid child developed from her egg."

"She said they had a common gene pool." She will undergo hypnosis soon, Goldfeather says, to try to find out more about the experience.

"It's hard for the public to believe this without medical evidence because it's so far-fetched.

"A sighting can be as traumatic as rape. Some people don't want to talk about it."

Goldfeather, a postal worker, started UFORIC two months ago and runs it from his West End apartment.

It was set up so people could share UFO experiences. He has an answering machine for messages of sightings. Goldfeather says he's getting an average of two sightings a week.

He says there is only one other UFO research station in Canada, in Willowdale, Ont.

Goldfeather first got interested in UFOs in 1977 when he saw an egg-shaped, fluorescent craft between two apartment buildings from his West End apartment.

Then last year on June 5, he saw a strange circular object hovering in the sky over Sunset Beach. "It was rotating like a mini-planet. It had 20 to 30 flashing lights and it looked like lightning bolts were coming out of the bottom."

Dale Beyerstein of the Society of B.C. Skeptics says: "There are a lot of these groups that start up and try to get publicity. They tend to come and go quickly."

Goldfeather says he too is "basically



Staff photo by Peter Hulbert

Lorne Goldfeather collects 'documented' evidence of alien visitors.

a skeptical person" but his own experiences have got him hooked on UFOs.

Since founding UFORIC, he's had two calls he cannot explain away. One involved eight independent sightings of a cigar-shaped object in the night sky over North Vancouver. The other involved two sightings of a disc-shaped object with a reddish glow in Richmond.

When someone reports a sighting, Goldfeather encourages him to undergo hypnosis to uncover more details.

When he can't explain something, he turns his data over to CUFOS, the Centre for UFO Sightings in Chicago. The centre was founded by the late UFO historian J.

Allen Hynek, considered by many to be America's leading expert on the subject.

B.C. has a long history of UFO sightings. Dorothy Wilkinson of Richmond has been taking pictures of UFOs for years and has more than 300 of them.

She has also been teleported into alien crafts, she told The Sunday Province. The last time was mid-September.

"It was fluorescent white inside and they looked very much like us. But they were all dressed in their spacesuits," she says.

"Eventually everyone is going to see them," she says. "Remember, years ago if you said people could go into space, they would lock you up."

The look that is out of this world

Would you recognize an alien if you spotted one?

After hundreds of reported sightings by people from around the world, Lorne Goldfeather says aliens fall into two main categories: The Nordics and the Greys.

Greys are the most frequently sighted. Goldfeather says they have a human form with blue-grey skin. In fact, homo sapiens is possibly a genetic mutation of some race of Greys, he says.

They're at least a metre high and have egg-shaped bald heads and large almond-shaped eyes. Some have protruding eyebrows. They have four fingers and no thumb. Their fingers are webbed.

Goldfeather says Greys are more frequently sighted because they seem to

be more aggressive than Nordics and are more likely to make direct contact with humans.

Nordics are at least two metres tall, thin with blond hair. That's why they're called Nordics. They also have cat's eyes and webbed fingers.

Goldfeather doesn't believe the Soviet report of three-eyed beings with little knobby heads sitting on top of huge bodies.

That's almost exactly opposite the typical description of aliens, he says.

Almost all alien spacecraft are spherical with a three-legged landing apparatus.

If you see an unidentified flying object, call the UFO Research Institute of Canada at 685-1836.

Alien visitors usually look like the one at left, sighting reports say



Man who saw the lights . . .

UFO watchers gathering in Yorkshire today were studying a video recording of Something Odd — seen over Leigh Woods, Bristol.

The Unidentified Flying Object, shown as a bright white light changing to a pulsing red and then back to white, has been sent on video cassette for an international conference at Oasett Town Hall, near Wakefield.

Richard Tarr, founder of Bristol Quest group of people interested in unexplained sky phenomena, claims he saw the strange light,

often hovering, over a period of about an hour on August 3.

His recording lasts 14 minutes.

"It was all the same, repetitive, so I didn't take more," he said.

Richard, aged 24, training to be a video shop manager, lives at Gloucester Road, Horfield, Bristol.

He set up Bristol Quest — which now has 11 members — earlier this year after hearing that UFO researcher Tony Dodd, a former North Yorkshire policeman, was seeking information.

Dalnagorsk debris mystery

A YEAR after an unidentified flying object was reported to have sprayed some 60kg of debris over a hill near the village of Dalnagorsk in the Soviet Far Eastern Maritime zone, scientists are still baffled.

The qualities of the gauzes, balls and glass fragments which appeared on the hill following the sighting continue to amaze, the newspaper Socialist Industry reports.

In tests, one piece of gauze disappeared at a temperature of 900°C in the open air, but would not melt in a vacuum even at 2,000°C.

In conventional state the material did not conduct electricity, but turned electroconductive when heated.

Tiny threads, just 17 micrometers in diameter, made up of twisted fibres, were found in one of the gauzes.

Scientists also found tiny golden hairs, the same size, interlaced into the fibres. The technology to do this on Earth has not been developed, they say.

Some experts offer the explanation that the materials come as a result of a plasmoid — a plasma product naturally produced by geophysical fields in response to agitation caused by technical experiments or solar-terrestrial physical factors.

While others contend that the materials are artificially-manufactured, perhaps by an alien civilisation.

EVENING POST, Bristol, England
Sept. 23, 1989 CR: T. Good

Mystery of the flying object

SOMETHING mysterious hurtled through the night sky over the Bristol area — but what was it?

Colin Pulsford of Branksome Way Drive, Filton, thought at first it was a rocket sent up by somebody with very early access to Guy Fawkes fireworks.

But it travelled horizontally rather than vertically and made no noise.

It was bright green and from ground level appeared to be one-eighth of the diameter of the moon. It had a tail. As suddenly as it had appeared it disappeared.

Mr Pulsford was baffled, but put the incident out of his mind — until next morning when a colleague at work spoke of a similar sighting miles away at Yate.

"It wasn't a meteor," said Mr Pulsford. He was out taking a walk with his wife Lillian over playing fields on Sunday evening when he saw the mysterious object. The time: 8.19 pm.

Bristol University physics lecturer Dr Rodney Hillier, could offer no explanation

UFO LANDING MYSTERY

Sheep panicked by eerie light in fields

THREE frightened farmers believe a gigantic UFO landed last week on their Victorian wheat property.

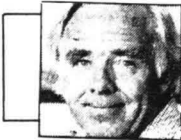
A pattern of five perfect circles—in which unbroken wheat stalks swirl anti-clockwise—has been found on the 9000-hectare farm, West Park, run by Max and Nancee Jolly and their son Stuart, 29.

The startling discovery comes only weeks after the family's 700 sheep were panicked by a huge yellow object pulsating above the paddocks in western Victoria's Mallee region.

First to notice the uncanny "landing rings" were the Jollys' neighbors, Brian Finch and Austin Grace.

"They'd brought an International Combine Harvester on to our property to strip wheat," Nancee Jolly told me.

"Sitting in an elevated cabin about five metres above the ground they spotted what everyone else had missed, two large, swirled circles of wheat, about three



Exclusive report by JOHN PINKNEY

metres in diameter, surrounded by three smaller circles, each about one metre.

"Obviously, something exerting colossal force has set down there. Outside the circles you can scratch dirt up with your fingers. But inside, the ground is incredibly compressed, like cement.

Circles

"The wheat appears to be woven, almost like a straw basket. The stalks are quite amazingly undamaged, with the grain fully-matured in the heads—which suggests

the landing might have occurred some time last week."

The mindblowing circles discovery climaxes two years of mystery and fear for the Jolly family.

● In November 1987, following sightings of eerie aerial lights, Nancee found that the farmhouse's 4000-litre water tank had been totally drained, overnight.

"We haven't a clue what happened," she said, "all we know is that someone—or something—took every drop of our water."

(In 1981 I investigated several similar cases of "UFO-related" water disappearances. All were in northern Victoria.)

● In December 1988 Stuart Jolly was shocked from sleep by a shattering noise outside his bedroom window.

Berserk

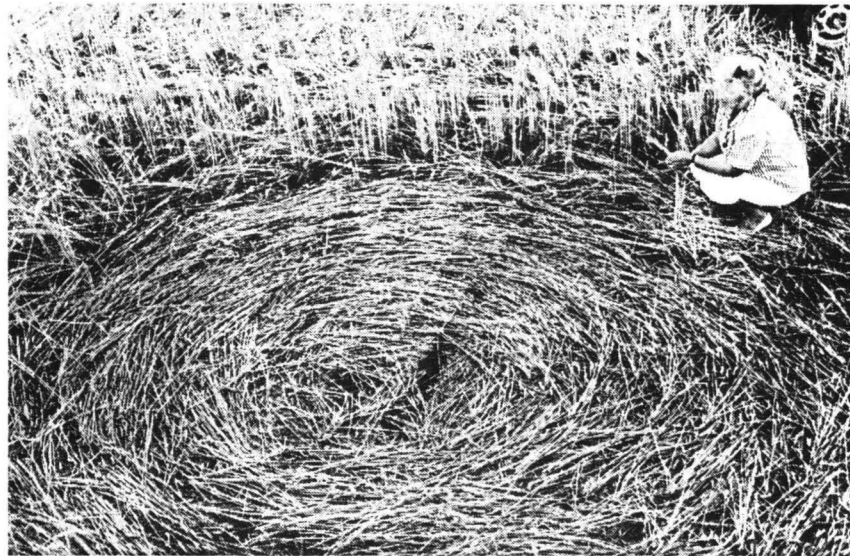
"I thought the racket would puncture my eardrums," he recalled. "It was like the scream of jet engines revving up and down, with the shrilling of thousands of cicadas mixed in.

"My dog would normally have been on the spot and barking, but he seemed to have shot through.

"I rushed outside, but saw nothing. The racket seemed to be coming from an empty sky."

● The Jollys endured an even more bizarre brush with the unknown in August this year.

"About nine o'clock one night, I heard a commotion and went out to see what was happening," Stuart said.



★ NANCEE Jolly examines a perfect circle of flattened wheat, swirled anti-clockwise. Outside the ring the earth is soft—but inside, it's cement-hard, as though compressed by a colossal force.



★ WHEAT farmers Nancee Jolly and son Stuart believe an alien craft landed on their Mallee wheat property last week.

"I've never seen a wedgetail walking around on the grass like that. They like to perch up high. But this one seemed totally disoriented.

"Although it kept flapping its wings in a slow, drunken way, it seemed incapable of lifting off.

"Something associated with the yellow light seemed to have destroyed its sense of balance. But happily, the effect must have worn off, because the bird was gone next morning."

Farmers in the Mallee wheat belt are accustomed to uncanny intrusions.

Several days after the UFO buzzed the Jollys' paddock, a mysterious light hovered above the dam of a neighbor, Mrs Aileen Casey.

She watched it for more than 15 minutes before running into the house to alert her husband. But when he came out, the object had vanished.

"I'm scared, but I'm also fascinated," Nancee Jolly said.

Rings

"The UFO activity around these wheat areas definitely seems to be intensifying.

"I sometimes have the hunch we might soon be seeing much more—possibly even an actual craft, landing."

Mysterious circles, carved into crops, are now puzzling scientists worldwide—and they seem to be appearing in growing numbers.

In an extraordinary new book, *Circular Evidence* (Bloomsbury, \$39.95) engineers Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews present several dozen astounding photographs of rings neatly "carved" into British crop fields.

These circles are startlingly similar to the formations found on the Jolly family's Mallee property.

In some cases they have appeared in the wake of overnight UFO sightings.

The ground in many of the circles is cement-hard.

Did you sight this UFO?

By FRED HAMMERTON

A MYSTERY object with yellow, white, green and blue lights and shaped like a rugby ball has been seen by 26 people in Canvey, Shoebury and Southend.

The latest sightings were over the Bank Holiday weekend.

The object, looking like two saucers joined by a single blue light, was watched by a Canvey man for three-quarters of an hour on Sunday night.

It was first seen about 9.30pm from Canvey and about 10pm spotted from Leigh and Westcliff.

Four people also saw the object between Canvey and Leigh.

Early Monday morning, about 3.20am, a Southend milkman saw it on his way to work and another worker on his way home saw the "rugby ball" along the Estuary.

At 10.15pm on Monday it was also seen from Kent. People there said it was spinning and watched it for about half an hour.

There was another sighting from Great Wakering.

All were reported to the East Anglian UFO Research Association.

Anyone with information can contact it on the hotline. 0268 286079.



★ THIS immense circle (diameter 25.3 metres) appeared with three others in a rye field at Winterbourne Stoke, England. The undamaged stalks had been swirled, apparently under huge pressure. The site is close to the celebrated "Warmminster Triangle", which produces Britain's highest incidence of UFO sightings.

like the blades of a helicopter, with its engine off and slowing.

"I'd never seen sheep go wild in that way before.

"If a dog had been threatening them, they'd simply have huddled together, reasonably calm and disciplined. But this mob were stumbling all over the paddock.

"I could see it was the light and noise that were driving them crazy. And it was happening to Brian Finch's wethers, too. They were scrambling over the fence on the next block, desperately trying to get away.

"After a few more minutes of chaos, the light started to move. Foolishly, perhaps, I got into the car to chase it. But before I could start up, it vanished behind the pine trees."

When Max and Nancee Jolly arrived home from a meeting more than one hour later, the sheep were still bleating in distress.

"And they weren't the only victims," Nancee said.

"We went out with torches—and were amazed to find a wedgetailed eagle, with a wingspan of about two metres, stumbling around the paddock, seemingly in shock.

Night sky poser

STRANGE lights in the sky over southern England left scores of people baffled last night.

Some thought that the mystery objects were UFOs and alerted police.

Scotland Yard received dozens of calls from as far apart as Hackney in London's East End and Haslemere, Surrey, from people who saw bright white lights darting across the night sky.

Police mechanic Peter Ridley, who lives in Limehouse, said: "The lights looked really strange. I've never seen anything like them. They went round in circles, and moved at enormous speed."

London Weekend Television's 21st birthday celebrations were blamed for the phenomenon, but a LWT spokesman said celebrations do not start until today.

UFO heads for Jaywick

TWO men sparked a police search for an unidentified flying object when they spotted a strange sight in the sky over Clacton airport.

The men were driving along West Road when one of them saw a brightly lit object hovering over the airstrip.

They reported their sighting to Clacton Police who carried out a search of the airfield.

Police found no sign of the UFO, sighted on Tuesday night, but passed on the report

to Stansted and Southend air traffic control, and the Ministry of Defence.

The men said the object was circular and about 30 metres across, with red, white and green flashing lights. It had a white underside and was making a humming noise.

They watched it hover about 50 metres off the ground for two minutes before it headed off above St John's Road towards Jaywick.

Valeri Dvuzhilnyi, a Soviet botanist, said in Vladivostok that Chief Alexander, who he claims is an extraterrestrial being of superior intelligence who regularly communicates with him, supports Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika changes.

UFOs make mark in Manitoba

By KAREN TAYLOR
TODAY reporter

Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) and space aliens are no strangers to Manitoba.

"A surprising number of cases have been reported and even more remain secret," says Chris Rutkowski, president of the Canadian Astronomical Society, Manitoba branch.

"A lot of people never come forward because of the stigma attached to UFOs. They're afraid people will think they're crazy," says Rutkowski.

Others will report sightings or abductions, but won't give their names.

In one case a few years ago, a Brandon man was sleeping on a couch in his living room. Suddenly, he woke up and saw two "creatures" staring at him through his picture window.

One aimed a gun at him and he was instantly paralyzed—robbed of all movement and speech.

Later, when he came out of the trance, he drew a picture of the creatures with big, black eyes, squarish heads and long rectangular bodies.

When pressed, however, he refused to give his name, says Rutkowski. "I suppose he didn't want to face public opinion."

Arnold (Bing) and Joy Bradley, on the other hand, have no qualms about giving out their names.

"We saw what we saw," says Joy. "We've never seen anything like this in all our years of farming."

In early May, Arnold was picking stones in a field about three miles east of Strathclair when he came upon some "suspicious-looking markings," says his wife.

It looked like something had landed from the air and left pod marks in the earth.

Jeff Harland, president of the Brandon Amateur Astronomers Club, went out with John Huzyk, a physics major at Brandon University, to investigate the site.

"It was very strange; like nothing I've ever seen before," says Harland.

There were six, round indentations in the soil, making two imperfect triangles, and each one contained three bore holes of varying depths, identical in diameter.

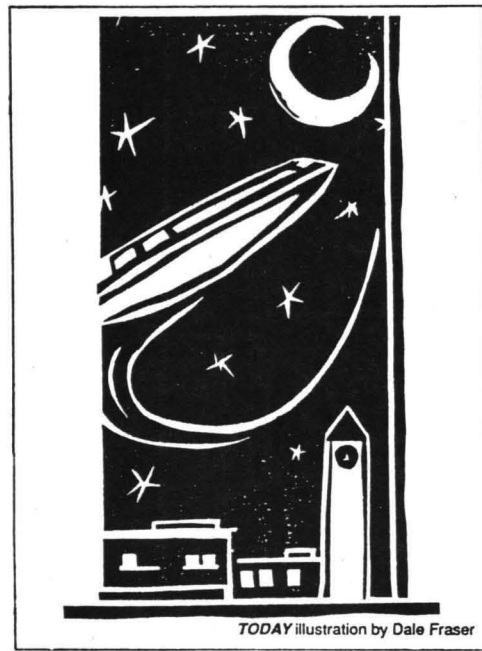
A geiger counter reading indicated normal radiation levels, but they took soil samples and photos of the site anyway.

The soil proved to be "perfectly normal Manitoba farm soil," says Huzyk, who had it analyzed at the university geology department.

And from studying the photos, members of the zoology department determined the holes were made by a badger in search of nine-line, striped gophers which supposedly made the bore holes, he says.

On hearing the explanation, Joy Bradley said the marks "were definitely not made by an animal."

"Whatever it was, it had to have come from the air, because there were no tracks leading in to or out of the field."



TODAY illustration by Dale Fraser

The Bradleys are not alone. Many other people in Manitoba have had similar and more bizarre experiences. In fact, Rutkowski has written a book about them, called *Visitations*, to be released by Winter Press this month.

There have been more than 700 reports of UFOs and at least 25 abductions in Manitoba since the '50s, many of them referred to in the book.

Still, there are an unknown number of sightings that never get reported, he says.

A few years ago, Doug Stelmack of Brandon was on his way to work at about 4:45 a.m. in early April when he noticed a bluish-green light in the sky, trailing smoke.

"It was falling in the northwest corner of the city," he says. "I followed it for a while and then gave up."

Stelmack never reported the incident and has since thought it might've been a meteorite.

Although a scientific explanation can be found in some cases, others remain mysteries.

Brandon University astronomer John Rice is skeptical about UFOs in general.

"There has been no established case of any extraterrestrial vehicle observed, and reports of abductions are not well substantiated, says Rice. "But they do make good reading."

He doesn't believe in little, green men or flying saucers, saying there's a scientific explanation for everything.

It's "scientifically impossible" for earth to be visited by beings from other planets. The energy expenditure alone for interstellar travel would be phenomenal.

But Rutkowski, knowing full well the limitations of distance and space travel, urges people to "keep an open mind."

"We've had sightings from RCMP officers, doctors, lawyers, airline pilots and armed forces personnel. If people like these are seeing things, do we have the right to claim that a housewife is crazy?"

"I caution people not to reject any evidence before they themselves have had a chance to investigate it."

Anyone who has had either a UFO sighting or abduction is encouraged to call Jeff Harland at 726-8294.

EXPRESS ADVERTISER, Macclesfield, England - Aug. 2, 1989 CR: T. Good

Aircraft or Aliens?

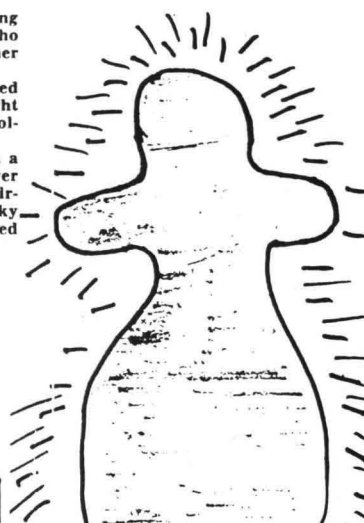
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS have been spotted in their hundreds over Macclesfield, swooping in over the Pennines and homing in on our quiet little town — nothing more than a backwater in space.

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

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

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

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



Macclesfield's galactic visitor, as described by Gladys.

By
Simon
Carter

going straight down from a pair of giant shoulders.

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

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

Terrified

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Figure it Out

Researcher says:

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

Jodrell Bank says:

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

NEWS, Detroit, MI - June 26, 1989 CR: B. Kingsley/COUD-I

No E.T., so they go home

SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE, Canary Islands — About 10,000 people left a Tenerife national park disappointed when the sun rose Sunday after an overnight vigil that failed to witness any extraterrestrial beings, the Spanish Civil Guard said.

They had heeded a call by Spanish National Radio, which several times last week promised that an "incredible" event would take place at the foot of the Teide volcano. The location is considered magic by the native Guanches peoples.

Probe into UFO sightings

A STRANGE object spotted in the sky by a Hockley couple is being investigated by a team of UFO specialists.

And they are already being kept busy looking into a number of other recent sightings of unidentified flying objects in South East Essex.

The Hockley couple saw a ball of intense white light one afternoon about 2.30pm and watched it for about 25 minutes before it disappeared.

About the same time a Thorpe Bay couple spotted a cigar-shaped object which was shimmering brightly.

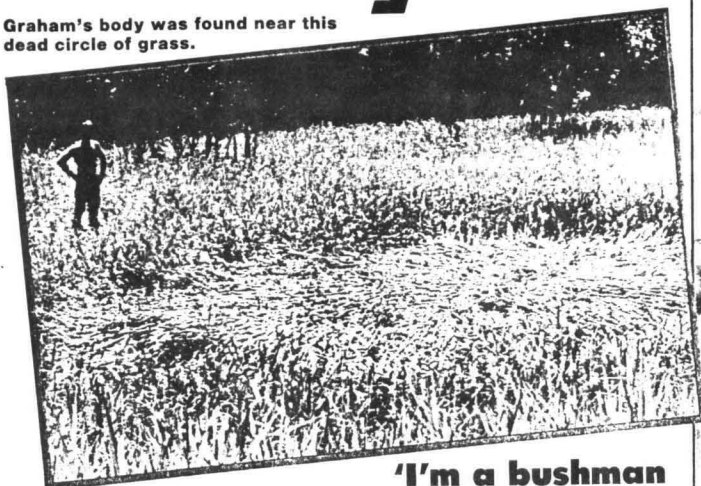
And at 2.15pm the same day a couple from Canvey told East Anglian UFO investigators they saw an object which they at first thought was a balloon. They realised it was not and watched the noiseless craft for 40 minutes before it disappeared in the Shoebury area.

STANDARD, Southend, England - June 23, 1989 CR: T. Good

Politician's agony

Did space aliens kill my son?

Graham's body was found near this dead circle of grass.



'I'm a bushman and I'm sane but I no longer regard UFOs as a load of rubbish'

A FORMER National Party politician believes a UFO landing may be connected with his 19-year-old son's death.

On June 11, 1971, the body of Graham Hartwig was found near a circle of dead grass on his family's grazing property at Tellebang, west of Bundaberg, Qld.

His father, Lindsay Hartwig, 69, was a hard-nosed member of the Bjelke-Petersen government until 1981, when he was expelled from the National Party, because he refused to stop speaking his mind.

Lindsay Hartwig re-entered Queensland politics by contesting the seat vacated by Russ Hinze.

He failed to win the seat and his political career now seems to be over.

In his almost completed autobiography,

Hartwig pulls no punches about his son's fate, which he thinks was caused by an alien visit.

"Graham's death was a terrible tragedy in our lives," Hartwig told me.

"And it makes it no easier that it's still a mystery after all these years.

"I was working on the property shortly before Graham disappeared, when I stumbled on a strange circle of dead grass, about six metres in diameter.

"It was a puzzle at the time — and even more perplexing later.

"Graham vanished while he was helping an employee build fences, about 2km from the homestead.

"That was several days after I happened on the circle of dead grass — and his body was finally found within three metres of it.

"He had a strange mark on his face,

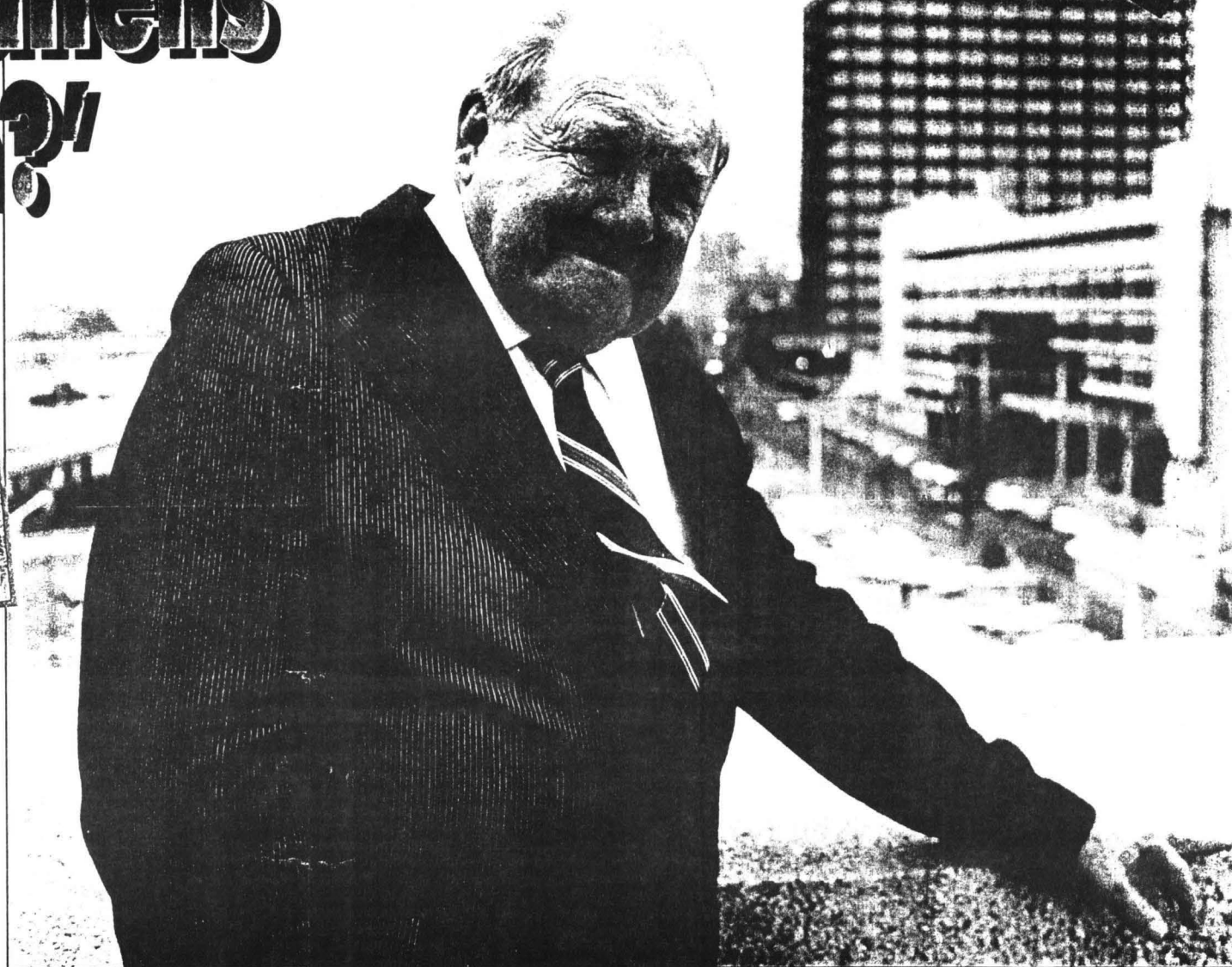
which the doctor refused to let me see."

Graham Hartwig was buried without a death certificate.

The cause of his death remains a mystery.

"The strange and terrible thing is that the circle was apparently also linked with

Former MP Lindsay Hartwig believes aliens may have killed his son Graham. The cause of his death has remained a mystery for 17 years.



JOHN PINKNEY REPORTS

PEOPLE, Melbourne, Australia — [Date Unknown]

a second death," Hartwig said.

"A neighbour, who was chasing a wild pig into the scrub, also vanished. His body, too, was found near that circle.

"The police were unable to discover what had happened to Graham.

"They camped for three weeks on our

property, questioning and probing — with no result."

In 1974, the Hartwig family moved to a new property near Biloela in the Callide Valley.

And there, the mystery deepened. "One day, after dipping cattle, I was

driving my Land Rover along a dirt track," Hartwig recalled.

"Suddenly, something appeared in the sky that changed all of my ideas about life and death.

"There — at about the 11 o'clock position — were two beautiful objects, about ▶

(continued on page 16)

five or six metres in diameter. They were pale green, like perfectly oval gemstones, spinning and sparkling in the sun.

"Now I'm a bushman and I'm sane — and until that moment, I'd regarded UFOs as a load of rubbish.

"I slammed on the brakes and climbed out of the Rover, my skin prickling.

"They were there all right, silently spinning in the sky.

"It was totally cloudless.

"Living out in the bush, I've seen a lot of meteors fall — but these were nothing like meteors.

"They hovered there, above the road for about 10 minutes while I stood, completely dumbstruck.

"Then they moved slowly away, until they vanished behind the mountain range.

"I drove home in a hurry and rang the radio station in Rockhampton.

"I was convinced that hundreds of other people in the area must also have seen the objects.

"But to my amazement, mine was the only report.

"And it made me think back to the ring of grass at Tellebang — and my son found beside it."



'I've seen meteors fall — but these weren't meteors'

SOMERSET COUNTY GAZETTE, Taunton, England
Aug. 4, 1989 CR: T. Good

Alien corn? that's novel

★ DID an alien spacecraft land in a field near Taunton this week?

★ Although there have been no reports of little green men from Mars, farmer Peter Parris discovered what could be a UFO landing site on Tuesday, writes IAIN BALLANTYNE.

★ "We were out harvesting a corn field and discovered this big flat circle," said Mr Parris, of Cutcliffe Farm.

★ "It was just like the ones they've been finding in Wiltshire and putting down to flying saucers."

★ Mr Parris suspects a hoaxer may be responsible, rather than an E.T. . . . but he can't figure out how it was done. "People who took a look at the circle told me there was no way a human could have done it right out in the middle of a field without leaving traces," said Mr Parris.

★ The corn surrounding the 30ft wide circle stood rigidly upright, suggesting it could not have been made by a helicopter, which would have left surrounding stalks at an angle.

★ But if the circle was caused by visitors from outer space, why should they chose this week to drop in on Taunton? Perhaps they voyaged across the cosmos to visit Taunton Flower Show, which everyone knows is inter-galactically famous. If so were any aliens spotted lurking among the blooms . . . ?

TIMES HERALD, Port Huron, MI

Dec. 9, 1989 CR: R. Somerville

Belgium bonkers over UFOs

BRUSSELS (AP) — Dozens of residents and police officers have reported seeing UFOs near Belgium's border with the Netherlands and West Germany.

Col. Michel Mandel of the Defense Ministry said the air force is investigating the sightings, which began Nov. 29 and have continued.

Witnesses have offered different descriptions of the UFOs. Most tell of dancing lights in the sky, but others have told of seeing a flying platform that scans the earth with three huge searchlights.

Mandel said air-traffic controllers "found radar blips on the screens that could not be immediately explained."

The Belgian Society for the Study of Space Phenomena said it has photos and videotapes as well as 150 witness accounts.

REPUBLICAN, Waterbury, CT - Oct. 10, 1989 CR: J. White

Soviets' close encounter leaves experts skeptical

From staff and wire reports

Did towering, small-headed aliens recently make a surprise visit to a Russian park? Or was it just the vodka talking?

And did they leave behind a material that is not of this earth?

Local UFO experts are divided: Some are skeptical of the official Tass news agency report that claims an alien spaceship carrying giant humanoids with little heads landed in the Soviet city of Voronezh, 300 miles southeast of Moscow.

The aliens got out of their craft, Tass said, took a stroll through the park and left. And scientists said they found two rocks at the landing site that hadn't been found on the planet before.

"It is not April Fool's today," a Tass duty officer said.

West Hartford resident Ben Bova, a science fiction writer and president of the National Space Foundation, an advocacy group for space exploration, acknowledged a small possibility that the Russian report is true, but said he wishes "the (Tass) story said that the aliens were still there and were holding a press conference."

According to Monday's Tass report, Voronezh residents saw a large, shining ball or disc hovering over the park. They saw the UFO land and up to three creatures similar to humans emerge, accompanied by a small, obot, Tass said.

"The aliens were three or even four meters (9 to 12 feet) tall, but with very small heads," the news agency quoted witnesses as saying. "They walked near the ball or disc and then disap-

peared inside." The Tass report, which didn't give the date of the purported landing, said on-lookers were "overwhelmed with a fear that lasted for several days."

It's not the first time Tass has reported on extraterrestrial visits. Last summer the daily newspaper Socialist Industry carried an account of an encounter in Central Russia's Perm region between a milkmaid and an alien. The milkmaid said the creature resembled, but was taller than, an average man and had "only a small knob instead of a head."

John White of Cheshire, an internationally known researcher of paranormal phenomena, was leery of the news.

"I would suspect a hoax," he said. "If it's true, it would not only be one of the most extraordinary UFO events of the decade, but also one of the extraordinary events in world history."

The Russian report has to be verified by ruling out natural causes, talking with eyewitnesses and analyzing the unknown mineral, he said.

Also count UFO investigator Philip J. Imbrogno of Bethel among the nyet-sayers.

"I've seen this thing come and go for a long time," he said. "First there are dramatic reports, then it fizzles out. I'm sure something did happen, but initial reports are usually exaggerated."

Imbrogno has heard many reports of unnatural materials and encounters with aliens. "Ninety to 95 percent of the time, the information offered initially is never proven," he said.

In Buffalo, N.Y., Paul Kurtz, chairman of the Committee for the Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, commented: "We're extremely skeptical of this claim. It's not the first one (in the Soviet media). There's many. There seems to be a rash of reports, largely uncorroborated."

And, Kurtz said, the recent opening of the Soviet media has resulted in "paranormal pandemonium . . . not only with UFOs, but faith healers, astrologers and so on. In a closed society such as the Soviet Union, you don't get the development of critical reason."

But one UFO buff, Charles Reuben of Waterbury, said he believes the Tass story. "I think it's plausible — and it not only happens in Russia, but here, too," he said.

Reuben said the only thing he found unusual about the Tass report is that usually extraterrestrials reportedly sighted are "short, very small, with large heads."

At least one area bartender, who said he's served his share of aliens, claims he knows the visitors.

"They're from Naugatuck, those people. They live in Naugatuck near Lantern Park," insists Joe Murphy, beverage manager at Heminway's Restaurant in Watertown. "That's why Naugatuck High used to have such a good basketball team."

UFO film genuine

SOUTH BUCKS STAR, High Wycombe, England - Sept. 8, 1989

A SENSATIONAL report just published by UFO buffs has declared a film off a UFO as 'genuine.'

The film, taken near Haddenham in 1973, has been scrutinised by experts throughout Britain. It was taken by building surveyor Peter Day who had a movie camera with him in his car when he witnessed the strange light.

The conclusion of the report, "Fire In The Sky" by the British UFO Research Association states: "By a strict definition of the term the thing was a UFO — namely an Unidentified Flying Object. Whether it will remain unidentifiable is another matter."

A full report will appear in next week's Star but turn to page 13 for more news on the strange lights seen over the county last week.

CR: T. Good

SOUTHERN EVENING ECHO, Essex, England
Oct. 11, 1989 CR: T. Good

Space invaders fly across Essex skies

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

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

Ms Sheridan Lane, of the East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Association, said 1,400 sky searchers contacted them between July '88 and July '89.

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

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

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

has varied between 20 minutes and three hours."

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

Woken

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

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

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

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

which disappeared with the light after after 15 minutes.

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

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

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

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

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

DAILY TELEGRAPH, London, England
Sept. 12, 1989 CR: T. Good

Blank sheet

BOFFINS investigating the mysterious circles which appear in Britain's fields from time to time have a new phenomenon to explore.

A 50 sq mile area of Queensland, Australia, has fallen victim to an inexplicable swarm of clear plastic sheeting which was first spotted drifting over the horizon six months ago.

With everyone denying responsibility and the Australian Army, Air Force and weathermen baffled, the police have called in a local UFO research group while samples have been despatched to James Cook University. "It looks like someone's had a big picnic," chuckles police spokesman Greg McPaul.



In search of Florida's Skunk Ape, we encounter tales of the . . .



Billy Cox, FLORIDA TODAY

BARDIN BOOGER

By Billy Cox
FLORIDA TODAY

BARDIN — Though it is only mid-afternoon, one look around suggests that nightfall here is a liquid, oozing black as squid's ink. There are no streetlights in these northeastern outskirts of the Ocala National Forest, no motel neon anywhere to illuminate the nocturnal stew of confusion and opportunity.

Out there, say the natives, beyond the fragile range of porchlights, lurks something monstrous, legendary, elusive as mist.

Some call it the Florida Bigfoot; others call it the Skunk Ape.

In these parts, they call it the Bardin Booger. Nobody knows why it's called the Booger, it just is.

One of the experts is named Billy Crain, described in the newspaper accounts as a "local crooner." It seems as good a place as any to start.

He answers the phone and says right off that he was born to sing and that it makes no difference where — grand openings for Winn Dixie, Jiffy Marts, the Crescent City Catfish Parade . . .

But when the out-of-town reporter steers the conversation back toward the Bardin Booger, Crain says to sit tight, he's on his way from Palatka "with all the information you need."

After all, he points out, "The Booger got me the only national exposure I ever had."

The only pay phone in the vicinity is at a gas station called Bud's Grocery here in this unmarked pine forest clearing five miles north of Palatka, allegedly called Bardin, population unknown. Lumps of hay are on sale inside the shed adjacent to Bud's. The yellow road sign on the other side of Highway 309D reads "Dead End."

There are only two buildings anywhere worth jotting down in the notebook — Bethel Missionary Baptist Church next door, and the Etonia Primitive Baptist Church a half mile down the road. Etonia has its own graveyard, which sits on a sandy bluff overlooking a densely wooded creek.

For now, the only signs of human presence are found at Bud's Grocery.

"Yeah, I know about the Booger, I heard about it all my life," begins 19-year-old David Conner, who pumps gas at Bud's. The chunk of tobacco melting along the ridge of his gums is as thick as a tumor, jutting out his lower lip like a Ubangi warrior. "My daddy saw the Booger and said it stood 6, 6½ foot tall. My grandma told me it's not an animal, just an overgrown man, all hairy."

"My personal opinion, I think it's just a Peeping Tom kinda thing."

Obviously used to this sort of inquiry from strangers, Conner explains how "everybody out here practically is kin" so naturally everybody has their own Booger story to tell.

Randy Medlock, for instance, told the local press two years ago about how he and brother-in-law Ronny Cone were hunting one night when a bear-like varmint with long, swinging arms came striding like a man from the brush and left tracks that engulfed his own size 13 bootprint.

In fact, Conner points, that's Ronny over there buying gas.

Cone is either evasive or skeptical, depending on what that hesitant smile means. "Well," he says, "you know how people are. They'll see what they want to, if you know what I mean . . ."

On the other hand, there is Bud Key, 63, owner of Bud's Grocery. Bud Key says it



Billy Cox, FLORIDA TODAY



Billy Crain, for FLORIDA TODAY

BARDIN BELIEVERS: Songwriter Billy Crain, left, estimates the size of the creature's foot — much larger than a size 13 boot. He has recorded a song in the Booger's honor. Top left, Bardinite Bailey Glisson holds a copy of a story about the creature that ran in the Weekly World News. And, right — no, she's not a Bardin Booger, but she plays one in parades. Lena Crain, Billy's wife, dresses up in a costume that's supposed to resemble the creature for special occasions, such as parties.

serves no purpose to pass judgment.

A lifelong farmer, Key says he moved to Bardin after the war for two years and left in 1949. He never heard of the Booger back then. But when he returned to the area in the 1960s, "That's when I started hearing things."

But the Booger didn't become famous until 1981. That's when a wire service went national with a Palatka newspaper account of what happened over by the church one spring evening. A handful of Key's friends and neighbors were hanging out when something they described as immense and ape-like approached and scattered the crowd like a flock of quail.

After that, the story acquired a momentum of its own. More wire stories, the Weekly World News, the National Examiner, phone calls, tourists. Bud handled the situation as best he could. He started selling Bardin Booger T-shirts and baseball caps emblazoned with the name of his grocery store.

"I neither believe nor disbelieve," Bud proclaims. "I never claimed to see it myself, but my sister said she saw it up the road. She's dead now."

There was even a time, back in 1981, when Bud advocated a Bardin Booger hunting party. But he's smarter about it today.

"If they caught the Booger, that'd be the end of it," he says. "That's the way I feel."

And if he ever found out it was a hoax, would he go public with it? Bud strokes his chin in silence for a moment. "Nahh. I'd just shut up about it. It's like Santa Claus. Once you tell . . . there ain't no fun in it."

Bud's wife, Norma, floats between the cash register up front and the accounting office in the back. She says there's at least one plausible explanation for what some people have seen.

"There's monkeys in these trees," she says. "How they got there,

whether they escaped from a circus, or whether they got away from Silver Springs, I just can't say. But they're here just as sure as I am.

"There's a big one between here and the Clay County line. I know it ain't the Booger because it's only 3 feet tall. But he crosses the road at the same place all the time. People see him by the side of the road in the same spot. That's been about eight years now."

Billy Crain wheels his truck into the parking lot. Crain wears his own Bardin Booger T-shirt — distinctly different from Bud Key's version (it carries Crain's name, not Bud's) — to reveal forearms bearing ancient, barely legible tattoos: "Born To Lose" and "Drunk Again."

Crain's profusion of greetings includes a stack of Xeroxed Bardin Booger newspaper clippings, a 45 record he pressed with an original tune called "The Bardin Booger" (flip side: "From Divorce To Barrooms"), Bardin Booger T-shirts and

“Four or five years ago, I heard tell about this old boy who went out and rented a bearskin suit and passed it off as a Booger.”

— Bailey Glisson, retired logger

buttons, and a four-minute videocassette from a Saturday morning syndicated TV show called "Flip."

The "Flip" piece was put together last year by a three-man production crew that came to Bardin all the way from California. Crain

“Some people say it's an old man that went nuts, but from what I've seen, it couldn't have been no human. There weren't any pop bottles or cigarette butts or chewin' gum wrappers layin' around, which means it had to be an animal of some sort because you know as well as I do that human beings are the most trashy creatures in the world.”

— Billy Crain

assisted with the re-enactment process by dressing his wife, Lena, in a Booger costume he designed several years ago for parades and parties. The costume looks like a gorilla with red lips and floppy dog ears.

"It's based on actual descriptions of the real legend," Crain explains. "Gross, ain't it?"

Crain suggests a ride down to the Etonia creek, site of several Booger reports. The place seems secluded at first, until you notice the beer cans and the hamburger wrappers piled up in the brush.

"Back before I moved to Palatka in 1977," Crain begins, strolling along the banks, "all you heard people talk about was the Bardin Booger. But you can't get 'em to talk about it any more. These old country folks don't want to appear dumb, and besides, they wouldn't tell you even if they had seen it."

"Personally, I haven't seen the Booger myself, but there's gotta be something to it. How I know is, I've seen where it sleeps. It tears off the tops of these palmettos and makes a bed out of them. I've seen them before, all mashed down."

"Some people say it's an old man that went nuts, but from what I've seen, it couldn't have been no human. There weren't any pop bottles or cigarette butts or chewin' gum wrappers layin' around, which means it had to be an animal of some sort because you know as well as I do that human beings are the most trashy creatures in the world."

"Maybe it was something that jumped the fence in the zoo and mated with something in the wild. I wish I could tell you. All I know is, it can't be a human because it don't leave a mess."

Like everyone else, Crain invokes the name of Bailey Glisson, the oldest of the old-timers. "Bailey'll tell you a story or two," he says.

Bailey Glisson, 80, retired logger, and his wife, Gira, live in a small old house way back off the highway, in a thicket of stately oaks heavy with beards of Spanish moss. Bailey is just about fed up with the Bardin Booger stories.

To impress upon the visitor that he's an open-minded man, Bailey

(continued on page 18)

not only says he believes in ghosts, but he thinks he may have even seen one. He thinks it might've been this boy who caught his arm in the sawmill long ago and got churned into hash.

One night, Bailey saw a weird light rising from the depths of a blackwater cypress swamp, gliding smoothly in the direction of the old sawmill. And it wasn't the moon.

"I kept waiting to hear the splashing noise," he says, "and when I didn't hear any racket over the water, I got scared."

But he draws the line at the Booger.

"You got to know that if there was a Booger out there, I'da seen it," Bailey says. "He'd have to eat meat, wouldn't he? I never heard tell of any cows or dogs being attacked. They say the varmint's 6-foot tall? Well, they ain't enough berries and nuts in the woods around here to

feed one Booger, let alone two, and there'd have to be two, there couldn't be just one.

"Now I ain't saying there couldn't have been a Booger here a long time ago. What I am saying is, he'd be dead of old age by now."

Bailey leans forward and his expression furrows into a deeper level of earnestness. He spits a thimble-sized nugget of tobacco juice on the ground.

"Now don't you be tellin' where you got this from. But this is the story I heard and so far as I know it's the truth. Four or five years ago, I heard tell about this old boy who went out and rented a bearskin suit and passed it off as a Booger. Now that's what I heard and don't you tell where you heard it."

"If I'da been a big ol' liar I reckon I coulda made some money that way, too. I need money, but not bad enough to lie for it."

Bailey and Girma sit for a while and reminisce about the old days. Used to be more varmints in the woods back then. Some he knew the names of, some he didn't.

"Well," he continues, "they was one thing I wouldn't know what to call. It's been 10, 11 years ago, right down the road there. I was in my car and the sun was just comin' up, and there was this thing going across the road like a kangaroo. Fully as big as you are standing up, but it was hunched over and hoppin' around like a frog. I had to stop to keep from hittin' him."

"Never did figure that one out. But it weren't a Booger."

Bailey says he lived here all his life. The wild things used to be a lot more aggressive a while ago. He remembers the time his wife's aunt used a hatchet to chop the snout off a Florida panther that got too close. Girma asks him to tell about what

happened to them one night 40 years ago on the way home from Palatka.

"Oh, yeah, well, that," Bailey begins. He fires another tobacco wad into the dirt. "We were coming back from the picture show in my new truck on the highway there when the truck started to rattling and shaking and I thought it was a flat tire or something. So I pulled the truck over, got out, couldn't find anything, and turned to get back inside."

"Well, something behind me kinda squalled and came at me—"

"— and it was huge," Girma interrupts. "It was above the cab of the truck. All I remember clearly is its arm, with dark, reddish brown hair. To me, it resembled a big old man's hairy arm."

"I took the children and pulled 'em back from the window. We were really lucky because we had the windows rolled up. That thing

grunted and that thing stunk and we were scared to death—"

"— yeah," Bailey interrupts, "it did stink, I do remember that. I smelt that odor before or something like it in a horse stable. Anyway, I took off after that as fast as I could, but not before it left these huge claw scratches on the door. It just peeled the paint right off, from the top of the cab all the way down to the bottom of the door—"

"— scared me and those poor little young'uns so bad," Girma laments, shaking her head.

Bailey lapses into a brief silence, gazing into the distance. Late afternoon, and the shadows are getting darker. Another clump of tobacco spits into the ground.

"That's as close to a Booger as anything I've ever seen," he says. "But I ain't sayin' it was the Booger, and like I say, even if it was, he'd be dead from old age now anyway."

Sightings of strange creatures abound in Florida

By Billy Cox
FLORIDA TODAY

Though reports of Neanderthalian creatures variously called the Yeti, Sasquatch and Bigfoot are largely confined to the northern longitudes of North America and Asia, Florida has had its share of mysterious sightings, too.

The earliest accounts are found in Seminole folklore, describing "a large hammock up north of Lake Okechobee where the tall men live." According to legend, "They are dangerous and have the power to make a person sick."

The Seminoles might have confused the "tall men" with the Calusa Indians, a tribe of 7-foot natives first reported by the Spanish conquistadores. But the Calusas

were confined to the Ten Thousand Islands region of Southwest Florida, and by the time the Seminoles arrived in the early 1700s, the Calusas had been driven to extinction by the introduction of European diseases.

The 1970s ushered in the modern era of Florida Bigfoot sightings, often referred to collectively as the Skunk Ape because of the attendant body odor. But according to Bruce Davis, a Bigfoot expert from Archer, pungent B.O. is a common Yeti characteristic and not exclusive to the alleged Florida species.

"Based on the sighting reports I've compiled," says Davis, "a guesstimate would be that we've got anywhere from 50 to 200 or 300 of these creatures in Florida. Most of the sightings take place in the

Ocala Forest. They grow to 7, 8 feet occasionally, with at least one 9-footer reported. We've even made 18-inch long track casts."

That cast was taken from a controversial print — complete with toes — discovered in the Ocala Forest in 1980. Investigators, including a Lake County Sheriff's sergeant, estimated that whatever made the half-dozen impressions had to stand 10 to 12 feet tall and weigh close to 1,000 pounds.

But no animal was ever found, and forest rangers sided with the hoax theory.

Other memorable encounters included a driver who claimed he hit a beast described as "huge, seven or eight feet tall, dark-colored and human-like" in Dade County in 1974. That same year, a Gaines-

ville resident claimed he fired four shots at an "ape-man" that jumped out at him.

In 1973, a rancher in Broward County reported unnaturally large, human-like tracks near the mutilated bodies of a horse and calf. "I'm not expert," said a Highway Patrolman who claimed to have had his own sighting several months earlier, "but it looks like the print from an ape."

Davis, a member of the International Society of Cryptozoology in Tucson, Ariz., says he became convinced when he was alerted to a sapling that had been shredded and ripped in half. "Clearly, from the markings on the tree, this was no bear," Davis says. "No bear could do that."

But as it is with all good mysteries, Skunk Ape bodies have yet to be recovered.

PRESS AND JOURNAL, Aberdeen, Scotland
May 31, 1989 CR: H. Bauer/COUD-I



■ American tourists Mr Scott Bergquist, his wife, Carol, and her mother, Mrs Lauretta Cipra, after their close encounter on Loch Ness yesterday.

Loch Ness close encounter

NESSIE reared her head yesterday for the first time this season.

A group of American tourists aboard a pleasure boat on Loch Ness claimed to have spotted the monster off Urquhart Castle. They said "a large, dark shape, like the back of something huge, surfaced around 300yd. from the boat's stern".

Mr and Mrs Scott and Carol Bergquist, San Diego, California, and Carol's mother, Mrs Lauretta Cipra, La Jolla, California, had been standing at the rear of the Jacobite Cruises ship, Jacobite Lady, when the mystery object rose out of the water.

They described it as being a huge hump, around 15ft. high, slightly longer than it was tall and creating a wake of its own.

It stayed on the surface for a

□ RON MACKENNA

few minutes before slipping under the waves again.

Mr Bergquist, an engineer, said: "It could have been a wave, but it definitely looked strange even though it didn't have a long neck or big teeth. It wasn't a seal or anything like that."

Mrs Cipra was adamant that the object was not part of the boat's wake. "It was too far away from the wash to be part of it, and it was far too big. We stood and looked at it for what seemed like ages and it appeared to be moving along slowly. Anyway, it had a wake of its own."

The sighting was made around 11.30a.m. in clear, bright weather, according to the party. The ship was begin-

ning to turn offshore from the Clansman Hotel.

The Bergquists immediately asked other passengers if they had seen anything. But, said Mrs Cipra, "everybody just looked at us as if we were crazy".

"A couple of minutes after the sighting," said Mrs Bergquist, "a Navy boat sailed into view and we immediately thought that people on shore had spotted something and sent the boat out to investigate. However, according to our captain, the Navy were just travelling through the loch."

Jacobite Lady's skipper, Capt. Colin Morgan, said: "The passengers immediately came in and told me they had seen something. We turned the boat and scanned the loch but saw nothing more."

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Nov. 17, 1989 CR: G. Conway

Ogopogo linked to ancient whales

Canadian Press

KELOWNA — Ogopogo, the legendary monster of Okanagan Lake, could be a modern relative of a prehistoric whale, a University of Chicago professor says.

"These are perfectly normal unidentified animals," said Roy Mackal, a biochemist who has spent most of his professional life studying unusual marine creatures. "We have to get ourselves out of the provincial idea that we have done the last exploration, found the last animal."

The elusive lake creature swam back into the news this summer when a former car salesman from Salmon Arm shot a video of something swimming in Okanagan Lake.

Ken Chaplin said that on at least five occasions in July he saw a snake-like creature about five metres long, hairless and dark green in color.

Mackal was in Kelowna for an interview with Unsolved Mysteries, which is making a film about Ogopogo. The magazine-style U.S. television program runs stories on unsolved crimes, disappearances and historical mysteries.

Common pattern emerges

Mackal said there is a common pattern to stories around the northern hemisphere about unidentified water creatures. They all occur in rivers and lake systems connected to the sea that either support or have supported migratory fish. The lakes are always deep and cold.

By comparing all reports of lake creatures he could find, Mackal has concluded the characteristics of the creatures best correspond to a zeuglodon-toothed whale — a species in its prime 20-million years ago, but now thought to be extinct.

Non-mammals that are cold-blooded do not generally move fast enough in cold water to match the reported activity of Ogopogo and similar creatures, Mackal said.

As well, such non-mammals as fish propel themselves by moving from side to side, unlike the unidentified lake creatures that have always been reported to move up and down.

But mammals such as beavers and otters, even extinct and unusual varieties, are simply not big enough to match the descriptions, Mackal said.

Modern whales don't fit

Modern whales are not snakelike enough to fit the composite description of Ogopogo, but the zeuglodon whale is

"This type of whale has small nostrils which it sticks out of the water, allowing it to breathe without fully surfacing and making it very hard to find."

A group of biologists, zoologists and oceanographers watched Chaplin's video in September and concluded the creature could be a huge river otter.

The National Geographic Society, after evaluating the video, decided the quality wasn't good enough to identify the creature as an animal known or unknown.

Mackal said the only way to convince skeptics these creatures exist is to capture one. He said he thinks there are very few of these creatures and that they are scared away by the underwater sounds made by sonar devices, making them hard to find.

He spent 10 years — from 1965 to 1975 — as scientific director at Loch Ness in Scotland, searching for the Loch Ness monster with submarines and modern underwater detection equipment.

The Loch Ness team obtained underwater photos, but Mackal said he only saw the monster once. He said its back broke the surface, but the head remained submerged.

Nessie riddle of a holiday video

EXCLUSIVE
By PETER SAMSON

A HOLIDAY couple could have the secret of the Loch Ness Monster in their luggage.

John and Judy Chaffin shot a mystery beastie on their video camera.

And last night Inverness-based marine biologist Dr Gordon Williamson, who has seen the video clip, said: "It's certainly something unusual swimming around the loch."

The couple, from Vancouver Island, Canada, are now in England - with the camera.

Creature

Said Dr Williamson: "I'm not a believer, but I couldn't work out what the creature is."

"Their video system is not the same as the British one so I could only see the 90 seconds of film in black and white through the viewfinder of their machine."

"The only non-monster creatures I can think of are an alsatian or a deer which may have been swimming around."

Scared

Dr Williamson, who has studied beastie sightings and runs tours to the loch, said: "The couple had arrived hoping for a sighting. They left Inverness to go south well satisfied."

"When they got back to their bed and breakfast house they weren't sure who to contact and were scared to talk about it. They were afraid people would laugh at them."

"They've promised to send me a copy of their video which I'll watch in colour and try to work out exactly what the creature is."

ARIZONA DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Jan. 14, 1990

Object of concern dodges bullets

BY MIKE HARDEN
Scrapps Howard News Service

"Don't shoot Bigfoot!" begged the headline of a recent edition of *The Newcomerstown News*.

The plea was an echo of the concern voiced, on the eve of deer season, by Don Keating, one of Tuscarawas County's more intriguing characters.

Keating is the 27-year-old founder and president of the Eastern Ohio Bigfoot Study Group and self-published author of the definitive work, "The Eastern Ohio Sasquatch."

Once a month, Keating assembles true believers in a meeting room at Newcomerstown's Duke's Inn motel. The group, usually two dozen or so, exchanges information on sightings, ponders casts taken from supposed footprints, and examines blurred and hazy snapshots. Some say the images are Bigfoot, others, an example of what emulsion and imagination can do when an errant, hairy thumb strays into a viewfinder.

I have sat in Keating's living room and pored over his photographic evidence.

I have sat in Keating's living room and pored over his photographic evidence. The pictures represent a determined man's obsession to prove that there really is something out there crashing about in the woods. Thus, in the hours before hundreds of deer hunters were loosed upon the wooded areas around Newcomerstown - where Keating claims there have been 36 Bigfoot sightings this year to date - he was understandably concerned.

"There's always a danger they're going to see something they think is a bear and shoot," he said. "My main concern is that some nut doesn't go out in the woods saying, 'I'm going to get Bigfoot.'"

Now that the regular deer season is finished, one can only presume that the object of Keating's concern dodged the bullets.

Keating knows he is out there somewhere. He goes searching for him three, some-

times four times a weekend, armed with nothing more dangerous than a Sears camcorder.

Only a week before deer gun season, Keating and a friend experienced sighting a shadowy figure lurking an estimated 300 yards from them in a field. Flush with his find, he permitted *News* to run his telephone number so that deer hunters could report their sightings.

None did.

'There were hundreds of people in the woods out there,' Keating later complained, 'and somebody out there somewhere had to have seen something.'

"There were hundreds of people in the woods out there," Keating later complained, "and somebody out there somewhere had to have seen something."

But what should they have been looking for? What mental picture of Sasquatch should the bow hunters (still hunting) and the black powder gang (whose primitive-weapon season has yet to begin) take into the woods with them?

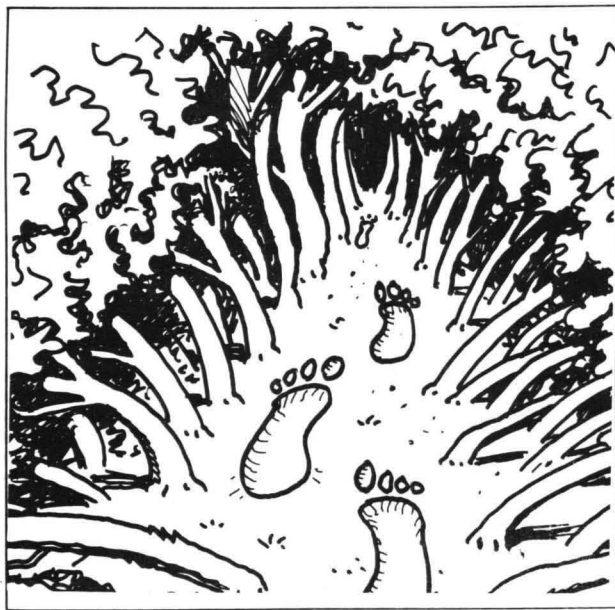
There is some disagreement on Sasquatch's precise appearance. Some say he's brown, others black. Six toes, five, four? It is unclear. How tall? Are there no national authorities on the creature?

'There's always a danger they're going to see something they think is a bear and shoot.'

Keating allowed that a couple of self-appointed authorities existed, cautioning, however, and without intended irony, "In Bigfoot circles, they're not known as credible."

Some consensus exists that the creature (1) smells bad, (2) likes women and (3) scares away game as it lumbers through the woods.

But on the last day of deer gun season that description



could have been given to any one of hundreds of the hunters as well.

"If the creature was out there," Keating earnestly mused, "and I know it is, they had to run into it."

Did he not, after all, in May of this year examine a set of 17½-inch footprints, 9 inches wide at the ball of the foot? Were they not, he mused, made by a creature taking 4-foot strides up the 45-degree slope of a hillside?

Certainly a sight hard to miss.

In the weeks ahead, the muzzleloaders and bow hunters will take to the woods. Should they see anything strange out there knocking around the underbrush, Keating hopes they'll call before shooting.

After all, he cautioned, the creature is rather passive and shy, certainly not harmful, and very elusive.

TIMES, Whitehall, NY
Sept. 7, 1989

"Bigfoot" sighting reported by startled teen in Hampton

By Paul Bartholomew Special to the Whitehall Times

A startled teen-ager may have recently glimpsed a creature resembling the legendary "Bigfoot" or "Sasquatch" in Hampton.

The 16 year old, wishing to remain anonymous, claims he was walking along 22A South when he spotted a dark figure lurking along the roadside. The sighting reportedly took place around 3 p.m. on Aug. 18.

The youth reportedly observed the creature for approximately three full seconds before both took off in opposite directions.

"I could see the back, a big back, and it was dark, it was awful matted

and scruffy-like," said the witness.

The youth was accompanied by a dog which apparently reacted to the presence of something.

"The dog...came across the road near to where the thing was standing and it started whining and took off," said the teen.

On Aug. 24, the mystery deepened as the young man and a friend camped out near where the sighting took place. At 2 a.m. it seemed that something was watching them.

"I stared at it and it stared back and it kind of went away," said the youth.

The witness said he observed two "glowing red eyes" approximately six feet off the ground. The eyes appeared to be circling the camp.

"They weren't just round-like, they were oblong, longer than they were round," added the observer.

The youth contacted Dr. Warren L. Cook, Professor of History and Anthropology at Castleton State College (Vermont) and noted authority on Bigfoot. Dr. Cook contacted fourteen researcher Paul B. Bartholomew, who investigated the sightings.

Two possible footprints were found at the campsite in direct relation to where the "glowing red eyes"

were observed. The clearer of the two impressions measured 10 1/2 inches long by 4 1/2 inches wide, with a stride of 56 inches between them.

It is interesting to note that the date of this sighting falls on the 13 anniversary of the Abair Road, Whitehall sightings of 1976. In that instance as many as nine witnesses, many of them law enforcement officials, reported seeing a large, hairy, red-eyed creature walking on two legs and disappearing into the dense rural woodlands.

Dr. Cook feels the timing of the sightings are probably not coincidental.

"If these creatures do migrate and feel comfortable and safe traveling a particular route, then it would make sense that they would stay along the same routes," said Cook.

On Aug. 28, high-pitched screams were heard coming from the woods at about 1 a.m. Lasting 30 seconds, with four seconds separating each scream, the mystery vocalizations echoed through Hampton for at least three minutes.

Anyone with information regarding these sightings is urged to contact Paul B. Bartholomew, RFD 2, Whitehall, NY 12887.

Anti-gravity gyroscope raises eyebrows

Washington Post

Claims of inventing an anti-gravity machine are common on the fringes of modern physics and none has ever been taken seriously. Until now.

One of the world's most respected physics journals, *Physical Review Letters*, has published a report by two Japanese scientists who claim that when they spun a special gyroscope at speeds between 3,000 and 13,000 rpm, it lost a tiny amount of weight. The faster it spun, the more weight it lost.

Weight is a measure of gravity's effect and although the weight loss was small - between 20 and 60 millionths of the gyroscope's 11.3 ounces - any provable loss would appear to violate the known laws

of physics. Other physicists who have seen the report suspect it is almost certainly wrong, but no one, including several senior physicists who reviewed the research before the journal agreed to publish it, has yet discovered a source of any error.

Unlike most claims of extraordinary phenomena, this one was published with full technical details so that others may try to reproduce the results. The scientists, Hideo Hayasaka and Sakae Takeuchi, of Tohoku University in Sendai, appear to have designed their experiments to rule out many potential sources of error, other physicists say.

ARIZONA DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - Jan. 2, 1990

PRESS AND JOURNAL, Aberdeen, Scotland
Sept. 13, 1989 CR: H. Bauer/COUD-I

Nessie seen near Urquhart Castle

AN INVERNESS man claimed to have seen the Loch Ness monster surface half a mile offshore from Urquhart Castle yesterday.

And the claim from Mr Alex Crosbie, a self-confessed Nessie spotter, was backed up by unofficial castle piper Mr Murdo Urquhart.

Mr Crosbie, Kessock Court, Inverness, said he was standing on the castle ramparts at 2p.m. when a large dark object "which looked like a neck" burst from the surface of the loch to be quickly surrounded by swooping gulls.

The object, around 20ft. long, was moving slowly through the water and it appeared as though six parts

were protruding a couple of feet above the surface, said Mr Crosbie.

Mr Urquhart, 26 Dunavon Road, Merkinch, who has already bagged 13 sightings, said he was standing nearby when he saw Mr Crosbie appear agitated.

"Alex was 100yd. from me, but I could see he was staring at something. I went up to him and he pointed out the monster cruising through the water. I got the binoculars and I could make out a dark object moving through the water. There was a pleasure boat heading straight for it and, while the vessel was still 400yd. away, Nessie disappeared beneath the waves."



Mr Murdo Urquhart 14th sighting?

AL MARTINEZ

Such Good Friends

The note got right to the point. It said, "Al, you idiot. Why did you give that (expletive) space in the paper?" It was signed Danny Perez.

At first, I didn't know to which expletive he was referring, since I seek out and write about many of them in the new-format, easy-reading L.A. Times.

That is not an impossible task in Los Angeles. There are expletives everywhere. On any given day, you will find them jumping up and down in the streets waving and hollering. "Look at me, look at me!"

As a result, I have built a career chronicling the exploits of many expletives, from Hungry Valley to Redondo Beach.

Fortunately, in this case, Perez had attached a clipping which referred to one Jon Erik Beckjord, curator of Malibu's Bigfoot Museum and self-appointed president of the National Cryptozoological Society.

I wrote about Beckjord recently during a slow day on the expletive beat, which caused Perez, also a sasquatch aficionado, to fire off his note.

Included in the envelope was a business card in the shape of a footprint (you know who's) that identified Perez as proprietor of the Center for Bigfoot Studies in Norwalk.

I went out to see him one day to determine why such animosity existed between this intense, slightly built man of 26, and Beckjord, an amiable, part-time cinematographer of 39.

Perez once more got right to the point. "The man" he said, "is a fraud!" Ah, ha.

□

To put it mildly, Perez and Beckjord are not good friends.

While Perez, a union electrician and insurance salesman, believes Beckjord to be a fake, Beckjord believes Perez to be, as he puts it, "among the walking wounded."

"You know what he wants to do,"

Beckjord said when I told him how Perez regarded him. "He wants to kill Bigfoot. The fool carries an Uzi on his expeditions."

"Beckjord lives in another world,"

Perez said, riveting me with a stare that could penetrate steel. "He has visions."

Well now.

Both men agree, at least, on one thing: There's something out there lumbering through the woods primeval and leaving its footprints in the mud.

Perez doesn't know what it is and wants to find out. He admits to carrying a gun on his expeditions but sidesteps the question of whether or not he would shoot Mr. Bigfoot if he saw him.

"The bottom line," he said somberly, "is to actually get a sasquatch. I just don't know how you'd go about capturing one."

Beckjord, who claims to have seen and made psychic contact with the beast, has been told by reliable sources that Bigfoot, when startled, is able to float off in a ball of golden light.

This leaves Beckjord to conclude that he could be a time traveler who is able to pop around from dimension to dimension, like an agent at a cocktail party.

These are the kinds of theories that leave Perez cold. "The truth is," he says sourly, "the guy has never substantiated a thing."

□

Both men have been interested in Mr. Bigfoot for about the same length of time, 15 years. To pursue his interest, Beckjord opened the cryptozoological museum in a room off the bar at Malibu's Trancas Restaurant.

It consists of sketches, photographs, plaster casts of footprints and other bits of monster memorabilia.

Perez, on the other hand, has compiled a 200-page bibliography of books, magazine articles and newspaper stories published on the subject in the last 400 years.

On the day I visited him in Norwalk, he had just picked up a copy of a tabloid newspaper, the Sun, which headlined a story, "Bigfoot Captured Alive!"

Phenomena is keeping low profile

Lake Champlain's beloved-yet-elusive sea monster, Champ, has been showing his mysterious head less and less often, researchers are sorry to report.

Only four people claimed to have seen the dark colored, 25-foot-long finned, creature in 1989. This is down from nine sightings last year. In the early part of the decade, as many as 20 sightings were reported.

"1989 was a slow year for Champ sightings," said Joseph W. Zarzynski, director of the Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation, a research group that employs surface surveillance, side-scan sonar, scuba searches and a remote-control vehicle in its efforts to track the Lake Champlain monsters.

All four 1989 sightings occurred in the summer and the earliest in any day was at 7:30 p.m.

Zarzynski offers no scientific explanation for the drop in monster sightings, but suggests more sightings occur than are reported.

"People aren't always aware of where to go to report a sighting. There's nothing in the yellow pages for reporting monsters," he said.

CR: J. Zarzynski
FREE PRESS, Burlington, VT - Dec. 17, 1989

Nessie has a sis in Japan

NESSIE has a sister - on the other side of the world.

Her name is Kusshi and she lives in Lake Kussharo, near the town of Bihoro in northern Japan.

Every day, the two monsters communicate - "comforting each other across the oceans" - according to officials of Bihoro Rotary Club.

Star

Now they have set up a cultural exchange scheme with Scotland.

How Nessie and Kusshi ended up in their respective lairs is no mystery.

Millions of years ago, it is said, a star called The Queen split in two and fell to earth.

And the monsters were born...

DAILY RECORD, Glasgow, Scotland - Sept. 2, 1989 CR: H. Bauer/COUD-I

The same issue also featured the headline, "Fat Man Explodes After Winning Pie-Eating Contest."

I preferred reading about the fat man who exploded, but since Perez already considered me an idiot, I thought it best to stick to the Bigfoot story.

It said two hunters had returned to their cabin to find the creature lying on a couch, wearing one of the hunter's blue pajamas.

The quick-witted men used a bag of potato chips to lure the creature into a bedroom and then locked the door. But, alas, Mr. Bigfoot smashed down a wall and escaped.

"It's that kind of b.s.," Perez said, "that discourages serious investigators."

Then he added a comment about Beckjord that I am not allowed to repeat, even under our new mellow format.

I asked Beckjord why, since they share a common hairy interest, he and Perez couldn't get along.

"It's because we can't capture Bigfoot," he said. "We're like rats in a cage who end up eating each other out of frustration."

And, no doubt, who explode when they eat too much.

SCIENCE



Glowing balls of energy no one can understand

By GRAHAM PHILLIPS

THEY look like glowing balls of light about 20cm in diameter.

They move slowly, usually hovering close to the ground or floor and bobbing around as if they have minds of their own.

They appear both outdoors and indoors, although they seem to have a weird liking for interiors.

These glowing balls of energy have even been reported inside aeroplanes, terrifying the passengers as they slowly glide down the aisle. The phenomenon is known as ball lightning.

Typically the balls are red or orange in color and can last for anything up to a minute. They eventually vanish with either a small explosion or they just slowly fade away.

Over the years there have been many reports and descriptions of those weird events, some from very good witnesses.

However, despite these, ball lightning still remains very much a mystery. Just how a glowing ball of energy could form and move in the way that it does is not known.

After 150 years of scientific investigation there is still no conclusive evidence that ball lightning even exists.

Scientists, however, are not deterred. Many take the phenomenon very seriously. After all, some of history's greatest scientists are among those who have witnessed ball lightning.

One approach has been to try to create fireballs in the laboratory. Many different techniques have been tried, but so far the experiments have only been moderately successful.

Electrical discharges, radio waves and even combustible gases have been used. And while some have managed to create something resembling a glowing ball, the balls exist for a very short time.

Despite the name, it is not clear that ball lightning is related to ordinary lightning.

Over the years there have been many explanations put forward, ranging from the mundane - the fiery balls are optical illusions - to the truly bizarre.

An explanation suggested by the two scientists David Ashby and Colin Whitehead fits well and truly into this last category. They suggest that the fiery balls are caused by anti-matter.

Anti-matter, as the name suggests, is the opposite of matter. Everything on Earth is made from ordinary matter, that is matter composed of ordinary atoms having a positive nucleus surrounded by negative electrons.

However, it is possible to create anti-particles - particles such as positive electrons and negative nuclei. Anti-matter is built from these anti-particles.

Provided matter and anti-matter remain separated, the two can exist

CR: P. Norman

quite happily. However once matter and anti-matter come into contact, each completely annihilates the other with a tremendous explosion. Both the matter and anti-matter are converted into pure energy.

Ashby and Whitehead suggest that if anti-matter does exist in appreciable quantities in other parts of the universe perhaps some of it may hit Earth.

In their theory, ball lightning is caused by small dust-sized particles of anti-matter passing down through the Earth's atmosphere.

The glowing balls form as the anti-particles annihilate with the ordinary matter in the atmosphere.

Ball lightning however, may have a more simple explanation. It may, after all, be related to ordinary lightning.

Like ordinary lightning, ball lightning is frequently observed during thunderstorms. And like a lightning bolt, the balls often act as if they are electrically charged.

They are attracted to metal, for example, and have been seen hovering over power lines and rolling along phone wires.

Not all lightning has the familiar forked shape.

Sheet lightning, for example, occurs when lightning strikes inside a cloud.

The lightning illuminates a large part of the cloud but produces no visible bolt.

Ribbon lightning, another form of lightning, is relatively rare and appears as a wide band instead of the usual thin bolt. Its cause is the wind spreading the lightning bolt over a greater area.

ANOTHER rare form is bead lightning. Bead lightning looks a bit like a lightning bolt that has broken into several fragments.

However, unlike these rarer forms, the more usual lightning bolt is much better understood.

A lightning bolt occurs when there is an exchange of electric charge between the clouds and the ground.

This exchange gives rise to an enormous electric current which can do tremendous damage.

To reduce the chances of being struck by a lightning bolt you can do a number of things: don't go in the water during a thunderstorm, don't stand under a tree and, most important if you're playing golf, put your metal club away and either head indoors or crouch down low with both feet together and your hands on your knees.

Wet clothes are also some help, as they will conduct some of the current rather than it passing through your body. As for ball lightning, no one really knows.

DAILY MIRROR, London, England
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Yeti again

STRANGE Yeti-like animals have been seen on remote farms in the Volga region, a Russian newspaper reports.