

UFO

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Model of UFO found in Gulf Breeze attic

From staff and wire reports

GULF BREEZE — A model flying saucer that looks like the UFOs in photographs taken by a Gulf Breeze man has been found in the attic of a house where he lived when the pictures were taken, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Photos taken by Ed Walters and published three years ago in *The Gulf Breeze Sentinel*, a weekly newspaper, attracted national media attention and set off a controversy among UFO investigators over whether they were authentic or a hoax.

The model, made from four plastic foam plates and drafting paper, was found by a man now living in Walters' former home, the *Pensacola News Journal* reported in Sunday editions.

The new resident, who didn't want his name disclosed, turned the model over to the newspaper, which used it to make photographs

similar to the ones shown by Walters.

Walters denied any knowledge of the model.

"If I were trying to pull a hoax, and I'm not, then it would have been stupid to leave it there," Walters said.

He argued that it was probably planted by the new resident or others, possibly government agents, to debunk his sightings.

Don Ware, a former Air Force pilot in Fort Walton Beach, who is eastern regional director for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), agreed with Walters' explanation of the model.

"Debunkers would go to great lengths to discredit Ed ... but the evidence is far too overwhelming for this thing to be a hoax," said Ware who has investigated 35 sightings in the Gulf Breeze area.

Five people have told Ware they have seen objects similar to those in Walters' photographs.

Bob and Gloria Reid, of Fort Walton Beach, said they know Walters well and believe he is the victim of a group of debunkers who are trying to discredit him on the eve of the MUFON symposium.

"There is an element in existence, probably worldwide, who are extremely determined to negate any cases that seem to be authentic," Bob Reid said. "I have no idea of their structure, but they obviously have funding behind them."

"It would not be difficult to gain access to the (former Walters') house and plant it (the model) and you can bet that it's a plant," he said. "Regardless of there being a model found, I have no questions as to Ed and his pictures."

"Apparently, the debunkers have swung into action," Gloria Reid said. "They don't want this totally credible man to stand up

and tell this incredible story. The debunkers are a pretty nasty group. Ed didn't do that" (fake the pictures).

A building contractor, Walters served 18 months in prison during the late 1960s on convictions of forgery in Jacksonville and auto theft in Gainesville. Gov. Bob Martinez pardoned him earlier this year.

Walters reported 20 UFO sightings between Nov. 11, 1987 and May 21, 1988, in Gulf Breeze, a city of about 6,000 residents. He initially refused to reveal his identity until after several similar observations were reported in Gulf Breeze.

Eventually, Walters published a book, "The Gulf Breeze Sightings," receiving a \$200,000 advance from his publisher, William Morrow & Co. He claims he has been offered \$450,000 by ABC for a proposed television mini-series based on the sightings.

The reported sightings have created so much interest that MUFON has scheduled its annual symposium in Pensacola on July 6-8.

One of Walters' doubters, Phillip Klass of Washington, D.C., a

former editor of *Aviation Week & Space Technology Magazine*, bristled at the suggestion debunkers had planted the model.

"He is a desperate man," Klass said of Walters.

Another critic, Robert Boyd of Mobile, Ala., said the model confirms what he had reported after his investigations. Boyd had been Alabama director of MUFON but was forced out when he concluded Walters' photos probably were fakes.

"It is my opinion that full refunds should be made to all purchasers of Ed's book and a public apology be issued," said Boyd, now administrator of *Aerial Anomalies International*.

The new resident of Walters' former home told the *News Journal* that he found the model when he went into the attic while tracking a pipe so he could install an icemaker.

"I was fooling around in the attic and I was moving insulation aside when I saw it," he said. "I never would have found it if I hadn't been looking for the pipe."

Weird sights in the Panhandle sky

THE GULF BREEZE SIGHTINGS. By Ed and Frances Walters. William Morrow & Co. 347 Pages. \$21.95.

Ed Walter's privacy has never been more public. With the release of the journal, *The Gulf Breeze Sightings*, the home-builder has attracted unidentified flying comments nearly as ominous — and at least as bold — as the alien craft and extraterrestrial beings he claims to have seen beginning in late 1987.

And while panoramic vistas and chock-a-block amusement parks traditionally attract visitors to Florida, the sojourners whom Walters describes in this chaty read are hardly Chamber of Commerce pinups, if they ever visited at all.

Walters reported 20 UFO sightings between Nov. 11, 1987 and May 21, 1988 in Gulf Breeze, a Panhandle city of 6,000. Though he initially refused to identify himself, he later revealed his identity when dozens of witnesses up and down the coast corroborated his story.

Within the last few weeks, critics have impugned Walters' story with claims of their own. Today, in fact, is the last of a three-day international UFO conference in Pensacola, a site chosen specifically for its apparent hotbedded-ness.

But some aren't so sure who's in bed with whom.

In April, a 9-inch model flying saucer was found in the attic of Walter's former residence. The *Pensacola News Journal* borrowed it and staff photographers used it to make their own shots. When they appeared in print, the newspapers editors say they were "besieged with calls" from the media.

A young Gulf Breeze man and his parents have also come forward, stating they knew from the onset that Walters had faked the pictures; moreover, existence of a so-called "ghost photo" Walters took at a party has eroded his credibility.

Walters has staunchly defended his honor. He says flatly: "If I were trying to pull a hoax ... then it would have been stupid to leave (a model) there."

All of this hoopla probably doesn't hurt "rack appeal," which Walters' book has in aces. On the jacket is one of Walters' photographs that, no matter how you look at it, is strange enough to invite a quick flip inside.

The book is a quick flip. Divided into diary-like chapters written mostly by Walters and a few by wife Frances, the authors do not swaddle their story in adjectives and literary prowess they don't possess.

Whitley Strieber's *Communion*, another personal account of too-close-for-comfort encounters, suffered

from the author's exemplary storytelling skills. Although the book sold millions of copies, many readers couldn't help but wonder if the tales Strieber told were true or merely the imaginings of a macabre mind.

Instead, *The Gulf Breeze Sightings* is emotionally linear. Ed Walters apologizes to no one. He describes each of his UFO sightings in crisp language, including details that would seem downright silly to the uninitiated.

For instance, he is extremely specific about how and when he took every photograph, clearly attempting to satisfy critics.

After he contacted the Mutual UFO Network, one of the nation's largest such organizations, Walters' cadre of supporters grew. Bruce Maccabee, an optical physicist at the Navy lab in Washington, examined Walters' photographs at length and still considers them authentic.

But as the number of supporters increased, so did the critics. Philip Klass, considered the country's premier debunker of UFOs, says the photos are too "suspect" to be real. Walters includes comments from Klass and other debunkers in a section dedicated to disparaging particulars.

The Walters reportedly got a \$200,000 advance for the book from publisher William Morrow & Co. Furthermore, Walters claims he has been offered \$450,000 by ABC for a proposed television miniseries based on the sightings.

Nonetheless, *The Gulf Breeze Sightings* relies heavily on one of literature's old standards, suspension of disbelief. But in this case, it is up to the reader to supply the context.

Plainly, if readers believe in UFOs, they'll believe Walters. If they don't, they won't. It's that simple.

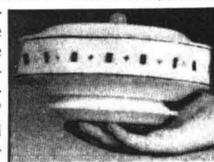
So, too, is Walters' personal hypothesis on the entire experience, which he manages with a healthy dose of humor and a pinch of philosophy.

"I would write (about my experience) just the way it was," Walters writes. "Most of the story would be unbelievable, but then I did have the pictures. The 'experts' would say what they would. The government experts would take their official position that UFOs don't exist. The open-minded would say 'maybe.'"

"Why follow me? Was the UFO allowing and staging these photo opportunities, as some of the investigators had suggested? That was hard to accept. Surely if the UFO wanted somebody to take its picture, it would certainly have chosen somebody with a decent camera."

— JENNIFER TUCKER

Jennifer Tucker is a staff writer for the *Tribune*.



The UFO model.

UFOs still an open question

GUEST OPINION

Bill Knell

Despite two major barriers — more than 40 years of government secrecy around the world, and poor press coverage with the usual off-handed comments by snickering media journalists — UFOs have remained an open question in the minds of many.

This openness is a good thing. As spokesman for a Flushing-based UFO investigative group, Island Skywatch, and as a UFO investigator for 20 years, I ask nothing more from people than to consider the available evidence for the existence of UFOs, despite all the negatives they may have been fed.

As part of my responsibilities with Island Skywatch, which is dedicated to the scientific and objective study of UFOs, I give more than 50 lectures a year about "UFOs on Queens and Long Island." I ask those who attend to consider the substantial evidence that I present, and then make up their own minds.

But, what about the governments? What's their reluctance to release material on UFOs? They certainly have an abundance of it, to which documents released under the

Freedom of Information Act attest. Some say governments fear frightening the public. They should fear what the public may do after it discovers it has been lied to for 40 years.

Personally, I believe our government is trying to leak or release a limited amount of information in order to prepare people for the reality of UFOs. I wish they would move faster and get out all the information they have.

It is somewhat difficult to fault the mass media, in general. When the subject of UFOs is hot, they do cover it. Like with most subjects, when things cool down, they neglect it.

Cable television stations, like QPTV in Flushing and Brookhaven Cable in Suffolk County, regularly air programs on the subject. QPTV viewers can watch a whole series on UFOs. For information write: UFOs, P.O. Box 146, Station "A," Flushing, N.Y. 11358. Brookhaven viewers can watch my own program, "UFOs Over Long Island." I hope you'll join me in the quest for truth and be willing to keep an open mind.

Bill Knell is from Island Skywatch, 164-22 77th Road, Flushing, N.Y. 11365. UFO HOTLINE — (718) 380-8644. The opinions expressed are his own and not necessarily those THIS WEEK.

Experts to reopen Gulf Breeze UFO probe

By Craig Myers
News Journal

An international organization of UFO enthusiasts announced Tuesday it will reopen its investigation into a Gulf Breeze man's claims that he photographed UFOs.

But members of the Mutual UFO Network said they still believe Ed Walters' UFO photos are legitimate and his stories of UFO sightings and encounters are true.

"He is innocent until proven guilty,"

found in Walters' former Gulf Breeze home in March and made public earlier this month have raised new questions about Walters' story.

The model — made of Styrofoam plates and drafting paper — was found in the attic of Walters' former home at 612 Silverthorn Road by a current resident who was searching the attic for a pipe.

Walters and Hank Boland, another former Gulf Breeze resident who the Smiths said was allegedly involved in creating fake UFO

said MUFON International Director Walt Andrus.

MUFON's decision comes on the heels of recently discovered evidence and reports suggesting Walters' photos may be fakes. It also comes less than three weeks before the group's international symposium on UFOs, which will be in Pensacola July 6-8.

Also on Tuesday, the parents of a 22-year-old who said he saw Walters create fake photos of UFOs in 1987 came forward to identify themselves.

photographs, last week denied the allegations. Walters was not at either news conference and could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Both Walters and Boland said last week that the younger Smiths' photographs show a real UFO. They said the Smiths are claiming the photos are fake — created by double exposure — out of a religiously motivated attempt to discredit UFO sightings.

But Thomas Smith, a Pensacola attorney and former Gulf Breeze city council member, said Tuesday that the only religious motive he has is to tell the truth. The

MUFON challenged the couple, Thomas G. and Jennie Smith, of Gulf Breeze, to take a lie detector test. They agreed, under the condition that Walters and his family also take one.

The Smiths' son Tom Smith, formerly of Gulf Breeze, said last week that he watched Walters create fake photos of UFOs using a technique known as double exposure.

Andrus said MUFON supports Walters "100 percent," but said the group is reopening the investigation because

younger Smith, a student at an out-of-state college, could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Smith said his son came to him in late 1987 with what were apparently six UFO photos.

But Smith said his son later confided that Walters had taken the photos using trick photography and had asked him to take them to the Gulf Breeze Sentinel and claim to be the photographer. Smith kept the photos and last week gave them to Gulf Breeze Police Chief Jerry Brown.

The younger Smith said last week in a telephone interview with Gulf Breeze Mayor Ed Gray,

members want to know the truth as much as anyone else. Seven members of the group investigated Walters' reports for six months in 1988 and concluded his story was true.

Walters' account and photographs of 20 UFO encounters between November 1987 and March 1988, recounted in his book entitled "The Gulf Breeze Sightings," has focused worldwide attention on the area.

But the younger Smiths' allegations of trick photography and a model UFO

Brown and two reporters that he had been with Walters once when Walters made double-exposures.

"We don't know what everyone else has seen, but we know what Ed disclosed to Tom early on was that his photos and story was a fabrication," Smith said.

The couple said their son waited more than two years to come forward because he didn't want to hurt his friends Boland and Danny Walters, Walters' son, who the Smiths said was also involved in faking photos.

"I wish we had done this 2½ years ago," Smith said. "But hindsight is 20/20 vision."

OPINION 2

Ed Walters perpetuating UFO hoax

By Ed Gray
Mayor, Gulf Breeze

I have been fortunate to serve in public office in Gulf Breeze for soon to be 10 years. The last six of those have been as mayor.

Never in those years have I ever witnessed so clever and successful a deception of the public as the charade by Ed Walters and his accomplices.

When I, along with Police Chief Jerry Brown, first publicly assailed the alleged UFO sightings by Ed Walters, a strong backlash of rebuttal resulted.

Numerous comments were directed at me to the effect of, "If you're so sure the sightings are a hoax, prove it."

At that time, my conclusions were based on logic and common sense. I had no conclusive proof the sightings of Ed Walters were fabricated.

Over time, the power of suggestion and the very real occurrences of so much air traffic in our area brought forth many other sightings by well-respected citizens. I could not dispute those.

Our area is a testing and training location for some of the most sophisticated aircraft our military possesses.

Had I seen a Stealth fighter aircraft silhouetted against a moonlit night with unusual lights luminating from it prior to seeing recently released photographs and press announcements, I would have claimed to have witnessed a UFO also.

With all of the highly publicized sightings, the high-profile activity of MUFON investigators — that term used loosely — and the inability to disprove the experience of Walters, I realized other comments I might make would gain nothing but ridicule.

Within a year of the sightings by Walters, I began hearing of the book being written and large amounts of money to be made. A week did not go by that I did not receive a call from a far corner of the country wanting to discuss "UFO sightings in Gulf Breeze."

To many who called, I reiterated my belief it was a hoax. To others I simply declined to discuss it because I was fed up with the topic.

As the book hit the bookstores, the reputation of Gulf Breeze as the "UFO capital" was furthered and my frustration, at not being able to disprove what I know to be false, got higher and higher.

Finally, the break in the story happened.

Ed Walters made the careless error which began the unraveling of the scheme. He miscalculated how safely buried under insulation in his former residence's attic

VIEWPOINT

the model of the UFO would be.

He didn't want to chance the model being discovered should he move it and thus left it there, or he carelessly forgot about it since it had been several months since he had used it. Whatever the reason, it was found by the existing owners of the home who didn't even live in Gulf Breeze when the sightings were first disclosed.

In fact, they had discovered the model weeks earlier and had not made the discovery known because "they did not know it was such a big deal."

The knowledge of the model being made public was the "that does it" for a young man to come forward who has first-hand knowledge of the plan. As I write this recant of what has transpired, this young man remains anonymous. He wants details known and the hoax exposed, but he does not want the avalanche of publicity tied to him which will result from him coming forward.

He desires to pursue his educational goals and a career afterward, neither of which need to be interfered with by his having the strong character to disclose what he knows. This young man deserves a great deal of credit for having the moral values and integrity to say enough is enough.

This community will be indebted to him for quite some time. However, I suspect, in addition to the proper upbringing by his parents, it was his loyalty and love for this community that brought him forward to begin with.

In contrast, I am writing this article while enroute back from meeting an accomplice to Ed Walters. He has been conclusively implicated in not only witnessing the fabricated UFO sightings, but assisting in the making of some of the photographs. His name is Hank Boland. Through developing a close friendship to Ed Walters as a band member at Gulf Breeze High School, Hank was talked into assisting with this hoax.

I must conclude through my meeting Hank and formulating a first impression, that he probably did not engage in the hoax except to commit a "practical joke."

Candidly, I believe Ed Walters himself, being of the personality he is, initiated this as a very big joke. Soon, however, the greed factor prevailed and Hank was dragged deeper into Ed Walters' plot.

Hank was not the only perpetrator. Ed's family is obviously immersed in the sightings. They, as

family members, have realized how much in financial reward could be gained as the story unfolded.

Where all of this will end remains to be seen.

Will the publishers of the book have legal grounds to recoup monies from Ed? I doubt it. They plowed ahead to publish and reap rewards in the same vein as Ed did in writing it.

Will Ed Walters ever admit to all of this?

I doubt it. He's in to it too deep and has fooled too many people. His only way to keep showing his face publicly is to keep the act going. Will the news media report the fine details of how he pulled off what he did?

They will, because they must save face in the fact they were taken in by the scheme as were so many others.

Will the MUFON investigators admit to being so wrapped up and biased in their pursuit of the story that they fell headfirst into the trap?

I doubt it. My dealings to date with some of them indicate no objectivity in their thinking and certainly no expertise at investigating.

Will Gulf Breeze citizens continue to see strange objects in the sky?

Certainly, because strange aircraft exist overhead.

But, since Ed Walters will not be feeding imaginations with totally false photographs, there will probably be explanations hypothesized which prior to now would not be considered.

Finally, one might ask why is the mayor so concerned about apparently harmless publicity?

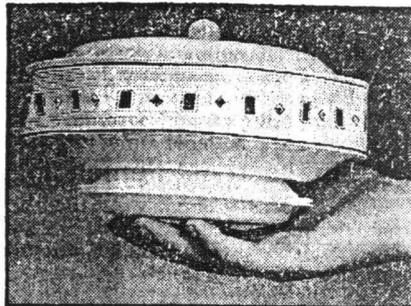
The answer is I was not terribly concerned until the greed created by financial gains started showing itself.

With greed and huge dollars created by untruths comes more untruths and eventually other wrongdoings.

Money generated not only to Ed Walters benefit, but other business enterprises capitalizing on the story is money earned deceptively. This community being used in such a way should not be tolerated by me as its chief elected official and representative.

The publication of this statement will bring forth another avalanche of comments from Ed, his supporters, and MUFON members aimed at not only discrediting persons who are coming forth, but me as a skeptic who is in the public eye. This comes with the position I hold and will not discourage me from disclosing the truths as they are uncovered.

UFO model appears to be a fake!



UFO model as shown in Pensacola News Journal

The *Pensacola News Journal* reported on Sunday that a model spaceship resembling the UFOs seen over Gulf Breeze had been found in a house once owned by Ed Walters.

The model was found by the current resident of the house, who asked not to be identified and was unavailable for comment. Walters, who has received national attention concerning the sightings, co-wrote *The Gulf Breeze Sightings*, detailing his experiences. The book was co-authored by Walters' wife, Frances.

The *News Journal* reported that the model is constructed of four plastic foam plates and drafting paper, bearing what appears to be Walters' handwriting.

Walters denied any knowledge of the model, which he says was put in the house by someone who wishes to discredit him. Walters says that the house was vacant and open daily for ten months before it sold.

Walters has submitted to lie detector tests and has undergone a psychological evaluation under hypnosis. UFO and photographic experts have been unable to disprove the validity of the photos. The model differs from the UFOs in Walters' photographs, some of which were taken with stereo cameras. Analysis of the stereo photographs showed that the UFO was over twenty feet in diameter and hundreds of feet away.

Witnesses continue to step forward and testify to seeing the same



Ed Walters' Dec. 17 photo

UFO as shown in the photos.

On Monday's *Sentinel* Interview Live, Gulf Breeze resident Adam Dye reported seeing the UFO in November 1987, before Walters' first sighting. "Seeing is believing, and I was not looking at a model," Dye said.

Shirley McConnell told the *Sentinel*, "The finding of a model confirms nothing. It is of no consequence. What my husband and I saw was not a little model. It was quite large. We watched at close range for five minutes as it hovered outside our house and as it moved across the bay."

"What we saw looked exactly like Ed Walters' photograph. There were definite differences in the model and what we saw."

Debunker photo evidence exposed as fake

Motivated UFO debunkers have a history of making fake evidence and sending it to the media. The *Sentinel* has received several such fake evidence hoaxes. Of particular interest were their fake Gulf Breeze type UFO photos over the Chrysler Bldg and others taken in

the front of Ed Walters' yard. Sent to the media, the debunkers implied that Ed Walters took them. Later the real photographer from New York, Manuel Fernandez, came forward to expose their fake evidence plot.

Navarre Beach residents have UFO sightings

By Rex Salisberry,
MUFON NEWS
939-3036

The Bridges family on Navarre Beach observed a UFO light display over the Gulf of Mexico, to the SSE of their home, at 11:30 p.m., June 8. They reported seeing a total of 20-30 lights that appeared to be low over the water about ten miles away. These unidentified lights would at times seem to join together in a circular orbit and then shoot out in many directions. Some of the paths were jagged with sharp turns and abrupt stops, while others were smooth arcs. The UFOs would then regroup and repeat the process randomly. Another group of about 20 people, who were visiting in rental units, also saw the UFO display. Because of the very rapid movements, sharp turns, instantaneous course reversals and abrupt blinking out of the lights, the witnesses concluded that they could be explained as caused by natural phenomena, such as fireworks, naval gunfire, flares, or lights from a ship. Total time for the event was approximately 30 minutes.

On May 11, 9 p.m., a Navarre family was enjoying their swimming pool when they noticed a UFO in the sky to the west of their home. It seemed to be twice the size of a star and had red, blue, and white lights on it. As they watched, they saw a large airplane approach the UFO from the north. The plane first seemed to circle beneath the UFO

and then above it. After a few minutes the plane departed to the east toward Ft. Walton Beach. The family continued to watch the UFO as it moved slowly to the west. Thirty minutes later, two smaller planes flew toward the UFO from the direction of Milton. At that point the UFO moved abruptly to the south, then back toward the west and suddenly disappeared. There was no sound coming from the UFO although the witnesses could hear the airplane engines. At least five witnesses observed this event for over an hour and are convinced that what they saw cannot be explained as natural phenomena.

Shortly after midnight on April 8, a Navarre Beach resident and companion saw a large orange light low above the Gulf of Mexico, to the south. The light was first seen as they drove toward Pensacola Beach over the Bob Sikes Bridge. When they arrived on the beach road between Pensacola and Navarre Beach, they stopped the car and could again see the UFO from one of the walkovers to the beach. They then drove on home where they could again see the UFO from the deck of the south side of the house. The UFO could not be seen, however, from ground level on the beach, which would indicate that it was at least 4 miles off shore. After hovering in the same position for over two hours, the light suddenly "blinked out". To report a UFO call MUFON hot line number: 436-2700.



Associated Press photograph

Disc jockey Marty White photographs a UFO model held up by radio station worker Matt Krohn

Friday at a radio station contest to coincide with the symposium of the Mutual UFO Network.

UFO photographer defends authenticity of his pictures

By BILL KACZOR
of The Associated Press

PENSACOLA — A Gulf Breeze man whose photographs of unidentified flying objects have been called a hoax by some UFO investigators defended his credibility Friday at a gathering of UFO enthusiasts.

Although about a dozen other speakers were present, most of the questions at a Mutual UFO Network news conference went to Ed Walters, a builder who once served time in prison for auto theft and forgery.

Walters' photographs attracted the group to this Florida Panhandle city for its annual, three-day symposium.

The authenticity of the photographs has been called into question by the recent discovery of a model flying saucer found in the attic of his former home and statements by a former Gulf Breeze resident who claimed he saw Walters take fake UFO photographs.

Walters, holding up one of his pictures, pointed out that the UFO shown flying just above a road was not identical, although similar in shape, to the model.

"Indeed, this model is not what I saw in the skies over Gulf Breeze. It is not what was hovering above this road," Walters said.

Walters also distributed a nine-page response, including the results of a psychological stress evaluator test that concluded

he was telling the truth when he said he did not make the UFO model.

He also contended that markings on blueprint paper used together with plastic foam dinner plates to make the model indicated it was part of a house plan he drew up in September, about two years after the photographs were taken.

"The model is conclusively a fake, placed there to discredit my name," Walters said.

Walters drew support from Walter H. Andrus Jr., MUFON's international director, who complained news reporters had been unfair by widely publicizing the finding of the model but failing to report that MUFON has found more than 200 people in the Gulf Breeze-Pensacola area who claim they have made similar sightings.

The model and allegations that Walters faked UFO photographs have caused MUFON to reopen its investigation of his sightings, but Andrus made it clear the organization considers them authentic until proven otherwise.

A local radio station, WJLQ-FM, held a UFO model contest in the Civic Center parking lot Friday, snapping photographs of the entries as they were held aloft with poles and wires.

"We were just welcoming MUFON to town," said DJ Steve "Kidd" Kelley. "Actually we are in support of them as well as having some fun with them."

LETTERS

UFO photographer getting a bum rap

In response to your June 11 article about Ed Walters and the model UFO found in a house he previously occupied, I have read "The Gulf Breeze Sightings" and found it to be a well-written, sincere account of one family's experiences with a phenomena that is presently active worldwide.

In the first place, Walters and his family are not the only ones to have seen these spacecraft.

Thirty-five others in the Gulf Breeze area have also seen them. Do they have models of UFOs in their attics also?

Secondly, I know Bob Reid and Don Ware personally, and they are not the type of men to support

an account of this type without thorough investigation. The debunking theory is a valid one, especially in view of the upcoming MUFON conference. If there is an element trying to discredit Walters, the timing was perfect.

Thirdly, I felt bringing up a 20-year-old prison record that has received the governor's pardon was a bit shabby. How many of us can look back upon 20 years and not find a few mistakes?

Lastly, if the gentleman who found this model while supposedly "looking for a pipe in the attic" (I thought pipes were under the house) is willing to discredit this completely credible man, then he ought to be willing to give us his name.

YVONNE COLE
Destin

UFO spotter sought by group

By John J. Como
The Tribune-Democrat

EBENSBURG — A man who reported seeing a luminous object in the sky in September and finding a 12-foot crop circle in an area field is being sought by ParaScience International of Harrisburg.

"We are hoping the man can give us information that may help solve mysteries concerning similar circles found in Great Britain," Larry E. Arnold, a spokesman for the organization, which investigates such happenings, said yesterday. "He reported seeing the object in daylight, which is very unusual, and we are hoping he will call us with information about the incident."

Arnold said the information may help solve a mystery that has had investigators stymied since 1980, when several circles of woven crops were found in Great Britain.

"This is the first sighting reported in Pennsylvania and we are interested in determining if there is any connection with the ones in England," Arnold said. "There have been few reports of people seeing objects in the sky and simulta-

neously finding the circles there, although the circles have been found after reported sightings. None of the sightings were reported during daylight hours."

He said information received from the area man would remain confidential and his identity would be protected if he requests it.

"We are only interested in research and compiling information on unexplainable phenomenon," Arnold said. "Some investigators have reported hearing high-pitched sounds coming from the circles in England and we would like to know if the man also heard such sounds."

Arnold would not speculate on what might be making the circles, noting his organization doesn't specialize in UFO investigations.

"We look into such phenomena as areas where water freezes during the summer but not in the winter, and objects falling from the sky, such as high-tech metals and coins, which have no reason to be there," he said. "We also investigate incidents of precognition — where people are able to see future events."

Rick Kirkham, a reporter for "Inside Edition," a television news show from New York City, who is

doing a story on the case of suspended Judge Joseph F. O'Kicki, said yesterday the circles woven in wheat fields in England are fascinating.

"I was over there six weeks ago and the circles range from 12 feet to 30 feet," Kirkham said. "The wheat is woven, almost like a basket, in a circular pattern on the ground."

He said the patterns appear virtually overnight.

"Experts estimate that it would take 10 to 12 people more than three days to weave the wheat into the patterns," Kirkham said. "Two theories that abound concern a strange field of magnetism in the earth that affects that general area and the possibility of a UFO with a type of physics that enables them to land, or come close to landing, without destroying the crops."

Information can be sent to ParaScience International, 1075 Miller Lane, Harrisburg, Pa. 17710-2899.

RADIO NEWS & NOTES

FRED SHUSTER

E.T., call Goodman for the latest updates



"The Billy Goodman Happening," the program that focused on UFOs and similarly unexplained occurrences, returns to Las Vegas news-talk station KVEG-AM (840) tonight.

Goodman's show, which can be heard throughout Southern California because of KVEG's strong nighttime signal, will be broadcast from 1 to 3 a.m. during the week and from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The popular call-in program was taken off the air March 31 when KVEG announced it was shifting

to a mostly sports format.

Of the several talk shows the station dropped, only Goodman's will return.

Goodman said his new program will not deal with outer space on a nightly basis and will be broader in its focus. "We'll be more down-to-earth," he said. "You can't talk about sightings again and again. The topic overtook the show to the point where it may have turned people off in the end. You can take only so much of it."

If you'd like to phone in your own UFO sightings or other supernatural experience, call Goodman's program at (800) 876-5834 or (702) 451-5834.

Gloved One's alien landing pad

Page Six

BY RICHARD JOHNSON

MICHAEL Jackson is bizarre enough to sleep in a hyperbaric chamber and try to buy the skeleton of The Elephant Man, but his spokesmen deny reports that The Gloved One is building a landing strip for UFOs.

Michael Luckman, who runs the New York Center for UFO Research, says he's obtained information that Jackson's people are currently scouting locations in the Nevada desert for the huge, high-tech landing pad.

Luckman told PAGE SIX's Frank DiGiacomo that the radically reconstructed rocker "has blueprints" for the installation that include a signalling device that would guide the alien visitors to the landing site and hidden video cameras that would film any actual touchdowns.

Jackson's attempts to record an alien visit wouldn't be purely in the interest of science, however. Luckman says the rocker intends

to "sell the footage as a television special."

Jackson's publicist, Lee Selters of the giant Selters & Roskin, says, "It's not true. This has been printed in a number of the supermarket scandal sheets."

But Luckman claims he has independently obtained information. Of course, Luckman is also convinced that extraterrestrials are regularly making flyovers.

Jackson isn't the first to come up with the idea of encouraging alien tourism. Others have proposed a UFO-port, but Jackson's would employ state-of-the-art technology, Luckman said.

"It's straight out of 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind,'" says Luckman. "According to my information, Michael even had a dream — and aliens were in the dream."

Jackson could use the healing touch of Steven Spielberg's E.T. this week. He's laid up

with chest pains at St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica, where Elizabeth Taylor is also recuperating.

There seems to be "a strong affinity between rock stars and UFOs," said Luckman.

In 1974 John Lennon and his then girlfriend May Pang observed a "circular metallic object" hovering near their East 52nd Street apartment. Pang later told PAGE SIX that Lennon ran onto his terrace and yelled to the UFO: "Take me with you!"

And David Bowie — who would one day star in "The Man Who Fell to Earth" — worked as a teen for a "UFO research agency" and even edited its publication.

Given that rock stars and star men are so simpatico, Luckman says he'd like to see Jackson and other prominent rock stars "join forces and hold a major concert to try to musically and psychically reach UFOs."

UFO visitors left 'pancakes' for Eagle River man

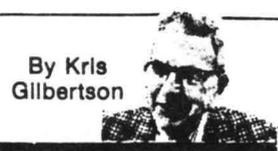
DAILY NEWS, Rhinelander, WI - April 17, 1990

Every time there is a report of unidentified flying objects being seen in the United States my thoughts always turn to the events which transpired in the Northwoods 39 years ago this month.

Older residents should recall how Joseph Simonton, an Eagle River plumber, made headlines throughout the nation in April 1961 when he told of a flying saucer "landing" on his property while he was eating breakfast. He said the saucer, 30 feet in diameter and 12 feet high, did not actually touch down but hovered just above the ground.

He said a hatch opened and a man dressed in a black, buttonless suit held up a jug and indicated he wanted it filled, Simonton said he took the jug into the house, filled it with water and returned it to the man. He said he looked into the saucer and saw two other men, similarly attired in black. All were about five feet

I Recall



By Krls Gilbertson

tall and weighed about 125 pounds.

Noticing one of the men cooking something, Simonton pointed toward him. He said the man apparently thought he wanted something to eat and handed him three small cakes, about one-eighth inch thick and three or four inches in diameter.

Then the hatch snapped shut, the ship rose to a height of about 20 feet and noiselessly "shot straight south at about a 45 degree angle," vanishing in two seconds.

Simonton said this happened April 18, 1961, and he told several people about the incident, but their taunting convinced him to keep silent. Nearly a week later, however, he related the story to the Vilas County district attorney, then Calvin Burton, then released his account to the press.

One of the "pancakes" he gave to the county judge, then Frank W. Carter Sr., who in turn forwarded it to Donald E. Keyhoe, director of the unofficial National Investigating Committee on Aerial Phenomena, an organization that accused the Air Force of concealing facts about UFO activity.

The Washington-based committee a couple of weeks later returned the "pancake," saying it planned no further action in the matter because it had "more important" things to investigate.

Shortly after the Simonton story was published in The Daily

News there were reports from Sugar Camp that a flying saucer had been seen in that area and that strange "beep, beep" sounds were being heard in the vicinity of the "Polish Cross" there. Reports of flying saucers were attributed at that time to the fact a helicopter had been flying over the area during the period in question.

Simonton, who lived alone on his chicken farm four miles from Eagle River, was visited by television crews, newspaper reporters and photographers, and a number of representatives from scientific organizations.

In August 1961 Simonton was back in the news when he said a neighbor, Mike Fredrickson, told of watching two UFOs for about half an hour.

For two or three years Simonton was in demand to speak at meetings around the country. He

was a main speaker at the annual Space Age convention in Mountainview, Mo., in June 1963, for example.

In April 1962 Simonton and Aunt Jimema were guests of honor at a big Pancake Day event staged by the Rhinelander Lions Club.

Simonton always contended the April 18, 1961, experience happened just the way he told it to The Daily News a few days later. "I don't care what anyone else says," he said, "but I know what I saw."

I have always wondered what happened to the three "pancakes" Simonton prized so highly. His death Aug. 21, 1972, in Eagle River, ended speculation on that matter.

Reports of UFO activity continue to this day and every once in a while there are scientific investigations of the reports.

CR: R. Heiden

UFO!... Coming To The Vanderbilt Planetarium

COMMUNITY PENNSAVER NEWSPAPER, Bellport, NY - June 30, 1990 CR: LIUFON

Has the earth been visited? Do aliens live among us? "UFO," a new summer sky show at the Vanderbilt Museum's Planetarium, Centerport, asks the question. The sky show opens June 29, 8 p.m. Friday, with lectures and a "hot debate" scheduled in the following weeks. Waves of UFO sightings, close encounters, and abductions have been reported throughout recent history, the 50-minute show notes. Many of these reports have baffled investigators — such as the 1947 "Roswell Incident," an alleged crash landing of an alien craft in New Mexico. Were the CIA, the FBI, and the Air Force all partners in a cover-up? Were the bodies of aliens carted off in secrecy? Or the famous 1961 New Hampshire case of the abduction of Betty and Barney Hill, and the more recent New York State experience of Whitley Streiber, author of the popular book Communion. Are these claims valid?

"UFO!" sponsored in part by Chase Manhattan Bank NA and by Grumman Corporation delves into these and other mysteries. Without either embracing or rejecting the

notion of visitation, the Planetarium presents pros and cons on diverse unidentified flying object issues, and invites viewers to draw their own conclusions.

Topics investigated in the new sky show include the 1947 sighting by Seattle businessman Kenneth Arnold of "a formation of saucer-shaped objects resembling pie plates skipping over water," subsequent to which thousands of UFO reports have been documented. Saucer sightings, space travel, hoaxes and cover-ups; Jacques Vallee's interdimensional theories and Carl Jung's theory of psychological projects; and topographic "landing site" circle in Hampshire, England, or controversial sightings in Gulf Breeze, Florida — all are part of the new Planetarium show.

The related UFO lectures and debate will be held on three summer Wednesdays in the Planetarium, 8 p.m.

July 11, Lecture by Antonio Huneus on UFOs worldwide.

July 18, Lecture by New York Daily News Science Editor Ed Edelson on disbelievers' arguments.

August 1, Debate by six

UFO experts with decidedly different views — including Newsday Science Editor Bob Cooke, New York Daily News Science Editor Ed Edelson, and Long Island UFO investigators John Ford and Dick Ruhl, with moderator Joel Martin.

"UFO!" sky show tickets are \$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 children under 12 (recommended minimum age 9). Tickets will be on sale at the Planetarium Box Office (180 Little Neck Road, Centerport) starting at 8 p.m., June 29. Details 262-STAR.



STAYSKAL



"HOLD IT, MARTHA... IT'S JUST ANOTHER MODEL UFO LIKE THE ONE THEY FOUND IN THAT PHOTOGRAPHER'S HOUSE!"

TRIBUNE, Tampa, FL - June 24, 1990

STAYSKAL
© TAMPA
TRIBUNE

Smith says he saw pictures faked

The Gulf Breeze UFO controversy continues as the *Pensacola News Journal* reported Sunday that a former Gulf Breeze resident revealed that he watched **Ed Walters** fake photos of an unidentified flying object.

The man, who originally asked not to be identified and asked to be referred to as "Chris", spoke by telephone last Friday with Mayor Ed Gray, Police Chief Jerry Brown and two reporters. "Chris" said Walters faked photographs using double exposures and models made of styrofoam plates.

Since that disclosure, "Chris" has agreed to come forward and has been identified as **Tommy Smith**. Presently living out of state, Smith told Gulf Breeze offi-

cial that Walters' wife, **Frances**, and his son, **Danny**, were also involved in the hoax.

Smith's parents, **Thomas and Jennie Smith** of Gulf Breeze, held a press conference Tuesday afternoon at City Hall. The elder Smith prefaced his remarks by saying that he and his wife did not wish to discredit the many responsible people who claim to have seen UFOs over Gulf Breeze. Smith said that they could only comment on Walters and his photos, which the Smiths say are fabrications.

Walters continues to deny his detractors' claims and maintains his photos are authentic.

The entire transcript of Smith's phone conversation with Gulf Breeze officials appears below.

NOTE

This statement is unsworn due to the transcript being taken via telephone and the caller using a fictitious name in order to remain anonymous.

UNSWORN STATEMENT OF CHRIS

An Unsworn Statement of Chris taken, via telephone, on June 15, 1990, at the offices of Edward M. Gray, III, AmSouth Bank of Florida, 70 North Baylen, Pensacola, Florida 32501.

The unsworn statement of CHRIS, via telephone, was taken before me, Chris Morrow, Court Reporter and Notary Public for the State of Florida at Large, at AmSouth Bank of Florida, 70 North Baylen, in the City of Pensacola, County of Escambia, in the State of Florida, beginning at the hour of 11:00 o'clock a.m., on Friday, the 15th day of June.

The appearances at said time and place were as follows:

Chief Jerry Brown Gulf Breeze Police Department Gulf Breeze, Florida 32561	Craig Meyers Pensacola News Journal Pensacola, Florida 32501
Ed Gray, III, Mayor City of Gulf Breeze Gulf Breeze, Florida 32561	Mark Curtis Channel 3 News Pensacola, Florida 32501

PROCEEDINGS

THEREUPON,

CHRIS,

via telephone, testified as follows:

Mr. Gray: Chris?

Chris: Yes.

Mr. Gray: Chris, this is Ed Gray.

Chris: Hello, Mr. Gray.

Mr. Gray: How are you doing?

Let me just tell you where we are and first of all tell you, I really appreciate you getting with us. I can't tell you how much I appreciate it, and one day I hope we can talk face-to-face and I can better thank you; but at any rate, we've got two reporters in here with us.

They do not know who you are. Jerry and I are the only two people who know who you are. We intend to keep it that way until you say otherwise, and you just, I hope, can just take my word on that. I know you've got Jerry's word on that and that is our word to you.

In the meantime, if we can take information that you can give us and further get to the bottom of this whole issue and this whole, in my opinion, hoax, then we want to pursue it, but right now we're trying to deal with facts.

There has been a lot of allegations on this whole UFO sighting scenario and we want to deal in facts right now and not suppositions; so with that, we would like to ask you some questions, and then anything you want to volunteer to us, certainly we would appreciate it.

Chris: All right. I don't know if I'm in an area that I should talk right now. I tried to get to a pay phone but they were all busy, and so I'm in the middle of a dorm.

Mr. Gray: Okay.

Chris: I guess I can go ahead and talk. If it becomes a problem, I can call you back.

Mr. Gray: If you don't mind, we'll play it that way, and if you have to cut off, we understand.

Chris: Okay.

Mr. Gray: All right, Jerry, do you want to --

Chief Brown: Chris, do you want to go ahead and -- go ahead and tell us from the beginning, just give us your words, how this thing all began and what you know about it.

Chris: Okay. I remember back when the photos first came out, I just thought to myself it was probably Ed Hanson playing a joke, and I went over and talked to him but he didn't admit anything for about a month, and then one night he called me up and got me over there with Hank and started telling me what was going on.

Chief Brown: You want to tell us -- when you say, "what's going on," do you want to tell us what he said to you?

Chris: All right, that it was all a practical joke and that he made up the whole thing, photographs of spaceships.

Mr. Gray: Okay. On the spaceships...

Chris: Yes, sir.

Mr. Gray: ...did you ever see whatever he used to make the spaceship photographs?

Chris: As in what he made -- what he made the actual spaceships out of?

Mr. Gray: Right.

Chris: Yes, sir. It was a set of two paper plates for the upper section and two smaller paper plates for the lower section, and then like a strip of paper in the middle.

Mr. Gray: Did he show you or describe to you exactly how he depicted these objects to where they looked like spaceships in the photograph?

Chris: As in how he set it up to take the pictures?

Mr. Gray: Right.

Chris: Yes, sir, uh-huh. He -- okay, he had a tripod set up with a flashlight pointing straight up, and then on top of the flashlight there was part of a PVC pipe that was black and he had it sliced at an angle, and he would take the spaceship on top, and the flashlight would shine up and illuminate the spaceship, and occasionally he would put, like, a piece of orange colored crepe paper in the bottom of it to make it look like a power source, he called it.

Mr. Gray: Okay.

Chris: And he had it set up in his bedroom with a black backdrop, and he would take the photograph in there, and then take it outside and take another shot.

Chief Brown: That's when he was using a 108 camera, Chris?

Chris: Yes. A 108 camera, is that where the --

Chief Brown: The Polaroid camera he used?

Chris: Right. He also did that with a small, like, Kodak Instamatic where you've got the cartridges of film that snap in and out.

Chief Brown: Okay. Would you describe that for us, please?

Chris: He had it fixed up, rigged somehow so that he could take a photograph and then go into a darkroom and snap the film out and pop it back in so that he could take another picture without advancing the film, and that's how he got the double negatives on that one.

Chief Brown: Did he have a darkroom at his home?

Chris: No, he didn't have a darkroom, uh-huh. He never actually developed his own film.

Mr. Gray: Chris, on the subject of cameras, at some point during all of this when the MUFON investigators got involved, they provided him a camera that, I understand, was sealed up in some way with some wax or something to where he managed to do some additional photographs.

Mark, you might can help me with that. Is that basically what they did? Mr. Curtis: The camera was sealed in wax and there were some pictures on it that the investigators had already pre-exposed, and then Ed was able to take, so he says, some pictures with it without tampering with the film.

How did he do that, if you know?

Chris: Is that the one with the four lenses?

Mr. Curtis: Yes, it is.

Chris: Okay. The pictures, if I remember correctly, didn't come out very clearly. I mean they weren't as clear as the other shots of the spaceship. In other words, you couldn't actually recognize the spaceship.

Chief Brown: Okay. Go Ahead. We're listening.

Chris: Well, from what he told me, he went out and took a picture of an airplane landing at night, held the camera sideways, and that was my understanding.

Chief Brown: You actually asked Ed Hanson or Ed Walters that?

Chris: Yes, sir, uh-huh.

Chief Brown: And he gave you that information?

Chris: Yes, sir.

Mr. Gray: Chris, apparently he was rather trusting to you and, I guess, this person Hank. From what I take it, you knew about this initially.

To your knowledge, did Hank pursue any later actions with Ed Walters and assist in any way with these photographs?

Chris: Well, he and Hank started it. They were the ones that started it out from the beginning, and we never -- Hank and I never really talked about it much after that, after the first couple of sessions. He was over there the first time I met with Ed and a couple of times after that.

Mr. Gray: Okay. You became acquainted with Ed how?

Chris: Through his son.

Mr. Gray: Okay, so you are friends with his son?

Chris: Yes, sir.

Mr. Gray: Was his son involved in any of this?

Chris: Yes, sir.

Mr. Gray: So he had full knowledge of this as well?

Chris: Yes, sir.

Mr. Gray: How about his wife?

Chris: Yes, she knew also.

Mr. Gray: Okay. How about the daughter?

Chris: I don't think she knew quite as much because they were worried about her talking about it with her friends.

Mr. Gray: Okay. Has Ed had any contact with you since you've moved out of town to pursue other interests?

Chris: No, sir. I haven't talked to Ed for probably -- probably over a year.

Chief Brown: How about Hank?

Chris: It's been a while for Hank, too. I couldn't say exactly when.

Chief Brown: The last time you saw him, did you guys talk about the UFOs in Gulf Breeze?

Chris: No sir. We didn't even mention it. It was kind of cooling down at that point.

Chief Brown: You are familiar with the ghost pictures, are you not?

Chris: Yes, sir.

Chief Brown: Were those ghost pictures prior to the UFOs?

Chris: You say prior to them?

Chief Brown: Yes.

Chris: Yes, sir.

Chief Brown: You were involved with those as well?

Chris: To an extent. I was over there at his house whenever they were taken.

Chief Brown: Okay, so --

Chris: It was another one of his practical jokes.

Chief Brown: So later on is when the UFO phenomenon started, is that right?

Chris: Yes, sir. I remember talking to Ed before it all got started because he had this video tape of a guy who had pulled off a similar stunt. I believe, in Europe somewhere.

Chief Brown: Okay.

Chris: And he was just fascinated, always talking to me about it, and about a month or two later the photographs started coming out in the paper.

Mr. Curtis: Do you remember the name of that videotape?

Chris: No, sir, I don't.

Mr. Meyers: Hey, Chris, this is Craig Meyers. I'm with the Pensacola News Journal. I appreciate you talking to us.

Could that videotape have been about a person named Billy Meyer from Switzerland?

Chris: Yes, that's the one. That's the one.

Mr. Meyers: Thank you.

Chief Brown: Okay. Did you at any point help him take photographs of UFOs to put in the Sentinel or publicize at all, Chris.

Chris: All right. I was in the room when he took the photographs, yes, sir, with my camera.

Chief Brown: It was your camera that he used?

Chris: Yes, sir.

Chief Brown: Are those the photographs that I have in my possession.

Chris: No, they are not. They didn't turn out clearly enough because he was going to try to use me as another witness, and so he took those and burned them, and came up with another set of his own.

Chief Brown: Did you happen to see those before they were published?

Chris: The...

Chief Brown: The pictures of the UFO? What I am asking, did you ever see the photographs, any of those photographs prior to those actual photographs being printed whether it be any type of news media, say the Sentinel or the newspaper or anything?

Chris: Let's see. Not that I can actually recall. I would have to go through the book and look at it and make sure.

Chief Brown: Okay.

Chris: But no, sir.

Chief Brown: How long have you known Ed Hanson, Ed Walters? You referred to him as Ed Hanson quite a bit. How long had you known him before the ghost pictures and you -- or his UFO pictures actually came to light?

(continued on page 6)

Who is telling the UFO truth?

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - June 21, 1990 CR: R. Reid

Chris: Let's see. It's going to be sometime in high school, probably about my sophomore year.

Chief Brown: So about four or five years ago?

Chris: Yes, sir

Mr. Gray: Chris, have you ever heard of either -- referencing yourself or Hank of any sharing of any monetary rewards for assisting in this?

Chris: I didn't quite understand the question.

Mr. Gray: In terms of any potential financial gains Ed Walters may have or has had, has he talked in the -- did he talk in the beginning about sharing those with you or sharing those with Hank?

Chris: The deal I understood was that Hank was guaranteed any movie or TV rights, and Ed was in it for the money somewhat, and also for the fact that it was just a big ego trip. He wanted to see if he could get away with it; and he never offered me any money directly and I never asked for any.

Mr. Gray: Right. Okay. Folks, what else?

Mr. Meyers: Hey, Chris, this Craig again from the News Journal. Could you tell us a little bit more about the ghost photos? Were those photos made using the same technique as he made the UFO photos.

Chris: Yes, sir.

Mr. Meyers: What did he use for his original exposure on the ghost photos? Was it a drawing on a piece of glass or --

Chris: I think it was a mask in a darkroom. He'd taken a photograph -- I believe his -- his son was wearing it, and it just had a flashlight shining on it. He'd take the photograph and then just wouldn't take the film out of the camera; and what the deal was, was there would be three people that he would put like a hex on, and one of the three people were supposed to be possessed by the ghost; and he would take a picture of each one of them and only the first one would turn out because that's where the ghost picture was already. So whoever the first person was would be the one supposedly possessed by the ghost.

It was all a practical joke, but...

Mr. Meyers: Chris, are there any other copies of these ghost photos available?

Chris: None that I know of, no, sir.

Mr. Gray: Chris, was there more than one model made, to your knowledge?

Chris: I only saw two

Mr. Gray: You did see two?

Chris: Yes, sir, the entire time.

Mr. Gray: Well, I know you've heard by now that one has been discovered. Do you happen to know what became of the other one.

Chris: No, sir. Ed was pretty careful about that stuff. Anything he was worried about he usually burned, and I'm real surprised that they found one of the models at all.

Mr. Gray: Well, frankly, I am too, but you can make a lot of suppositions about that, I guess.

What, Mark?

Mr. Curtis: Chris, this is Mark Curtis. Do you know how the photograph with the blue beam coming out of it was made.

Chris: That's one I never could figure out. I asked Ed and from what he told me, I didn't really believe what he told me. The way he said it, he said he kind of peeled the film back a little bit and exposed it to light, and that just didn't seem to fit, but that's the only answer I got out of him at the time.

Mr. Meyers: Chris, could you tell us a little bit more about what Chief Brown was telling us about, how Mr. Hanson, Mr. Walters wanted you to take a roll of film or some prints to the Gulf Breeze Sentinel, and what happened -- how you responded to that request?

Chris: Okay. The deal was that he wanted to use me as a witness and I went over to his house one night. We came up with a story, and I took my camera in the car and took photographs of a building my father was working on just to have an excuse to have the camera in the car, and then supposedly later on that night I was supposed to have an encounter and take photographs, and that's when I went over to Ed's house, and we took some snapshots, and I went to have the film developed later the next day

Chief Brown: Let me stop you right there. You say, "we took some snapshots?"

Chris: Yes, sir

Chief Brown: Okay, with your camera?

Chris: Correct.

Chief Brown: Okay, so you were there in possession of your camera, helped him snap those photographs that I have in my possession?

Chris: Right. He took all the photographs. I was just in the room.

Chief Brown: Okay, I understand. Okay, go ahead. Now, you took --

Chris: Okay, wait a minute

Chief Brown: Okay, go ahead.

Chris: Let me be clear on that. The photographs that he took, that I was in the room when he took them, he took those and burned them because they didn't turn out clearly enough, and he wanted a really good witness.

The photographs you have now, he took by himself, and I was not in the room. He just informed me how he did it.

Mr. Meyers: And he asked you to take those particular photos to the Sentinel

Chris: Yes, sir

Mr. Curtis: Where did you have them developed?

Chris: I believe it's called Coast Photo at the mall. It's in the University -- no -- yes, University Mall.

Mr. Meyers: Chris, going back to the model that was found in Mr. Hanson's old house, you've described basically how he made the models. The way that you described that he made the models fits almost perfectly with the model that was found.

Do you have any explanation or any theories as to why he would have left a model like that in his attic under some insulation? In other words, did he ever take any exposures in his attic, that you know of?

Chris: None that I know of, no, sir.

Mr. Curtis: Chris, this is Mark again. On the model, do you remember seeing -- how many rows of black windows were on it?

Chris: That's a tough one. The one -- I believe there was only one row of windows, if I remember correctly.

Mr. Curtis: Do you remember a person by the name of Believer Bill; and if so, do you know who that person is?

Chris: Yes, that's Ed.

Mr. Meyers: What about Jane?

Chris: If I remember correctly, they were -- it was either Ed or Hank.

Chief Brown: Chris, does Hank know or did he know what involvement you had with Ed? Was he present during any of these things that you did with Ed Hanson or Ed Walters?

Chris: Yes, sir.

Chief Brown: So he was present during all of this?

Chris: During several of them, yes, sir.

Chief Brown: Okay.

Chris: In fact, Hank was the one that came over to get me so that my parents wouldn't seem suspicious.

Mr. Gray: This is admittedly a loaded question, Chris. Other than Hank, yourself and other family members you've described of Ed Walters, do you know of anyone else that has inside information on this and is fully aware of what went on?

Chris: No, sir.

Mr. Meyers: Hey, Chris, this is Craig again from the News Journal. You've

mentioned that Mr. Walters' and Mr. Hanson's motive may have been money.

Do you think originally his motive may have been more along the lines of a practical joke?

Chris: Yes, sir, but as it got more involved, he was -- he told me he was going to die and go to his grave with this story because he planned on making money from it.

Mr. Meyers: At what point do you think it went beyond a practical joke and became a way to make money?

Chris: When he started going to all the newspapers and trying to get it published in different magazines and so forth.

Mr. Meyers: Do you feel like the editor of the Sentinel published the pictures knowing that they were fakes, or did he just publish them not knowing exactly what had happened?

Chris: That was something that always amazed me, that he couldn't figure out that Ed was dragging him along, kind of jerking him around because -- I don't know. No, I don't think Duane Cook had any idea whatsoever.

Mr. Meyers: So you don't feel like he knowingly went along; he just was maybe just a little gullible?

Chris: Yes, sir. Ed -- yes, I talked about that with Ed and he never -- Ed never admitted to letting Duane in on it.

Mr. Curtis: Chris, do you know -- probably the most famous shot of all, this is that one out over the road on Sound Side Drive. Do you know how that picture was done?

Chris: Yes, Ed said he had a lot of trouble with that one. He just fabricated it like all the other ones -- double exposure.

Mr. Curtis: Do you know how he illuminated the roadway?

Chris: Illuminated the roadway? Okay. I would have to see the photograph, to be sure.

Mr. Curtis: If I can refresh your memory a little bit, it was the one over the road on Sound Side Drive, and not only was the object there, but there was a bright light reflected onto the middle of the roadway.

Mr. Gray: And the light looked like it was emanating from the object that's hovering over the road.

Chris: No, I don't think I could help you there, for sure.

Mr. Curtis: Do you know if Ed had help on that picture, or did he do that one alone?

Chris: I couldn't answer that honestly either.

Mr. Gray: Okay. Does that pretty well sum it up? I hate to keep Chris too long, if we've covered it.

Mr. Meyers: I wanted to ask him a couple other questions real quick.

Chris, we do appreciate you talking to us, and I did want to ask you this in front of everybody, and it's totally up to you. You are, you know, of your own mind.

At some point if Hank comes forward and confesses his knowledge of this, would you be willing at that point to let your name be used and your identity be used?

Chris: If Hank came forward, yes, sir, I would.

Mr. Meyers: Would you authorize the Chief at that point, if Hank does come forward, to release your name to us, just trusting him on that?

Chris: (No response.)

Mr. Gray: Let's handle it this way, Craig. Chris, we will keep you up to speed on where things go as far as discussions we have with Hank.

Once we've arrived at how we're going to handle information we may or may not get from him, then we'll cross this issue again with you before we make any discussions, okay?

Chris: All right. One other thing that might be of help. Did you ever see the videotape that Ed has?

Chief Brown: Yes.

Chris: All right. He did that with a black PVC pipe, a very tall one and he taped the spaceship on top and shined a flashlight up through the center of it.

Chief Brown: Were you there when that was done?

Chris: No, I was not there. He explained it to me how he did it.

Mr. Curtis: Do you know who was there?

Chris: Yes, his son filmed it, and Ed was in the back yard walking around with the spaceship.

Mr. Curtis: Whenever he took pictures and you were there, how -- generally speaking, how far was that camera from the UFO model?

Chris: I would say about ten feet. He spent hours and hours experimenting with this -- cameras.

Chief Brown: How would he get a spacecraft partially hidden by trees or other objects?

Chris: Yes, that's something -- there is only one that I can think of, that it was like partially behind a tree?

Chief Brown: Yes, in some of the original photographs, so to speak.

Chris: Yes, and I asked him about that, and he said he had no idea, that it just happened to have occurred, that he was pretty stunned by it. He had no idea how it worked out.

Chief Brown: Surprised himself.

Mr. Meyers: Hey, Chris, another question about possible motive. Is there anything in Mr. Hanson's background, maybe his trip to Costa Rica, his experiment with the invention he made as far as methane gas that may have caused him some financial loss and given him a reason to pursue this?

Chris: My father knows a lot more about that than I do. My father has talked to me about some of these things, and I don't know what I should exactly say.

Mr. Meyers: In other words, did he lose some money in some kind of real estate deals, some kind of experiment that he had to recoup, or he felt like he needed to recoup some of his losses.

Chris: Well, I've got information there but, like I say, I don't know if I should

Mr. Gray: No, anything that you are uncomfortable with that may involve any relationship or cost your father's profession, then don't tell us that, don't get involved in that.

Chris: Well, like I say, Officer Brown should talk to my father about that.

Mr. Gray: Yes, we'll handle that that way.

Mr. Curtis: Chris, do you know anything about this dead circle of grass at Gulf Breeze High School; and if so, how it was made and who did it?

Chris: Okay. If I remember correctly, he told me that he turned a small trampoline upside down on it for a while and jumped up and down on it.

Mr. Curtis: Do you know if anyone was with him when he did that?

Chris: No, I don't.

Mr. Meyers: Hey, Chris, I hate to keep going back and forth like this, but --

Chris: That's all right.

Mr. Meyers: Each of us thinks of questions as the other one asks it.

Why did you decide not to take the pictures to the Sentinel that he had asked you to take?

Chris: Okay. I had about a day to think about it and I just -- I talked it over with Ed and I just said that it was fraud, it wasn't real smart. I mean, I can understand a practical joke, but the more I talked to him, the more I found out -- well, I realized that he was going to go all the way through with it and never come clean, and I just didn't want to -- didn't want to hurt my father's reputation, and I didn't want to get in the middle of a court case.

Mr. Curtis: How did he react when you told him it was fraud? Was he mad or upset; what did he do?

Walters passes 4th lie detector test; says photos real

BY ED WALTERS

On Tuesday, June 19, 1990, I passed a psychological stress evaluation (voice lie detector) administered by a court recognized expert, licensed analyst Ronald Landau. The test dealt with specific questions, including these:

Is it true that you did not make the UFO model that was found at 612 Silverthorne?
Is it true that you did not have a model of a UFO at 612 Silverthorne?
This is the fourth lie detector test I've taken and passed since coming forward with my story.
I also have proof that the UFO model found in my old home was planted in the house after September 7, 1989. Lynn Thomas testified that I

designed house plans for him for a house to be built on Jamestown Drive. The plan was drawn on September 6 and 7, 1989. A contract to build the plan was not concluded and the Thomas's returned to Michigan with a copy of the plan. Several days later (mid-September, 1989), I discarded my copy of the Thomas plan. In April 1990, the new owner of a house once owned and lived in by my family a year and a half earlier found a UFO model made with the discarded Thomas house plan of September 1989.

Conclusion: The Ed Walters' UFO photographs were taken from November 11 to May 3, 1987. The model was taken and planted after September 1989 in an attempt to discredit me.
As for the Tommy Smith allegations, they do not hold up to close study. The photos that he presents seem to be single exposures. Let's examine the details of his story in the same completeness that my testimony has been studied for the past two and one-half years.
It is my opinion that Mr. Smith (Tommy's father) became upset by the reality of the UFO sightings. The explanation by Tommy Smith that used the stereo camera to photograph an airplane landing at the airport is not correct. The scientific study shows the stereo effect to be an object only two to six ft. wide. There are so many things wrong with his statement - I am amazed.
First, analyze the photos that Tommy presents. If they are single exposures, then his total double exposure story is wrong.
I don't dispute what Mr. Smith is saying. I dispute Tommy. I don't know why he is saying this. I'm not a psychologist.

Chris: He tried to deny that it was fraud. He said it would never be fraud unless somebody found out. He was -- whenever he found out that I wasn't going to go through with it, he wasn't quite as receptive to me. I still went over to his house, but he didn't inform me quite as much about things.

Mr. Meyers: The pictures that you were asked, Chris, to take to the Sentinel are the pictures that you eventually gave to Chief Brown?

Chris: Correct.

Chief Brown: Chris, do you want to tell these -- all of us present why you are coming forward with this information at this time?

Chris: All right. I debated about it before and my father suggested that I should, but I figured if I had come forward previously, that people would start asking questions as to why I had -- hadn't come forward sooner if I knew about it for so long; and when I found out they had found the model, my dad went ahead and suggested and said now would probably be a good time, and I went ahead and called Officer Brown, talked to him; so I just -- I figured it just would be a little more credible.

Mr. Meyers: Did the model that you seen pictured or seen described sound like the type of model that Ed used in these photos?

Chris: Yes, sir.

Mr. Meyers: Did he use blueprint paper? You talked about a strip of paper around the center of the model. Was that blueprint paper or drafting paper?

Chris: I couldn't tell you that for sure. As far as I could tell, it was just regular, a piece of paper.

Mr. Curtis: Chris, there was another real famous shot, if you will, of Mrs. Walters coming into the house and a big blue light coming down into the doorway as if to trap her in a beam. Do you know about that one and how it was done?

Chris: No. Like I say, I tried to get Ed to tell me how he did the blue light, but the only answer he would give me was that he had kind of peeled the film back and exposed it to light very slowly.

Mr. Curtis: Have you seen this shot I'm talking about? It's a big blue streak of light and Mrs. Walters is kind of running into it.

Chris: Correct. Yes, she's kind of like ducking through the door?

Mr. Curtis: Yes.

Chris: Yes, sir, I remember the photograph, but that's the only explanation I could give you.

Chief Brown: Where did you see that photograph?

Chris: I believe Ed has a copy of it. He had all the photographs in kind of a photo album kept in his desk in his office, and that's in the house on Silver Thorn.

Mr. Curtis: There is another picture with Ed shaking his fists at the dog. He's standing with a towel outside and the flying saucer is out there, and the dog is there.

Who took that picture; do you know?

Chris: Couldn't answer that for sure.

Mr. Meyers: Chris, I hate to flip-flop here, but some of the teen-age girls, or

former teenage girls that were around Ed at the time of these photos have suggested that the se photos possibly were made originally as a party hoax, and he may have seen how good they were and decided to go a little further with it.

Do you think he was making these photos as another form of the ghost photo picture?

Chris: Yes, sir. I could go along with that. I couldn't say yes for sure, just because Ed never mentioned that to me.

Mr. Meyers: Was he fascinated by UFOs, or was it just something that he picked?

Chris: I know his son was interested in -- probably Danny started out just bring some stuff home, and Ed saw it.

Mr. Curtis: Did he ever bring home any books; and if so, can you remember the titles of those books?

Chris: Yes, he brought home several books, but no, I couldn't remember the titles.

Mr. Curtis: Would one be Communion or Intruders perhaps?

Chris: I just couldn't remember, for sure.

Mr. Meyers: Chris, did he check the books out from the school library?

Chris: I don't know about that either.

Mr. Meyers: Okay. We were just wondering about the records. Thanks.

Mr. Gray: This is the last one, Chris.

Chief Brown: Chris, I want to ask you a question. Did, by chance, Danny do a science project in school with a UFO model?

Chris: No, not that I can remember.

Chief Brown: Okay.

Mr. Gray: Thank you again. You've been real helpful and we'll sure stay in touch with you, if nothing more than we certainly owe you that much, to let you know where all this goes; so we'll stay in touch and thanks again ever so much.

Chris: All right. You are welcome.

Mr. Meyers: Thank you.

Mr. Curtis: Thank you, Chris.

Chief Brown: Chris, I'll be talking to you, and I appreciate you talking with us this morning.

THE STATE OF FLORIDA,)
COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA.)

I, Chris Morrow, Court Reporter, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the above-entitled cause; and that the foregoing a nd annexed pages, numbered 1 through 33, inclusive, comprise a true and correct transcript of my stenotype notes of the aforesaid cause.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature this 16th day of June, 1990.

s/tChris Morrow
Court Reporter

Former editor sure he saw what Ed photographed

BY CHARLIE AND DORI SOMERBY

It has suddenly dawned upon the Pensacola News Journal (negative in most of its reporting from Santa Rosa County) that there might be a positive aspect to something on this side of the bay.

With dollar signs flashing, the N-J gave front page treatment to the news that the 21st Annual International Symposium of the Mutual UFO Network will bring at least 600 people from around the country to this area for three days starting July 6.

But somehow it's hard to believe that a daily newspaper could give a world war page one headline treatment to the discovery of a model spaceship found in the attic of a house once occupied by Photographer Ed Walters.

Whether or not Walters made the model appears to be quite irrelevant. He denies it! One thing that the Somerbys are sure about is that the pictures that he took were of something that passed over his Gulf Breeze home soon after the sun had set on the night of November 11, 1987.

For there's not the shadow of a doubt that what Walters took pictures of on that Veterans Day evening is exactly what we saw pass almost overhead a few minutes earlier in the Midway area.

That evening, the two of us had been on the East Bay shoreline as the sun was setting. It was a stop on our evening walk which was continued along Hickory Shores Boulevard to the east a few minutes later. With darkness approaching, we headed west again and got to the break in the pine trees where a path led down to the waterfront.

At that moment, Dori shrieked and yelled, "Look at that Charlie!" Passing a few feet offshore and at treetop level was an object, soundless, heading towards the Gulf Breeze downtown area.

It was moving at a moderate speed, at a constant elevation and course. Dori spotted a blue beam coming out of the bottom of the craft and reaching into the water.

It wasn't until a couple of weeks later that it dawned on us that the shape and size was about the same as the restaurants at the top of the space needles in San Antonio and Seattle which we had seen and taken pictures of a few years earlier.

That evening, talking about our experience in the quiet of our home-away-from-home in Midway, that we realized we had missed by only five or 10 minutes of being on the shoreline when our friends from outer space passed overhead. Would the blue beam have drawn us up into the craft?

That night we listened to the local news and the next morning looked through the morning paper without seeing anything about our experience. It wasn't until the following Tuesday that we headed into Gulf Breeze and swung past The Sentinel office.

We had no intention of telling Duane, the editor and Dori's son, about what we had seen a week earlier, but didn't have to.

The first thing he said was "I know something that you don't" and took us into the make-up room where spread out on the table were the pictures of the object we had seen overhead.

It was then that we broke our silence and told him that the object was exactly what we had seen a week earlier. Duane, who admitted he had been uncertain whether or not he should give them overwhelming front-page prominence, was uncertain no longer.

Well, that was the start of it all. In the weeks and months that followed, we have made countless trips to Pensacola, Gulf Breeze and East Bay to be interviewed and photographed by dozens of media representatives from around the world. Would like to point out that we have not requested nor accepted a single penny from anyone for our assistance.

We did receive a package from Tokyo with a small solar calculator enclosed for our assistance in production of a Japanese television network special on UFOs. In fact, it proved to be so popular that it was run nationally a second time, and those folks were nice enough to call requesting our approval for the rerun.

How much money Ed Walters has received for his book is none of my-or the N-J's business. The publication co-authored by Ed and his wife Frances sells for \$21.95 and is doing well at bookstores across the country, we're told.

Spent a couple of evenings reading it and found it quite interesting. Yes, we bought our own copy and had Ed write a few words of wisdom on a frontispiece. He wrote: "To Charlie and Dori, Fellow Witnesses-may your next sighting to come be even closer-and friendly! All my best."

In the book, her name came out as Dari, but that's understandable.

In the next two issues, we'll have more to say on the subject as interest builds for the upcoming session starting two weeks from tomorrow.

While there have been many witnesses to unusual flying objects in Gulf Breeze, few others have been so close and seen so many details as we did in our once-in-a-lifetime experience. Most have craft flashing lights, changing course and the like without being close enough to see portholes and other salient features.

Meanwhile, Dori sat down and wrote a few lines on the subject as follows:

"How can Mayor Ed Gray be so sure that the UFO sightings are a hoax when he has never seen one? Reason people miss what is in the sky is they never take the time to look up. Very few people view the beauty of the heavens.

"Why are Willie Smith, Phillip Klass and Robert Boyd so critical of Ed Walters' photos? What do they have to gain or what do they have to hide?"

"As an observer of this huge, round, gray, noiseless object, I noted bright white lights around the bottom, a lighted dome on top and what appeared to be portholes around the middle portion. It noiselessly glided along the shoreline of East Bay and cast a yellowish blue beam of light into the water as it glided through the sky towards Gulf Breeze.

"We could see the entire object, not just the bright lights so many others have noticed.

"Taking pictures, especially cloud formations, is one of my hobbies. Regret that I wasn't carrying my Canon camera at the time. I would then be able to give added verification for Ed's pictures."

Visitors from outer space? Phone line bets on interest

KNIGHT NEWS SERVICE

MENLO PARK, Calif. — Do you see flying saucers in the skies at night? Do you ever get the feeling you were once kidnapped by beings from another planet?

If so, a Menlo Park entrepreneur has your number.

A 900-line telephone service debuted this week devoted exclusively to exposing people to

the world of unidentified flying objects — a world the phone line's creators say is ignored by the mainstream press and covered up by the U.S. government.

Call 1-900-USA-UFOS and you will be guided through a menu of extraterrestrial topics. But the experience will cost you — \$2 for the first minute, \$1 for each additional minute.

ENQUIRER, Cincinnati, OH
June 22, 1990 CR: J. Fry/COUD-I

Sides seem clearly drawn as controversy continues

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - June 21, 1990 CR: R. Reid

Ed's statement is also in this edition. Ed has taken and passed another lie detector. He said he also has proof that the UFO model found in his old home was constructed many months after his initial sightings. Ed feels that Tommy's claims should be studied with the same scrutiny as his claims.

I kid people that we needed to increase circulation every time there is a new UFO newsbreak. But I took The Sentinel to the printer every Wednesday in 1988 and 1989. And I know we didn't increase circulation during that time. I think Duane is even losing money selling his thick UFO packets for \$7, since the copy machine invariably breaks down whenever we print a new batch. Duane did not even get a complimentary copy of

Ed's book. Duane is not in this for monetary gain. He has enjoyed talking to media types from around the world and would be deeply hurt if it turns out Ed was lying to him. But he has always welcomed anyone to bring forth information proving Ed's well documented story is a hoax.

Duane faxed us a statement this morning, saying he had been told a month ago that Tommy Smith may have information that would discredit Ed. But since Tommy was not ready to come forth at the time, he felt he could not write anything about it.

"It is our nature, as it is most of yours, to want to believe what people tell us," Duane wrote this morning.

"We believe Ed was telling the truth when he denied three times any knowledge of the UFO models.

"We believe and stand by the many others who shared their UFO sightings through *The Sentinel*, including Brenda Pollak, Shirley and Fenner McConnell, Art and Mary Hufford, Linda Lube, two well respected Gulf Breeze ministers, Shelton, Linda and Craig Wilson, not to mention Duane's own parents, Charlie and Dori Somerby. If you can't trust your own mother, who can you trust?"

I've worked for Gulf Breeze Publishing for eight years, and I know how Duane thinks. His concept of a community newspaper is to print stories about the community, written by people in the community. In this edition, you have statements from Ed, Tommy Smith, Charlie Somerby and Mayor Gray. Read the stories, make your own deductions and, if you feel strongly one way or the other, write and tell us what you think.

Tommy, now 22, was a former bandmate of Ed's son, and like just about everybody else in the GB band, a friend of Ed's.

He was an honor student at GBHS and, according to friends, is a straight forward and honest young man. The transcript of Tommy's interview with Mayor Gray, Police Chief Brown and reporters is reprinted in this edition. And it's a good read.

Mayor Gray's statement is also included in this issue.

So is Sentinel founder Charley Somerby's story about seeing the UFO that Ed brought pictures of to us just before Ed reported taking the pictures. It was a coincidence that Charlie came into the office before we went to press. But that is why we went with the story so strong right from the beginning.

By FRANK THOMPSON

It's just bad timing that our Editor/Publisher (fearless leader) Duane is somewhere in the Caribbean, hopefully relaxing with a good book by the cruise ship pool, as the UFO mystery seemingly unfolds.

At a Tuesday press conference, MUFON leaders remained steadfast in their belief that Ed Walters is telling the truth. They also vow to research the new developments.

MUFON district director Don Ware said seven investigators worked almost fulltime for six months before determining that Ed was telling the truth.

The new developments, of course, pertain to the model found in Ed's old home and, more importantly, Tommy Smith's allegations that Ed tried to recruit him in pulling off what may or may not turn out to be the ultimate

morning was an unidentified flying object.

"It was northeast of Harrells," Art Canady said. "A bright light but soft, like a fluorescent bulb. And in spite of the brightness, it did not hurt my eyes. At that time it was suspended in the air, completely motionless."

He said the object made no sound.

"Any type of aircraft as we know it would have made some type of noise," he said.

The commercial fisherman from Garland said he followed the light about 20 miles into Pender County, where he stopped at a store at Johnson's Corner and alerted the clerk and two customers.

Clerk Wanda Johnson said she, too, saw a light in the sky from the window of her store but could not say whether it was a UFO. Mr. Canady, who commutes daily to Topsail Beach, said the two customers went outside with him and also thought that it was an unidentified flying object. The customers were unable to be reached for comment.

Mr. Canady, a licensed pilot, said he was about three miles west of Harrells on N.C. 411 when he first saw the light about 5:40 a.m. He estimated that it hovered at 1,500 feet.

"I couldn't tell the shape of the object, but no light came from the bottom, only from the sides," he said. "Later I noticed three red

lights over the white one."

While he was watching, Mr. Canady said, the light that had been stationary moved "4,000 to 5,000 feet in a matter of two or three seconds and continued in a southeasterly direction almost parallel to the highway."

Mr. Canady said he last saw the object about 6:43 a.m. ascending slowly. An air traffic controller at New Hanover County Airport said the tower, which opened at 6 a.m. Thursday, reported no UFO sightings. Authorities with the N.C. Highway Patrol and the Sampson County Emergency Management Center also did not report any sightings.

"I had read about things like this," Mr. Canady said. "But this morning's experience really made a believer out of me. I'll never forget what I saw, and I would gladly take a polygraph test to prove what I'm telling is true."

TIMES, Fayetteville, NC
Feb. 16, 1990

NEWS-SENTINEL, Fort Wayne, IN
April 30, 1990 CR: J. Fry/COUD-1

State

■ **Look Up in the sky . . .** Persistent reports that UFOs dance in the night sky over Corydon are making star-gazing a popular pastime in the southern Indiana town. Janet Reising, a Corydon resident for almost 20 years, said she began to see the lights in the sky almost three years ago, but some area residents claim the mysterious objects have been around for 20 years or more. School-teachers, nurses, counselors, students, a sheriff's deputy and a high school principal are among those who claim to have seen the UFOs near Corydon, which was Indiana's first capital city.

OPINION 2

No reason not to believe in UFOs

By The Rev. B. Madison Currin
Rector, Christ Church Parish

There has been a lot in the media of late concerning the Gulf Breeze sightings. And I am frequently asked if I believe in UFOs. My answer is, "Of course, why not?"

In fact, I have been a believer since the Pan Am sightings in 1952 and have followed the ongoing revelations since that time. I have never seen a UFO that I know of, but I know those who have and I believe their credibility. But maybe I have seen some and didn't know what I was seeing.

Some years ago when I was a student at Princeton, I walked the streets of that community looking for Albert Einstein who lived there in those days. I never saw him but I had friends who did see him. Therefore, I believed that Albert Einstein lived there. One day, a friend asked me what route I had been taking looking for the great man. When I told him, he replied that I had been looking in the wrong places.

As for the UFO sightings, there are some important theological implications. First of all, it is egocentric for us to believe that planet Earth is the only planet with somewhat intelligent human beings. It is the sin of pride to think that we are the only ones. When we look at the millions of stars in God's heavens, how can we think that God would create human life only on this fragile Earth — our island home?

Secondly, we take ourselves too seriously and God not seriously enough. We are told in the book of Genesis that when God created the heavens and the earth he was quite pleased with what he had done. We are told God rested on the seventh day. Maybe after creating our planet and taking his rest in the Garden of Eden, he realized that a second or third creation might be an improvement over the first one. There is no reason for us on this planet to think we are the only planet that God created with human beings.

Bishop Fulton Sheen wrote years ago that "it is only in becoming small that you ever discover any

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thing big." That means that we have to recognize how little we really know, that there is a great big world "out there," that time is our limited way of measuring reality, and that there really is a "time before time" and a "time after time has ended."

Maybe UFOs come from one of those "time zones." Maybe they take on the form of flying saucers in order for us, in our limited vision, to see.

There is no reason I can think of not to believe that human life in another "world" may be trying to tell us something. Jesus told us in Holy Scripture that the Holy Spirit would lead us into new and deeper and richer truth. And if the purpose of life is to grow in grace, to grow in the knowledge and love of God, then maybe we need to recognize that we are really very small in comparison with all that a good and loving God has created.

It is our fallen-ness, our selfishness and pride, that distorts everything. Perhaps human life in another world has not fallen. C.S. Lewis warned us not to go to other planets because if there happened to be human life there, we might corrupt them. Maybe it is our own paranoia that makes us afraid of UFOs. Perhaps our own fear is why "they" have not come to visit more frequently.

And the very way of seeing UFOs might be important and a good symbol of how we discover new truth. You have to look up into the beauty of the heavens. Maybe it is always in looking up that we learn to believe. That's part of the Christmas story, too. The shepherds looked up into the darkness of that Bethlehem night and saw the angels. They believed because they saw. They were so simple that they knew how little they really knew. The Wise Men who looked up and saw a new star were so wise that they knew they did not know everything. Those who never understand deeper and richer truth are those who think they know everything.

Maybe the star in the East was a UFO. Probably not, but isn't it fun to speculate. Read the first chapter of the Old Testament Book of Ezekiel and wonder along with me if perhaps that "wheel within a wheel" might have been what we call a UFO. It most certainly was an unidentified flying object. In Chapter I, verse 16, we find this: "As for the appearance of the wheels and their construction: their appearance was like the gleaming of a chrysolite . . . their construction being as it were a wheel within a wheel."

Theological implications abound in the UFO mystery. Why do some see and others do not see? Jesus was concerned with how few see and listen. How exciting it is to expand our minds and to believe impossible dreams. How wonderful it is to consider the heavens and to look up and to watch and wait and listen. And when we think of that time before time and that time after time has ended, and when we think of the billions of stars and the universes that stretch out forever, then we just might begin to understand how blessed we are on planet Earth that God so long ago created us and redeemed us and counts the very hairs on our heads.

So maybe God was only practicing on us before he created other universes. Or maybe it is the other way around. In either case we have a responsibility to "seek the truth, come whence it may, cost what it will." If the shepherds that Bethlehem night had not been open to hear the beating of unseen wings they might have missed the whole event. If the Wise Men had not been searching the skies, they would never have seen that star.

Any trip to the shopping malls on a Saturday afternoon makes me believe that we already have creatures from another world. And why Gulf Breeze and Pensacola for the current UFO sightings? Maybe "they" have heard our mayor and have come to see: "Welcome to the Western Gate of the Sunshine State where thousands live like millions wish they could." So, welcome, whoever you are.

Pilot Says He Saw UFO Hovering In Sampson

By TOM WEAVER

Of The Times Staff

GARLAND — A former U.S. Air Force pilot said he is convinced that a brilliant white light he claims to have seen hovering near this Sampson County town Thursday

UFOs: Big business

Conference to benefit Pensacola

By Michelle Bolar Miller
News Journal

Although organizers of Pensacola's upcoming UFO symposium believe in extraterrestrials, they hardly have their heads in the clouds.

So thoroughly have they planned their event, about the only thing they can't guarantee is that E.T. will beam down for a visit.

Six hundred people from around the country will come downtown Pensacola July 6 for a three-day conference about spaceship sightings and their impact on society.

The 21st Annual International Symposium of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) is shaping up as a moneymaker for Pensacola.

Not even the controversy swirling around Gulf Breeze resident Ed Walters and a UFO model found in his former residence could hurt the symposium, a MUFON official said Sunday.

"This has been a controversial subject all along," Kathryn Ware said. "I don't think it will impact whose coming to the event. We're already sold out for that."

Area hotels are filling up fast and local entrepreneurs are making T-shirts, beach towels, maps and jewelry, all centered on UFO themes.

And, a Pensacola bus company has been hired to transport the curious MUFONers to tour areas of Gulf Breeze where UFOs have been seen. They figure they'll fill six buses.

MUFON is the world's largest UFO investigation and scientific research organization. Its Pensacola symposium has sold out a month in advance, no doubt in part because

during the past two years, more UFOs have been sighted in neighboring Gulf Breeze than anywhere in the United States.

"We're having to send back money. We now think we could have sold 300 or 400 more seats easily," symposium chairperson and MUFON public relations director Vicki Lyons said.

The MUFON conference will be larger than most conventions in Pensacola, which average 250 to 300 people, Sheila Bowman, director of tourism for the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce, said.

It is dwarfed, however, by the Worldwide Church of God's annual convention, which draws 8,500 people, and falls short of several organizations whose meetings lure 2,000 members and more, Bowman said.

"It's one of the most interesting and one of the most unusual," Bowman said. "And it's affected three hotels, which is excellent."

The conference will take over all the space the Pensacola Hilton's grand ballroom has to offer. The Hilton is the headquarters for the conference, and it's booked for all three nights of the event.

"They're going to occupy roughly 500 room nights at our hotel. That's a real economic impact for the area," Hilton's director of sales, Shirley Cronley, said.

Although Cronley refused to disclose financial data, Lyons estimated that the symposium will generate about \$55,000 for the Hilton, considering revenue from rooms, food and a July 6th reception.

Park Inn International also is sold-out for the symposium.

"It's great!" Park Inn's director of sales, Woodie Ritz, said.

Lyons contacted the motel more than three months ago about reserving rooms "and within days they were gone. So we're real pleased about that."

Day's Inn on Palafox and Cervantes streets is handling the overflow. "Reservations are going very well," director of sales Sylvia Anderson said.

Local entrepreneurs are making everything from watches to car tags bearing UFO themes to sell at the event.

"We're going to have an exhibit and vendor room in the Hilton. There's a demand from people who attend for souvenirs," Lyons said.

Manfred Laner, an industrial designer by profession, has created beach towels, T-shirts and posters for the symposium. Laner became interested in MUFON a couple of years ago when he sighted a UFO.

"I got pretty involved. Then the symposium came up and I figured since art is one of my biggest hobbies I would do something for the event."

Sun Splash Graphics, owned by Val and Greg Liss, a father and son, is making two T-shirt styles for the symposium. One will display a processed print of UFO photographs taken by Walters. Walters is co-author of the book "The Gulf Breeze UFO Sightings."

Michael's Jewelers, of Gulf Breeze, has already taken 36 orders for his UFO quartz watch. The watch's face shows a picture of spaceship with stars for hour markers. The background of the watch is black, while the ship and stars are done in gold. It retails for \$48.95.

Along with his watch, Michael Peoples, owner of Michael's Jewelers, plans to sell UFO charms, pendants and earrings at the symposium.

Silver Sands Productions, owned by John Story, will sell UFO sighting maps and T-shirts at the Hilton.

The Gulf Breeze Area Chamber of Commerce already has begun distributing a free map showing the dates and locations of documented area UFO sightings.

Although that map, made by Pentacle Corp, will not be marketed at the conference, "we'd like to see Gulf Breeze get some of the tourism trickle from the July MUFON symposium," JoAnne Meyer, Pentacle's co-owner, said.

Sun Coast Signs will sell personalized car tags, while literature will be available at booths set up for two Gulf Breeze book stores — The New Age Shop and Herron-King Book Store.

Meanwhile, other area businesses who stand to benefit from the UFO conference include:

Joe Occhipinti and his band, who will entertain on July 6 at the get-acquainted reception.

Bill Richards Productions, a video production company hired to handle all technical aspects of the symposium, including filming the event for videotape sales.

Tucker Transportation Co., whose buses will take more than 200 MUFONers on a tour of the Gulf Breeze sightings areas on July 8.

Gulf Breeze Travel Inc., the official travel agency for the MUFON conference.

About two-thirds of those scheduled to attend the MUFON symposium are coming from other states, Lyons said.



Gary McCracker/News Journal

Industrial designer Manfred Laner produced beach towels, T-shirts and posters to sell at the Mutual UFO Network Conference in Pensacola in July. The conference is turning into a moneymaker for Pensacola.

UFO model confirms disbelief of some, others say it doesn't resemble photos

By Adam Lynn
News Journal

A Gulf Breeze woman said Sunday that an unidentified flying object she saw in 1988 does not resemble a model of a UFO found last week at a home in Gulf Breeze.

Shirley McConnell said the object she and her husband saw over Pensacola Bay on July 8, 1988 looked exactly like the pictures taken by local businessman Ed Walters, who wrote a book detailing his UFO sightings.

"I know that we saw something, and it looked like what Ed had photographed," she said. "We didn't see any little model."

McConnell's comments were among the different reactions to the discovery last week of a model UFO made of plastic foam plates and drafting paper. The model was found by a man who now lives in Walters' former residence at 612 Silverthorn Road in Gulf Breeze. Walters, who moved from the house in December 1988, lived there at the time he reported seeing the UFOs.

Huelsbeck was still unsure. "There are so many things it could be," he said. "They could be flying a kite behind one of those tugs on the (Santa Rosa) Sound all lit up."

Lisa Nock, a clerk at the Circle K store on U.S. 98, was disappointed about the model's discovery.

"When I read about it and it said it was a hoax, I got depressed," said Nock, who lives on Pensacola Beach. "I hoped (Walters' UFO sighting) was real."

Randy Walker, a cook at the

Walters co-wrote a book called "The Gulf Breeze Sightings" that attracted national attention by detailing what he said were UFO sightings and an encounter with an alien. He said on Saturday he knew nothing about the model. He could not be reached for comment on Sunday.

McConnell, who joined the Mutual UFO Network after seeing the object, said she met Walters some time after the incident. She said she didn't believe Walters would fake the photographs.

"I can't imagine Ed would do that," she said. "I don't think he would have to make up any model because it's there. We're certainly not making up our story."

McConnell said the UFO model was shaped similar to what she saw, but she said there were differences.

"The lighting in the (News Journal) picture was definitely not right. It was too white on top. It just looks different. There was a bright light shining down from the bottom that you're picture doesn't have."

The discovery of the model stirred conversation — and some doubt —

Waffle House, said he doubts the legitimacy of the model.

"Don't you think that could be a plant to throw them off the track?" he said.

Another Gulf Breeze man who refused to be identified said there is a discrepancy between the photos faked by the News Journal using the model and pictures in Walters' book.

"There is a second row of black squares underneath the middle in the book pictures that your model doesn't have," the man said. "The

throughout Gulf Breeze on Sunday.

"I just don't know what to believe," said George Huelsbeck as he sipped coffee with three friends in the Waffle House on U.S. 98.

Longtime resident Allan Davis, owner of Allan Davis Seashells & Souvenirs, said the model confirmed his beliefs that the whole affair is a hoax.

"I say it's trick photography," said Davis, who was seated with Huelsbeck. "With the surveillance systems in the United States, I don't see how anything, not even a mockingbird, could get through here without somebody seeing it. I don't believe in them."

Another of the Huelsbeck's group, who refused to be identified, disagreed.

"Some of the best people in the world in photography went through those things (UFO pictures) and couldn't find anything wrong with them," the man said.

whole thing's curious, but I mean the way this model has this one detail left out of it seems weird to me."

Although sales of Walters' book have been good recently, the controversy surrounding the model didn't appear to generate new sales on Sunday. Most area bookstores said there were no sales on Sunday.

"We sold out of them last week and got some more in," said Richard Niles of the B. Dalton Bookseller in Cordova Mall.

Brentwood woman has close encounter

Home video equipment captures UFO sighting

By Dave Roberts
News Staff Writer

BRENTWOOD — A Brentwood woman who had a close encounter with several unidentified flying objects last week has a videotape to back up her claim.

Cuca Diaz was getting ready for bed in her home in the Applewood Common development on March 27 around 11:30 p.m. when she heard her dog, Rocky, barking. She turned on the light and told her dog to be quiet. Then Diaz saw Rocky looking up in the sky and thought he might be barking at someone outside.

She went out to the back yard to investigate and heard a noise that sounded like a plane's engine. Up in the sky several miles above the house she saw five lights the size of large stars flashing green, red and white.

The white light moved across the sky to the northeast and stayed there while the other lights moved around, apparently "checking around," said Diaz, a Mexico native who has lived in Brentwood 12 years but speaks little English. She stood there watching the lights flying rapidly and randomly in the sky for about 15 or 20 minutes.

Then she remembered that her husband, Vicente, has a video camera. Filming the lights, she thought, would help convince others she was not lying when she told them what she had seen.

Vicente had not returned home from his night shift job yet so she grabbed a tape and went back outside, filming the lights for another 15 or 20 minutes until they disappeared.

The lights did not look like anything she had seen before. They were different from those on an airplane, helicopter or blimp, she said. As they moved off in the distance she could no longer see the different colors, they all looked white.

Thus far she had not been

afraid. That is, until she watched the videotape on her large screen television and saw that the color of one of the lights had changed from white to red.

At one point the video shows the red light flashing on and off regularly every second in unison with the four white lights to the right of it that are in the shape of a cross. The five lights move as a unit from the right to the left of the screen and resemble the underside warning lights that could be on a large blimp.

When Diaz zoomed in on the red light it revealed no more detail than from afar. At other points in the video the red light flashes more quickly and the white lights that had been following it can't be seen.

Diaz said it appeared that the lights had been rotating, revealing the different colors as they revolved, much like some Christmas lights do.

When asked whether she thinks the lights could have been on ships from outer space, she smiled and said, "I don't know. I thought maybe the government is experimenting with something."

Her husband came home at 12:30 a.m. and saw her watching the tape. He couldn't figure out what the lights were either and suggested she call the police. An officer came over that night at 1:30 a.m. and was also baffled, as was Sgt. Les Pinkston, who viewed the video the next morning.

Calls to the California Highway Patrol ruled out the possibility it was some of their helicopters. "We have no explanation," Pinkston said. "She legitimately believed she saw something. It could have been anything."

Pinkston suggested that Diaz call a UFO reporting center. Officials at Buchanan Field in Concord said they had not received any reports of UFOs recently. They were not aware of any un-



Cuca Diaz points in the direction of the strange lights she saw near her Brentwood home last week. She captured the incident on videotape, which includes several close-up shots (right) of the unidentified objects.

usual aircraft in the area at that time, but the airport closes at 10 p.m.

Had it been a blimp they would probably have been notified, said Pam Bonnett, supervisor in the control tower. "It could have been balloons or a helicopter," she speculated. "The military

has all kinds of stuff out here."

When asked if the airport receives many reports of UFO sightings, Vance Roskelley, supervisor of airport operations, said, "We used to. Years ago UFOs used to be a real popular thing. But we haven't received hardly anything recently as far as I am aware of."

As for Diaz she's not sure what she saw, but she has proof that she saw it. And if the lights return she's going to be ready with videocamera in hand.

NEWS JOURNAL, Pensacola, FL
LETTERS June 28, 1990

Ed Walters told truth about UFO sightings

The UFO model found in Ed Walters' former home is totally unrelated to his 46 UFO photographs, his video tapes, and the alien vehicles sighted by hundreds of other witnesses. The height-to-width ratio and exterior markings are unlike those of the vehicles in photographs taken by Ed or the other witnesses.

The Mutual UFO Network thoroughly investigated the sightings of Ed Walters' family and over 100 others. The sealed stereo camera he used on Feb. 26, 1988, showed he was not photographing a small model. The May 1 photos taken with the self-referencing stereo camera rig showed type-1 and type-3 objects. The type-1 object was 14.8 feet from top to bottom and 475 feet away. The type-3 object was 132 feet away. Ed submitted to lie detector tests, voice-stress analysis and hypnosis. He told the truth.

Four debunkers, Phill Klass, Willy Smith, Bob Boyd and Zan Overall, have tried to discredit the Gulf Breeze sightings. Smith, with the help of a professional photographer in New York, produced a photo of a model and reported it as one of Ed's. His scheme was exposed by the New York photographer. When Smith visited the circle of dead grass at Gulf Breeze High School, he said, "I smell gasoline." Others present could not. Soil analysis showed no trace.

Your June 10 article by Craig Myers contains several inaccuracies. He failed to mention that five witnesses saw the object on Nov. 11, 1987, before Ed photographed it. There were many other witnesses to type-1 objects later. Also, Boyd was relieved of his MUFON duties because he provided false information to the media, and he failed to cooperate in analysis of physical evidence.

The evidence concerning Gulf Breeze UFOs can be purchased from MUFON or the Fund For UFO Research, or borrowed from me. I suggest Craig Myers read it before he reports again on UFOs.

Donald M. Ware
Fort Walton Beach

CR: R. Reid

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POST-DISPATCH, St. Louis, MO - June 24, 1990 CR: M. Beach

Mystery

Pattern In Field Is UFO Imprint, Farmer Believes

By Marcia L. Koenig
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Lawrence Akers raises hay on 554 acres near Belgrade, Mo. But this year, his hay is raising questions.

His field of hay has an unusual pattern, and Akers suspects unidentified flying objects.

In the last 12 days, the new evidence has brought about 60 people — including six UFO investigators — to Belgrade, about 85 miles southwest of St. Louis.

Akers, 63, said he noticed the marks in his field while cutting hay on June 12. "Right away, I knew it was some kind of UFO site," Akers said.

Six weeks earlier, when he fertilized the field, no such pattern was visible, he said.

Akers describes the pattern as similar to a wagon wheel, although the spokes are neither straight nor symmetrical.

The imprint has a round center about two feet across with 12 spokes radiating from it. The extensions are about four inches wide.

The longest measures 14 feet to the center of the pattern. Some of the spokes are fairly straight; others curve. Most of the spokes have several small indentations about the size of a half-dollar pressed into the



Lawrence Akers in a hay field near Belgrade, Mo., near what he describes as a

"wagon wheel" pattern. Akers believes an unidentified flying object made the pattern.

dirt at the ends.

Akers speculates that the indentations could have been made by an anti-skid feature on the landing skids of a UFO.

The UFO investigators who have looked at Akers' field are less quick to come to conclusions.

J.L. Palermo of the Mutual UFO Network in Missouri said, "At this point, it's something very interesting for us and something worth more investigation."

But he added: "This is pretty

weird. It's potentially UFO-logical in nature." He asked that anyone who has seen anything unusual in the area call him at 947-0026.

Nothing on Earth could have made the pattern, Akers said. If someone had set something on the hay in that pattern, the hay would have turned yellow, Akers said. The matted hay was still green when he found it.

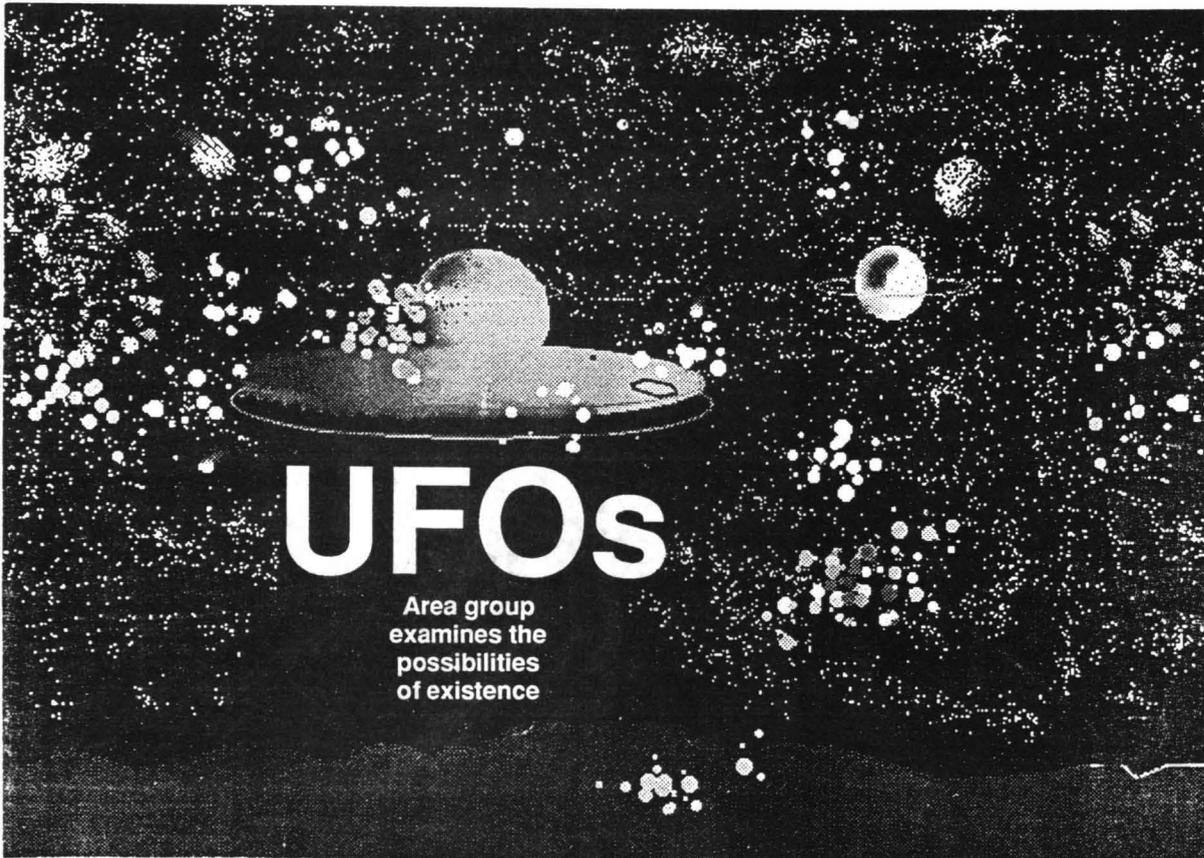
The hay in the pattern has since turned brown, like parched grass in the summer. Akers says it's dead to

the roots. But around it, the field is green.

The hay was not burned with a flame, because it's not blackened. Akers also rules out a fungus, because he said a fungus never made such patterns.

Akers has fenced the area to keep his cattle from grazing over it. He wants to see if anything grows there next year.

In answer to skeptics, Akers said only: "I know I found it, and it's here. I know I didn't make it."



LIZ MOORE/valley press

By SHERRY ROUSH
Staff Writer

They're not kooks, crackpots or twinkieheads, they explain. They believe in UFOs.

A growing number of Antelope Valley residents are becoming aware of and lending credence to the existence of unidentified flying objects, according to members of the recently formed local chapter of the UFO Contact Center International.

Local residents who have seen or have had encounters with UFOs now have a group where they can talk about their experiences and not be laughed at, said Arleen Caskey, one of the chapter's founders.

"When I opened Pathways two and a half years ago, I had the opportunity to talk to a number of people," said Caskey, who is also the coordinator of the Pathways Center, a metaphysical bookstore in Lancaster. "Some people said they've seen them (UFOs). In fact, that was more common than uncommon."

She said people don't come forward with their accounts of aliens because they are afraid of being considered crazy. Others, who had UFO contacts long ago and had a selective amnesia of those experiences, are only now just beginning to remember them.

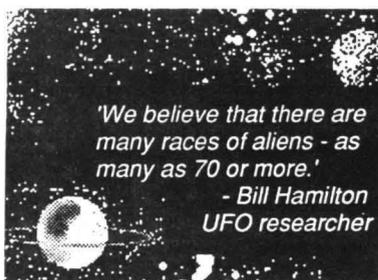
The Antelope Valley, according to UFO researcher and investigator Bill Hamilton, is among the high UFO "concentration areas" and has "a great deal" of extraterrestrial activity.

"The presence of Rockwell, Lockheed, Edwards Air Force Base, Northrop, McDonald Douglas ... NASA makes the area a target for aliens," Hamilton theo-

orized. "It's as if they were interested in the space industry here."

Some of the local sightings of otherworldly crafts were discussed by attendants of last week's UFO forum. They declined to be identified.

One Lancaster man said he's had three sightings in the Valley. Once, in the 1970s, he saw some glowing gold objects hovering for several minutes over the west side of town from 10th Street West and



Avenue K. Then they lifted up slowly to about 300 feet, he said, and took off "sort of like those Star Trek ships hitting hyperspace" and vanished.

Another night, last November, when he was out walking and looking at the stars, it looked to him like a star cluster was moving. "I was thinking, 'wait a minute, stars don't move like that,'" he said.

He realized, much to his surprise, that a boomerang-shaped spaceship about 600

feet in length, 1,000 feet up, with nine or 10 lights on the bottom of it with the same intensity from the ground as stars was moving across the Antelope Valley soundlessly at about 20 mph.

He pointed out the spacecraft to other people he saw in the area, around Avenue J-4 and Fig Street, "just to make sure I wasn't seeing things," he said, adding that the others saw the UFO, too.

He had his third sighting last May in the same area, only this time the UFO was saucer-shaped and traveling northeast "at tremendous speed out of the southwest." He described the UFO as metallic with light reflecting off of it, about 700 to 1,000 feet up.

Another Lancaster man said he saw a "blue-purplish, oval-shaped light" come from the west Palmdale or Lake Elizabeth area, flying silently. "I would say it covered 50 to 70 miles in 15 to 25 seconds," he reported.

Hamilton said the different descriptions of UFOs are not unusual. "We believe that there are many races of aliens - as many as 70 or more," each with different starships - discs, globes, triangles, boomerangs and cylindrical-shaped crafts.

However, Hamilton does discredit some UFO accounts. "Many people misinterpret what they see because they are not trained to identify what they see."

Among the things some residents have mistaken for flying saucers are experimental aircraft, bright planets such as Venus, and Vandenberg rocket launches.

But technological advances and more experts in the field of UFO study are con-

tributing to the rise in authenticated evidence, Hamilton said. "Those hand-held video cameras are a boon to our research."

And more people are warming to the idea that human beings aren't the only intelligent life in the universe, he said. Part of the reason is because people are being contacted, they are becoming aware of this UFO evidence or are reading books and seeing movies about life in outer space, he added.

Though Hollywood movies, such as "E.T., The Extra-Terrestrial" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" are fictionalized, Hamilton thinks they do not undermine the seriousness nor hinder the acceptance of his UFO research.

"No, I don't think those movies hurt us. They may even help us gain much more acceptance," because they make people think about the possibilities, he said.

Members of the group urge people who have had any kind of contact with UFOs or who are just curious to join them.

"Sometimes, it's not until you hear others speak about their experiences that you remember exactly what you saw or what happened to you," Caskey said.

People's experiences can vary greatly, Hamilton said. If they've actually seen aliens, their experiences may hinge on the friendliness or self-concern of the visitors to Earth.

The materially-advanced aliens tend to be more self-concerned, while the spiritually or socially advanced aliens are more benevolent to the humans they meet, Hamilton said.

"Different aliens are like different people," he theorized. "Some may seem friendlier than others."

In any case, he cautions against showing any hostile actions toward the strange beings if they are encountered - "Which is hard to do if you're scared to death," he added.

And from his experience in the investigation of UFO abductees (people kidnapped by aliens), he advises against going along with the creatures, if at all possible.

"I honestly believe that if people really look at the sky here at night, they'll see the UFOs themselves," one man at the meeting said.

The local group is the 48th chapter of the UFO Contact Center International, based in Washington state, with the purpose of helping people to understand contact with UFOs and aliens.

Besides listening to one another's accounts, members of the group try to theorize where the aliens are coming from, their purpose in visiting Earth and how much governments on Earth know of their existence.

A UFO debriefing, with a video viewing and open discussion, will be held at 1:30 p.m. July 7. Another UFO forum, facilitated by Hamilton, will be held at 7 p.m. July 18. Both meetings will be held at the Pathways Center, 658 West Lancaster Blvd. For more information, call Caskey at 949-8082.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - June 28, 1990 CR: R. Reid

CHARLIE'S CORNER

BY CHARLIE
AND
DORI SOMERBY

Some folks may find it hard to believe the series of events which culminated in the Somerby's involvement in the never-ending controversy over this city's Unidentified Flying Objects.

First that we happened to be staying in our second home in Gulf Breeze instead of in our Milton residence. Second, that we were walking along Hickory Shores Boulevard on the eventful evening, and thirdly, that we had stopped at an opening leading down to the beach at the moment when a UFO passed along the shoreline.

The fact that Charlie is the former editor of the *Sentinel* and that his wife's son is the current editor has also led to some finger-pointing.

Then we went to the *Sentinel* office on a Tuesday afternoon when that week's paper is being put together and reassuring Duane and his crew that we had, in fact, seen exactly what Ed Walters' showed in his pictures then atop the make-up table.

It all seems too pat that minutes after what we saw pass over the bay should end up near Ed's house ready to be photographed. Really, I can't blame folks for wondering just how it all could come about in such a pre-arranged manner.

But we can assure one and all that's exactly the way it was. We gained nothing for our disclosure of the sighting and could have had a lot to lose. But we never could have lived with ourselves if we had failed to tell our story.

Literally dozens of people have told us of their experiences both locally and elsewhere in the country. Few have reported their interesting stories to the MUFON organization although we urge all to do so.

Speaking about that group of outstanding citizens, we have found all of them to be sincere and dedicated folks seeking the truth. We were

debriefed by two of them, collectively at first and individually, over a 2-hour period. Down through their years they have donated many, many hours of their time taking no remuneration.

Our belief is that Mayor Ed Gray is way off base in his caustic comments concerning them especially the statement "will the MUFON investigators admit to being so wrapped up and biased in their pursuit of the story that they fell headfirst into their trap?"

And "my dealings to date with some of them indicate no objectivity in their thinking and certainly no expertise at investigating."

Ed Gray is a very intelligent man, and we were quite impressed at how he got members of the Bay Authority back on the track in their studies concerning a bridge across East Bay. Probably no municipality in Florida is as well run as our own, and Gray is the leading reason for it.

But when he sends articles to the media reflecting his own biased opinions he should not be speaking as the mayor but as a "concerned citizen" or whatever.

There's one thing that we're positive about. We did see a craft passing over the shoreline of East Bay during the evening of Veterans Day 1987 that proved to be what Walters made pictures of a few minutes later. There's absolutely no doubt in our minds of what we saw. We know it wasn't two paper plates glued together.

What may have happened to Ed before or after that evening we know nothing about!

One thing's for certain-Walters must be chuckling all the way to the bank with the increased sales of his book caused by the mayor's comments among others. Bad publicity is better than good publicity in this instance.

Remember when Mayor Gray said a couple of years ago that all this hullabaloo would die down shortly. It hasn't happened that way and now when we meet out-of-towners in our travels they ask if Pensacola isn't near Gulf Breeze instead of the other way around.

One thing's for certain-the 1990 UFO Symposium at The Hilton on July 7 and 8 should be quite interesting.



Mystery circles crop up again

by Neville Hodgkinson

SCIENTISTS are making a fresh effort to solve the mystery of crop circles, the complex and often beautiful patterns that appear in farmers' fields.

A study centre has been set up, headed by a professor of astronomy and two field workers, who will keep watch from the air on known "hot spots" for the circles in Hampshire and Wiltshire.

A code of practice for investigators has been agreed with the National Farmers' Union to guard against undisciplined invasions by circle spotters.

The incidence of crop circles has been increasing since they were first reported in southwest England about 12 years ago.

This year looks like producing a bumper harvest — there have already been at least 55 sightings, ranging from small rings to flattened crops up to 200 ft across.

Theories about their origin have included whirlwinds, UFOs, sunspots, virulent fungi, downdraughts from helicopters, mating hedgehogs and summer rituals of the rural British.

But none fits all the phenomena — least of all the bizarre patterns that appeared last week near Avebury, Wilts.

Eye-witnesses have told of circles appearing in seconds, accompanied by an electrical crack or humming sounds like the Dr Who theme music.

Not surprisingly, some scientists believe many of the circles may be hoaxes, with perhaps the occasional genuine occurrence caused by freak weather.

Sceptics point out that the phenomena tend to appear on Friday and Saturday nights, presumably after pubs close.

But enthusiasts who marvel at their complexity say they cannot all be the work of pranksters.

"A lot of folk are saying people are doing it," says Busty Taylor, 47, a pilot who has been mapping the Wessex circles.

"But people traipsing around in a field would be likely to break the plants. Whatever happens usually swirls the crops down, but doesn't destroy them."

"Besides, we are receiving reports of similar phenomena from all over the world."

SUN HERALD, Biloxi, MS - July 13, 1990

Belgian planes tracking UFO

BRUSSELS, Belgium — This country's air force has joined scores of Belgians befuddled by hundreds of UFO sightings across night skies in recent months. In the latest report, two air force F-16 jet fighters used their radar screens to track an object that, according to a military official, "exceeded the limits of conventional aviation." Speaking at a news conference Wednesday, Belgian Air Force Col. Wilfried de Brouwer said the UFO dived from about 10,000 to 4,000 feet in two seconds.



Strange goings on in Hollywood: Steven Spielberg's view of UFOs in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

UFO buffs and scientists are going round like circles in crop fields in an effort to explain the strange phenomenon. Publishers are now getting in on the act with several books taking the arguments to a wider audience. CHRIS BENFIELD investigates the controversy

Close encounters?

WHATEVER it is that leaves huge shapes carved in the middle of fields of crops, without paths to or from them, it seems to be settling in for a busy summer.

And so are the people who think they can explain the mystery.

The fates of half a dozen books and several times that number of investigative reputations depend on the outcome of their competition to convince the public. And so could the future of Mankind, according to those who believe we are witnessing messages from a powerful intelligence or manifestations of a force we do not yet understand.

An international conference of Unidentified Flying Object investigators will consider some of the theories in Sheffield in July — following a Spring crammed with reports of "crop circles" of unprecedented scale, number and complexity.

It will be a heated debate. Just for starters, a former investigations officer for the British UFO Research Association, Mrs Jenny Randles, will deliver a paper provocatively titled *The Death of UFO-ology*. Mrs Randles and her research partner, Paul Fuller, reckon that their new book, *Crop Circles: A Mystery Solved*, accounts for all sorts of Odd Happenings up to and including "close encounters" with alien beings — and proves that visitors from other worlds are NOT involved.

Andy Roberts, organiser of the Yorkshire-based Independent UFO Network, will support her contention that flying saucers are on their way to becoming just an entry alongside fairies in the folklore books. But for the reasons why you need to see his new book, *Phantoms of the Sky*.

There are still plenty of believers left yet, of course, and they will be presenting their own evidence and theories to the conference ... and calling on reinforcements from the Soviet Union, where "glasnost" has uncovered a whole new set of unsolved mysteries.

Meanwhile, yet another faction pooh-poohs both those who think "crop circles" are the marks of landings from outer space and those who claim to be able to explain them in scientific terms.

The Yorkshire Post fell into this maelstrom of conflict through an innocent inquiry into a report from Cheesefoot Head, near Winchester.

Hampshire, where a number of crop circles have appeared overnight in the past. A farmer reported two weeks ago that he had found another. But this time, as well as the 50ft-diameter circle, there was a tapering corridor leading from it and also (on the other side of an unbroken barrier of wheat) four rectangles measuring 18ft by 6ft.

The Sunday Telegraph reported circle-watcher (and author) Pat Delgado saying: "This takes us back to Square One. Orthodox physics has no answer to this."

In this area, orthodox physics is represented by Dr Timothy Meaden of the Circles Effect Research Centre. He recommends reading his book *The Circles Effect*, plus a collection of follow-up essays called *Circles From The Sky*, coming shortly, which he says prove beyond reasonable doubt that the circles are caused by whirling winds, incorporating electromagnetic forces. The electromagnetic element accounts for 400 reports of lights in the sky and motor cars being stopped, he believes.

He was a bit taken aback by the rectangles at first and is still deciding if they are genuinely natural occurrences — but if they are, believes he can incorporate them into his theory by

suggesting that a circular force, ricocheting across a field, could hit the ground with two ends of an arc of energy. Imagine a rainbow being dragged and you get the picture.

Mrs Randles says the trouble with mainstream scientists is that they want to explain everything in terms of mainstream science.

She adds to Tim Meaden's explanation a recognition of motivation for the mystic wing of the Green movement — "hippies", in shorthand — to stage hoaxes in the interests of helping the mystery grow. There are ways of crawling and walking through crops without leaving a trail, she says, and she has tried them. The explanation for the explosion of "circles" and other patterns is "people playing games, not for money or publicity but to preserve a myth".

On top of this, she claims that her book extends the significance of the Meaden theory into an explanation for stories of abduction by aliens.

For the details of how, we have to wait for the book. But the gossip is that it centres on electromagnetic effects on the brain producing experiences which are "real", even though outside the normal.

Mrs Randles adds: "We have good

evidence that we are leading into areas of scientific exploration that we never thought possible. The answers to the ragbag of phenomena called "UFOs" could help us crack the problem of nuclear fusion — leading to cheap and unlimited fuel — and control earthquakes. There is some evidence that UFO phenomena are the result of gentler releases of the same energies which currently cause earthquakes.

"These are realistic prospects, not dreams. Governments are aware of them but are keeping quiet ... not because they are covering up UFO landings but because they are hoping to be first to find ways of using these energies in weaponry."

All very thought-provoking. But stir a nest of UFO-ologists and you are being buzzed with yet another theory before you have time to settle your thoughts.

You are also, inevitably, being asked to mention yet another impending book — in this case, *The Crop Circle Enigma*, edited by former Defence Ministry official Ralph Noyes.

One of its contributors, George Winfield, says that nothing we have heard so far can possibly explain the extraordinary recent developments in crop circles.

"Timothy Meaden is talking nonsense," he says bluntly. "For one thing, crop circles occur in carefully-planned positions — always in the middle of fields, for example, not on the boundaries. Secondly, Meaden's atmospheric explanation contradicts at least two basic laws of physics."

"As for Randles's hoaxes explanation, that's simply not good enough either. There are people who do hoaxes but experienced researchers know perfectly well what the results look like."

"I believe we are talking about the operation of a non-human intelligence — something very complex and unfamiliar to most people, although it usually has a human focus and people who experience UFO-type phenomena may be some sort of psychic link with it. It could well be related to the force behind poltergeist effects."

"The shapes it is creating are heavily symbolic and seem to be suggesting what Carl Jung said many years ago and the New Age people talk about now — that is, to put it roughly, that all consciousness is inter-connected, or capable of being so."

● *The Sheffield conference, July 14 and 15, is open to the public. Ticket details from 0898 654637.*

On the UFO beat

THE trouble with authenticating UFOs is obtaining visual proof.

Early in the morning of December 1, 1987, a former policeman was walking over Ilkley Moor to see a relative living in East Morton. He had a camera to take pictures of Ilkley down below. The location was 500 yards from White Wells, on the Ilkley flank of the moor.

Something caught his eye and he spun round to see a small creature about 4ft 6ins high which scuttled away from him, making a waving motion with its arm. He took a snatch picture then chased the creature, which went behind a hill. When he got there the man saw only a disc about 30ft across which disappeared in a cloud of smoke. And that was that.

Psychoanalysis later indicated the man was not fantasy prone, says Peter Hough, chairman of Manchester UFO Research Association. "There was a time loss in his memory of the event and under hypnosis it appeared he had been taken inside the mysterious disc for some sort of physical examination."

Hough, a freelance writer on the subject, says hoaxes can never be ruled out but hoaxers usually want either publicity or money. In this case the man has avoided personal publicity and gave the photographic rights to Peter Hough, who charges a reproduction fee of £100. On a print measuring 5 x 7½ inches, the figure is a green-blue blur just half an inch high and one quarter of an inch wide.

'Upside-down saucer' UFO alert

MYSTERIOUS lights in the sky hovering over Canvey has sparked a UFO alert.

Mrs Denise Radley, of The Weald, Canvey, saw the bright white lights at 10.20 last Saturday night from her lounge window.

And a man walking his dog who also saw the vision was so shocked

he did a jig in the street, not knowing whether to move forwards or back.

Mrs Radley said: "It was like a car, the lights came towards me out of the sky, two big white beams. It sort of hovered for a little while then went over the house and away. We just saw a red light behind it."

"It looked like an upside-down saucer. I have never seen an aeroplane that hovers like that and there was no noise at all."

Ron West, chairman of the East Anglian UFO Association, said he had received six reports of a similar sighting over Canvey at the same time.

SOMERSET STANDARD, Frome, England June 7, 1990 CR: T. Good

WESTERN DAILY PRESS, England - June 1, 1990 CR: T. Good

Scorched circles linked to UFO

by JAMES PRICE
A BRIGHT, sparkling magenta light speeding across the sky may be connected to the mysterious scorched circles which have appeared on a farmer's field.

Butcher John Evans, who lives in Rhos Road, Rhos-on-Sea, saw it about the time the circles were found at Voel Farm, near Llanfair T.H., Abergele.

Over the years, many people have believed such circles were caused by flying saucers.

Bright

Mr Evans says he worked out on a map that the object disappeared in the Llanfair T.H. or Llanannan area on the Denbigh Moors.

He said: "It was not going as fast as a shooting star, and lasted maybe three or four seconds."

He checked with the Met Office in Cardiff, who put him onto their British headquarters in southern England.

"I was sitting in my lounge with the curtains open. What I saw was too bright for a firework or rocket."

"The Met men told me there had been no sighting of a meteorite reported," he added.

WESTERN DAILY PRESS, England - May 30, 1990 CR: T. Good

New chance to solve space riddle

By Nigel Kerton
VISITORS from outer space will face the full glare of public scrutiny in Wiltshire this summer.

An exhibition of evidence is being organised to mark the 25th anniversary of the first reported sightings of the Warminster "thing".

Regular appearances of unidentified flying objects have been reported over the years in the Warminster area.

Now Ken Rogers, president of the Unexplained Society, is collecting reports of sightings, and photographs of UFOs to include in the show at the Old Bell Hotel in Warminster during August.

Mr Rogers, aged 40, said: "News of the

Warminster 'thing' reverberated around the world and made Warminster as famous as Loch Ness is for its monster.

"Sightings are still made on and off but not as frequently as they were during the peak of 1964-65."

Mysterious circles which have appeared in cornfields in recent years could be linked to the Warminster UFOs, Mr Rogers believes.

He thinks the circles are formed as UFOs land.

WORLD EXPERTS BAFFLED BY STRANGE CIRCLES IN FIELDS

THEORIES FOR PHENOMENON RANGE FROM PRACTICAL JOKERS AND WHIRLWINDS TO HEDGEHOGS AND UFOs

IT had been a long, chilly, damp night for the two men camped out on a ridge, determined to solve a mystery.

For three weeks, they had been taking it in turn to wait and watch with light-gathering cameras, infra-red binoculars and sophisticated tape recorders, determined no clue would escape them.

Then, as the night began to dissolve into daylight, they saw something that amazed them.

Just 300 yards from them, a vast circle had appeared under cover of darkness, formed by a clockwise swirl of corn flattened to the ground.

They had seen nothing, heard nothing.

Eerie

The corn was bent to the ground but not broken or damaged. It continued to ripen afterwards as if nothing had happened.

If the circle was eerie it was anything but unique. Last summer, nearly 150 of them were sighted in a single month. The year before, there were 290 reported in England alone, mainly within a 50-mile radius of Stonehenge.

Now, there have been sightings in America and Australia and the Japanese have become involved in trying to solve the mystery of their origin.

And, with theories almost as thick on the ground as the circles themselves, a new dimension has been added to the puzzle.

With 1990 already looking like a bumper circle year, the theorists were sent back to the drawing board last month by an unexpected new development.

At Cheesefoot Head, near Winchester, Hampshire, four rectangular "coffins" have been sighted near a circle for the first time ever.

Hedgehogs, deer, fungi, whirlwinds, practical jokers and a blast of noise have all been blamed for the strange circles.

Hooked

But the four men who have become the most dedicated circle investigators in the country are convinced the truth is more strange.

Pat Delgado, who began circle-watching in 1981 and is the joint author of a book about them, says he is certain they are created by "an unknown intelligence".

There are anecdotal accounts of circles going way back, but the first recorded sighting was in 1975 when a farm-hand noticed a single circle, swirling clockwise, at Headbourne Worthy, in Hampshire, in a field alongside the A34.

Four-man amateur team of 'detectives' have spent £50,000 of their own money in bid to solve the puzzle

Six years later, Delgado, a retired electro-mechanical design engineer who worked at the British missile testing range in Australia and later for NASA, heard from a golfing companion of a large circle flanked by two others exactly half its size and went to see for himself.

It was in the Devil's Punchbowl near Winchester, Hants.

Two years later, electrical engineer Colin Andrews, of Andover, Hants., was driving towards Winchester when he noticed five large circles flattened in the Punchbowl not far from Delgado's first sighting. He stopped his car for a closer look—and was hooked.

Delgado and Andrews, chief civil engineer for the Test Valley Borough Council,

were later joined by two more "detectives", sign-writer Don Tuersley and veteran UFO watcher and enthusiast, Busty Taylor, owner of a driving school in Andover and a qualified pilot.

The four have spent more than £50,000 of their own money buying computers and other equipment and hiring aircraft to collect and collate data.

And Delgado and Andrews have collaborated on a book, "Circular Evidence", which was published last year.

Shivers

Andrews' garden shed has been turned into an operations centre crammed with equipment, files and photographs. Patterns, they say, have begun to emerge.

Circles are getting larger and are happening, or being reported, more often. They seem to cluster in particular sites. The Punchbowl is one of them. Seven Barrows, on the Hampshire-Berkshire border is another.

Delgado insists that when he talks about an "unknown intelligence" he is not referring to little green men. But there have been links to UFO sightings.

In July 1985, Andrews says he was returning home from an evening out at Andover's carnival when he picked up a police radio report of a sighting of an UFO near Stockbridge.

He got there before the police but still too late to see anything for himself. How-

ever, he did track down a badly-frightened elderly couple who described seeing something "like a fun-fair wheel standing on end with lots of yellowy-white lights around the edge and more lights along spokes leading into the centre of it."

Next morning, five circles appeared at Alresford. The following month, there were another five at Goodworth Clatford. The eerie thing was you could draw one straight line between the three sites.

Delgado and Andrews feel there is much more to the mystery rings, and now squares, than rival scientific theories have attempted to account for.

Their own investigations have sent shivers down their spines at times—like the white jelly found at one site and so far not identified. Everyone who handled it came down soon after with a severe chest cold.

It was Busty Taylor who took a team from the Andover Advertiser to look at that site at Goodworth Clatford. The white jelly about the size of a chocolate bar was found in the centre of the circle and originally mistaken for some kind of confectionery that had gone off.

Message

Then, last October, a BBC team looking at another circle added another puzzling piece to the jigsaw of data that suggested strange energy forces at work.

An unexplained blast of noise interrupted an interview with Delgado.

He said, "It was so loud the sound engineer tore off his headphones and I felt myself being physically moved by the energy force."

BBC producer, David Morgenstern, confirmed, "We picked up very powerful radio interference from the centre of the circle but, when we moved out, it disappeared."

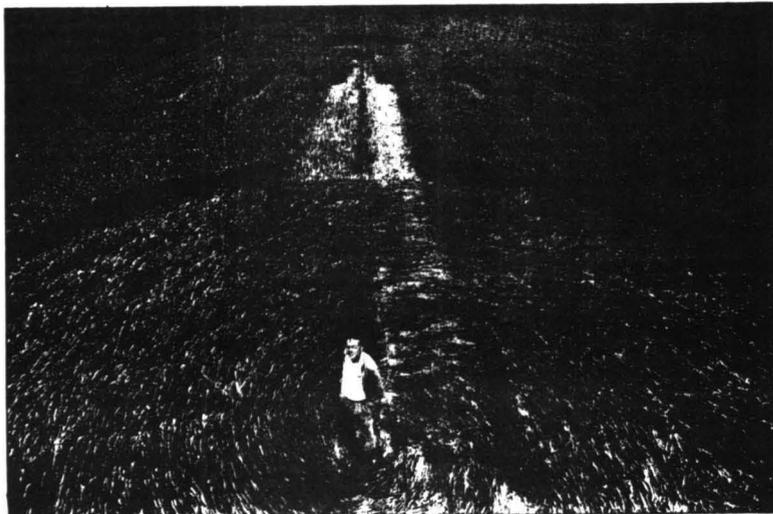
"BBC crews tend to be very cynical about this sort of thing but we were very taken aback."

Broadcasting House technicians spent weeks analysing the recording—but never succeeded in identifying the sound.

And, in the files in Andrews' garden-shed-cum-computer centre is a picture of the Devil's Punchbowl with a message written in bent but unbroken corn between the parallel lines left by the farmer's tractor.

Andrews and Delgado decided to leave it out of their book because they thought people would find it too difficult to believe.

It reads, "We are not alone".



THE mystery of the perfect circles that appear in cereal crops at this time of the year, has taken a new twist.

A field at Cheesefoot Head near Winchester which is regularly "visited" by the circle causing agent, is exhibiting the pattern seen in our picture (left).

Pat Delgado, a world authority on corn circles (pictured) says the marks are definite evidence of another intelligence. Visiting space craft are at the top of his list of explanations.

Another expert, however, says the circle was caused by a vortex descending the nearby escarpment — and the oblong shapes by hoaxing hippies.

Shapes other than circles, however, have been recorded by circle-watchers.

Further sightings reported in UFO mystery

FURTHER reports have been coming in from Taunton residents who claim to have seen a great ball of fire hovering over their homes.

Pensioner Eileen Manders, aged 72, last week told the *County Gazette* of her terror at seeing a blood-red ball gyrating outside her window at 2.40 am on Friday, April 27.

And Tony Dodd, of Quest International, who runs a 24-hour hotline for UFO sightings, appealed to readers to get in touch if they had seen anything unusual.

Since then he's had reports of two more sightings, at 2 am and 2.30 am the same morning. He told the *Gazette*: "There's a lot more to this than meets the eye."

In one incident a man saw "a huge ball of red light hovering over fields at about 30ft". The object started moving erratically before gliding away into the distance.

Another man was woken by his dog barking, and found it cowering under a bed.

And in a further incident, believed to have happened the same morning, a woman and her son also reported seeing a huge red ball of light in the sky over Taunton.

Mr Dodd said the RAF confirmed that objects had been tracked on its radar equipment at the time the incidents happened.

He said: "I think this is just the tip of the iceberg. I am certain there are a lot more people who haven't yet come forward."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Mr Dodd on 0756 752216.

KAY HILL encounters a group that keeps track of flying saucers

UFOs that bring nasty grey men from the sky

ALIEN eyes are watching us and they are not all friendly — that's the chilling conclusion of UFO investigators in Essex who have studied thousands of close encounters across the county.

Those of us who have never seen anything in the sky but stars and passing 747s are inclined to think that UFOs are a phenomenon seen only by impressionable teenagers, long-haired hippies and those on their way home from the local pub.



RON West, UFO spotter and investigator

But the sheer volume of sightings in the Essex area demands a closer, more serious look.

The most recent recorded sighting was of a ball of orange light which hovered over Westcliff at lam on Sunday and was reported by two men who cannot be named but were 'on duty' at the time.

The East Anglian UFO and Paranormal Research Association, founded in 1988, investigated in that year alone 1,600 reports of strange objects in the sky, 1,100 of them in Essex.

Three quarters of these turned out to be aircraft, satellites, the planet Venus or meteorites, but

387 ordinary, sensible people saw things that science has so far been unable to explain.

Out of these reports, all of which are officially recorded as Unidentified Flying Objects, 26 people also claimed to have seen the aliens piloting the craft and four say they were abducted and taken inside the spaceship.

Ron West, founder of East Anglian UFO, is not the sort of person you would expect to be investigating aliens. Aged 60, white-haired and down-to-earth, Ron talks about UFO sightings with the restrained enthusiasm you would expect from a bird-watcher or train-spotter.

His interest in the unexplained started when, as a teenager just after the war, he had what he would only term "an experience" of aliens. "It was more than just a sighting, but let's leave it at that," he said guardedly.

His press officer Sheridan Lane was more forthcoming about her close encounter as a nine-year-old girl in Middlesex when, she says, she was visited in her bedroom for three nights in a row by a silver cone-shaped light which hovered above her bed.

Sheridan, aged 44 and married with a young son, gives her strange testimony with mechanical detail as if she has told it many times before and still expects to be laughed at. She believes the strange light spoke to her telepathically and gave her a message which one day she will be able to remember.

Since then she, like Ron, claims to have seen several other phenomena and the pair have dedicated themselves to finding out more about the experiences that changed their lives.

The group runs a telephone hotline people can call at any time of the day or night if they think they have seen a UFO. They are asked to give their names and addresses and are called back

to check they are genuine. As often as possible Ron tries to get to the scene to take a look but if the sighting is over then the person who saw it is asked to fill in a detailed form describing exactly what they saw.

This often weeds out sightings with everyday causes and helps to build up a clearer picture of the unexplained ones.

Reported sightings seem to fall into several categories: Balls of light which could be any shape, cigars, saucers and triangles. "There are many different types visiting us," Sheridan said.

But if the strange lights and shapes are indeed alien craft, what exactly is visiting us? Ufologists differ wildly in their views. The average man in the street thinks that if flying saucers are buzzing the rooftops of Southend then they must have travelled millions of miles across the galaxy from other planets to get here.

The most common theory among investigators, however, and the one which Ron favours, is that

the visitors are coming from another dimension, a kind of parallel universe.

Some spaceships, he says, may indeed be from far-flung galaxies, but they travel through dimensions rather than actual distances, while other visitors may be inhabitants of the other dimensions — or even people from the future, our own descendants who have mastered the mysteries of time travel.

Other investigators have put forward an even more bizarre theory. They say that the UFO owners live on our own planet and that they are the pixies, elves, fairies and goblins of folklore and legends who are now hiding away inside the earth except for occasional forays out in the night skies.

Wherever they are thought to have come from, there is no shortage of reports of strange shapes hovering over the skies of South East Essex.

● The number of the UFO hotline is Basildon 286079. Every call is treated in strict confidence.



Have you seen this creature?

THIS is the face of what ufologists claim is mankind's greatest enemy — one of a breed of alien known as 'Greys'.

Sheridan said, with absolute sincerity: "The greys are a very serious threat to this planet."

The 26 people who claim to have seen aliens, known to investigators as contactees, reported several different kinds of creature, including tall, fair-haired human-looking ones.

For instance a husband and wife from the Colchester area both claim to have been visited by a "slender, shining man with six fingers and fair hair" who could walk through walls and took them inside a spacecraft before telling them that one day he would return.

But a large number — and all four who say they were abducted — say they experienced terrifying ordeals at the hands of the Greys, short and skeletal-looking with no teeth, only four fingers and a grey-tinged skin.

"They are doing genetic experiments," Sheridan said. She believes that the Greys kidnap and medically examine ordinary people and have been responsible for cases of cattle found mysteriously mutilated in America.

They have investigated four cases of abduction in this area where the reported details have all been similar. In one case a Southend businessman was driving home from work when he saw a light above his car. The next thing he knew he was nearly at his home but he was unaccountably three hours late, shivering and feeling sick.

He could not explain what had happened, but under hypnosis by a psychologist he recalled being lifted into the ship, intimately medically examined and having blood and other samples taken.

The investigators believe that the Government is well aware of the greys and their activities. In the past 30 years there have been numerous sightings of strange objects by pilots, military and civilian, as well as by policemen and other responsible citizens.

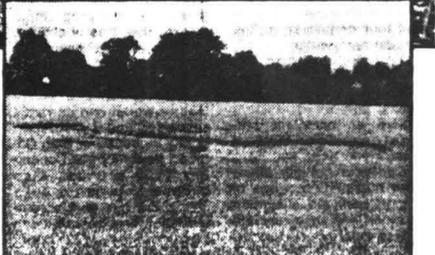
The official policy is one of silence on the subject.

But ufologists are convinced that the authorities know far more than they are prepared to reveal.

Cameras could capture the secret of the crop circles



CIRCULAR MYSTERY: Pat Delgado investigates the latest series of flattened crop shapes (inset) which have appeared in a field near the Devil's Punchbowl.



New twist to mystery of shapes in field

THE discovery of a formation which breaks all the rules has added a further twist to the mystery of the crop circles.

Two geometrically perfect circles of flattened crops have appeared in a field near Winchester — but the latest find has thrown any theories of a vortex back into the melting pot.

The new formation of oblong shapes is set to capture the imagination of many visitors to the field off the A272 near the Devil's Punchbowl with its peculiar features and enormous size.

Report by Emma Corlett

"There has been this theory about whirlwinds, but this ridicules the whole idea because here we have long rectangles," said Alresford man Pat Delgado, who has made numerous studies and written a book on his findings.

The 46m long crop formation consists of a huge circle with a rectangular shape attached. At the end of the "box" is an adjoining smaller rectangle with a curved end.

At the tip, a few feet away, is a smaller circle with the unripe crop flattened into perfect spirals swirling in a clockwise direction.

Either side of the main rectangular body area are pairs of long thin rectangles, with comb-shaped edges.

Many people have blamed UFOs or publicity-seeking vandals for the mystery rings experienced worldwide. But they have also captured the attention of scientists, astronomers, engineers, teachers and doctors.

● Research for unravelling the mystery could take a step forward next month with the planned installation of 24-hour surveillance equipment at one of the known formation sites in Britain.

Scientists to meet on 'magic' circle mystery

THE first international conference on the baffling phenomenon of crop circles will take place later this month at Oxford Polytechnic.

Experts on unidentified flying objects will join meteorologists and other scientists at the conference on June 23 in studying the nature and likely cause of the circles.

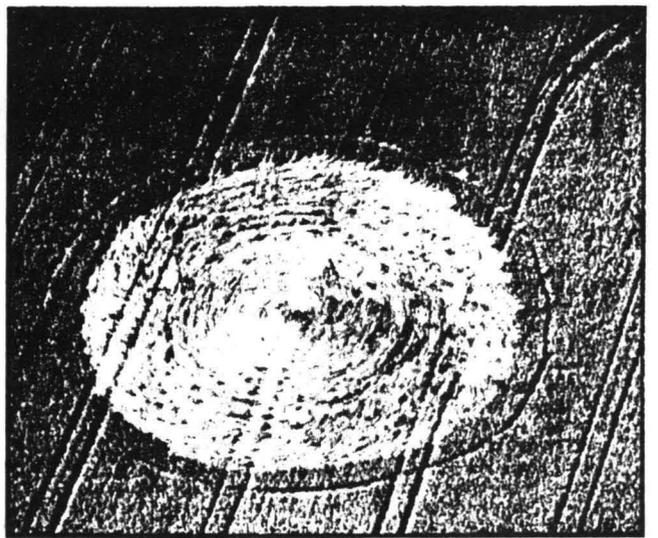
Also there will be pilot Mr Busty Taylor who will present a video compilation of aerial and ground photographs he has taken of the puzzling circles of flattened crops which are now regularly reported in Britain.

An Oxford Polytechnic spokesman said that 850 circles had so far been documented - nearly 300 during last summer.

He added that 1990 looked like being a vintage year.



Unexplained phenomenon... small crop circles appear to form a geometrical pattern around a larger circle



Swirling mystery... a circle in a crop field appears to have a halo around it

DAILY POST, Liverpool, England - May 31, 1990 CR: T. Good

Have aliens landed at farm ?



Pat Coulson stands inside one of the mysterious rings

Mysterious rings appear in fields

by Gareth Hughes

THE owners of a small Clwyd farm are wondering if they have had alien visitors in the middle of the night.

Derek and Pat Coulson of Foel Farm, Llanfair Talhaiarn, near Abergelle, are puzzled by the sudden appearance of three clear circles in one of their fields.

Pat spotted the rings of scorched grass while out walking one morning and is convinced that she would have seen them had they been there before.

Two of them are about eight feet across and the third about 12 feet, and they form a triangle.

The Coulsons have lived at Foel Farm for only three years but the previous owner said neither he nor

his father who lived there before had ever seen anything like them.

"So far no-one seems to have any explanation. It may be that we have had a UFO here - but one leg must have been bigger than the others," laughed Pat.

But Prof Tony Bradshaw, a scientist at Liverpool University, believes he has an explanation.

Fungus

He said: "They will almost certainly be fairy rings. These are caused by fungus which spreads out from an original spot in a circle.

"When it is growing through the soil, breaking down the organic matter, it disturbs the grass which tends to turn brown." And the dry weather makes them easier to spot.

UFO experts shed light on phenomena

By STAFF REPORTER

STARRY-eyed UFO fans gathered at Oxford's Town Hall on Saturday for an out of this world experience.

Passers-by and hard-core enthusiasts listened to mysterious tales of a spaceship over Otmoor and lights seen around Kidlington at the Contact International UK meeting.

And the New Marston-based UFO group revealed scientific documentary proof of sightings, as well as light-hearted cartoon.

Despite the fact that UFO sightings are often treated with suspicion, the group still get 50 reports a month.

UK chairman, Michael Soper said: "We have over 80,000 cases from all over the world on file, but only one in 10 is really inexplicable because we do take a very scientific approach.

"The recent release of American official documents has lent us credibility because they show such definite proof. We no longer have to strive to prove the phenomena."

Mr Soper said Oxford is a good place for UFO sightings. He added: "We used to get a lot of hoax calls from the Abingdon area, and when Venus is bright people get confused.

"But last year some Oxfordshire girls saw a light in a nearby field and later discovered there were melted rocks there which had been unusually carbonised. It's difficult to explain away."

Vice-president Geoff Ambler added: "We don't have little green men in our association. But we want to make friends if they are coming here."

All sightings which include reports of visitors have been in country areas, leading the experts to believe that they come to collect and study plant and animal life.

CR: B. Delair

Circles of mystery

I REFER to the article 'New Probe into UFO Mystery' (Independent, May 27), regarding the mysterious crop circles. 290 of which were reported in this country alone last year.

Reportings have poured in from many other countries.

The major new investigation which has been launched in this country

is in conjunction with BBC TV Daytime Live programme where all genuine reports are welcome at BBC Pebble Mill, Daytime Live, Birmingham B5 7QQ, (attn D. Morganstern) and the two world experts on the phenomena involved are Pat Delgado (tel 0962 733151) and Colin Andrews of Andover (tel 0264 58402).

Some of the articles are huge; none of the crop is broken but car-

ries on growing; intricate patterns are made and are getting more precise and intriguing each year.

Many of us believe the circles are being formed by an advanced intelligence which is trying to impart some vital information to the planet Earth at a critical time in its history.

Mrs MARILYN PRESTON EVANS, Saltash, Cornwall.

NFU acts to block circle snoopers

GUIDELINES have been drawn up to protect Hampshire farmers from people who flock to see mystery crop circles.

Reports of the strange patterns in fields have continued to flood in since the first sightings in Wessex ten years ago.

And now the National Farmers' Union has had to act to protect its members' interests and prevent damage getting out of hand.

Organizations involved in researching the circles, largely confined to Hampshire and Wiltshire, have agreed the N.F.U. guidelines drawn up by William White, technical adviser for the N.F.U.'s South East region.

The idea is to restrict information when a new circle is spotted and limit the number of people rushing to the area.

There are various theories behind the appearance of the circles, ranging from whirlwinds,

U.F.O.s, force fields and sun-spots, to large numbers of mating hedgehogs.

Sceptics have also pointed out that many of the mysterious patterns appear late on Friday and Saturday nights, shortly after pub closing time.

Freelance journalist John Dodd from South Harting pulled the wool over the experts' eyes after creating two circles one night.

Mr. Dodd and two friends hammered a stake in to the

ground, used a rope attached to it to walk round and round and flattened corn in a farmer's field. They made another circle outside it by walking in the opposite direction.

Experts claimed the circle was genuine until Mr. Dodd confessed. But he swears he has not been involved in any others since.

One of the prime sites for the circles has been Cheesefoot Head near Winchester. The N.F.U.

guidelines are designed to protect that sort of area

Mr. White said: "We wanted to try to instill some responsibility in those people who are working on behalf of the research bodies. I'm not saying that damage is going to be catastrophic but we did not want it to get out of hand."

The N.F.U. finally acted after articles on the BBC Daytime Live programme. It has set up "Cropwatch," urging people to

inform it about mysterious circles.

The N.F.U. code of conduct warns about trespass and asks researchers to consider whether they need to go on the land, have their permission and have they tried to find the farmer.

The guidelines have been agreed by Circles Phenomenon Research, the Centre For Crop Circles Studies and the Circles Investigation Group among others.

Corn circles baffle experts

THE overnight appearance of eight circles in a field of corn on a Bickington farm has baffled the farmer, police and nearby residents.

What caused the 40ft-diameter circle in the centre with seven 10ft diameter circles forming a symmetrical ring around the outside is a mystery.

Was it a supernatural phenomenon, maybe a UFO slipping in to collect a few samples of soil, a wind vortex, or possibly, what many believe the most likely answer, the work of practical jokers?

If it was jokers they carried out their task in expert fashion on a moonlit

It is really weird,' said 46-year-old Mr Callard.

Farmer's wife Mrs Lyndi Westcott said there were no burn marks in the circles and nobody heard anything.

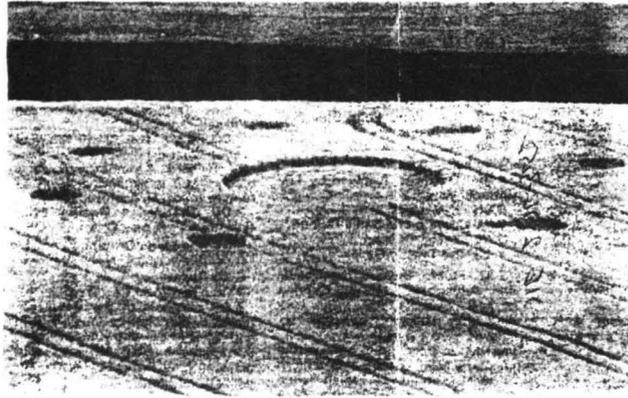
'My father drove along the lane which passes the field at 5am and neither heard nor saw anything,' she said. But Mrs Westcott and her husband are not jumping to any conclusions.

Convinced

They reported the find to Ashburton police, who after taking a look promptly passed the facts on to UFO experts.

The Westcotts have never had anything like it appear on their 200-acre farm before but are keeping an open mind and have not ruled out the possibility that it might be an elaborate practical joke.

On Tuesday members of a Cornish UFO group who visited the site reported to Mrs Westcott that they were 'absolutely convinced' the circles were not man-made and revealed there had been



The circles show up vividly in the cornfield at Little Chipley Farm, Bickington.

two reported sightings of UFOs in the South Devon area on Sunday.

Vortex

But Mr Robert Moore, of East Huntspill, Somerset, who records and researches sightings for the South West UFO Network, ruled out any possibility that the circles were the result of the landing of an 'alien' spacecraft.

'It is possible it is a plasma vortex, a phenomenon related to whirlwinds

and tornados which occur particularly during hot spells,' he said.

'The corn has been flattened or swept in one direction but unless it is the work of pranksters it is a new circle formation, with a large circle surrounded by seven satellites.

Spiral

'Usually the plasma vortex circles are four in a cross or Scottish cross formation,' said Mr Moore. Dr Terence Meaden, of

Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, who runs TORRO - The Tornado and Storm Research Organisation - and CERES - The Circles Research unit - admitted from descriptions he had heard of the circles there was a possibility it was a practical joke.

He said every plasma vortex was a very complex affair. It was a spinning volume of air coming out of the sky which was heavily electrified and lifted and flattened corn

or straw in a spiral.

There was a second spiral underneath and the crop in the circle screwed and twisted. There was a centre with the corn swirling away in a clockwise direction to a sharp edge.

'It is a very attractive phenomenon. In daylight one would see the corn being flattened very quickly, and at night you would witness a faint large ball of light spinning downwards and literally screwing itself into the crop and soil,' said Dr Meaden.

Conference

He added that from reports he had received he got the impression that it might have been trampled by people.

Already this year Dr Meaden has examined over 100 circles which have mainly appeared in Wiltshire, Hampshire and Sussex, and since 1980 has seen 1,000.

Next week there is a one-day conference on the subject of the circles at Oxford.

Many people have visited the area this week, but an appeal has gone out: please do not go into the field and trample the farmer's crops, for obvious reasons.

By JOHN BALMENT

night on Sunday, unseen and unheard, and left without trampling the surrounding corn down.

The corn circles appeared at the top corner of the field at Little Chipley Farm, close to a narrow country lane overlooking the Dartmoor Halfway public house and restaurant and the main Newton Abbot-Ashburton road.

When landlady Mrs Marlene Huggins looked out of the kitchen window at 8am on Sunday and saw the circles she thought she was seeing things.

'I thought at first that the farmer, Mr Fred Westcott, had been trying out a new machine,' she said.

Her husband Barrie rang Mr Westcott to say 'a flying saucer had landed in his cornfield,' and then explained that he was serious and that something strange had happened there.

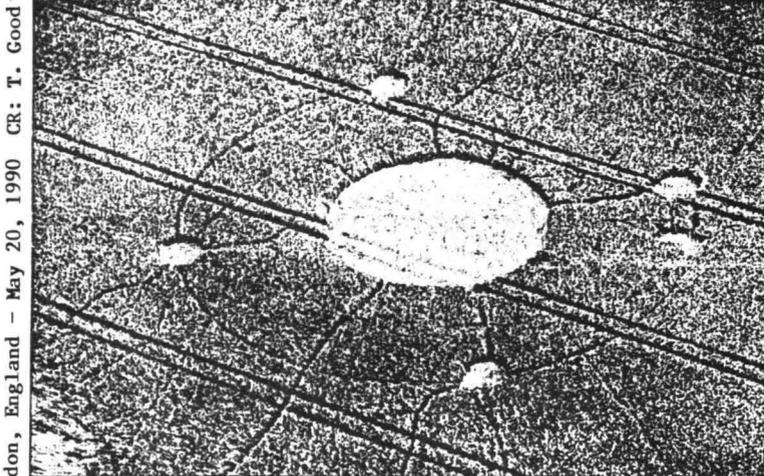
Mystifying

'It was the early hours before we went to bed and there was nothing there then and we never heard a thing. We are completely baffled by it all,' she said.

Mr Tony Callard, of Broadpark, Bovey Tracey, who runs his Old Well Trees and Shrubs business with his partner Mr Mike Ware, of Applegarth Avenue, Newton Abbot, in a field on the opposite side of the main road, said his wife Liz spotted the circles when they visited their land on Sunday morning.

'It is mystifying. It appears all the corn in the circles is laid down anticlockwise.

'There were tractor marks up and down the field where the farmer checks for weeds, but on Sunday there did not appear to be any footmarks linking any of the circles.



OBSERVER, London, England - May 20, 1990 CR: T. Good

Could freak weather have caused these circles near Winchester in 1987? Photograph by Andrew Hasson.

Clue to mystery of circles

Meteorology And Spicer

JAPANESE and British meteorologists are investigating a link between a fast-moving object crossing the Pacific and the mysterious appearance of crop circles in English fields.

A ship from Tokyo University's Ocean Research Institute was in the Pacific when its radar equipment located a large object travelling more than four times the speed of sound. The radar discounted it as an aircraft because of its size, 400 metres across, and it sped northwards.

The Japanese scientists identified the object as a plasma vortex, caused by freak weather. This phenomena is similar to

ball lightning and believed to be generated by 'mini-tornadoes' of electrically-charged air.

Plasma vortices can be luminous at night. 'They are often mistaken for UFOs,' says Dr Terence Meaden, director of the Oxford-based Tornado and Storm Research Organisation.

What is new is the linking of these Japanese sightings with the curious perfect circles of flattened crops which have appeared overnight in cornfields in Europe, America and Japan.

Dr Meaden believes that the circles are caused by the breakdown of plasma vortices, similar to those observed crossing the Pacific. With the help of a physicist, Professor Yoshi-Hiko Ohtsuki of Waseda University, Tokyo, he has identified the

conditions for the formation of a vortex and studied records of crop circle sightings.

The air needs to be stable if a vortex is to be formed. 'A quiet summer's night, when the air is still, is ideal,' Dr Meaden says. A light wind builds up, sometimes from a cold front, and replaces the placid air.

When the wind reaches a hill it sweeps round and over it, creating eddies, and a vortex is formed from the air turbulence a few miles downwind. The circles are pressed into the crops when the vortex collapses and dives into the ground.

Evidence to back this theory comes from work in Professor Ohtsuki's laboratory in Japan. Details are to be given at a conference in Oxford on 23 June.

UFO dismissed in crop probe

SUNDAY MAIL, Adelaide, S.A., Australia - June 24, 1990

CR: P. Norman

LONDON: Scientists from as far as Japan were arriving in Oxford yesterday to hear a scientific explanation of mysterious circles which form in cereal crops.

Dr Terence Meaden, the founder of a circles effect research group, is convinced the record number of rings in flattened corn were caused by downward columns of spinning air, with possible build-ups of electric charges.

The Centre for Crop Circle Studies does not entirely agree, but has dismissed "any flying saucer nonsense".

When moon shine glows over Dungloe . . .

IRISH NEWS, Belfast, Ireland Dec. 1, 1989 CR: T. Good

EXPERTS have been alerted to probe the mysterious "flying moon" object that skimmed the Crannagiggy Mountain peaks, near Dungloe in the Donegal Gaeltacht on several occasions during the past week.

At least five people in scattered villages in North West Donegal, have reported seeing the circular object of moon size, rising suddenly from behind these mountain ranges and emitting a bright golden coloured light. Those who experienced the strange sight described the illumination as pleasant to watch and in no way dazzling and not hurtful to the naked eye.

All are agreed that it was in no way frightening.

By James Hemmings

After a slow motion across the mountain peaks, it came to a halt, and then slowly vanished behind the hills.

James Hemmings who was attracted to the mysterious "moon" as he was driving his car towards the village of Crolly, stated that the entire apparition lasted less than a minute.

He explained: "I stopped the car to get a better glimpse of this phenomenal occurrence, and it suddenly re-appeared. As it did so, it moved slowly and erratically across the mountain peaks and after

about 30 seconds it vanished below the back of the hill tops entirely.

"I wasn't at all frightened, but I was certainly mystified at such a phenomenon as a "dancing moon."

Archie Dunlop described how he was attracted to the heavenly light similar to the moon as it danced and pranced as it crosses the mountains. He said that it was not an "eye blinding" light and kept bouncing along the mountain peaks for a short time and then disappeared.

Those who witnessed the 'marvel' are emphatic that it was not a satellite and were agreed that it was below cloud level.

HAMPSHIRE CHRONICLE, Winchester, England June 15, 1990

Len's shuttlecock in the sky one of Hampshire's UFOs

On a cloudless January evening in 1988, off-duty policeman Len Haffenden was walking his dog near his Holybourne home.

Suddenly, his attention was taken by an intense white light in the sky, far brighter than any aircraft lights.

The object descended until it was about 30 degrees from the ground where it stopped and hovered again.

Len decided to take a chance on the mystery object disappearing and dashed home for his binoculars to get a better view.

He later described what he saw through his binoculars as a shuttlecock with a very bright light in the centre and a cone of misty fluorescence trailing behind.

Len's wife and their son also saw the object before it accelerated towards the horizon, lost to view in a blink of a cloud.

Len's "shuttlecock in the sky" is one of the sightings of unexplained objects in a newly published book, "UFOs Over Hampshire and the Isle of Wight."

Author Mr. Robert Price looks back on UFO activity witnessed in the county over the last 50 years, studying what would appear to be genuine encounters in a logical and painstaking manner, drawing his own conclusions and inviting his reader not to rule out the possibility that the inhabitants of another planet may have mastered the art of interstellar travel.

It may be significant, he suggests, that those regularly appearing crop circles at Cheesefoot Head, near Winchester, are not far from Chilcomb where Hampshire's most celebrated "close encounter" was reported on November 14th, 1976.

"UFOs Over Hampshire and the Isle of Wight," by Robert Price, is published by Ensign Publications, price £5.95.

CR: T. Good

YORKSHIRE GAZETTE, York, England - June 7, 1990 CR: T. Good

TOWN TALK

Des Reed



MOST people are intrigued by the unexplained. UFO's have been laughed at for years, yet the mature thinkers do take them seriously. Now we find the crop circles have hit the headlines with the publishing of a most compelling book on the subject.

Circles in different patterns, up to sixty feet diameter suddenly appear in the middle of growing crops, sometimes a pattern of five, other times three or maybe a single, with the crop laid down in a different pattern each time. Unexplainable so far.

The farmers' dogs are frightened to go near them, and there are some stories which send shivers down the spine when one reads of the experiences of folk who have visited them, just ordinary farmers and their wives. Mostly in the south and south west but I'm keeping an eye open - one never knows.

No - its not fungi - read all about it, and you won't put the book down until the last page, for the hundred or so photographs are both mysterious and beautiful.

Grass rings fuel flights of fancy

FLIGHTS of fancy over the appearance of three large circles of burnt grass in a remote hilltop farm have been brought back to earth with a bump.

The rings which appeared at a Llanfair TH farm fuelled rumours that UFO's have landed but science officers have come up with a more logical explanation.

Fungus
Scientific liaison officer of the Welsh Plant Breeding Centre in Aberystwyth, Ms Pat Twigg, suggested the rings may have been caused by an underground fungus similar to that which produces fairy rings in lawns.

"A pathologist would need to carry out detailed tests, but the yellow brownish grass may have been caused by the fungus underground taking nutrition from the roots of the grass and rotting it."

The rings were discovered by Mrs Pat Coulson, who has lived at Foel farm, Llanfair TH with husband Derek, for the past three years.

She says the circles appeared literally overnight in a field where some of their cattle graze.

"I went out for a walk in the field about four weeks ago and came across them. I just thought where on earth have they come from," she said.

"The grass looked as though it had been burnt, it was brown and

yellow, a bit like hay. It does tend to make you think of UFOs, but there may be some natural explanation."

The three circles are around 10 to 12 feet in diameter and one is slightly smaller than the others. The outlines have a distinct edge which are about a foot wide and they are arranged in a triangular pattern about four or five yards apart.

Pattern
Dr Tony Jones, lecturer in Earth Studies at the University of Aberystwyth, thought that the marks might have been caused a mini whirlwind bouncing on the earth. The circles have raised a lot of interest amongst local ufologists.



Mrs Pat Coulson sits inside one of the large rings which mysteriously appeared

One of them, Mr John Roberts from Prestatyn, has taken some samples from the "burnt" areas which he intends to send to a soil expert for analysis.

He said: "It's a very interesting report, but I'm keeping an open mind as they could have been caused by a number of factors. You

can either have fungus or a change in soil state such as acidity."

Sightings of these mysterious rings have been made in different parts of the country.

A similar phenomenon regularly occurs in the cornfields of the Salisbury plains where crops become sharply indented in the shape of rings.



MOLD & DEESIDE MIDWEEK LEADER, Wales June 4, 1990 CR: T. Good

Mrs Pat Coulson stands in one of the mysterious circles found on her farm at Llanfair Talhalarn.

NORTH WALES PIONEER, Colwyn Bay, Wales - June 7, 1990 CR: T. Good

Scorched circles: Expert will probe farm UFO link

AN EXPERT on UFOs is to visit a farm where mysterious scorched circles have appeared in the grass.

Mrs Margaret Fry lives a few miles from Voel Farm, Llanfair T.H., Abergel, but is now staying in Sussex. She is the Wales representative of

BUFORA — the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association.

Mrs Fry, of Llanfrynwg, said: "This is most exciting."

"Obviously I do not know what caused the circles, but want to research them, and take soil samples.

"I will be back home on Tuesday, and plan to see for myself."

Mrs Pat Coulson of Voel Farm has no idea what caused the triangle of circles on her 33 acre mixed farm 900 feet up on the Denbigh Moors.

She spotted them a few weeks ago, but said

nothing for a time because she thought people would laugh.

The circles are now fading, but can still be seen.

There has been no explanation for circles of flattened crops which have also appeared in cornfields in the West Country in recent years, but many people are convinced they were caused by flying saucers landing.

Mrs Fry says she is at present looking into a sighting of a strange object by three motorists near Bala on January 11 this year.

"There had been some unusual sightings on the Denbigh Moors, and in one case a farmer was chased to his door by a UFO, but had been reluctant to discuss what happened."

HISTORY MYSTERY

RICHARD HOLLAND

THE mysterious circles of scorched grass found on a farm on the Denbigh Moors recently has sparked a great deal of talk about UFOs.

Most people assume that the Unidentified Flying Object phenomenon is a recent one, dating from the Flying Saucer craze of the 1950's, when everyone was urged to "keep watching the skies," but in fact UFO-type sightings date back many hundreds of years.

In Welsh tradition they are called tan-we, a "fiery web". The tan-we is described as a "straight and long" light in the night sky which moves in a straight line for three or four miles, lighting the air around it and the ground beneath it.

"When it falls to the ground" — states an old account — "it sparkleth and lighteth all about." They tended to descend on the land of recently deceased persons.

On December 20, 1661, a woman travelling over a common at the village of Weston in old Montgomeryshire fell off her horse in terror at the sight of a "blazing star, which she and six men with her saw, sometimes white and sometimes red,

with a tail like an arrow, which seemed to hang just over their heads."

Another UFO landed at Buckley in the 1880's. A fierce dispute had erupted over wages in the Buckley Collieries, and the miners went on strike. So poor did these miners become that they were forced to take up poaching to find food for their families.

Hovering

A group of miners were poaching on land near Padeswood one moonless night when they suddenly felt as if they were being watched. One chanced to look up, and there, hovering above them, was a large, purplish red luminous ball.

They dived for cover and hid under a hedge. Eventually, they raised their heads to take a look, just in time to see "a swirling ball of smoke, with small tongues of flame issuing from the base" ascending into the heavens.

Several weeks later the miners plucked up the courage to revisit the site of the landing, and there they found a circle of scorched grass, just like those found on the Denbigh Moors. There are several people living in

Buckley today who can remember their grandparents recounting this story to them as firsthand witnesses.

The mysterious circles are interesting in that not so long ago country folk would have described them as "Fairy Rings", believing them to be impressions caused by round dances performed by the Fairies at night.

Fairies and UFOs are sometimes linked. A folk tale from the Penrhyn-deudraeth area tells of a man watching the descent of "a brilliant meteor" followed by a "hoop of fire." Out of this hoop stepped two little people. They began to dance and were soon joined by other small folk, and they all danced in a ring.

This is just a smattering of old accounts of what we today would call a "Close Encounter." Perhaps one day the mystery of UFO sightings will be solved, but until then — Keep Watching The Skies!

Richard Holland is the author of *Supernatural Clwyd; the Folk Tales of North-East Wales* published by Gwasg Carreg Gwalch at £4.50.

WESTERN GAZETTE, Yeovil, Somerset, England

June 14, 1990 CR: T. Good

Help solve a mystery

I AM currently doing research towards my Master's thesis on the "corn circles" that appear during the summer.

These circular formations primarily in crop fields have baffled both laymen and scientists for the last decade. I am interested in

discovering whether the formations occur in Somerset and Dorset in the numbers that they do elsewhere in the South of England.

Consequently, I would like to appeal to your readers to send any information that they chance across to me at the address below — no

matter how obscure or trivial it may seem.

I would like to make a special plea to the farmers themselves as I can assure them that I will not divulge any information that may lead to people tramping across their crops. As far as I know no one has investigated the circles here before. — BRUCE MASON, 129 Freston Road, Yeovil.

Encounter of a corny kind!

☆ LOOPY Chad Jackson has been out hunting aliens from outer space. The madcap re-mix star, who is charging up the charts with dancefloor smash Hear The Drummer, says he came close to meeting them when he took a walk in the Wiltshire countryside one night last week.

Chad — who swears he was sober and, in fact, never drinks alcohol — says: "I noticed a bright light in the woods. I wandered over to take a look but as I got there the light went out and I could smell burning. "I went back with my mate the following morning and we walked past a corn field, we saw three huge circles of flattened corn which hadn't been there the day before."

DAILY STAR, London, England June 12, 1990 CR: T. Good

UFO tests on farm rings

UFO researchers say they have found weird, unexplained markings in paddocks in north-western Victoria.

And they claim 400 mysterious rings found over 60 sq km of Mallee land bear an uncanny likeness to unidentified patterns on Mars.

The Victorian UFO Research Society plan to research and test for the "ring phenomenon" next month with the help of leading British UFO researchers.

A Society researcher, Mr John Auchetti, said most of

By TERRY BROWN

the rings were spotted on the ground although some formed three-dimensional patterns in the air.

He said they were found by chance while checking 12 sites where growing wheat had been flattened in a circular pattern on the "Jolly Farm" south of Ouyen.

"Wheat rings" were areas where wheat was bent but not damaged and where the magnetic characteristics of the soil were altered and the ground compressed to the

hardness of a brick. Mr Auchetti said.

Australian Skeptics spokesman Dr Steve Roberts said he strongly doubted any supernatural involvement in the wheat rings or the other "ring phenomenon".

He said it was more likely they were caused by barrel-rolling pranksters than UFOs.

"They always occur at night and the whole thing is suspect," he said.

But Dr Roberts admitted he would like to find out more about the claims of layered rings reaching into the air.

Mr Auchetti said a special

camera which took layered pictures from the ground surface to 615 m found sets of layers of rings.

"It's something like a multi-storey carpark, though it's hard to describe in words," Mr Auchetti said.

"We're excited but we can't find records of this anywhere."

He said the find was "like science fiction come true".

"We cannot explain it and have no idea where it's going or what it is."

"It is as if we have been able to look into another world

remote from us, however, from within our world."

He said the society found 79 rings in a 1 sq km paddock, some as big as 35 m across.

And the society drew an eerie parallel with markings spotted on Mars.

They said before the Russian space-probe Probos 2 mysteriously vanished, it identified similar, but larger, circles either on the Martian surface or in its lower atmosphere.

The society, formed in 1957, claims to have 110 scientific consultants and 450 members from all walks of life.

HERTFORDSHIRE MERCURY, Hertford, England - March 30, 1990 CR: T. Good

Mystery sky lights baffle and bemuse villagers

FOR about two hours last Thursday evening a mystery "invader" of the skies baffled, bemused and alarmed a family at Standon.

After staring at the "thing" — which had two extremely bright lights — for a while from her garden in Aston Road, Mrs Sandra Frostick went over to her mother's house in Braughing where she got another, clearer view of it.

It was also seen by Mrs Frostick's 18-year-old son Chris and young son Adam, aged nine, and Chris' girlfriend, Diane, who were confused and amazed at the bright spectre in the March sky. She hopes also to have captured it on film.

"She said the lights were really bright and were greenish with a red light on the top, "and it was hovering slightly. There was no noise and I must say it frightened me."

She and Diane were convinced that it was a UFO. Her teenage son was not so sure, she said. Then at about 10pm it disappeared.

The Ministry of Defence which deals with inquiries about UFO sightings, said they had had a lot of reports about laser lights — like the type used at pop concerts — reflecting off the clouds and giving a peculiar effect.

METRO NEWS, Manchester, England - Jan. 19, 1990 CR: T. Good

A conspiracy of silence over UFOs

CLOSE encounters of the weird kind are meat and drink to a man who combines a successful career as a session musician with careful scrutiny of the night skies.

UFO expert Timothy Good has been fascinated by things extraterrestrial since the age of 15 — when he read a book on the subject.

More than 30 years later, his Kent home is stacked with letters and documents all vindicating his claims that Governments worldwide are covering up the truth about alien visitors.

"I have no doubt whatsoever that Government intelligence on a global scale is concerned with UFOs. It may be for national security, it may be because of fears that people will panic. But hundreds of thousands of documents on the subject are being withheld."

Stephen Spielberg's SF epics have probably etched forever the "ET" image in most people's minds as the inter-galactic stereotype.

But says Timothy: "I do have reports from people who have seen

by Susan Press

what we usually call "aliens." They are humanoid in appearance, about four foot tall, with large eyes and heads lacking nose, mouth or ears."

Nonsense? Perhaps. But if you're sceptical take a look at Mr Good's lengthy tome on an alleged UFO which crash-landed in New Mexico in 1947.

Above Top Secret looks into the CIA "cover-up" which meant American scientists and pathologists were apparently carrying out post-mortems on the alien creatures — and busily denying they had ever existed!

He's also edited a book — The UFO Report — which is into its second printing after zooming straight to the top of the best-seller lists.

"There's a conspiracy of silence from all Governments, though, interestingly the Soviet Union is opening up and releasing details of UFO sightings. But the weight of evidence is on our side."

Timothy's major problem con-



Convinced "ET's" of all kinds could be phoning home—UFO researcher Timothy Good.

vincing the universe lies in his time-consuming role as backing man behind such megastars as Tina Turner, Wet Wet Wet, and Tears For Fears.

But he says he's determined to carry on his quest to prove that "close encounters" aren't a fairytale.

HERALD EXPRESS, Torquay, Devon June 13, 1990

Mystery circles 'due to weather'

A RARE weather condition is now being put forward as the most likely cause of mystery circles that appeared in a South Devon cornfield.

Boffins claim the eight circles in perfectly symmetrical shape at Bickington, near Ashburton, were caused by a kind of tornado — and not UFO's!

Mr Robert Moore, a member of BUFORA (British UFO Research Organisation), has virtually ruled flying saucers out of his inquiries.

Somerset based Mr Moore told the Herald Express today the circles were caused by a kind of stationary whirlwind known as a plasma vortex.

He added: "I was checking through my records and believe this is the first sighting in South Devon. The small circles are unusual."

But Bickington farmers Fred and Lyndi Westcott, of Chipleigh Farm, suspect the eight circles — one 40ft in diameter — are nothing but a corny joke!

The circles were spotted early on Sunday morning on the Westcotts' land near the Dartmoor Half Way Inn.

Around a 40ft circle are seven 10ft diameter circles in perfect symmetrical shape.

Mrs Westcott said the owners of the Dartmoor Half Way Inn had alerted them to the puzzling discovery.

Mrs Westcott said: "This is amazing. It seems it would have to be a practical joke."

Mr Moore said the circles are similar to others that have mysteriously appeared in the Westcountry and in other parts of England.

CR: T. Good

DAILY POST, Liverpool, England - July 2, 1990

Alien mission - or a natural phenomenon?

Mystery circle is spotted in north

by Daily Post Reporter

A MYSTERY circle identical to crop circles baffling scientists in the south of England has appeared for the first time in a field of growing wheat in Cheshire.

The large circle was discovered several days ago by retired farmer, Mr Arthur Leech, taking his dogs for an early morning walk.

But its location at Lower Peover, between Northwich and Knutsford, was kept secret until yesterday because of fears that hordes of sightseers would trample the ground.

The circle in the 10-acre crop of wheat is the first identified in Cheshire and only the second found so far North.

Scientists are carrying out

research into the appearance of the circles in Wiltshire and Germany.

It is thought they are possibly an entirely natural phenomena occurring in certain weather conditions.

But investigators into extraterrestrial activity and UFOs are convinced they result from surveying missions to earth from other planets.

Electricity
Electricity went off in the Peover area for 30 seconds several hours before the circle was found.

Arthur, 72, whose family farmed in the area for over a century, said the wheat in the circle pressed flat in a clockwise direction but the ears were undamaged.

"When I first saw it I thought the cattle had got into the field, but

then I realised it was a complete circle," he said.

"There is no way animals or farm machinery could have done this."

The couple's 16th century black and white half timbered thatched cottage faces the field.

His wife, Norma, said: "It's all very odd. We heard nothing at all. A lot of people in the village say the lights went off. Our power didn't go off, but a bulb went out."

Another explanation for the circles is that they appear in fields containing archaeological remains.

Mrs Jill Burton, an archeologist who lives in the village, said there were no remains in the area to account for the phenomenon.

circles that form in cereal crops.

Mr Pat Delgado, an expert on the circles phenomena, disclosed that in the past month weird new patterns had appeared for the first time in several fields in Hampshire.

They include squares and half-rings together with wide "pathways" linking the more orthodox circles.

Mr Delgado, a retired NASA radar expert, said the latest discoveries put paid to whirlwind and similar theories that involve spinning forces.

Dr Terence Meaden, Wiltshire-based founder of a circles effect research group, had claimed at a scientific conference in Oxford this month that the circles were caused by downward columns of spinning air, with possible build-ups of electric charges.



Arthur Leech - baffled by the circle that appeared near his home



Probe Can't Debunk 'Wild Man' China May Harbor Humans' Cousin — Or Just A Legend

By MALCOLM W. BROWNE
New York Times

In the wilderness of Shennongjia Forest in central China, investigators are seeking an elusive creature that might be an unknown hominid or the product of farmers' imaginations.

Whatever it is, the "wild man" of China has given members of the International Society of Cryptozoology new food for thought.

The group doesn't dismiss the existence of the Loch Ness monster or the Himalayan yeti out of hand, but it's more interested right now in the "Tasmanian tiger," thought to have become extinct in 1936. Scientists who lead the group demand hard evidence supporting any claimed discovery of an unknown beast.

Chances of finding the monsters of popular myth are remote, members say. But there are almost certainly some unknown animals left — perhaps including the wild man.

In Hubei and nearby provinces, the "ye ren" — Chinese for "wild man," a 6-foot-tall manlike primate that has human features and knows how to weave bamboo — has inspired a legend as pervasive as the yeti's.

Two Americans — Dr. Frank Poirier, a professor of anthropology at Ohio State University, and Richard Greenwell, secretary of the International Society of Cryptozoology — recently returned from China, where they were shown some hints that the wild man might be real. Not entirely persuaded, they did say the evidence was provocative.

The main evidence, Poirier said, is a series of analyses by Chinese laboratories of a dozen hairs purportedly left by wild men in bushes, trees and on the ground. Biologists at Huadong Univer-

"This doesn't mean that wild men exist, but I must say, I am somewhat less skeptical than I was before going to China."

— Dr. Frank Poirier,
Ohio State University
anthropology professor

sity in Shanghai told Poirier and Greenwell that a scanning electron microscope had revealed the hairs to be characteristic of primates in general, but not of any known primate species.

And a chemical analysis found that the hairs' ratio of iron to zinc was characteristic of primates but higher than that of all known primates, including human beings.

Most biologists reject the possibility that ape-people or hominids other than human beings still exist.

Greenwell acknowledges that the Chinese hairs are unlikely to persuade many doubters. And Poirier dismisses most of the previous evidence brought forward by Chinese authorities to support claims that wild men exist.

But sightings have been recorded for some 2,500 years, he said, and images of the ye ren appear on many paintings and even ancient currency.

"This doesn't mean that wild men exist, but I must say, I am somewhat less skeptical than I was before going to China," Poirier said. "I still doubt the existence of those other famous creatures, the yeti, sasquatch and bigfoot."

An analysis of the DNA in the hairs might be helpful, Poirier said, and Chinese scientists have

said one is planned. But nothing short of an actual body or a live specimen of the creature would persuade most biologists, he said.

Chances are much better for finding animals believed to have become extinct or to have disappeared from certain habitats, Greenwell said.

The Tucson-based International Society of Cryptozoology is particularly interested at present in reported sightings of thylacines, or "Tasmanian tigers," in western and southeastern Australia.

The thylacine, a marsupial carnivore, is believed to have died out in mainland Australia several thousand years ago, but thylacines survived until modern times in nearby Tasmania.

The species is believed to have become extinct with the death of the last thylacine at the zoo in Hobart, Tasmania, in 1936.

Still, cryptozoologists are better known for their interest in such elusive or fanciful creatures as the Loch Ness monster and the "mokele-mbembe," a dinosaur supposed by some to be living in remote swampland in central Africa.

That's where the criticism comes from.

In 1984, two years after the International Society of Cryptozoology was founded, Dr. George Gaylord Simpson denounced cryptozoologists in general and searchers after yetis in particular.

"Humans are the most inventive, deceptive and gullible of all animals," wrote Simpson, now dead, who led many expeditions himself and was regarded as the dean of American paleontologists.

"Only those characteristics can explain the belief of some humans in creationism, in the arrival of UFOs or in some aspects of cryptozoology."

Hunt for Life 'Out There' May Be Cut by Congress

By David Perlman
Chronicle Science Editor

A hasty congressional debate over UFOs, little green men and the intelligence of Congress itself has threatened to wipe out America's long-standing scientific hunt for signs of intelligent life in the universe.

Only the Senate can save it now.

Little noticed in the welter of congressional budget actions last week, and with barely two dozen members on the floor, the House of Representatives voted to eliminate all funds from the space agency's program known around the world as SETI — the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence, which Congress has supported for nearly 20 years.

The action came during a brief floor discussion of the president's proposed \$15.1 billion NASA budget, which included \$12.1 million to advance the SETI program.

The House Appropriations Committee cut the SETI budget down to \$6.1 million, and the smaller amount seemed set for approval last week when, early in a morning session, freshman Representative Ronald K. Machtley, R-R.I., spoke up.

Machtley blasted the project as a waste of money in lean times and suggested scornfully that if Congress approved SETI, he would urge his own program called SCOTI — "the Search for Congressional Intelligence."

Tabloid Clippings

Then, backing Machtley, Representative Silvio O. Conte, R-Mass., produced a bundle of clippings from the sensational tabloids that sell heavily at supermarket checkout counters. A veteran of 32 years of House in-fighting, Conte argued that "we shouldn't be spending precious dollars to look for little green men with misshapen heads," and cited tabloid reports of green beams from a UFO that cured sick people in Turkey and another UFO that was frightened by blimps over Chicago.

The two-man congressional onslaught succeeded within minutes, and on a voice vote all funds for SETI were wiped out.

The Senate Commerce Committee has already authorized the full \$12.1 million for the program, but it must still face the Senate

Appropriations Subcommittee in debate later this month, and even if funds are approved by the full Senate, a Senate-House conference committee will have the final say.

Based in Mountain View

The SETI program is based at NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, and in recent years was supported by Congress at about \$2 million a year. Last year, however, major scientific advances in the equipment needed for SETI impelled Congress to raise the financing to \$4.2 million and called for even higher appropriations this year.

Astronomers have long believed that somewhere in this galaxy or another there may be planets where advanced civilizations could be signaling by radio to seek out other civilizations.

The scientists in the SETI program have now developed extraordinarily sensitive radio detectors using a unique computer chip that can scan signals of many different types on 14 million channels simultaneously. They had planned to launch their latest search symbolically in October of 1992, 500 years after Columbus discovered America, using powerful radio telescopes in Puerto Rico and West Virginia as well as the world-wide receivers of NASA's Deep Space Network.

Searches like SETI are also under way in Europe and the Soviet Union, and Frank Drake, a famed astronomer at the University of California at Santa Cruz, voiced dismay yesterday at the most recent Congressional action. Drake was the first American to search for extraterrestrial radio signals in a project called Ozma back in 1960. The hunt with relatively unsophisticated equipment heard nothing then, but Drake has been a leader in the field ever since.

"This vote is a real embarrassment for Congress if its members act in such a juvenile way," he said yesterday. "The SETI program is now extremely well-developed and with its new hardware it is all ready to go. We're going to look like fools in America if the program gets killed by congressmen acting in such a supercilious way when they know nothing about the program's value for science, for education, and for new technology."

SCOTSMAN, Edinburgh, Scotland

April 27, 1990 CR: H. Bauer/COUD-I

Nessie takes bow in time for the tourist season

NESSIE has apparently made her first appearance in time for the start of the tourist season.

The elusive inhabitant of Loch Ness was sighted on Monday morning by three hotel workers who were fishing on the shores of the Loch opposite Castle Urquhart.

Adrian Shine, a zoologist who compiles evidence about the Nessie phenomena, said he believed the men because their sighting wasn't the classic description of Nessie.

Head barman Mike Davis (26), of Mackintosh Road, Inverness, his 19-year-old brother Trevor, a commis chef who lives and works at the Loch Ness House Hotel and Jimmy MacIntyre, 27, a barman of Carngorm Terrace, Inverness, had spent Sunday fishing on the River Foyers.

On their return to Inverness on Monday morning, they decided to try their luck on the loch. Mike, who quickly insisted everyone was sober, said: "It was about 10:30 am and a mist was hanging over the loch. Then we saw what looked like a head peer through the water about a quarter of a mile from where we were standing.

"I thought it was a seal but then a neck slipped out of the water. It was about two to

three foot thick at its widest point and there was a large head, probably about the same size.

"It was quite frightening. We never believed in the monster before. The sightings were always at the start of the tourist season. However, this was no seal. It circled around for at least five minutes and I ran off to try and get my binoculars from the car. But by the time I returned it was gone."

Trevor added: "It was a shiny black but it was so far away we couldn't make out any features on its face.

"The body wasn't visible but you could see the water washing over it. It was a big beastie."

Adrian Shine, who is based at the Official Loch Ness Monster Exhibition at Drumadrochit, on the lochside, said this sighting was interesting and the reports were unusual and impressive.

He added: "The classic sighting is of a long thin neck and a small head but this is very different and quite believable. These lads are local, they are fishermen and know what seals look like and if they were falsifying, then it would be more likely they would come out with a description which tallies with the norm."

DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - March 28, 1990 CR: J. Fry/COUD-I

Yeti or not, climbers on way Team hopes to see Snowman on unclimbed Himalayan peak

Seattle Times

SEATTLE — Four veteran climbers flew from Seattle this week to test their skills against one of the last unclimbed Himalayan peaks — and just maybe to solve the mystery of the Abominable Snowman.

"Our purpose is to climb the mountain," said Jim Wickwire, 49, a Seattle lawyer who left on the trip Monday. If they run into the legendary "Yeti," it will be "a bonus to the trip," he added.

The team consists of Wickwire; John Roskelley, 41, Spokane, Wash., mountaineer and photographer; Greg Child, 32, Seattle climber and free-lance writer; and Jeff Duenwald, 47, a Spokane veterinarian and climber.

The team will assault 23,500-foot Mount Menlungtse, just inside Tibet on the Nepal border and about

30 miles west of the world's tallest peak, 29,000-foot Mount Everest.

Menlungtse is one of the most difficult peaks in the world to climb, with steep faces on all sides, Wickwire said.

"This is the area where in 1951 Eric Shipton, the British climber, found and photographed the most vivid footprints attributed to a Yeti," Wickwire said.

British expeditions to the Menlung Valley in 1987 and 1988 produced other evidence, but no Yeti sightings or photographs.

"No one has seen one of these creatures," Wickwire said.

If they exist, Wickwire doesn't think they are "human or subhuman." It's more likely some kind of primate, perhaps a species of bear, he said.

Wickwire doesn't think the Yeti and the legendary Pacific North-

west Sasquatch are related.

Reconstructions from footprints and other evidence place the Yeti at no taller than 6 feet 6 inches and weighing more than 440 pounds, while the Sasquatch has been pegged at more than 8 feet tall and up to 800 pounds.

Wickwire said the expedition had a budget of \$45,000. Major sponsors include the DuPont Co. and Burlington Fabrics.

"It would cost less if we didn't have to pay the Chinese to travel through Tibet," Wickwire said.

The ascent will be made without the use of supplemental oxygen, the climbers said. The foursome is carrying state-of-the-art climbing gear, including exceptionally light climbing boots, considered good for steep ice climbing.

As one quipster put it: "Yeti or not, here they come!"

Rash of animal mutilations blamed on satanic cults

By TOM DAVIDSON
Staff Writer

Investigation into animal mutilations which occurred on a southeastern Cabarrus County farm is under way, according to Cabarrus County Sheriff Robert Canaday.

George J. Breckner, of Rt. 4, Box 200, Biggers Road, Concord, told officers that sometime between Sunday and Wednesday, someone shot one of his cows and then removed its tongue and left eye. Breckner also reported a deer was found in the same general area, killed and with its tongue and left eye missing.

"To my knowledge, this is the first reported occurrence of something meeting this description," said Canaday. "We're just looking into it and see

what develops out of this situation. I don't know what it means."

At least one other cow was found on a nearby farm several months ago, mutilated in the same manner, but a report on that incident was not filed with law enforcement officials.

Betsy Carpenter, head of Cabarrus Animal Protection Association Inc., said even though she has not been called to investigate the Breckner case, she is investigating what she feels to be satanic cults in Cabarrus County which are spontaneously mutilating animals in a similar way.

"They (satanic cults) are definitely around here. I know it because I have investigated a number of mutilations," said Carpenter. She said in the past year, she has investigated eight such occurrences.

On one occasion, Carpenter said she investigated a sow, ready to give birth to piglets, that was found skinned and lying near Flowe Store Road. Only the sow's head and skin were there, she said, with its dead piglets removed and placed in a pattern on top of the sow's skin.

"You always have an odd number of hoofs left, all pointing in a certain direction," said Carpenter. She added the activity is hard to track down because it seems to be spontaneous and is drug related, most of the time involving high-school-aged youth.

One thing symbolic of Satan worship that Carpenter said she has seen is that perpetrators have taken a ballpoint pen and pressed the ink into the skin to make a home-made tattoo of an upside down

cross. She said many youths also wear earrings with the upside-down cross, she said.

As recently as Monday, Carpenter said she investigated an occult-type animal mutilation off St. John's Church Road. Carpenter said she found a deer's head and skin lying on a culvert, near an abandoned barn. One hoof was found lying near the skin, she added.

Carpenter also said she has investigated mutilations in Kannapolis, one case involving cats and another involving beagles. She said the beagles had their left eye removed, similar in pattern to the cow and deer mutilations which Breckner reported to the sheriff's department.

"These people are weird idiots," said Carpenter. "These people are sick and really dangerous, because you're dealing with people on drugs. They're not taking drugs because they are sick, but they're sick because they are taking drugs."

She said many people in the county do not believe satanic or occult-type activity is going on and increasing in the county, but it's something that is passing them by.

"It might not seem like a lot, but these cults are on the increase," Carpenter added. "Devil worship is wrong and ridiculous on the word 'go.' It's something else we've got to

Scientists at odds over 'iceball' theory of Earth's origin

BY KEAY DAVIDSON
San Francisco Examiner

You can't see them. You can't hear them. And, unless you become an astronaut, you'll never be hit by one.

But if Lou Frank is right, they're falling from space and splattering across our skies. They're small comets.

Since 1986, Frank has risked his scientific neck by defending an odd claim: Each year, millions of "iceballs" as big as houses are raining on Earth.

The University of Iowa space scientist and a handful of backers cite as evidence satellite photos of dark spots passing in front of Earth and mysterious fluctuations in the amount of water vapor in the upper atmosphere.

In response, Frank's colleagues smile and shake their heads. Frank, they say, is a solid researcher, but this time he's barking up the wrong tree. They dismiss the spots and his other evidence as technical flukes.

Ironically, one critic in the four-year debate is space scientist Alex Dessler - the journal editor who published Frank's original article on the small comets, but who now feels Frank's tiny comets do not exist.

It's all become an unusually emotional debate for the supposedly polite world of scientific inquiry.

It could get rougher this autumn. The space-science community already is abuzz with rumors about Frank's forthcoming book, "The Big Splash," a 224-page defense of his role in the controversy. It's co-authored with science writer Patrick Huyghe and, Frank says, "It will upset some people."

Here's the subtitle: "A Scientific Discovery That Revolutionizes the Way We View the Origin of Life, the Water We Drink, The Death of the Dinosaurs, The Creation of the Oceans, the Nature of the Cosmos, and the Very Future of the Earth Itself."

Frank's book will include a blurb from science-fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke: "A fascinating book. An exciting story. Maybe a classic. Move over, Jim Watson! Here's the astronomer's answer to (DNA researcher Watson's) 'The Double Helix!'"

Frank got the idea for small comets in the mid-1980s while examining photos from a U.S. satellite called the Dynamics Explorer. He wrote an article for *Geophysical Research Letters* proposing the spots were a new, extremely small class of comet-like objects, falling to Earth at the rate of 20 per minute. The average comet, he suggested, is 30 to 40 feet high and contains 100 tons of frozen water.

So why don't we see them plummeting from the sky? For one thing, Frank says, the comets break up in the upper atmosphere, far above even high-flying jet planes. Also, he says, while in space they gather a tar-like substance - as a car gathers road grime -

that makes the comets extremely difficult to see through telescopes.

The comets, Frank suggests, were the original source of Earth's oceans. That contradicts the orthodox belief that oceans were "outgassed" by volcanoes over billions of years.

And that isn't his only extraordinary claim. For example, he thinks small comets might have brought to Earth the original organic molecules from which life evolved. In contrast, most biochemists think life has evolved from organic molecules spawned on Earth.

Fortunately, there's no chance you'll be hit by a small comet because they break up high in the atmosphere, Frank says. Even astronauts face little risk: "There's just so much space out there," one scientist observed.

Frank has some supporters. John J. Olivero, an atmospheric scientist at Penn State University, claims to have detected brief surges of water vapor far above Earth - surges probably caused by ice-rich comets slamming into the atmosphere. Eventually, he says, the water vapor descends to the lower atmosphere where it would fall as rain.

Olivero and graduate student Michael Bonadonna used a special receiver - a ground-based microwave radiometer built by Penn State colleague Charles Croskey - to study radio emissions from the thin air 60 to 100 miles above Earth. They searched for the emissions with a 1.35-centimeter wavelength, which, according to Frank's backers, is one of the wavelengths of radio energy likely to be emitted by a ball of ice heated by friction with the atmosphere.

If Frank is right, then Olivero and his colleagues should detect water vapor surges an average of once every two days. That's how often they would be able to see any of the alleged 10 million small comets through Pennsylvania's narrow "window" on the sky.

And sure enough, Olivero says, they've detected water surges an average of once every two to four days - a total of 111 bursts over 500 observing days from 1984 to 1988.

"If it's a coincidence," Olivero declares, "then it's one of the cruelest coincidences in my scientific career."

But critics suggest the so-called water bursts are "noise," or odd fluctuations in data that appear to present real physical phenomena but that, in fact, are simply artifacts of the observing process - like the crackling on a radio.

Noise is a serious problem in any scientific research. For example, in 1989 astronomers at the University of California-Berkeley and elsewhere said they had detected a signal from a pulsar in the ruins of a supernova. Later they were embarrassed to discover the true source of the "signal" was a nearby video camera.

Critics have also blamed "noise" for another piece of evidence cited by Frank.

Clayne Yeates, an astronomer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., working independently, had reported using an Arizona telescope to detect small comets. The comets, he said, were traveling at 20,000 miles per hour and located halfway between Earth and the Moon. But critics say the "streaks" also are routine "noise" in the telescope's electronic detectors, known as charge-coupled devices or CCDs.

Dessler, the Rice University space scientist who first authorized publication of Frank's theories, offers other criticisms of the Frank hypothesis:

- He says the water bursts can't be small comets because on entering the atmosphere, the comet would get very hot - up to 160,000 degrees Fahrenheit - from friction with the air. That would destroy it.

- Being hot, Dessler continues, the comets would emit energy at a very different wavelength from the one scanned by Olivero - the 1.35 centimeter wavelength.

- Furthermore, he concludes, the comets would be so hot that their molecules would bounce around wildly. This would cause any radio emissions to lengthen and shorten in the manner described by the well-known Doppler effect. Hence, Olivero should have detected a variety of signals different from those he has seen.

But Frank and Olivero reject Dessler's arguments. They insist the comets would stay fairly cool as they entered the atmosphere. The reason: a comet would be protected by its own water vapor and tar-like outer covering. "just as the shield on the space shuttle protects the astronauts," Frank says.

In popular myth, scientists are supposed to pursue truth objectively and dispassionately. But the reality is sometimes different.

"It's an emotional topic, a high-risk topic," Frank said. "As (the physicist) Max Planck once said, 'scientists don't change their opinion - they just die.'"

A scientist familiar with the dispute who requested anonymity explained what's at stake for scientific egos in the dispute:

"You've got to realize science is a very tough business. You're competing with the smartest people in the world who are working their tails off to beat you to some incredible discovery. You work and work and you don't have one Nobel Prize to your name - that's the life of 99.9 percent of us.

"Then all of a sudden a scientist finds something that might, just might, make him famous forever. Once that happens, it's very hard to be objective."