

UFO

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New Jersey last in UFO sightings

By Rosalie Longo
Staff Writer

If it's Tuesday, it's NOT Belgium; it's time for a visit by a flying saucer.

According to data compiled over a four-year period by the National Sighting Research Center in Emerson, most UFOs are sighted on a Tuesday. Particularly between 9 and 10 p.m.

But don't expect to see them in New Jersey next Tuesday. New Jersey lags behind other states in UFO sightings.

In the past four years, there were nearly 700 sightings in the U.S. Of that number, only 13 were reported in the Garden State.

Indiana and Florida reported the most UFOs between 1986 and 1989, with Pennsylvania, California, Michigan, New York, Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois and Massachusetts trailing close behind.

Wayne resident Paul Ferrughelli, who serves Passaic County as state section director of the Mutual UFO Network, a Texas-based scientific organization researching UFOs, said there's no proof that New Jersey is deliberately being given the brushoff. He suspects many sightings are going unreported.

A new report by the National Sighting Research Center indicates UFO activity in the U.S. seems to have mushroomed in the past four years, increasing from 76 sightings in 1976 to 265 in 1989.

According to the NSRC, 759 sightings were confirmed by 1,744 witnesses in 37 states between 1986 and 1989. During the four year period, most activity has been reported in Florida, particularly Gulf Breeze, which had 44 cases in 1988, and the state of Indiana, which had 36.8 percent of all sightings in 1986 and 46.1 percent of all sightings in 1987.

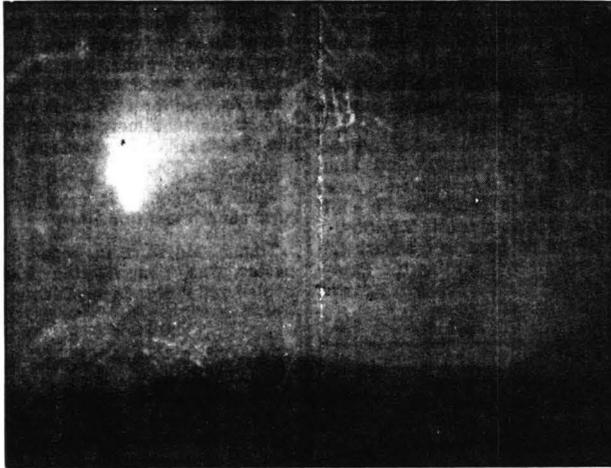
According to the sighting center's latest report, UFO activity in Florida seems to have decreased somewhat in the past year. In 1989, the state had 33 sightings, less than half of those reported in 1988.

Popular months for UFO activity nationwide? August, March and January.

Favored days? In the past four years, most sightings have occurred on a Monday or Tuesday. But in 1988, 17.7 percent of all sightings occurred on a Wednesday.

Europe also seems to be on a Tuesday UFO schedule. On Tuesday, Nov. 6, 1990 several hundred people, including an Air France pilot, reported seeing mysterious triangular shaped objects and orange balls over France, Italy, Switzerland and Belgium.

During the past four years in the U.S., most witnesses (85.7 percent) reported seeing mysterious objects in the sky at night. Particularly between 9 and 10 p.m. They also reported that the UFOs remained in the sky between three and nine



Ellen Crystall made this photograph of a UFO as it allegedly hovered over Wanaque Reservoir in 1981.

minutes

A good majority (86.6 percent) of the observers said the UFOs arrived in silence.

A vast majority of the witnesses said the UFOs appeared to have multiple lights. More than 60 percent described objects or defined shapes.

Shape descriptions ranged from sphere/balls to discs and circular, round and triangular objects.

According to the NSRC study, triangular-Delta shaped UFO objects seem to be replacing saucer-shaped discs. Last year, there was a 400 percent increase (in triangular shape object reports) over those reported in 1988.

During the four-year period, most New Jersey observers claimed they saw distinct objects instead of lights. Almost all said they spotted the UFOs on a Tuesday or Wednesday. And four out of seven said the UFOs appeared during the day instead of night.

According to Ferrughelli, the first sighting in New Jersey in 1989 occurred the morning of Jan. 10 in Hackensack. The witness said the object hovered over a church steeple for nearly 10 minutes. Two weeks later two adults in Beverly, N.J. reported hearing a loud rumbling noise and seeing a large, triangular object (100 feet in diameter) just 200 feet away for 30 seconds.

In June and July 1989, additional daytime sightings were reported in Landing, N.J. The first witness reported seeing four circular objects behind a jet on June 19, and the second observer reported seeing a 15-foot silver, disc-like object fly over the treetops as he drove his truck down a local road the second week of July.

Three adults in Lodi also reported a large tubular object on June 19, but at 7:20 p.m. All said the UFO lingered for 25 minutes.

After the July sighting, there was a lull for a few weeks. Activity resumed Sept. 20, when two people in Oldwick reported seeing a boxlike structure in the air during the day. Months later, a resident of Glen Ridge saw

strange lights in the evening sky.

New Jersey wasn't always passed by. Between 1950 and 1975, there were more than 1,000 reports about UFOs in the Garden State.

A Wayne man told police a space alien took blood from him Oct. 19, 1973 after stopping his vehicle on Route 23, and a Parsippany woman said she was abducted by an alien in the '70s.

Strangely enough, it wasn't her first encounter. The Little Falls native says she was also abducted at age 5 and again at age 10. In all three cases, she saw no hostility. She said she had the impression the aliens wanted to prepare her for some big event that would happen in the future.

According to newspaper reports and recorded data, 1986 was one of the busiest years for UFOs in New Jersey. On Jan. 1, sightings were reported in more than a half dozen towns in Morris and Passaic Counties. Two weeks later...on Jan. 12 and 13...police received several calls about mystery lights over Wanaque Reservoir.

Activity over the Wanaque Reservoir apparently has not stopped. This past March, a Ringwood woman bringing a baby sitter home reported seeing a UFO over the reservoir.

"The woman told me the object had many lights," Ferrughelli says. "She said there were six on bottom and four in the back. She didn't describe it as a saucer-shaped UFO. She

said it looked like it had two torpedoes in front."

According to the UFO recorder, the woman claimed the object followed her 15 to 20 minutes over five miles. At one point, she was so scared and nervous, she pulled to the side of the road. When she arrived at the baby sitter's home, the object passed directly overhead.

Ellen Crystall, director of Contactee, first organization for research of UFOs by direct observation, has more than a story to tell about UFOs. The New Milford woman says has taken more than 500 photos of unidentified flying objects. Many were snapped in Pine Bush, N.Y., which in recent years, has become a "hot spot" for UFO sightings.

Serious about UFOs, the blonde-haired UFO enthusiast drives 90 miles twice a week to Pine Bush, Crawford and Montgomery outside Middletown, N.Y., to spot hovering craft. She doesn't only want to take a photo; she wants to climb aboard a space ship and take a ride.

While she hasn't taken a space trip yet, Crystall is optimistic. She claims she's had a close encounter in 1971 when she was in Hollywood. At the time, she was scared to death, but she wouldn't be frightened today.

"I'll never forget the experience," she says. "The craft came so close, I could actually see inside. Peeking through the glass windows, I could see a large room tapering off to a hallway with wall to wall computer equipment and space beings with large heads, large yellow wraparound eyes and skinny bodies."

Crystall, who expects to see publication of a book ("Silent Invasion") next year, says the UFOs don't always hover over isolated corn fields in the Pine Bush area. They often hover over semi-residential areas. And appear to release short wave radiation.

Will Crystall ever get her space ride?

Only time will tell. Ladbrokes of London, the world's largest bookie agency, says the odds are 250 to 1 that a space alien, dead or alive, will land on earth by 1991.

SUN HERALD,
Port Charlotte, FL
Jan. 2, 1991

Strange lights in the night

By CHRISTOPHER BARTON
Staff Writer

A group of Punta Gorda residents said they saw strange lights in the northeastern sky on New Year's Eve that could have been an unidentified flying object.

"We've been noticing these lights," said Michael McCollum, who lives at 259 W. Olympia Ave. "(It) stays in one spot for a long time and then when it moves, it moves real quickly."

McCollum said he and about eight other residents of Cabana Apartments in Punta Gorda have seen the strange lights each night for the past four nights.

"We don't know what it is. I have no idea," said Joe Watts, who also lives in the apartment complex. "You can go out and see different colors. There's no telling what it is."

Asked if the bright lights might be the North Star, McCollum said, "You could see the North Star. The North Star was in the same direction."

McCollum said the group of residents flagged down a Punta Police officer on New Year's Eve and asked him for assistance.

"The police said it was a radio satellite," McCollum said. "He didn't want to believe us. On New Year's Eve, he thought we were a bunch of drunks."

However, McCollum said he had just returned home from work at 11:30 p.m. and had not been drinking. He said the lights have appeared at about the same time each night — 11:30 p.m. or midnight.

He said the lights were coming from the Northeast, perhaps from the direction of the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral.

Asked if he and the residents would be out tonight looking for the lights, McCollum said, "If it's there, we'll be there."

CB JW

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - Jan. 17, 1991 CR: R. Reid

UFO sighting reported by visitors

By Harold and Rylma Marquardt

On a touring vacation of Florida from Clemen, Michigan, we decided to take in the panhandle and visit Gulf Breeze. At lunch in Pensacola our waitress told us about the local UFO investigation group, MUFON, and we made plans to meet with a small group at the foot of the three mile bridge at eight o'clock p.m. that night, January 14, 1991 for an evening of

watching the sky for UFOs.

We were successful! My personal observation was of a white light which turned a pulsating red, moved up and across our sight. It moved closer to us then slowly turned away while fading and turning white and eventually blinking out. We took several photos.

This has been a rewarding experience and confirms my belief that UFOs exist.

Planet Earth's UFO City

Numerous sightings attract 'weirdos'

BY MIKE CLARY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Gulf Breeze, Fla.

As a hotbed of flying saucer sightings, this small town long ago earned its dot on the map — perhaps even the intergalactic map.

Nearby are five major military bases, including one where explosives are tested, and the sky overhead is often chockablock with blinking lights and fiery flashes. Reports of UFOs — Unidentified Flying Objects — are as common here as powdery white beaches and tourists with third-degree sunburns.

But something more ominous seems to be hovering over Gulf Breeze, casting a long shadow over the once good-natured UFO hubbub. In mid-July, local police made a routine traffic stop and came up with six young soldiers, AWOL from their top-secret Army posts in Augsburg, West Germany. Friends say the soldiers had come here to witness the end of the world.

Gulf Breeze, Fla., has acquired a reputation as a UFO spaceport.

The soldiers are long gone, whisked away by a team of CIA and FBI agents. But speculation as to what the GIs were up to, and why they came to Gulf Breeze, has caused a sensation here.

A Pentagon spokesman said the six were members of something called the End of the World cult. Mention was made of The Rapture, when some Christians believe the saved will be taken to heaven, as was a mission to kill the Antichrist. There also were reports the group was preparing to ascend to heaven via spaceship.

"This was once known as a quiet bedroom community," says Jerry Brown, the chief of the town's 15-officer police force. "But a lot of people are laughing at us because of this UFO business, and now this is what we're getting — weirdos, nuts, people we don't want here."

Visits from mysterious strangers, from Earth or any other planet, are unwelcome in Gulf Breeze, an upscale community of 6,000 residents proud to be an alternative to many of the tourist-hungry beach towns along the "Redneck Riviera," that stretch of scenic Gulf shore from the Florida Panhandle to New Orleans.

Not only is the town's reputation under siege, but both Brown and the mayor, Ed Gray III, believe the UFO hysteria was touched off by a clever hoax perpetrated by a local home builder.

"It's all negative for the community," Brown says. "And the only one who has gained is Ed."

"Ed" is Ed Walters, an affable, wiry man of 44, well-known in Gulf Breeze for his custom-built homes, his active role as a high school band booster and for his playful imagination.

Now Walters' renown has expanded beyond this city's two square miles with the publication in March of "The Gulf Breeze Sightings." Co-written by Walters and his wife, Frances, president of the high school PTA, the book relates in diary fashion what the couple say were several months' worth of close encounters with four-foot gray aliens who sometimes speak Spanish. The visits supposedly began in November 1987.

Due chiefly to notoriety attending Walters' accounts, the Mutual UFO Network, a national organization that tracks strange celestial activity, picked neighboring Pensacola to have its annual convention. Just a week before the six

Extraterrestrials? Local group takes its investigation to the outer limits



By DEE REED
Camarillo Daily News staff

Seen a Martian lately? Caught a shooting star?

For those who suspect there may be more than planets and stars circling around the heavens, a local group has formed that just may prove it.

The local chapter of Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network begun around mid-November, is headed by John Weigle of Ventura, who is also city editor of the Ventura County Star-Free Press.

The tri-county chapter of 25 members is patterned after the international organization formed in 1969 by Walter H. Andrus Jr. in Seguin, Texas.

Weigle's interest began in the mid-'50s when his mother saw something in the sky.

"My mom wasn't very scientific, but was trained in business," said Weigle. "She was a liberated woman before it was popular."

"My interest has gone from almost an all-consuming interest to just keeping up with the latest information back to all-consuming," explained Weigle. "My belief spectrum has covered a similar curve."

"People ask me if I believe in UFOs," said Weigle. "UFO just means that there are things being seen in the sky that can't be identified."

According to Weigle, some of the characteristics of an unidentified object are: an object that makes right-angle turns; any object that accelerates to high speeds quickly; any object that descends in a falling leaf motion; any object that is amoeba-like or that appears to change shape.

Writings concerning UFOs have appeared through the ages, but a stum-

bling block to belief has always been lack of solid proof. In his new group, Weigle is quick to point out that MUFON investigators are not studying UFOs, but reports of UFOs.

It is a distinction that co-founder Dan Campbell echoes.

Campbell, who is publicity chairman of the group, first became interested in this phenomena as a child in Florida.

But his interest blossomed in Ventura County.

"I've been very open-minded, but got more interested after I saw a light in the Thousand Oaks sky," explained Campbell.

The incident occurred about 13 years ago. "I stepped out my front door and there was this big red light just hanging over Thousand Oaks," he recalled. He is not sure what he saw.

"At last month's meeting, I met a woman who had seen the same thing over Thousand Oaks three years later," said Campbell.

"I'm still not sure what it is. There is definitely something (out there)," he said.

According to Campbell, people have been trying to discredit UFO watchers for years. "My favorite is that the Air Force used to call sightings 'swamp gas,'" said Campbell.

"My main reason to join MUFON was to acquire more information on the subject and to help disseminate it to others who might be interested."

Sometimes distributing information is difficult. "If people were more accepting, more people would talk about their experiences," and perhaps report these sightings more often, said Campbell. "When I mention I've seen one, people open up."

Future meetings will teach investigative techniques to members.

Weigle suggests following these guidelines if a sighting is made: Note when and where the sighting

occurred, for how long and the direction on horizon if possible. Identify the color, sound and physical characteristics such as wings, portholes, fins. Try to recall local animal behavior before, during or after sighting or any electrical activity that would affect car performance.

Call either Weigle at 482-5909 or Campbell at 642-9643 with sightings. "I would like to see something," added Weigle. "I'm frustrated. I've never seen anything that makes it stand out as a true UFO."

"I'd like to see a daylight disk, preferably with a number of people observing it with me," he said.

Armed with books and photocopies of government and private investigations, Weigle suggests the government has classified as "top secret" information that would be valuable to groups such as MUFON in its scientific research.

One of the more curious pieces of evidence about extraterrestrials is the Roswell Incident which took place in 1947. According to Weigle and published information, the Air Force base at Roswell Field, N.M., announced in a press release that it had a "flying disc." Officials later denied its existence.

Supposed cover-ups such as the Roswell incident have encouraged a group named Citizens Against UFO Secrecy to ask the National Security Agency, citing the Freedom of Information Act, to release documents, Weigle said.

"We've heard for years that something is about to break," he acknowledged. "The government is going to tell all."

"But I'm not convinced that the government knows," explained Weigle. "It's a scientific mystery we're dealing with rather than a conspiracy."

AWOL soldiers showed up, busloads of MUFON conventioners toured Gulf Breeze.

No Laughing Matter

For many locals, UFOs are no joke.

"It was bright blue, and it had several smaller lights around it," said Louis Martin, 66, an Air Force retiree who, with his wife, Mary, was sitting under the tall pines in Shoreline Park on a recent morning. "I never told anyone but my wife here because I didn't know what people would think. I didn't want to look like a fool."

"But now," adds Mary Martin, "a lot of people are coming forward."

Indeed, Duane Cook, editor and publisher of the weekly Gulf Breeze Sentinel, estimates that in the past 2½ years, he has heard of UFO sightings from at least 200 people, including his parents. "I don't buy the visual hysteria bit," he says.

Links between the AWOL soldiers and Gulf Breeze's reputation as a UFO spaceport are intriguing, but vague. All were assigned to the 701st Military Intelligence Brigade. Each of the six — five men and one woman — had top-secret clearance in a unit charged with providing U.S. defense forces with secure communication and conducting research into "other electronic phenomena," according to the Army.

The soldiers were discovered after one of the men was stopped late on the night of July 13 because the van he was driving had a faulty tail light. He had no driver's license. But after the name was run through the military crime computer, Police Chief Brown was contacted, he says, by an officer at the Pensacola Naval Air Station who told him: "Call Washington. They want this guy bad. Real bad."

In fact, the government wanted all of them real bad. After being held briefly at the Pensacola naval base, the six were taken to Fort Benning, Ga., and then to Fort Knox, Ky., where the Army quickly cleared them in a routine espionage investigation, issued them general discharges and turned them loose.

A Crazy Reputation

Some Gulf Breeze residents say they are afraid the rest of the world will think the whole town is crazy. "This has hurt the community," says Gray, a Gulf Breeze resident for 28 years. "I get made fun of every day. I try to laugh it off. But others can't." As an example, Gray cites the case of a resident who recently traveled to Tampa to present a scientific paper. "She was asked not to present the paper simply because she was from Gulf Breeze and people wouldn't take her seriously."

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - Jan. 10, 1991



On November 25, this photo was taken as the UFO began to disappear, but a new video tape shows more detail.

UFOs videotaped over Bay Bridge

By Vicki Lyons

On Wednesday, January 2, the first significant local UFO sighting of the new year was recorded on video tape for two and a half minutes at the south end of the Bay Bridge.

David and Andrea Baker along with Ann and Bruce Morrison witnessed a large red glowing object suddenly appear, travel from east to west over Gulf Breeze and then, just as suddenly, disappear in a pulsating flash.

David Baker said, "A group of us, motivated by an earlier sighting on November 25, 1990, began a weekly 'sky watch' in the hope of taking additional photos of the

UFO. What we saw in November was beautiful. I had my doubts before I saw it for myself but now I know it's true. This is something you have to see to believe."

Bruce Morrison described the unidentified object as displaying "a large glowing ring of red light with a rotating black center. There is marked similarity between the UFO on last Wednesday's video tape and the UFO photographs taken in Gulf Breeze several years ago and published in the best selling book, *The Gulf Breeze Sightings*. I'm not saying I know what the UFO is, all I'm saying is that it was there and I video taped it."

CR: R. Reid

Kecksburg UFO seen at AF bases

By Sharon Santus
TRIBUNE REVIEW

Twenty-five years ago today, a UFO reportedly landed in a wooded area near Kecksburg in Mt. Pleasant Township. Now, for the first time, witnesses say they saw the object at two separate high-security Air Force bases in Ohio just days afterward.

The witnesses, who are requesting anonymity, say they were instructed by the military not to discuss what they saw.

Just before sundown on Dec. 9, 1965, a bright orange fireball streaked across the sky over Michigan, the tip of Ontario and western Lake Erie. The object continued its descent and was spotted over Westmoreland County skies. Witnesses said it glided to earth at a low rate of speed in a wooded area near Kecksburg.

According to some accounts, dozens of military personnel converged on the area and ordered spectators away.

Witnesses said a flatbed truck was driven to the landing site and left sometime later with a tarpaulin-covered object on the back.

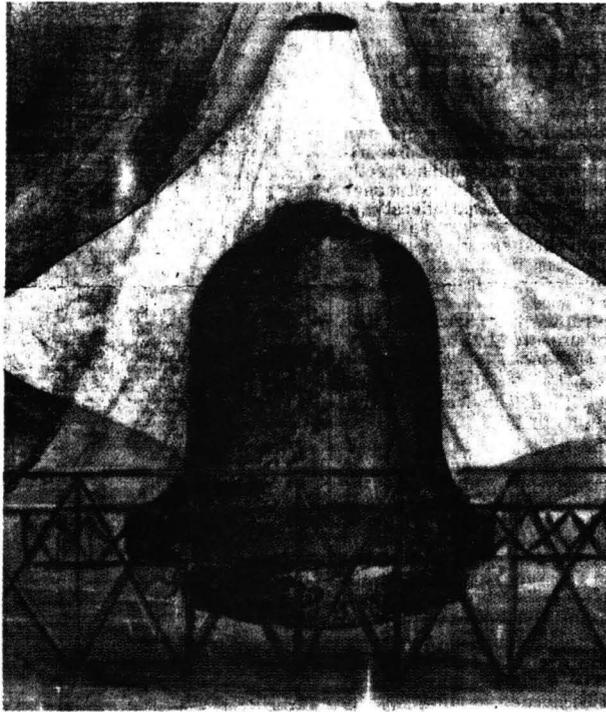
The official report from the United States Air Force is that a meteor passed over the area and was not seen again. State police from Greensburg said they searched the area that night and the following day and found nothing.

Two witnesses, including James Romansky of Derry, came forward several weeks ago and said they saw the object on the ground that night in Kecksburg.

Stan Gordon, who heads the Greensburg-based Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, said the witnesses — in separate interviews — described it as bronze-colored, acorn-shaped object about 12 feet long and 10 feet in diameter. Each said it was wrapped with a band of unintelligible markings.

Despite the men's accounts, some in Kecksburg insist the reports are nothing more than fabricated nonsense. They say an object might have passed through the sky that day, but it never fell anywhere near Kecksburg.

The Kecksburg UFO incident gained national attention in September on NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries." Disbelievers, many of whom own land in the area where the object reportedly landed,



KECKSBURG OBJECT?

This is an artist's rendering of the object allegedly seen by an Ohio truck driver at Wright Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton on Dec. 12, 1965.

tried unsuccessfully to have the program canceled.

Since the broadcast, more than 100 people telephoned "Unsolved Mysteries" to offer additional information.

Among them is a Westmoreland County man who was a member of the U.S. Air Force stationed at Lockborne Air Base near Columbus, Ohio, in December 1965. Robert Adams (not his real name) said the facility was placed on "red alert" during the early-morning hours of Dec. 10, 1965.

A member of the air police, Adams said his unit was immediately dispatched to a hangar where they assumed guard positions. He said a flatbed truck with a tarpaulin-covered object on the back entered the hangar and superior officers ordered the police to shoot to kill anyone who attempted to enter without top-security clearance.

Adams said the truck had entered the base through the rear gate, which he said was highly unusual since the gate is located on an extremely remote area of the compound.

He said the truck passed a few feet in front of him and the object on the back appeared to be twice the size of a Volkswagen.

Adams said he was relieved of guard duty at 6 or 7 a.m. and learned later the truck, still carrying the object, left the base at 7:30 a.m. en route to Wright Patterson Air Force base, 100 miles west near Dayton.

He said he was discharged from the Air Force a year later and returned to Westmoreland County where he learned of the Kecksburg case.

"Because of the timing of the incident — the day after the Kecksburg crash — and because of the top-secret nature of the situation,

I have no doubt in my mind the object taken inside the hangar that morning at Lockborne was the same object that came down in Kecksburg," Adams said. "President Kennedy came to the base while I was at Lockborne and there wasn't as much security as I saw that morning."

Another witness, Ohio truck driver John Cummings (not his real name), said he actually saw the object inside a building at Wright Patterson on Dec. 12, 1965, just three days after the alleged landing.

Cummings, who made deliveries for a Dayton-area building-supply company, said a high-ranking military officer arrived at the firm on Dec. 11, 1965, and ordered a special radiation-moisture-resistant brick for construction of a protective room inside a building at Wright Patterson.

Cummings said he and a cousin delivered 6,500 bricks to Wright Patterson the next day after being instructed by their boss not to discuss anything they might observe at the compound.

"We were unloading the bricks onto pallets and me and my cousin decided to sneak inside to see what all the secrecy was about," Cummings said. "Guards immediately ordered us out ... but not before we saw it."

Cummings said he saw a dark bronze, bell-shaped object about 14 feet wide at the base and about 12 feet high.

He said scaffolding surrounded the object, which was covered on three sides with parachute-like material that hung from the ceiling. According to Cummings, 10 to 15 men with white, protective suits, wearing rubber boots, rubber gloves and gas masks were attempting to open the object.

"They took us outside and told us to forget what we had seen," Cummings said. "We were told that in 20 years, the object would be common knowledge."

Cummings said that a few days later he learned that other truck drivers had seen a flatbed military truck with a tarpaulin-covered object on the back traveling from the Pittsburgh area west on Route 40 toward Wheeling, W. Va., and then on to Columbus and Dayton.

He said that information along with his own experience convinces him that the object he saw at Wright Patterson was the same as that which allegedly fell in Kecksburg.

Cummings has been interviewed extensively by Len Stringfield, a nationally known UFO investigator and author of *Situation Red: The UFO Siege*, published by Doubleday.

"I've talked with (Cummings) numerous times and I have every reason to believe he's telling the truth," Stringfield said. "He had no previous interest in UFOs and doesn't want any publicity about his experience."

Stringfield said Kecksburg holds as much importance as the infamous Roswell, N.M., UFO retrieval case. Many researchers believe the U.S. government retrieved bodies of alien beings after one and possibly two craft fell in the desert near Roswell in 1947.

"With the amount of information Stan Gordon has gathered on Kecksburg, I would place it just behind Roswell as the most significant UFO retrieval case in history," Stringfield said.

Gordon, who has gathered government documents and compiled thousands of pages of research in the Kecksburg case, said new information is surfacing almost daily.

"We have several new witnesses who have come forward since the "Unsolved Mysteries" segment aired in September," Gordon said. "Many of them are Kecksburg residents who were in the area that night."

Gordon continues to gather research and asks that anyone with information contact him by writing: The Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg, Pa., 15601.

Gordon said there can be no doubt an object landed 25 years ago today in Kecksburg.

"It made turns, it hovered, it definitely was not a meteor," Gordon said. "Was it an alien spacecraft or a highly advanced aircraft from the United States or a foreign country? We can't be sure. The one thing we do know is that the government continues to draw a cloak of secrecy around the entire incident. What could they be hiding?"

CITIZEN, Culver, IN - Oct. 24, 1990

No Explanation Offered for Sightings in Sky

No explanation has been offered for reports of unusual phenomena in the nighttime skies over the Culver area in recent weeks.

Likewise, reported attempts to photograph the phenomena or to communicate with any beings who might be responsible for them have apparently been unsuccessful.

No missions by the U.S. Air Force, certainly none from Grissom Air Force Base, are likely to have been interpreted in a way that could account for the reports, according to Lt. Bill Harrison, deputy chief public affairs officer for the 305th Air Refueling Wing, based at Grissom.

The Air Force flies KC-135 aircraft, used in refuel-

ing missions, from Grissom, and a reserve unit at the base flies the A-10 Thunderbolt II, an attack aircraft. Neither of these is can pause in flight or move straight upward, although the Harrier used by the Marine Corps is capable of the latter maneuver, Harrison said.

The Twelve Mile Military Operations Area is only slightly south of Culver, Harrison said, but he added it was unlikely it would be used for research missions or experimental flights, which usually take place in the Far West.

Harrison said the Air Force investigated more than 12,500 reports of unidentified flying objects through Project Bluebook, and 95 percent were

accounted for in a satisfactory manner. The project ended in 1969 after 22 years, and the Air Force no longer investigates reports of UFOs, Harrison said. The records of the study have been turned over to the Modern Military Branch of the National Archives and Records Service in Washington, D.C.

The official said he had heard of no reports of unusual phenomena observed by Air Force crews. The only call resulting from the sightings in the Culver area he received prior to being contacted by the Citizen was from an area radio station.

Meanwhile, reports of unusual phenomena in the Culver area continued.

Culver barber Verl Shaffer said he and his wife

observed a bright orange object in the southeast from Lake Maxinkuckee before daylight Saturday. They were in a boat on the lake near Long Point, Shaffer said. While they were watching the light, it suddenly vanished, he added.

Shaffer said he has seen the same light in previous years, always at the same time of year.

Another Citizen reader, who asked not to be identified publicly, said she had observed unusual light displays in the Culver area as long as 10 years ago.

The recent reports of unusual phenomena in the nighttime skies go back to Oct. 4, and new sightings have been reported on many clear nights ever since then.

Were Recent UFO Flaps Caused By Secret Military Aircraft?

Second in a series.

In our previous column we examined in some detail the recent and intense UFO wave over the French-speaking region of Wallonia in Belgium. For the last year, sightings of triangular-shaped craft have been well documented by scientists from the Belgian Society for the Study of Space Phenomena (SOBEPS), the national police or Gendarmerie, and the Belgian Air Force, which has tracked the objects on radar screens and ordered the scramble of two F-16 fighter jets on the night of March 30-31, 1990. Moreover, in an unprecedented move in the history of ufology, the Minister of Defense has instructed the Air Force to fully cooperate with SOBEPS.

In many ways, the Belgian flap is quite similar to the wave of boomerang-shaped objects which were seen throughout the 1980s in New York's Hudson Valley and Western Connecticut. The Hudson Valley flap was described in detail in the 1987 book *Night Siege* by science teacher and field investigator Phillip Imbrogno, the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek, and reporter Bob Pratt. After studying *Night Siege*, SOBEPS investigator Patrick Ferryn described the similarity between the two flaps.

"Changing only a few words," he wrote, "exactly the same could be written to give an account of the position of affairs here! The same goes for many entire pages and excerpts elsewhere in the book."

Similarly, observations of triangular and boomerang-shaped craft have been reported in recent years in Whytheville, Va., Fyffe, Alabama, and Puerto Rico, among other places. This has led some researchers to postulate that these craft are not at all alien devices, but a new generation of top secret experimental aircraft with "stealth" characteristics being tested and developed by the U.S. military.

Although the Belgian Air Force and Minister of Defense ruled out such an explanation, the theory gained some credibility recently when *Aviation Week & Space Technology* magazine reported in its Oct. 1 edition that, "large, triangular wing-shaped aircraft" are indeed being tested out of the Nellis Air Force range in Nevada and Edwards AFB in California.

Explaining UFO sightings as top secret military devices is not new. Renato Vesco and Marcello Coppetti, both of Italy, elaborated on it in their books *Intercept — But Don't Shoot and UFO — Secret Weapon*, respectively. They invoked revolutionary designs in aeronautics developed by German scientists at the end of the war, which fell in the hands of the British and continued under maximum security in Canada.

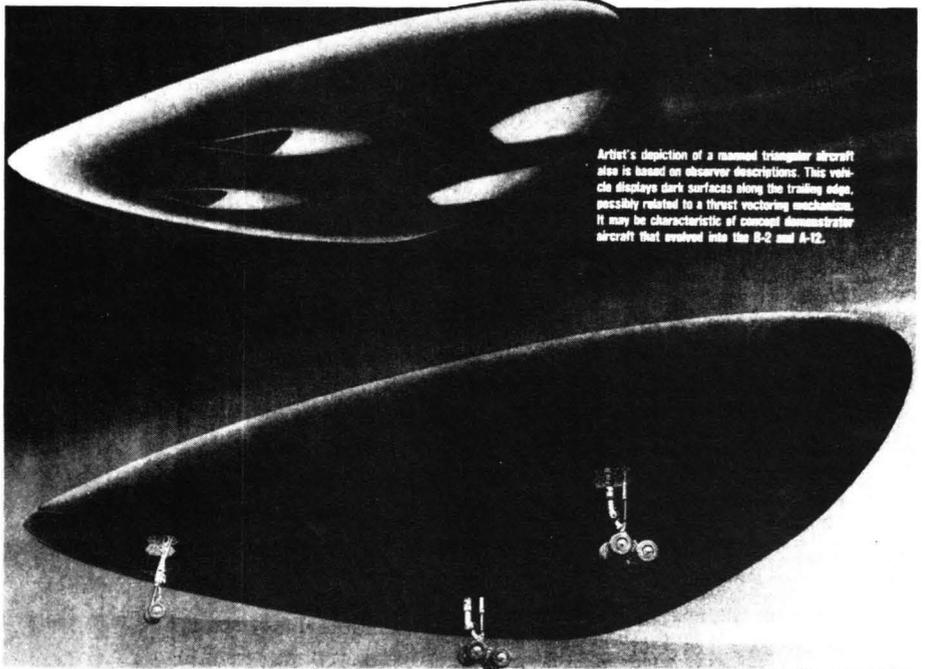
New York attorney Peter Gersten, who was instrumental in obtaining thousands of UFO-related government documents under the Freedom of Information Act, has been swayed to that same theory, believing that what Kenneth Arnold saw on June 24, 1947 was a Northrop flying wing. The Arnold sighting, as we know, inaugurated the contemporary flying saucer era, while the Northrop flying wing was the forerunner of the modern B-2 Stealth Bomber.

All this brings us to a controversial theory that links a modified, covert version of the Stealth aircraft with the boomerangs of Westchester and Dutchess counties, as



MANUEL FERNANDEZ

RESEARCHER TONY GONSALVES with his Stealth model at a recent demonstration in New York.



Artist's depiction of a manned triangular aircraft also is based on observer descriptions. This vehicle displays dark surfaces along the trailing edge, possibly related to a thrust vectoring mechanism. It may be characteristic of concept demonstrator aircraft that evolved into the B-2 and A-12.

AVIATION WEEK & SPACE TECHNOLOGY

ARTIST'S RENDITION of new triangular aircraft reportedly tested at various top secret government facilities.

well as the triangular UFOs of Belgium, Virginia and Puerto Rico. Its main proponent is Tony Gonsalves, a researcher from East Providence, R.I., who has written many papers supporting this view in the last two years.

Gonsalves also made a scale electronic model of the B-2 with flashing lights, which he has shown to many witnesses of the Hudson Valley and Whytheville flaps. Many have told him that the model coincides with what they saw.

Whatever one thinks of Gonsalves' theory, there is no doubt that he does know quite a bit about airplanes. He served as a jet mechanic for the U.S. Navy on three aircraft carriers between 1959 and 1963, where he was also the plane captain, a position responsible for the maintenance of aircraft while on the ground or deck. Since 1988, Gonsalves has worked on his theory of the "Stealth B-2 Bomber ... The American made UFO."

Gonsalves maintains that by the early '80s the government developed a fully operational Stealth aircraft, which incorporated many revolutionary concepts in avionics, some of which may have been obtained from crashed UFOs in the late '40s. Unlike the Italian authors cited previously, Gonsalves does not attempt to explain all UFOs with his secret aircraft hypothesis, but only those with boomerang or triangular shapes that have been reported in the last decade. Moreover, Gonsalves adds that the official B-2 bomber that was unveiled in 1988 is a "decoy" to deceive the American public, the media and the Congress.

Gonsalves writes in one of his papers, "this secret version of the aircraft has: 1) The ability of hover like a helicopter; 2) to fly at slow speeds in the 10-20-30 MPH range; 3) to fly silently, and 4) to fly invisible to radar. You will also come to know that this secret version is not a jet powered aircraft and that it is probably powered by a nuclear reactor!"

Furthermore, Gonsalves cites a \$23 billion lawsuit for fraud that was brought against the Northrop Corp., developer of the B-2, in 1989. The "missing" money, says Gonsalves, was not squandered but funneled covertly to the "black" program to build the real B-2. Federal prosecutors eventually agreed to drop the charges after Northrop pleaded guilty and agreed to pay \$17 million in fines. However, the deal included an agreement "to end several other long-running probes," according to *The Washington Post* on March 1, 1990.

Gonsalves has received some support within the UFO community, although his hypothesis remains a subject of much debate. Connecticut attorney Robert Bletchman, the director of public relations for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), has embraced it wholeheartedly.

Robert Oechsler, a former NASA robotics engineer,

told the audience at the Ozark UFO Conference in Arkansas earlier this year that, "the Stealth bomber you see flying around actually had its primary propulsion system removed from a recovered flying saucer. The project utilizes an alien power plant inside and it's disguised by the use of four GE-F118 engines with a modification called the GE-100." Nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman, one of the best known and qualified ufologists, has also endorsed Gonsalves, writing to him that "I really think you are on the right track," and that "wings in outer space could only be decoration ... but do of course match an Earthling approach."

The last two years have seen an increasing number of rumors and speculations regarding "alien technology" at the mysterious Area 51 in the Groom Lake zone of the Nellis test range in Nevada. Not all of these rumors come from UFO sources. *Gung-Ho* magazine, for instance, reported a while back that the Air Force has a unit at Nellis called the "Alien Technology Center." The magazine added that "the center is rumored to have obtained alien (not earth) equipment and, at times, personnel to help develop our new aircraft, star wars weaponry, etc. Yes, I know I sound crazy, but the rumor is awfully solid!" added the author of the report entitled, "Stealth and the U.F.O. connection." He also cited a retired Lockheed engineer who told him that "we have things flying in the Nevada desert that would make George Lucas drool."

Although these rumors are obviously impossible to confirm, there is little doubt that some revolutionary aircraft are being tested out of Nellis and similar facilities. The Oct. 1 *Aviation Week* articles mentioned several sightings by engineers of "triangular-shaped aircraft," possibly prototypes for the A-12, the Navy's new Stealth attack plane, and one or several versions for reconnaissance aircraft cloaked under the top secret code of Aurora, to replace the old SR-71 "Blackbird" which recently was mothballed.

Aviation Week (sometimes referred by the nickname of "Aviation Leak") also quoted Air Force sources who "acknowledged that diamond and triangular-shaped vehicles are 'the trend now,'" as well as unconfirmed reports that some of these aircraft "were designed to operate at speeds around Mach 10 or higher."

In this series' final article, we'll give the opinion of Phillip Klass, the nation's most notorious UFO skeptic who was for years a senior editor at *Aviation Week*, regarding whether recent UFO flaps could be caused by these alleged secret aircraft.

J. Antonio Huneus is a freelance science writer who has written frequently for publications in North and South America.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - Nov. 29, 1990 CR: R. Reid

UFO witnessed and photographed

By Bruce Morrison

On Friday, November 23 and on Sunday, November 25, a total of 14 people saw a soundless, brilliant red object hover over Gulf Breeze and the Three Mile Bridge.

The Friday sighting happened at 8:40 p.m., when a flash of bright white light suddenly appeared over Gulf Breeze. Within a second it

turned red and hovered in one spot (in the 15-mile-an-hour wind) for approximately five minutes. Dr. "Adams" and his wife, along with four others, watched the object. He said, "During that time the red object blinked in and out once and then turned into a small white light and disappeared. It looked like it was over Highway 98."

The Sunday sighting happened at 9:37 and was photographed by three people with 35 mm cameras and two with video cameras. A large group of people had gathered at the south side of the Three Mile Bridge in the hope of seeing what had been seen two nights earlier. Most people were watching south toward Gulf Breeze, when Mrs. "Baker" called out, "What is that?"

and pointed over the bridge to the north. Once again the large red glowing object hovered in one spot and then suddenly turned white and winked out.

The Mutual UFO Network is investigating the sightings and asked for all persons who might have witnessed the odd red object to call 436-2700. Your names are held in confidence.

Debunker Scoffs at Belgian UFO Flap and Secret Weapon Theory

Second in a two-part series.

There can be no doubt where Philip J. Klass stands on the UFO issue. As the nation's number one skeptic, founding Fellow of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP) and Chairman of its UFO Subcommittee, and author of four books against flying saucers, Klass enjoys the UFO basher's role with gusto. Graduated as an electrical engineer, Klass has worked for more than 30 years as a senior editor for *Aviation Week & Space Technology*, although he is now semi-retired and a contributing editor.

That magazine's Oct. 1 articles on the testing of new revolutionary, triangular-shaped aircraft seemed to lend some credence to the speculation that recent UFO flaps in Belgium, the Hudson Valley and elsewhere could be caused by some kind of stealth aircraft. Because of Klass' long-standing editorial role with *Aviation Week* and his no less visible forays in the UFO field, we thought his opinion in this matter deserved to be heard.

Klass, of course, didn't need to invoke esoteric explanations, secret or otherwise, to dismiss the recent Belgian flap. He told this author during a recent telephone interview that "the Belgium case — though I've been too rushed to investigate it but I hope to do some work on it — I think rather demonstrates the mass psychology effect."

According to Klass, "psychologists have conducted extensive experiments that demonstrate that we see or think we see what we expect to see." In other words, he added, if reports of square-shaped objects over New York City were published tomorrow, people would start to describe square objects when they see "something that looks unfamiliar."

When the fact that the Belgian Air Force had detected the UFO both on ground and airborne radar was brought to his attention, Klass responded, "there are some fundamental flaws in the [radar] imagery," and that he was going to investigate it soon. He also said he had written many technical articles on both the F-16 radar and "the all solid state General Electric radar which is the Belgian Air Force's principal long-range radar." He added that radar "cannot distinguish the shape" of an object.

When asked whether the Belgian and Hudson Valley UFO sightings could have been caused by secret military aircraft, Klass responded, "in my opinion the answer is absolutely not," with the exception of reports "in the vicinity of Nellis Air Force Base" in Nevada. He then invoked an argument which is quite logical and also has been raised by UFO researcher Phillip Imbrogno and others. "If there were a secret airplane," said Klass, "for goodness' sake, the last place in the world you'd want to fly it is in Duchess County, where people have been alerted to look for objects."

Regarding Tony Gonsalves' hypothesis of the B-2 American-made UFO that we described in our previous article, Klass dismissed it as "complete nonsense" and "patently ridiculous." He said if that was the case, President Bush or Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney would say: "Hey! We can help reduce the deficit without increasing taxes, simply by not asking for all these billions of dollars to build an airplane that we've already built."

As far as the Hudson Valley sightings were concerned, Klass stood by the explanation that most of them were caused by a group of "daredevil pilots" flying in close formation out of Stormville airport in Newburgh,

N.Y. While the involvement of the pilots certainly has been documented and everybody agrees that at least some of the sightings were caused by them, Imbrogno and other investigators strongly disagree with this explanation for the majority of the boomerang objects.

Surprisingly, Klass even showed a large degree of skepticism about the pieces published in *Aviation Week* on the sightings of triangular or diamond-shaped aircraft near the Nellis test range in Nevada and the Tehachapi mountains near Edwards Air Force Base in California. Klass told us some details about these articles: "Let me say that the editor of *Aviation Week* who wrote those two articles — I will refer to him as X because his name has not been made public — I think he is one of the best, one of the several best reporters on the staff. I and other members of the staff had a chance to review his first draft article for comment, although I never saw the artist's concept until they were published."

Klass' objection to the story is based on his general mistrust of eyewitness reports. Since most of the *Aviation Week* story was based on sightings of these new aircraft, Klass explained that he told editor X that "if 25 years ago I had not chanced to get into the UFO field, I would share your opinion that if pilots, engineers, report seeing this or that or the other thing, it must be so; but I said, if there is one thing that I have learned from my more than 24 years in the UFO field, is that don't trust even your own eyes."

"Eyewitness reports," continued Klass, "whether it's of an automobile accident, whether it's a robbery, whether it's a UFO, whether it's of a seemingly new experimental aircraft, can be grossly in error." He then told us of an analysis by the late J. Allen Hynek — someone with whom Klass often quarreled — about misidentifications by military and commercial pilots, radar technicians, and so on: "The point is that pilots, engineers, radar technicians, when they see something that is seemingly unfamiliar to them, can misidentify a prosaic object and describe it as having characteristics that it really does not have."

Nevertheless, Klass didn't rule out some aircraft being tested at Nellis, and he speculated on what they might be. It was unlikely they were fighters as the Air Force was "seeking billions of dollars to develop the Advanced Technology Fighter [ATF] in competition between Northrop's F-23 and Lockheed's YF-22." The same applied to bombers, as the USAF continues to push the B-2 Stealth program. However, it was "conceivable" that what people had seen is "an advanced technology craft" to replace the SR-71, which was recently mothballed. "We do have spy satellites which are very effective in their way, but have certain limitations or constraints that a manned aircraft can overcome," he said.

The trick, said Klass, was to look behind the lines of the defense budget: "I mean by having Defense Secretary Cheney say, well, we've decided to cancel the ATF program, or we've decided to cancel the B-2 program."

Ironically, when it comes to Tony Gonsalves' B-2 Stealth to explain the Hudson Valley sightings, Klass and Phillip Imbrogno, coauthor of the book *Night Siege* which documents that flap, seem to agree. I asked Imbrogno his opinion on Gonsalves' theory when he gave a lecture in New York not long ago. "First of all," he responded, "I can't see the government testing a top secret device in an area like this: number one, what if they have a problem, what if they crash?"

However, continued Imbrogno, "as time went on and I investigated the case out there in the field by research of my own, looked at the cover-up with the planes, saw the UFO itself, got some information on the Stealth itself, I am convinced right now that the Hudson Valley UFO is not an aircraft, Stealth or otherwise. Number two, I am not totally convinced that (it's) from outer space. Number three, I don't know what the hell it is."

There is an alternative theory that doesn't involve alien spaceships or top secret aircraft. More popular in Europe than the United States, the research of Dr. Jacques Vallee, author John Keel and others cites UFOs that apparently "mimic" Earthly technology ahead of its time. Thus mystery airships in the 1890s were seen ahead of known dirigibles by a decade or so, mystery airplanes in Scandinavia in the 1930s ahead of known aviation in those days, "ghost rockets" after World War II and flying saucers since the late 1940s. Now we see craft which seem to herald future trends in aviation.

This explanation won't satisfy Klass, Gonsalves or ufologists, nor does it tell us who or what is causing or manipulating these contraptions, but it is an idea worth considering. In any case, if the government is indeed flying revolutionary aircraft over Belgium, New York or Puerto Rico, that mystery will become public sooner or later. Otherwise, we may be debating the sightings well into the next century.

J. Antonio Huneus is a freelance science writer who has written for publications in North and South America.

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NEWSLETTER, Exeter, NH - Sept. 13, 1990 CR: B. Greenwood

Local UFO sightings still stir up interest

By Susan L. Wood
RCN Staff

EXETER — A series of unexplained incidents during the early morning hours of Sept. 3, 1965, brought the eyes of the nation to focus on the town of Exeter.

It was then that several people reported seeing an unidentified flying object in the area.

Even though the event happened more than 25 years ago, a fascination with the subject still exists, as shown Tuesday evening when a crowd of about 150 people gathered at the Exeter Public Library to view a slide presentation and discuss the incident.

The library's meeting room was so crowded, a video camera and closed circuit television was set up for viewing in the craft room to accommodate the overflow of eager participants.

The events of that Sept. 3 morning were eventually immortalized by a book, "Incident at Exeter," written

by John Fuller.

Fuller, who was scheduled to appear, was absent because of medical problems.

But present was Peter R. Geremia, state director for the Mutual UFO Network, and two former police officers who were on duty that fateful morning.

Also in the audience was Betty Hill, the New Hampshire resident who claimed she and her husband, Barney, were abducted by a UFO and given physical examinations before being released Sept. 19, 1961.

Geremia, using a slide presentation, showed those in the audience via maps the locations of the Exeter sightings.

The first occurred about 12:30 a.m. on Route 101 when a woman driving from Epping claimed she was chased "by a red, glowing UFO," said Geremia. The woman pulled her car along-



Eugene Bertran speaks during Tuesday's program marking the 25th anniversary of UFO sightings in Exeter.

and Muscarello saw the red lights near routes 85 and 101 in Exeter while they were standing in a field. Geremia said Bertran grabbed Muscarello's arm and pushed him toward the police cruiser. The entire field was glowing from the red lights.

The lights were last seen heading toward Hampton.

Shortly after, said Geremia, a hysterical man called the Police Department to report seeing a UFO. In the middle of the conversation, the man's phone went dead.

Was this all a coincidence or had a UFO really been in the area that morning, Geremia asked.

The only thing for certain, he said, is that the police officers and Muscarello should be commended for sticking to their stories, despite being ridiculed.

"I think the officers that came forward and stuck to their story deserve a lot of credit," said Geremia.

Those who witnessed the lights

were not able to identify exactly what it was they saw.

The Pentagon did not believe it was a UFO sighting. The United States Air Force blamed the lights on "twinkling stars and planets," said Geremia.

Despite that, the military was later forced to admit there were sightings, after Raymond Fowler's report on the incident was read into the congressional record April 5, 1966.

The mid-'60s was a time of a lot of UFO activity, said Geremia. Most UFO sightings take place near marshes and power lines — like the area where Muscarello's sighting took place.

Toland and Bertran said during Tuesday evening's program that they took a lot of teasing about the incident after it became public knowledge.

Bertran also said he was asked by government officials to keep "quiet" about the incident.

side the road. A short time later, she was found sitting in her car by then Exeter Police Officer Eugene Bertran.

About 30 minutes later, Exeter resident Norman Muscarello, while walking on Route 150 from Amesbury, Mass., to his home, saw in the distance "an odd looking light," according to Geremia. When the red light drew nearer, he observed the UFO hover over a house and bathe the area in a red light.

Muscarello saw the lights disappear over a nearby field.

Shortly afterward, he got a ride to the Exeter Police Department and reported what he saw to Reginald "Scratch" Toland, the supervising officer that evening.

Toland called Bertran into the department to hear Muscarello's story. Bertran and Muscarello then returned at 1:25 a.m. to the area where the red lights were seen.

About 3:30 a.m. both Bertran

Gulf Breeze Resident Tells Kiwanis of UFO

Sightings

They may not be operated by little green men from outer space, but Ed Walters of Gulf Breeze firmly believes there are unexplained objects flying around in the skies and has photographs he took to verify his beliefs.

Speaking before the Kiwanis Club Tuesday, Walters said he saw his first unidentified flying object [UFO] on November 11, 1988. "I'm just an ordinary guy

like you. I work for a living in the building business. On this particular date, I had come home from a day at work and was in the house by myself when I saw this unusual light outside. When I went to investigate, there it was!"

Walters said many people in the Gulf Breeze area have seen the mysterious "things", and several have taken pictures and vid-

eos of the UFO's. He showed a series of pictures he took at church one night, when the entire congregation was attracted by one of these strange machines. He also had pictures of the light which did the attracting, showing a crown-shaped machine with a glowing knob on top and a circle of light at the bottom, emitting blue rays.

The speaker also showed

mysterious spots on the ground at Gulf Breeze, where some strange force had bent the grass and weeds in a clockwise circle and explained it as a possible landing site of one of the strange machines.

The sighting is made more mysterious by the fact that the vegetation in the suspected landing zones is not burned or scorched and by the fact the strange machines make no noise. "I have been as close as 70 feet to them and have never heard a sound. They will zip around, hover, undulate, move slowly, or even just suddenly disappear as if a light were turned off," he said.

One landing sight was on a school ground in Gulf Breeze and at this particular site, nothing will now grow. "The dirt has been changed, new grass planted and all kinds of things tried to restore the area, but the landing site is still visible."

Walters said there are many people who have seen UFO's; who have taken pictures and gathered other tangible evidence of their existence. He pointed out that he has seen the strange sights on several occasions, the latest being Sunday, November 18.

"I waited for several months before going public with my experience," Walters said. "You wouldn't believe the emotions that go along with making such a sighting and how many people look at you like you're something strange."

Walters was introduced by Buddy Pollock, of Pensacola, an employee of Lewis Bear Company, who has also seen and photographed some of the UFO sightings.

Walters ended his program by stating, "I don't know what they are, who is in them or where they come from. I truly wish I did. If they are a product of military research, I would like to know that. It's spooky knowing you are seeing something you can't explain. I just want to know what they are," he said.

Walters showed the club several slides he had taken and computer enhanced pictures which had been prepared from negatives he had taken by professional laboratories. He also showed documentation by professional laboratories and defense investigators, to the effect that his photographs were not fakes. They were actual unstaged photos.



Nolan Treglown, right, questions Ed Walters, left, as George Duren listens.

ALASKA MIRROR, Kodiak, AK - Jan. 16, 1991

Fiery falling object observed Saturday

By NELL WAAGE
Staff Writer

It was strange; it was eerie. To some it looked like a rocket falling through the evening sky. Others thought it was a jet going down in flames.

Those who watched the ball of flames descend Saturday just after sunset agree it was like nothing they had ever seen before.

It was bright, said Sven Haakanson, who watched the phenomenon from outside his home in Old Harbor with his wife and children. "The fire lit up everything," Haakanson said.

"The kids came running in and yelled a star was falling. There was a big white streak. The other part looked like it had fire on it."

Whatever it was left a trail of smoke and sparks in its wake as it plunged, at a slight angle, toward the earth.

Haakanson said the light was visible for four or five minutes. "It looked like a white vapor trail, then disappeared, then a fire trail lit up the vapor trails. There was black smoke and fire. It was eerie."

Glenna Christiansen of Old Harbor was walking her baby-sitter home. "It was so weird and happened so fast. At first it just looked like something falling down, like a falling star. Then a flame, like a big fire works, all red fire color. It came straight down really fast, then it's like it was going straight up and then burst into flame.

"It was big," she said. "It looked like it was right over Sitkalidak Mt. about five miles away."

It was about 5:45 p.m. Alice and Immanuel "Bergee" Bergee were on their way to Chiniak and on the straight stretch of road at the head of Kalsin Bay.

"There was a string of light,

then a big poof, like an explosion," Alice said. "I don't know how big or how far away. It left clouds hanging over Pasagshak, like streaks of smoke."

She said that at first they were afraid a plane had crashed. That's the same thought that occurred to Haakanson, who noted the object fell from the same area where jets heading to Hawaii normally travel at high altitudes.

The Bergees called the Coast Guard. Haakanson, along with several other Old Harbor residents, notified the village public safety officer, Michieal Salmon, who called the FAA flight tower in Kodiak.

Charles Johnson and his wife saw the spectacle from the parking lot of St. Mary's Catholic Church on Mill Bay Road.

"It was real strange," he said. "It was definitely not a flare or falling star. It was bright, real bright, about 100 times brighter than a falling star. There were like sparks following it. It kept getting bigger as it came down."

Judy and John Lucas saw the odd light in the sky from their home at Chiniak and described it in the same way.

Roy McPeak, an air traffic controller, was working in the FAA tower on the Coast Guard base. He said he didn't see "the explosion" described by the five people who called, but did observe the "peculiar red cloud." He and most other witnesses described the direction as southeast. He talked to someone at the Coast Guard Air Station who told him about the test NASA was conducting that evening and he believed the test was the cause of the event.

At 5:17 AST 3.3 pounds of barium were released into the magnetosphere, the region above the atmosphere, from NASA's

Combined Release and Radiation Effects Satellite. The release occurred high over the Caribbean and, as expected, produced a cloud which glowed bright green, then changed to dimmer purplish blue as the barium atoms ionized upon exposure to sunlight. The effect lasted for about 15 minutes and was visible in North America and the Caribbean.

Jerry Berg, spokesman for NASA's George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., said the unusual event spotted here "doesn't really sound like it would have resulted from our test."

Other chemical releases were made at CST 1:05 a.m. Sunday and at CST 10:12 p.m. Monday. Others are to follow throughout January.

The experiments mimic the colorful aurora borealis, or northern lights. They are designed to study the way real auroras, which can disrupt high-frequency communications, damage power lines and hurt sensitive electronics on spacecraft, occur.

NASA reported the tests were a success.

But that doesn't solve our mystery.

Adding more intrigue is a report from Dave Percy, meteorologist with the National Weather Service. He didn't see the spectacle Saturday evening, but Sunday night at about 10 as he drove out Monashka Bay Road past the VFW he saw an identical display.

It was a big, bright light, he said, descending to the southwest of him, traveling in a slight southeast to northwest direction.

"It was almost a fire ball," he said. "If that was a shooting star it was the best shooting star I ever saw."

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - Nov. 15, 1990

Cosmic Delights

By Phil

The search for ET in Gulf Breeze has taken on a grim outlook these days with charges and counter charges flying around more often than UFOs. It makes me wonder if ET isn't a cosmic citizen who wishes to play a celestial game. Could it possibly be that humor and amusement are the only goals left for ET since he has learned that space is limitless, and his high technology can't take him some place that doesn't exist. May be, just may be, ET's only enjoyment is to watch us scramble around trying to figure out what is going on.

As a boy I lived a rural life, and used available resources (bugs of course) for fun; I played with June bugs. (If you've never done this, let me explain it to you. Find a large June bug (they come out in June), and tie a string to its leg. The June bug is too dumb to know that it can't get away, so it flies round and round and round. (A country boy's version of model airplanes.) If you want to really get creative, tie a bug to each end of the string. Then, because they are pulling against each other, they fly round and round by themselves, so you can sit back and watch. This is great fun, and I have fond memories of those buzzing days, but no longer.

I'm seeing definite similarities between what I was doing and what ET is doing. I am beginning to think that we are someone else's June bug. I don't see their string, but we're definitely going round and round. I'm also feeling remorse for cruelty to those bugs of my early youth. I can imagine how they must have felt. I'm sure they felt something evil was chasing them, when all the time it was just another bug trying to get away. Perhaps ET is just a kid with a toy, and we are what makes it go round and round.

Maybe the reason that we don't see the string between ourselves is that ET has evolved to a higher level of intelligence, and uses his mental powers to tie us together, so there is no physical string, that's primitive. Maybe if we could cooperate with each other he would just go away, and leave us alone. On second thought maybe several of us should continue going round as a diversion, because I suddenly remembered that I kept bugs that wouldn't cooperate in a jar,

CR: R. Reid

Investigators doubt UFO author

By Craig Myers
News Journal

Two investigators for the Mutual UFO Network said Friday they believe Gulf Breeze author Ed Walters faked some of the photos of UFOs that appear in his book.

"We believe that UFOs exist," said Rex and Carol Salisbury of Navarre of their study of several of Walters' photos. "We entered this investigation with a natural and favorable bias toward the Walters

case," but "our investigation and analysis lend to the conclusion that several, if not all of the photos are probable hoaxes."

Walters, who co-wrote "The Gulf Breeze Sightings" with his wife Frances, maintains the photos are real and that they were taken during numerous encounters between November 1987 and March 1988.

Walters has appeared on numerous radio and television shows, including "Unsolved Mysteries" and the Oprah Winfrey Show, to recount his experiences with

UFOs.

He was reported to be out of town Friday and could not be reached for comment.

In July the couple was named "Investigators of the Year" at a MUFON Symposium in Pensacola.

Walt Andrus, MUFON's international director, said Friday that his organization is not yet ready to give its stamp of approval to the Salisberys' four-month investigation of the photos.

"I don't know how they arrived at that

decision," Andrus said from his office in Seguin, Texas. "It is certainly premature. He has no business talking to reporters. It has never been cleared through here. He can't make representations for the organization."

Andrus, who has for two years endorsed the Walters case, appointed Salisbury in July to take a second look at the case after questions surfaced about the credibility

of Walters' photos.

The first question arose after a model was found in the Walters' former residence in Gulf Breeze in March. The Styrofoam and drafting paper model was found in the attic of the home and strongly resembled a drawing Walters made of one of his UFO sightings.

The second question arose when Tommy Smith, formerly of Gulf Breeze, said in June that he witnessed Walters fake UFO photos. Smith said Walters asked him to take some faked UFO photos to the Gulf Breeze newspaper and claim they were real.

But Andrus on Friday said Smith is lying and the UFO model was hidden in the attic by someone who wants to discredit Walters.

"Tommy Smith can't prove any of his statements — they are outlandish lies," Andrus said.

The Salisberys said Smith's testimony



Walters

and the model contributed to their conclusion, but more convincing was an analysis of Walters' so-called "road shot" that shows a UFO hovering over a road.

Salisbury said the reflection of the spacecraft, which should be flat, actually is at an angle that does not match the road's surface. The triangular shape of the reflection also does not match the round light source on the bottom of the craft, he said.

The Salisberys said the photo and a second similar photo probably was created by double-exposure — a process by which a model is photographed and the image is exposed again onto the same frame of film.

"With these photos reassessed as probable hoaxes, the other photos ... should be

considered as highly suspect," Salisbury wrote in the preliminary report.

Seven MUFON members investigated the sightings in 1988 and concluded Walters' story was true. The Salisberys were not among the original investigators, but joined MUFON in November 1988.

Andrus said that while the Salisberys are good investigators, they cannot yet speak for MUFON.

"They (the Salisberys) do not have grounds to arrive at that conclusion until it is submitted to us. We will have to look at their facts," Andrus said.

The Salisberys have not yet submitted their report to MUFON.

Phil Klass, a contributing editor to Aviation Week & Space Technology magazine and a longtime Walters critic, said Andrus is too "proud and stubborn" to accept the report.

"I think the Salisberys should be commended for being willing to change their earlier opinion," said Klass.

But Dr. Bruce Maccabee, a photo-

graphic analyst who has defended Walters' photos, said the road reflection road does not discredit the photo.

Maccabee said his analysis of the photo shows light from beneath the object was projected at an angle — like car headlights shining ahead of a car on a wet road.

Maccabee said Friday he still is open-minded about the Walters' sightings, but said it would take more convincing evidence than Salisbury's report to convince him of a hoax.

"Nothing I have seen has changed my mind," Maccabee said.

Salisbury said his conclusion on Walters' photos does not shake his own belief in UFOs. And he said his report won't end the Walters debate.

"The problem with Walters' story isn't a UFO problem, it is a human problem," Salisbury said. "If the Walters case is typical of most UFO cases, the debate will probably go on for years in spite of any evidence pro or con."

UFO report political, official says

By Craig Myers
News Journal

A report that Gulf Breeze resident Ed Walters may have faked photographs of UFOs is designed to hurt Walters' campaign for city council, a Mutual UFO Network official said Monday.

Dan Wright, who heads UFO investigations for MUFON, said Monday the organization is "concerned that one of our investigators may have taken sides in a political dispute."

Walters co-wrote "The Gulf Breeze

Sightings," which recounts encounters he claims to have had with UFOs between November 1987 and March 1988. He is a candidate for City Council in Gulf Breeze on the Nov. 6 ballot.

Walters would not comment Monday, but said earlier this month that his alleged UFO encounters were not an issue in the campaign.

The issue resurfaced Friday after Rex and Carol Salisbury, investigators for the UFO network, released a summary of a preliminary report that said Walters

likely faked at least two photographs reproduced in his book.

The Salisberys, MUFON investigators of the year in 1989-90, were asked in July to reopen the case.

The new probe was prompted by the discovery of a model in the attic of Walters' former home in Gulf Breeze. The plastic foam and drafting paper model strongly resembled a drawing of an alleged UFO in Walters' book.

In another incident, a former Gulf Breeze man said he helped Walters fake

UFO photos at least once in 1987.

On Monday, Wright said that Gulf Breeze Mayor Ed Gray, a longtime critic of Walters, may have "pressed" the Salisberys to release their report before the election.

"It is possible that Gray may have found a sympathetic ear," Wright said in a telephone interview from Lansing, Mich., where he lives.

But Salisbury said that Gray had absolutely no influence on the report's release.

"I could care less about the City Council race," Salisbury said. "I don't live in Gulf Breeze."

Gray would not comment on Wright's allegations.

In his report, Salisbury questioned the legitimacy of the so-called "road shot" which shows a UFO hovering over a road.

The reflection of the spacecraft, which should be flat, actually is at an angle that does not match the road's surface. The triangular shape of the reflection also does not match the round light source, Salisbury said.

Salisbury said that he told MUFON International Director Walt Andrus in September that he believed Walters faked some, if not all, of his photos. It was then, he said, that he learned some MUFON members were trying to discredit him.

Before the personal attacks began, he said he decided to make public his findings. "I told them we would not tolerate being discredited," he said. "We were already being categorized as 'debunkers.' They have a history of shooting the messenger."

Wright on Monday said evidence still indicates Walters' photos are legitimate and that MUFON has no interest in the City Council race.

"If we find Rex didn't take into consideration all factors and didn't make all the necessary contacts, we may have to determine it is an incomplete report," Wright said.

Deep Gap UFO report a mystery

By NAN CHASE
Democrat Staff Writer

Talk about spooky.

Last Feb. 20 a Watauga County Sheriff's Department radio dispatcher reported receiving a call from a man who said he saw an unidentified flying object near Deep Gap. According to a newspaper report at the time, an officer went to the Big Hill Road area but found nothing.

Now the sheriff says he's checked all telephone and radio logs and there's no record of the call at the department.

That mysterious UFO sighting by the unidentified man is just one of dozens recorded in 1990 by George D. Fawcett (pronounced faw-CETT), state director of the North Carolina unit of MUFON, the worldwide Mutual UFO Network Inc.

Mr. Fawcett, from Lincolnton, has recently released his 23rd annual UFO report for North Carolina. He calls 1990 a "tremendous year" for UFO sightings.

Mr. Fawcett has been tracking UFO reports — a "magnificent obsession," he calls the avocation — for nearly half a century. The first few years he was a skeptic, but after seeing a UFO himself 42 years ago

he's a believer.

Now he's investigated more than 1,200 UFO reports, he says, and finds there's agreement about UFO characteristics worldwide.

"They're the same in Russia and in North Carolina," Mr. Fawcett said. "It's a big old world."

The spaceships generally are about 30 feet in diameter, often with a row of lights around the middle. They weigh some 30 tons, leave parched rings on grass when they land and, yes, two-thirds of them carry space creatures. These are usually 3½ to 4 feet tall.

Mr. Fawcett has 35 filing cabinets of UFO documentation in his garage and 15,000 UFO-related items in his house. While he waits for investors to raise money for a real museum — which he hopes to direct — he's happy to talk to interested callers about UFOs. A former YMCA director, newspaper executive and restaurateur, he now works in textiles.

One investor has donated \$50,000 toward a museum and Mr. Fawcett keeps in touch with more than 100 North Carolina members of MUFON in 60 North Carolina cities through meetings, seminars and a newsletter filled with UFO reports from around the state.

Charlotte, Durham, Asheboro, Mount Airy, Lincolnton, Oxford and

Boone.

"They've had a lot of good reports up in Boone," he said. The past year has seen "waves" of reports around the world, including greater than usual numbers of UFO sightings in Belgium, Russia, Japan and Canada.

A typical report came from a former Air Force pilot in North Carolina who reported "a bright light, like a fluorescent bulb hovering above Garland." The spaceship stayed at 1,500 feet for a while then moved "upward 4,000 to 5,000 feet in a matter of seconds, and on another occasion it flew parallel to N.C. 411."

The sighting lasted more than an hour, and according to Mr. Fawcett, a large number of other witnesses saw the object over the same period.

It's sightings like that which have put about 900 push pins on a North Carolina map "the size of a station wagon." And, claims Mr. Fawcett, the state ranks fourth in the United States for UFO sightings.

He hopes to hear from skeptics and believers alike just as soon as the next UFO glides into sight. MUFON headquarters are located at 602 Battleground Road, Lincolnton, N.C. 28092; telephone (704) 735-5725.

Tarheel Sketch

GEORGE FAWCETT

UFO investigator started early, stuck with it, and remains unwavering in his beliefs

By Floyd Rogers
JOURNAL REPORTER

LINCOLNTON — You meet some strange people in the UFO business, and George Fawcett says that one of the strangest came up to him in a movie theater in Columbia, S.C., about 1975 and tried to get him to sign an oath of secrecy.

Fawcett, who started looking into reports of unidentified flying objects 47 years ago, said that he refused to sign. He said that the man, whom he described as dark and swarthy, took him outside and offered him \$12,000 to stop talking about UFOs. He said that the people weren't ready for what Fawcett was telling them.

Fawcett said he refused that, too, and the man then threatened to kill him if he didn't stop. "By then I was getting a little uncomfortable," he said.

Fawcett had been hired to go around to theaters and speak about UFOs to help promote a movie, *UFOs Target Earth*, and he couldn't do much of a job promoting the movie if he stopped talking about UFOs. But he didn't want to be killed by a dark man in Columbia, S.C., so Fawcett was in rather a quandary for a while until the man eventually calmed down.

Fawcett said that it came out in their discussion that the man had been talking to some creatures that had arrived by UFO and in fact was being controlled by them part time. He even offered to take Fawcett to meet them, but Fawcett had another show to do and begged off.

Fawcett said that it all seemed a little far-fetched to him.

They parted amicably in time for Fawcett to do his second show, and the man offered him a \$100 bill for his time. Fawcett said he took it and used the money to take his son on a tour of Civil War battlefields in Virginia.

Fawcett said he has not seen the man since, although the man told him that he knew how to find him if he ever needed to.

That's no big deal; Fawcett is easily found.

He is the founder of several UFO study groups, including MUFON-NC, the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina, and was its director until this year. Whenever anyone in or around North Carolina reported seeing a UFO in the last 20 years or so, Fawcett probably investigated it.

So far, Fawcett said, he has looked into 1,200 sightings and

RESUMÉ

FULL NAME:
George D'estard Fawcett.

AGE: 61.

PUBLIC POSITION:
Founder, Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina.

JOB:
Textile worker.

BIRTHPLACE:
Mount Airy.

EDUCATION:
B.A., Lynchburg College.

FAMILY:
Wife, Shirley; daughter and son from previous marriage.



has been able to explain all but about 250 of them as man-made or natural phenomena. Those terrestrially inexplicable 250 UFOs are the ones that fascinate Fawcett. He has no doubt that they came from faraway places.

In a field that skeptics may consider populated by crooks and charlatans, George Fawcett clearly seems to be neither. People who know him say that he is intelligent, level-headed and honest.

"One thing I've done," he said, "is I have prayed that I wouldn't be deceived or deceive anybody else in the process of dissemination of this thing."

David Lowe, the city manager of Lincolnton, said that he has known Fawcett for years and that they have spent hours talking about UFOs.

"He's not the kind of person that people normally think sees Martians walking around," Lowe said. "His feet are planted on the ground, firmly."

Lowe said he thinks that Fawcett has good evidence showing the existence of UFOs but that, despite their talks, he still has doubts.

"I would need to see one, some time or other, to actually believe to the degree he does. I do know that he is very sincere in what he's doing, but I'm going to need a little more convincing."

Fawcett, born and raised in Mount Airy, has lived the last 14 years in Lincolnton, a well-tended town about 25 miles northwest of Charlotte. He and Shirley, his wife of 14 years, live in a modest frame house a few blocks from the courthouse square. Fawcett, who has been a YMCA director and a newspaperman, now works in a textile mill.

Lowe said that Fawcett is a respected member of the community in Lincolnton, where he is known for more than UFOs. He gives lectures and does other things to help raise money for people in need, Lowe said. "He just does a lot of things that nobody really knows about. He's not the kind of person that does something

for recognition; he does it because he believes in it."

At 61, Fawcett is losing the taut, square-jawed profile and athletic trim that show in newspaper photos from 25 years ago. His hair has thinned some and is turning gray. He has developed a moderate paunch, and he limps slightly when he walks.

When interviewed at his home one evening recently, Fawcett had just finished a day of work after having been off for a few days. His muscles were stiff and sore, he said. Working in a mill is like playing football, he said: You have to get used to it all over again after being off a while.

Fawcett is what they call a doffer, meaning that he doffs the beams. Beams are 13-foot-long spools of yarn that weigh 85 pounds each. His job is to take them off the machines as they fill up. It is hard work but not a bad way to make a living, he said.

"I enjoy it. The people are real nice. Some people think working in a textile plant is the end of the world, but it's not. I think every profession has a calling," he said.

FAWCETT WAS BORN into a prominent banking family in Mount Airy. His great-grandfather founded the First National Bank there. His father was the bank president. The family lived in an appropriately solid stone house on Main Street. Fawcett and his twin brother, Garnet, were the first boys in the family, coming after four girls.

As a youngster, Fawcett exhibited an uncommon interest in the world outside Mount Airy. Nine years old when World War II started, he began tracking the troop movements and battles on a wall of the bedroom he shared with Garnet.

Garnet, who became a banker, said that he asked for a .22-caliber rifle one year at Christmas and that George asked for a map to go on the wall.

When the war ended, George had 44 scrapbooks full

of war reports and 26 war maps on the bedroom walls.

I could go back to the homestead, which is no longer the homestead — it's been sold to someone else — and I could show you on the pine wall where World War II ended in Europe and in the Pacific," Fawcett said. "I used flags and pins and Mercurochrome on the walls to keep up with it."

One of those war reports is what sparked Fawcett's interest in UFOs. He keeps a framed copy on the wall beside his desk at home. It's a three-paragraph Associated Press story about U.S. bomber pilots seeing strange silver balls in the air over Germany.

The story speculated that the silver balls were secret weapons that the Germans were testing. It turned out, Fawcett said, that the Germans thought they were secret weapons that the Allies were testing. He believed then, and still does, that they were extraterrestrial, sent perhaps to check on this strange planet that seemed determined to destroy itself.

It was some years later that Fawcett saw a UFO for himself. He was a student at Lynchburg College in Virginia. It was 10:15 a.m. on Friday, July 6, 1951. He was walking across the campus when he saw it, a dark orange hemisphere with sharp edges, hovering about 300 feet above the administration building. He watched it for 4½ minutes, he said, before it rose out of sight in the blue sky.

"That night an orange globelike object came down and blew up in a lady's yard in Staunton, Va.," he said.

This was followed a week later by a report in *Life* magazine of UFOs following U.S. bombers in Korea. Fawcett said, "And so I began feeling like maybe all of this fitted together."

Fawcett graduated from Lynchburg College, having lettered in five sports, and went into YMCA work because it combined sports and religion, two things

(continued on page 9)

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Winston-Salem, NC - Jan. 13, 1991)

besides UFOs that most interested him. (He is Episcopalian and as a teen-ager gave some thought to studying for the ministry.)

He spent 20 years as a YMCA executive, running Y's in North Carolina, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Florida and Tennessee before burning out and returning to Mount Airy to work for the hometown newspaper.

After a year, he said, he got a better offer with a now-defunct newspaper in Maiden, a town seven miles north of Lincolnton.

Fawcett and his wife also ran a restaurant, Mom's Sub Shop, in Lincolnton. When the newspaper job gave out, Fawcett took the textile job, and they continued with the restaurant until two years ago. During all of this, he put in an average of 15 hours a week investigating UFO reports and helping to run MUFON-NC.

"I've always burned the candle at both ends and in the middle," he said.

"I think there's been a time and place for everything I've ever done. . . . Maybe it doesn't say much for me, but my life, if I had to live over again, I have no regrets. I'd probably do the same thing."

The question comes up: Might he have been more successful if had devoted less time and energy to UFOs?

"I don't think so," Fawcett said. "I think what happened is that for me, not only the ability to speak creatively and write creatively but to appear before large groups to lecture and to write a book and to be on TV shows with astronauts and things like that, plus travel in maybe a dozen states, and starting the groups that I mentioned, I think it increased not only the personality but my education and knowledge and contacts that have spilled over into all the professions."

"And, relatively speaking, I think I've been successful at everything I've ever done," he said.

"Probably the biggest regret I have is not having enough time to do everything I'd like to do in the short time I'm here. I've crammed three lifetimes in 60 years already."

Being widely known as a UFO expert is not entirely a blessing; at least it was not for Fawcett in the beginning.

"In the early years I was called a crackpot, Communist, Russian spy. . . . I lived with it in the early years. It was pretty rough sometimes; I even had people call and say my daughter had been killed in a bus wreck. All kinds of weird things — call in and play 'Mister Spaceman' at 3 o'clock in the morning. But most of it was good-natured kidding," he said.

"Now, I don't get that at all. It's been 10 or 12 years since I had that kind of thing," Fawcett said. "It's gotten so they don't even ask me if UFOs are real anymore; they say, 'What have they been up to?'"

He said surveys in the last few years show that about half the people believe that UFOs are real, 25 percent don't, and 25 percent say they don't know. Given the vastness of the universe and the billions of sunlike stars, he said, it is inconceivable that Earth alone has intelligent life.

"Evidently, there's a whole swarm of life out there. Some would be on our own level; some would be far behind us; some could be far in advance."

Then again, Fawcett said, some people think that other beings have been here all along, that they coexist with humans but on a different space/time plane, that they are "ultraterrestrials," not extraterrestrials.

Wherever they are from, he said, people have been seeing signs of them for a long, long time. He said that Cherokee legends refer to UFOs as sky boats and their occupants as sky people; Greeks and Romans called them flying shields. Even 20,000-year-old cave drawings in Europe depict UFOs, Fawcett said.

"And you wonder why so-called cavemen went berserk and stopped painting vegetation and wildlife and started painting these other things on the wall."

HE SAID THAT PEOPLE'S descriptions of UFOs have been nearly unchanged throughout history: discs, domed saucers, cigar- or rocket-shaped, half-globes. . . . The same descriptions still come in from all over the Earth, at the rate of about 150 a day, including those that turn out to be such explicable things as meteors and airplanes.

"And the way they affected people, soil samples, animals and machines was the same in Lincolnton, North Carolina, as it was in Moscow, Russia," Fawcett said. "There was no difference."

He said that just about all the world's governments, including the United States, know more about UFOs than they will admit.

Fawcett said that our government has investigated UFOs and has found out the same thing that he has known for years: "In effect, that UFOs were real, they were not natural phenomena, they were not conventional objects, they were unconventional objects with a high degree of technology, and they represent a threat against both national security and human survival."

The government will not say this publicly. "But this is basically what the government found out about UFOs and told to themselves within the inner sanctum of the agencies," he said.

There is no question that some UFO occupants are hostile, he said, adding that he has reports of eight or nine cases "where people have been burned, blinded, paralyzed, injured or killed by UFO close encounters."

"I've also got maybe 85 cases where people have been shot at UFOs and the bullets have bounced back," Fawcett said, adding that this kind of a welcome might explain some of the extraterrestrials' hostility.

Fawcett said that people ask him all the time what he would do if he had a close encounter. "Every time that question is asked, I think of that movie *Invasion From Mars*, where the minister gets out and starts walking toward the creatures and gets zapped with a ray gun and is disintegrated."

If UFOs exist outside the movies, skeptics ask, why don't the occupants introduce themselves?

"Well, you have several problems," Fawcett said. "One is you have the hostility being displayed — by us, not always them first."

Another reason, he said, is that they probably have orders to avoid public contact with Earthlings.

IF WE CAN'T MEET extraterrestrials in person, the next best thing, Fawcett figures, is to have a museum where people can see the photographs, witnesses' reports and other UFO memorabilia that he and others have collected over the years.

Fawcett has dreamed of establishing a UFO museum in North Carolina for a long time, but so far, he said, it has come to naught.

He has not been able to generate much interest and has raised almost no money for it, although he said that an older member of a UFO study group that he helped

start in Florida has willed him his collection of UFO stuff and \$50,000 toward a museum.

A museum would be more than a place for the curious; it would be a place where people could come to a better understanding of themselves by learning about the possibilities that exist outside their narrow paths, Fawcett said.

"I think what UFOs have done for me is they've indicated at least that any wide revelation of God's creation will lead to a better understanding of man, and I can't think of anything so badly needed in 1990 as a better understanding of who we are and where we're headed," he said.

"I THINK THAT GOD is still in control of the universe and that his book is being followed just like a blueprint. Every time you read the day's paper, you read the Bible, that's how close. And these things are all coming true.

"I would like to feel that I am making some kind of contribution to an understanding of the phenomenon we're talking about. And I feel like I'm not being misled or that I'm misleading other people," Fawcett said. "I don't feel like I'm the work of the devil; I hope I'm more the work of the Spirit."

Unearthly visitations



Space girls are easy if not traditionally attractive.

IF YOU'VE COME HERE TO SCOFF," A LARGE, determined-looking woman warned participants at a UFO seminar held not long ago at The Evergreen State College, "please leave! I don't want you to hear my story." There was sympathetic applause from her mostly student audience.

Though some had come to the seminar expecting accounts of Unidentified Flying Objects briefly glimpsed as they soared off into deep space, this woman's story was far more sensational. She was what UFO buffs call a "contactee" or an "abductee." She had not only seen a flying saucer, she'd been inside one—an episode she termed "terrifying." And she assured her audience that thousands of others have endured similar experiences, but that their fear of being laughed at keeps them from talking about the events.

It seems that she was lying in bed when she sensed an enigmatic presence in her room. It was a tall, hooded figure, who exerted some pressure on her arthritic shoulder. The next morning, her arthritis pain had vanished, though she had a terrible headache. When a friend told her she'd been visited by an alien from another planet, she was incredulous. "I really doubted my sanity," she said, beginning to cry.

Later, her strange visitor returned. He hypnotized her and "beamed her up"—her words—into his starship. Here she was examined by some spooky little creatures, which she, and others who describe like experiences, call "Grays." The Grays put an "implant" in her body that receives signals. They send her messages when they're ready to pay her another visit, which they've done several times.

The scientific basis for her report was supplied by a man who was introduced as a Boeing engineer. To demonstrate the human place in the universe, he showed slides of galaxies and dinosaurs. He advanced the theory that about the time of the Neanderthals, extraterrestrials invaded Earth and bred with the humanoid creatures then living here, producing us. These aliens have been returning ever since, sometimes kidnapping people. "For someone to say that there's nothing out there, I think they've got rocks in their head," he said. "The big question is, are they coming here?"

There was no doubt in the minds of the speakers who followed that the Grays were coming here, and in droves. A grandmotherly sort described their appearance in detail: "Three to 4 feet tall, with huge heads and black, elongated eyes. . . . They communicate with each other by telepathy."

It was her belief, and that of other speakers, that the Grays are planning to take over

this planet. Often their behavior is extremely unfriendly. It was they, she asserted, who brought AIDS and drugs to this world as part of a long-range plot to deplete the population. Some aliens have mutilated cattle and left their carcasses lying about. Bigfoot, she said, is an extraterrestrial. He (she? it?) was seen disembarking from a spacecraft, though what otherworldly purpose might have been served by lugging this bulky beast across millions of miles of empty space, she did not make clear. (Noah's ark came briefly to mind, but the thought was rejected as being unworthy.)

All of the speakers shared an opinion that somehow seemed particularly interesting. They were convinced that our government knows all about these aliens and is deliberately keeping this information from the public. The grandmotherly woman even declared that President Eisenhower had signed a treaty with the Grays. "How could he, when they don't speak English?" asked one audience member. But this question was quickly brushed off. Obviously, beings able to communicate with humans by means of body implants would have no trouble picking up enough English to arrange a treaty with President Eisenhower.

Contactees believe that today the government closely monitors all that these aliens do. Helicopters track US civilians suspected of dealing with them, and sometimes transport these hapless citizens to New Mexico, a state described by one contactee as "just one giant abductee processing center." The idea that a suspicious taxpayer might call up Slade or Jolene and inquire, "What's going on here? What's my government up to?" didn't seem to occur either to the speakers or to the audience. Plainly, abductees, contactees, and their associates don't see their government as being "of the people, by the people, and for the people" in any traditional sense. They talk of it as a hostile force, almost as foreign and intimidating as the aliens themselves.

As the session continued, several questions remained unanswered. First, Einstein determined that nothing can travel faster than the velocity of light, that is, 186,000 miles per second. And even at this inconceivable speed, light takes more than 11 years to reach the most distant of the nearest 20 stars. How do the Grays make it back and forth so easily, especially on trips where they're burdened with a Sasquatch? The Boeing engineer had little to say about this, though he did hint that Einstein might not have had the whole answer (and one must, of course, believe this, if one is to

THE WEEKLY, Seattle, WA

Jan. 16, 1991

place any credence at all in TV programs like *Star Trek*).

Second, if the Grays are so technically superior to humans, why don't they simply wipe out the Earthlings and take over the planet? Why mess around with unreliable half-measures, such as introducing AIDS and negotiating treaties with President Eisenhower?

Finally, there's the question of why the Grays want our planet at all. Most astronomers agree that there are probably millions of planets in the universe capable of supporting life, and, if they've found a way to reach these, why bother with poor old Earth and its tattered ozone hole? Surely some other planets must be in better shape. Choosing Earth would seem to be the equivalent of siting one's housing development at Love Canal.

But not all of the messages brought by the contactees consisted of gloom and doom. An audience member remarked wistfully that she'd certainly like to meet the alien that cured arthritis. And one jolly young man told us how he had been sleeping with his wife in their bedroom when a female Gray appeared and climbed into their bed. Not surprisingly, a divorce soon followed, but there were compensations. It turned out that the visitor was participating in a cross-breeding program designed to create a new race. The young man said he had now fathered quite a few half-extraterrestrial offspring, as many as 30 or 40, he'd been told. Unfortunately, he did not have photographs of his alien mate, but to add credibility to his account, he displayed an interesting oil painting, produced by one of his contactee friends, the beneficiary of similar visits. Artistically speaking, the painting wasn't all that good, but it did make one thing crystal clear: Earth women have little to fear from extraterrestrial competition. The alien lady was extremely skinny, and her enormous black eyes made her look more weird than romantic.

Nevertheless, this young man's upbeat narrative made up for a lot of the depressing tales about AIDS and mutilated cattle. After all, if aliens really are coming to take over, most sensible Earthlings would want the kind that make love, not war. ■

Woman reports seeing UFO in sky near Granite Bay

By MARK ANDERSON
Of The Press-Tribune

ROSEVILLE — A nanny in Granite Bay is sure she saw something hovering low in the sky near Granite Bay at about 7:15 a.m. Thursday. She just doesn't know what it was.

"It was like the body of a 747, but without wings and completely lit. It moved forward, slowly, in a ruler-straight line," said Joan Hames, 34, of Roseville. Then the object disappeared suddenly.

She said she had just arrived at work and was watching the morning news when out of the corner of her eye she saw a large object. She volunteered that she does not drink, do drugs or smoke, and that she has never seen anything like this before.

She says she is sure it was not a weather balloon, a cloud formation or a reflection.

Smokey Bassett, community relations chief for McClellan Air Force Base, said overcast conditions can produce a variety of vis-

ual conditions.

"With the kind of weather we're having it could have been anything. Who knows? It could have been the belly of an airplane coming out of Metropolitan Airport."

Neither Mather Air Force Base nor the Federal Aviation Administration received any related reports of sightings.

Cheri Dedrick, community relations chief at Mather Air Force Base, said radar screens showed the area clear all morning.

"It's really hard to describe what it might have been. It could have been anything from satellite particles burning up in the atmosphere to a hot air balloon," Dedrick said.

Placer County Sheriff's spokesman Johnnie Smith said there were no reports of sightings.

Second UFO Sighting Reported Here

The Daily Journal's recent report of the Rockingham couple who saw North Carolina's "Christmas Night UFO" has elicited a response from a Rockingham man who also spotted an Unidentified Flying Object — not on Christmas night, but on New Year's Eve.

The man is eager to hear from anyone else who might have seen the UFO, for reasons which will be explained below.

The man, who declined to be identified but who is an experienced observer of the night skies, gave the following account of his sighting:

"I don't think it was a 'flying saucer.' I believe it was some sort of military craft — but it surely ranks as an 'Unidentified Flying Object,' because it behaved unlike any aircraft I have observed.

"It was about 6:20 p.m. on Dec. 31. I had read the Editorial in The Daily Journal that day about the 'blue moon,' and I was watching

the full moon and noticing how quickly the clouds were clearing away from it. Then I saw a clear red light, about three fingers' distance from the moon and directly beneath it. I watched it for about a minute, then took perhaps 45 seconds to go into the house, get my binoculars, and ask my wife to come out and look at the object. I wasn't into the 'holiday spirits,' but I thought it advisable to recruit another witness.

"When we came outside, the red light was still the same distance from the moon, but now was directly to the right of the moon. It appeared to be due east of Rockingham.

"We watched it for about two minutes through the binoculars. It was a very pure red light, which blinked about three times each second, and it didn't move. It looked very much like the light of a radio tower — but there's no radio tower in that direction from my home.

"Then, it just winked out. "Maybe it was a helicopter, but I can't think of any reason why a helicopter would hover in one position like that for so long.

"It's impossible to tell how far away the light was, but it appeared to be several miles away and at about cloud level.

"If someone else saw it, and we could get together and compare notes on how high it appeared and in what direction, we ought to be able to triangulate and determine something close to its exact location. That might allow us to make an educated guess as to what it was."

Any other reader who spotted the New Year's Eve UFO is asked to call Clark Cox at The Daily Journal, who will arrange a meeting or telephone conversation between the observers.

—Clark Cox

Tom Cahill

COAST RESIDENTS DEBUNK GOVT. UFO DEBUNKERS

B

ecause of distrust of the US Government and all its so-called "experts," a group has recently formed to investigate unidentified flying objects and extra-terrestrials. Called North Coast UFO Watch, the group will have its second meeting Saturday, Jan. 19, 6:30pm at the Ft Bragg library.

The assassination of Pres. Kennedy, the Watergate burglary, the Iran-Contra outrage, the S&L helix and now the government's 43-year coverup of UFOs and ETs has been exposed by Howard Blum, award-winning investigative reporter for The New York Times. In his new book, *Out There*, which is in the collection of the Ft Bragg library.

The US Government has not only concealed and attempted to debunk sightings of UFOs and encounters with "visitors" from space, but with the FBI and other agencies, it has also kept under surveillance and harassed (at taxpayers' expense of course) non-government-funded UFO researchers. A favored and easy method of harassment is public ridicule which may have driven at least on professor to suicide, reports Blum.

In a review of *Out There*, Whitley Strieber, who shared his own experience with ETs in his best-seller, *Communion*, wrote last summer that Blum's book was "tremendously exciting to me" because for the first time the major media was treating UFOs seriously and had revealed the fact that the government had also taken them seriously all along.

North Coast UFO Watch met for the first time Dec. 11, when more than 40 people crowded into the community room of the Ft Bragg library. While only a few shared observations and experiences, skeptics remained respectful. Since that time one long-term Ft Bragg resident recounted the many sightings near the town in 1969 which she thought the Coast Guard might have tracked on radar. Another Coast resident of many years related that there were so many sightings near Elk about 1973 that people by the carload would gather on the headlands after work to watch the sky.

If indeed the government is withholding information on beings from space, North Coast UFO Watch plans to get to the bottom of this by — among other things — networking with similar groups all over the world. In England recently, crops flattened to the earth — but not burned — in huge circular designs are still unexplained. And far more exciting, a massive UFO was not only tracked on radar over Belgium recently, but it was seen by dozens of so-called "reputable" observers.

The Defense Intelligence Agency, which dwarfs the CIA, is one of many in the US intelligence community that has been investigating UFOs and ETs with such programs as Majestic-12, Project Blue Book, the Dundee Society, and most recently the DIA's "UFO Working Group" organized in 1987 and discovered by Howard Blum with the help of Seymour Hersh, *New York Times* reporter famed for uncovering the My-Lai Massacre in Vietnam in 1968.

In researching *Out There*, Blum stumbled on something that, while unrelated to UFOs, clearly shows what kind of people US voters have entrusted to "serve" them. A top secret paper Blum ferreted out of the DIA under the Freedom of Information Act, advocates that American soldiers might fight more aggressively under the influence of certain drugs such as cocaine.

Many in North Coast UFO Watch share Whitley Strieber's fear that political right-wingers and religious fundamentalists are trying to convince others that visitors from space are demonic and a threat to national security even before making convincing contact with these extra-terrestrials. "In many important areas of our lives, the government has a strangle-hold on truth due to its collective paranoia and lust for power," said one member of North Coast UFO Watch, convinced that if there are ETs, they are friendly and might even be helpful.

January 19, Bill Woodward, an art instructor from Berkeley, will recount his very "close encounter of a third kind" at the Ft Bragg library, 6:30pm. For more information, call 964-0820.

NEWS, Mount Airy, NC - Dec. 21, 1990

UFO Sightings Up In N.C., Including One In Mount Airy

By NICOLE HATCH
News Staff Writer

The number of UFO sightings across North Carolina, including one in Mount Airy, have increased this year over previous year's sightings.

George D. Fawcett, the state director of the Mutual UFO Network of North Carolina, said the number of sightings across the state had many common characteristics, including large objects seen at low altitudes mostly at night or in the early morning, with multiple lights and making a whining or humming sound.

Fawcett said observations of unidentified flying objects have been reported from Mount Airy, Oxford, Morganton, Asheboro, Lincolnton, Vale, Charlotte, Durham, Boone, Dudley and Garland. In Mount Airy, the sighting was reported by Irena E. Stafford of Slate Road.

Talking about her sighting on Oct. 30 around 9:30 p.m., Stafford said she has never seen anything like what she observed that night. "It was a very peculiar experience," she said, adding that after reporting it to Fawcett, she was told a UFO was involved.

"What it was, I really don't know. But it was the biggest thing I have ever seen hanging in the air. It was bigger than an airplane or helicopter or balloon. If it was a UFO, then that is what I saw. He (Fawcett) definitely told me it was," Stafford reported.

Stafford first saw the UFO when she was trying to get her dogs out of the house for a walk before bedtime. She said the dogs always go outside about the same time every night. But on this occasion, "the dogs backed up and didn't want to go. They were shaking their heads and whining and rubbing their ears on the carpet. They didn't want to go outside.

"So I went outdoors and heard a real high whining noise. And I thought that it could be coming from the rock quarry. But it didn't get any louder or softer, so I went a little further out in my driveway to see what the whining was and where it was coming from when I noticed this thing up in the air," Stafford continued.

"At first, I thought I was seeing things. But then I got to looking at it, and it was so big. It looked twice as big as my house up there in the air. And I didn't know exactly what it was, but the more I looked at it, the more interested I became. So I sat down on the bumper of my car and watched it," she said.

Stafford noted that at first, the object did not move. She described it

as "just a huge yellowish-gold light." And then, she said a red light that looked to be about 10 feet in diameter appeared on the side and spun around to the front of the object. "I could see then that it was round.

"The light went around and disappeared at the base of this thing. And then here came a green one, the same size. The same thing happened about three or four times. And I thought what on earth could that thing be, anyway."

No beams of light were coming from the object until one beam suddenly appeared from the right side and shined down to the ground, according to Stafford. She said another beam appeared from the left side and did the same thing. "These were just single, steady beams. It was a very vivid, white light.

"And then it started to move. It came forward toward me up above my neighbor's house. And as it came forward, it got larger. And then it stopped. And it stayed there. And then, all of a sudden, it went to the left faster than a plane. It was just a streak. And then it went two or three miles up in the air and it stopped and stayed there."

Still intrigued by the object, Stafford said she continued watching. She said the whining sound continued, getting louder as it got closer. The object moved back to its original position for a while.

"And then it took off to the right. It was just a zip like a falling star. And I watched it disappear. It just got smaller and then it was gone," she said.

Stafford said upon calling Fawcett to report the UFO, she was asked to draw what she had seen and if she would be willing to go to Charlotte and other places to describe the sighting. She said she is willing to describe the object, but has not been anywhere to do so yet.

Because many people might sneer at someone who reports seeing a UFO, Stafford said she is somewhat apprehensive about talking to just anyone about what she saw. "But I am no person to make up stuff like that. I have always been down to earth," she stressed.

Since seeing the UFO, Stafford said she goes out every night hoping to catch another look at the object. She has not seen it again yet. But the local woman said that when she does, she will call some other people to come view it with her so she can have more witnesses to say they saw the UFO, too.

MENDOCINO COMMENTARY, Fort Bragg, CA - Jan. 10, 1991

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - Jan. 17, 1991 CR: R. Reid

ABC joins local UFO sky watch

By Bruce Morrison

The Los Angeles based production company, Ohlmeyer Productions, working on the ABC special, "America's Best Kept Secrets", joined a local UFO "sky watch" on Friday night, January 11, 1991, and filmed the frequently seen "red light" UFO over Gulf Breeze. The cameraman, Ron Ladd, said, "It was a long distance away illuminating the clouds and traveling very slowly to the east. It just appeared from within the clouds and after a minute or so it disappeared. I caught it on film. It was sometimes very bright and then would fade, maybe because of the clouds."

An earlier witness, Jeff Lawrence, said, "What we saw on November 11, 1990 looked like the UFO that Ed Walters photographed three years ago. I know what we saw."

Eight local area residents were also present during the sighting along with the production company's producer, Jeff Androski, and former NASA systems specialist, Robert Oechsler. Mr. Oechsler was the first to see the glow of the UFO as it appeared beneath the clouds.

Mr. Oechsler is here on assignment from Washington and is an

expert in remote controlled mechanics and photo analysis. He was equipped with infra-red film to photograph the unidentified red object and said, "I have tried to consider all the options to this Gulf Breeze mystery. I would like to explain it away as a military aircraft, balloons, flares, temperature inversions, or hoax, but none of these options hold up under scientific study. Balloons don't travel opposite the wind, flares don't change color or hover motionless, and I can assure you that what I saw and filmed over Gulf Breeze was not an airplane or helicopter. I have designed some very sophisticated remote control systems but duplicating the soundless flight and brightness of this unknown object would be next to impossible. I can only say that I don't know what it is."

The ABC special will air in February. One segment will present information about the mysterious grass circles in Gulf Breeze Shoreline Park along with the unidentified flying red object that dozens of local residents continue to photograph.

If you have had a sighting, please contact the Sentinel or call MUFON, 436-2700.



Research on unidentified flying objects demanding hobby

By PHIL CARDELLA
of The Observer

Tracking down unidentified flying objects is like trying to catch butterflies with a hole in the net.

The unexplainable phenomenon show up when investigators are least prepared. They are rarely photographed, witnesses are reluctant to give evidence, fearing public humiliation and governments deny they exist altogether.

Lambton County's UFO investigator, Dorothy Lewis, expects the usual barriers to gathering data. She devotes much of her spare time interviewing eyewitnesses, guaranteeing confidentiality, attending symposiums and taking courses in the paranormal to prove they exist.

And she is convinced that UFOs are more than blips in radar systems or sights for sore eyes. She believes many are extraterrestrial.

"Once you get to the point when you realize that these are real events, then you want to learn more about them," says Mrs. Lewis, who was appointed a ufologist with the Mutual UFO Network, MUFON, an international organization comprised of people seriously interested in UFO research.

She says she treats all evidence put forward seriously. Weighing it carefully against the possibility of natural occurrences such as aurora sightings, or natural phenomenon before dismissing it or cataloguing it as a genuine UFO sighting.

She's investigating a case involving a fishing boat lost in dense fog

near Blue Point during a fishing derby on Lake Huron. According to the people on board, the boat experienced a complete loss of navigational systems, including the compass marooning the occupants for 48 hours.

Mrs. Lewis believes that electromagnetic pulses emitted from a unknown source could have interfered with the system. She feels the probability of a paranormal occurrence is high enough to investigate further and is looking for other boaters in the area who may have had similar problems.

"You have to eradicate all possibilities until you're left with the kernel," she said, adding that the kernel of the truth is that many of these objects are extraterrestrial since it's the only hypothesis that answers all the questions.

The inquisitive minded Mrs. Lewis says she's been fascinated by unexplainable events since she was a teenager growing up in England.

"I heard about UFOs for the first time in 1956. At that time they were called Gremlins. The British air force was breaking the sound barrier, but these objects could still be seen in the night sky, exceeding even the fastest airplane velocities."

Her interest in the phenomenon peaked in a cold icy Sarnia night in January 1967, when she spotted an object hovering in the early evening sky.

She said the object resembled a tiny orange light resembling Mars. As an astronomy student, she remembered the light couldn't have been the red planet since it was too low in the sky.

"I'll never forget it. It was such a pretty sight. But you could see it only through binoculars. It had red and green lights popping alternatively and very rapidly. It was spectacular to look at and lasted for 10 to 15 minutes."

She says her sighting was typical of most reported UFOs. It was diskoid (saucer like) in shape, travelled an alternating flat and oscillating flight path and moved at incredible speed.

She keeps well documented records of reported sightings in her field investigators log. UFO investigation is not a passive pursuit. Investigator's attend symposiums throughout North America, and meetings of Michigan MUFON are held every three months.

Mrs. Lewis says most reported sightings reach her through the police, although some cases are received by the Center for UFO Studies Hotline, based in Seattle Washington.

Many eyewitnesses are so deeply

affected by what they experienced that they seek answers from experts like Mrs. Lewis, but do not want to be identified. Mrs. Lewis is a volunteer, working at her own expense.

After a sighting is reported, Mrs. Lewis will interview subjects followed by sketching the object and taking compass readings to determine the exact location, relaying all data to Michigan MUFON.

Approximately 85 percent of cases can be identified as having a known cause. She says she uses a "high strangeness factor" type index to investigate the rest.

"You have to eradicate all possibilities until you're left with the kernel," she said, adding that the extraterrestrial kernel of the truth is that many of these objects are since it's the only hypothesis that answers all the questions.

She says MUFON has documented cases of people having contact with UFOs chasing one object that was reported in Michigan, 75 metres

(250 feet) long. In some cases people have communicated with aliens telepathically.

"Governments know about these things but they don't want to tell people about it."

Her proof is contained in a khaki colored military styled log book called the World Authority for Spatial Affairs. It cites cases of UFO crash retrievals documented by ex-airmen.

"People are conditioned to disbelieve this sort of thing," saying most people are skeptical that her work has much significance.

"There is a lot of prejudice and fear. A lot of people won't discuss it. You get so far and then you can't get any further."

Not Mrs. Lewis however. She feels UFOs contribute to important scientific knowledge about ourselves and the world we inhabit.

"I'd rather be doing UFO investigations than anything else," she said.

STANDARD, [City Unknown], Ontario,
Canada - Oct. 1, 1990

More mystery circles found in Saskatchewan

SASKATOON (CP) — More mysterious circles have turned up in Saskatchewan wheat fields, leaving scientists baffled by the strange markings and people thinking of visitors from outer space.

The most recent markings, discovered two weeks ago near Meath Park, Sask., are attracting a steady flow of curious people to the fields. Meath Park is about 150 kilometres northeast of Saskatoon.

"It's more than strange that we've been growing grain for centuries and it has only been in the past three or four years these have appeared," said Herman Austenson, a professor of crop sciences at the University of Saskatchewan.

Clarence Brule, who discovered the Meath Park circles, and Austenson aren't buying explanations the circles are the work of pranksters or weird weather patterns.

"I believe they were made by some kind of craft... extraterrestrial or army," Brule said.

He said there are two circles — one inside the other, with the largest about three metres in diameter.

The circles are considerably larger — but of a similar nature — to one found by farmer Mike Shawaga, about two weeks ago near Alvena 30 kilometres northeast of Saskatoon. And in late August, a farmer about 180 kilometres northwest of Saskatoon

discovered a series of neat, symmetrical patterns in his field.

One set of three concentric circles was about 18 metres across with two, two-metre circles nearby. There were no tracks leading from the circles and there were no depressions in the earth.

Brule said there were no tracks near the most recently discovered circles.

"They were so well defined — they went from standing stubble to compressed grain."

He said the earth below was not compressed.

"It seems something hovered there. Anything with weight would compress the earth."

Brule said he had a call from a researcher in Winnipeg, but no one in the scientific field has come to look at the rings.

"It (the circle) definitely isn't normal," said Austenson, who has studied grain fields for 40 years.

"I don't think whirlwinds would do it. They've been around for decades and have never done anything like this."

Shawaga dismissed explanations the circle is the work of pranksters. "It would take a year to make it."

He also said he is surprised scientists haven't come by to look at the circles. This past year, there have been circles found in at least three locations in northern Saskatchewan and another half-dozen in Manitoba.



MUTUAL UFO NETWORK investigator and part-time telemarketer Dorothy Lewis believes some unexplained flying objects may be extraterrestrial in origin. She is holding a composite sketch of a possible alien taken from descriptions of eyewitnesses who claim to have seen it.

Observer Photo

Researcher lists two local UFO sightings

By PHIL CARDELLA
of The Observer

Dorothy Lewis has been investigating unidentified flying objects in the Sarnia area since 1978 when she was invited to join the Mutual UFO Network.

Two of the more interesting sightings which have left indelible impressions on her occurred over the Lake Huron shoreline.

The first was a case reported in October 1982 during the late afternoon hours. A private pilot flying west direction at 2,000 feet reported seeing an airplane-like object with a thick white wing heading toward him on a converging course, 1,000 feet below. As it was coming closer, the object changed its appearance from a long narrow wing shaped to a bright disc like object. The pilot followed the disc for five minutes until the object descended into the lake, reverting to its original shape.

The second report involves a Charleworth Drive woman sitting in her yard alone on a July evening shortly before midnight in 1983.

The woman said she saw something in the sky rapidly approaching her. It was bar shaped and kept appearing and disappearing. The woman saw an orange light with a red centre. It was ruler rectangular shaped and travelled parallel to the Lake Huron shore.

Both of the sightings involved similar objects, said Mrs. Lewis.

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Jan. 14, 1991 CR: G. Conway

WORMS MAY BE A KEY

By Fabian Dawson
Staff Reporter

And on our late show tonight, the creepy 1990 feature, Nematodes from Space. Well, maybe.

The nematode, a worm that occurs naturally in soil, could hold a clue to the mysterious rings that have been found over the past decade in farmers' fields on both sides of the Atlantic.

The rings, known as crop circles, have been attributed to everything from whirlwinds to unidentified flying objects (UFOs).

But now the Mutual UFO Network, a Texas-based organization, reports that scientific analyses of soil from two Canadian crop cir-

cles show high numbers of the worms.

Mike Strainic, B.C. director of Mutual UFO Network, says soil samples of .68 kilograms (1 1/2 lb.) from rings that appeared in Saskatchewan and Dawson Creek, B.C., were sent to agricultural scientists in eastern Canada and the United States.

Soil from both rings had identical counts — eight times that of soil from inside and outside the rings, Strainic says.

"Scientists are looking into the significance of the high count," he says, and further analysis is being done.

The first confirmed circle in B.C. appeared last September in the gravel backyard of Rolie and Marian Marcotte's home in Williams Lake.

WALL STREET JOURNAL,
Princeton, NJ - Jan. 22, 1991

POSTSCRIPT... Hungary's Defense Ministry has investigated the sighting of an unidentified flying object over a military airport south of Budapest last week. Hungarian newspapers reported yesterday. Officers at the airport said the object flew silently at a height of about 600 feet, trailing a 240-foot exhaust flame. A ministry spokesman said, "I do not believe in UFOs, but I have no reason to doubt what my fellow officers say."

—Compiled by William Mathewson

CR: J. White

J. ANTONIO HUNEUS / SCIENCE FRONTIERS

England's Christmas Close Encounter Makes Waves Ten Years Later

First in a two-part series.

Few UFO incidents in the last decade have been surrounded by so much controversy and potential significance as the so-called Rendlesham or Bentwaters UFO case of late December 1980. Rendlesham is the name of a forest in Suffolk, southern England, near the East Anglian town of Ipswich and two important NATO bases, RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, leased to the U.S. Air Force.

Both bases form a complex with the Headquarters of the USAF 81st Tactical Fighter Wing at Bentwaters. Many other NATO air bases are located in the same area

near the North Sea, including RAF Lakenheath, Mildenhall and the radar station at Watton, which reportedly detected unknown targets on that fateful week of December 1980.

A series of puzzling UFO incidents were reported during a three-night period sometime between the week of Christmas and New Year in 1980. There has been some confusion on the exact dates; an official document obtained under the Freedom of Information Act signed by Lt. Col. Charles I. Halt, then Deputy Base Commander of Bentwaters, gives the dates of Dec. 29/30 for the larger incident, and Dec. 26/27 for the first event

involving two USAF security police patrolmen.

John Burroughs, one of the key witnesses to both incidents, places the dates one night earlier for each one. Although many details and allegations are still subject to heated debate, Col. Halt's memo of Jan 13, 1981, addressed to the British Ministry of Defense (MoD) and titled "Unexplained Lights," gives considerable credence to the case.

This author, in fact, wrote one of the first accounts of the incident in the American press with the article, "What are UFOs? Govt. knows but isn't telling," published in this newspaper on Sept. 5, 1984. The article was based both in Col. Halt's memo, which had been recently declassified at the time, and the testimony of former Airman 1st Class Larry Warren, who was stationed in Bentwaters at the time of the events. Warren was also one of the case's original "whistleblowers" and is currently writing a book of his experiences with researcher Peter Robbins.

Many accounts of the Rendlesham UFO incidents have been published in various periodicals and books in the United States and the United Kingdom since 1983. The only full book about the case is *Sky Crash* (1984, Neville Spearman, U.K.) by two local investigators, Brenda Butler and Dot Street, and well known English ufologist Jenny Randles. The book's title was misleading, as beyond some unsubstantiated rumors that a top secret aircraft had come down or a military experiment had gone awry, there is no basis for calling the Rendlesham landings a crash. Further criticism was leveled by former MoD official and investigator Ralph Noyes in a chapter on the Suffolk landings in *The UFO Report 1990* (Sidgwick & Jackson, U.K.): "The book [*Sky Crash*] remains a mine of potential information — but also a minefield of dubious speculation, without so much as an index or an attempted calendar of events," wrote Noyes.



PETER ROBBINS

ALLEGED LANDING SITE of a UFO in Rendlesham forest shows effects on the ground still visible after 10 years.

J. Antonio Huneus is a freelance science writer who has written for publications in North and South America.

Other accounts of Bentwaters can be found in the books *Clear Intent* (Prentice Hall, 1984) by Fawcett and Greenwood (republished recently — but not updated — under the title of *The UFO Cover-up*); *Above Top Secret* by English researcher Timothy Good (U.S. edition by William Morrow); and the papers by Raymond Boeche, *Bentwaters — What Do We Know?* (1986 MUFON Symposium Proceedings), and *A Fire in the Forest: New Light on the Rendlesham Landings* by Prof. Benton Jamison *International UFO Reporter*, Sept/Oct 1988). In addition, Chuck DeCaro produced an important special report on Bentwaters for CNN, which aired in late January of 1985. England's Yorkshire UFO Society has also made available some further documentation on the case.

Readers can see that there has been no absence of published materials on this case. Nevertheless, a number of important questions remain still unanswered 10 years later.

Not a Secret Weapon

Jenny Randles was the first investigator to write extensively about this incident. After meeting her during a UFO Conference in Phoenix in the fall of 1989, I asked her in an interview what were her current conclusions on the case.

"I think that the Bentwaters case involved a real UFO incident," responded Randles, adding that "for quite a lot of time I was delving into the idea that what had probably happened was some kind of catastrophic failure of some system — maybe they'd been testing a 'Star Wars' weapon, which is very feasible in one of the bases around the forest."

Since the incidents had been seen by too many witnesses at both bases, as well by a few English civilians and policemen, Randles speculated that the UFO could have been a cover story to hide the real facts. "However," she added, "having talked to people directly involved, including specifically at Phoenix one of the key eyewitnesses, I now suspect his version of events that he was dealing with a real UFO incident."

The witness Randles was referring to was John Burroughs, who was on a law enforcement patrol at RAF Woodbridge when the first incident took place on Christmas night of 1980. Having met Burroughs at the same Phoenix Conference, I was able to interview him recently by phone with regards to his experiences 10

years ago.

Burroughs was 20 years old at the time, having joined the Air Force in March 1979 and served a tour of duty at Bentwaters from July of that year to July of 1981. He separated from the USAF in 1988 with the rank of Sergeant.

Burroughs was on patrol at Woodbridge on the early hours of Dec. 26, 1980, when he saw "some strange lights" at the East Gate with his supervisor. "We decided to go on down off base and kind of check the edge of the woods to see maybe what was going on because it didn't seem right," said Burroughs, adding "there was radio traffic back and forth and the decision was made by the Shift Commander that two security guys and me would go out into the woods" to investigate. They took a vehicle and then walked into a clearing, where they saw the object at closer proximity.

Asked to describe the object, Burroughs said it looked like "a bank of lights, differently colored lights that threw off an image of like a craft. I never saw anything metallic or anything hard." However, Burroughs was quite emphatic in dismissing the secret weapon hypothesis. "For the government to have that type of technology that went on in early 1980, it would be hard to believe," he said.

Even more strange was the feeling of eeriness that he experienced that first night, as well as during the larger incident two nights later. "Everything seemed like it was different when we were in that area," said Burroughs. "The sky didn't seem the same, it was like a weird feeling, like everything seemed slower than you were actually doing; and all of a sudden when the object was gone, everything was like normal again."

The experience of the first night was summarized in Col. Halt's memo, which mentioned "a strange glowing object in the forest ... described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsating red light on top and a bank of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs."

Moreover, continued Halt's report, "the next day, three depressions 1½" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (Dec. 29, 1980) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by

the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree towards the depressions."

Third Sighting Was the Big One

Halt then proceeded to describe very briefly a series of sightings that he and several other airman had that night. The third night has been described as the big one, although according to Burroughs, "some lights were seen in the woods by some patrolmen and by the Shift Commander that was on" on the second night as well.

There are various and somewhat differing accounts of the third night, which may have involved as many as 50 to 60 people altogether. Col. Halt was certainly present by his own admission, but there are considerable discrepancies as to whether the Base Commander, Col. Ted Conrad, or the Wing Commander, Lt. Col. Gordon Williams (later promoted to General), were also there.

A tape recording of the event made by Col. Halt was leaked in late 1984 by Col. Sam Morgan, who succeeded Conrad as Bentwaters' Base Commander. Although the recording certainly had some portions deleted and skeptics made efforts to discredit it, there is good reason to believe that it is a factual and on-site testimony of what went on that night. Halt himself is on record attesting that one of the voices therein is his.

Lt. Bruce Englund, Sgt. Nevelles and John Burroughs are some of the other voices recorded. The tape describes initially the efforts to undertake the radiation readings on the depressions and the nearby trees on a winter night.

"We've found a small blast, what looks like a blasted or scuffed up area here," says one of the voices. "We're getting very positive readings." As the night goes on, however, the voices become increasingly excited as strange lights appear in the forest.

"OK, we're looking at the thing, we're probably about two or 300 yards," states one of the witnesses. "It looks like an eye winking at you. It's still moving from side to side and when you put the starscope on it, it's like this thing has a hollow center, a dark center. It's a bit like a pupil of an eye looking at you, winking, and the flash is so bright through the starscope that it almost burns your eye."

Even though the released portion of the tape has less than 20 minutes, the actual timespan covers a period of over three hours.

(Part two of this series will continue in tomorrow's Commentary section).

England's Bentwaters Close Encounter Debated 10 Years Later

Second in a two-part series.

I have obtained from researcher Peter Robbins a complete account written by Larry Warren of his experience on the third night of the Bentwaters UFO case, with permission to use portions of it. Both are working together on a book about the incident, titled *Left at East Gate*.

Warren describes how he was on a security shift that night when he was called to join a motor pool and go into the forest. They left the vehicles and approached a clearing in the woods. "Now I could see what was out in the field," he wrote. "It looked like a ground fog but was somehow lit up. It glowed very brightly and had the definition of a roughly shaped circle. Around 2:30 AM, a small red light ... made a downward arc and was directly over the fog."

Suddenly, "the red ball exploded in a blinding flash," and a big machine shaped like an "arrowhead" appeared where the fog had been. "The main body was pearl white with a rainbow color effect. It was constantly distorting as I looked at it. At the bottom was a bank of extremely bright cobalt blue lights. Below that, I thought I could make out dark landing gear. Covering the entire surface were what looked like boxes, pipes, and strange extensions."

Warren has been accused of exaggerating details of the incident. However, his description fits with that of another key witness, Sgt. Adrian Bustinza, interviewed by Raymond Roeche in 1984. The airman described how they came "on a yellow mist on the ground, or actually about two or three feet off the ground. It was nothing I'd ever seen before. Suddenly the object was just there, it was a dark silver-colored metal, with plenty of rainbow-colored lights on it. I couldn't tell if something was breaking the light up, like a prism, or if that was the actual color of the lights. It was a tremendous size."

If the incident looks sensational up to this point, the most controversial part is yet to come. According to Warren, from the object came "a glowing ball of light" which revealed creatures inside. "They were small, about three to four feet tall and ghostlike in appearance," he wrote. "They had large heads with catlike black eyes ... They were not human at all, but I was not frightened. Each wore clothing that was very bright, almost silver."

Warren said some kind of "contact" was made between the beings and the Wing Commander, Lt. Col. Williams. "Standing about five foot apart, they seemed to stare at each other. Williams looked down — he was over six feet tall; the beings cocked their heads back slowly so they could see his face. It was amazing. It was then I knew they were really alive. I could not hear any conversation. I don't think there was any in the traditional sense, but I believe they were communicating," stated Warren's account.

Perhaps not surprisingly, this portion of the event has not been publicly corroborated so far by other witnesses. Airman John Burroughs, a key witness, casts doubt on it, insisting that Col. Williams was not present and that no traditional aliens — if that's an acceptable term — were there, either. He concedes, however, that "there was something out there that was intelligent," that "blue

transparent type lights came off the main craft" and were "able to do different things and flew over the top of us and flew through a pickup truck. Well, it depends on what you consider aliens," continued Burroughs. "I consider that could be intelligent life, but I would say they weren't aliens as we see green men and stuff like that, but they did do stuff that could lead you to believe they were intelligent."

The Bentwaters incidents are so complex and dramatic that it will probably take several books by a few seasoned investigators to finally sort out the complete puzzle. I haven't even analyzed the different possible explanations offered by skeptics to "solve" the case. These go from simple ones like the beams from the Orford Ness lighthouse, meteor showers, stars, or a decaying Soviet satellite; to the highly speculative like the crash of a secret aircraft or a "Star Wars" experiment; to the utterly ridiculous such as "radioactive rabbits," the lights of a police car or alleged "drug parties" by airmen in the forest.

Much has been made, on the other hand, of the Orford Ness lighthouse, proposed by science writer Ian Ridpath in a BBC special. Yet none of the original witnesses have ever agreed with it, and I could never understand why and how a lighthouse that was seen every night by the base personnel could suddenly trigger such an intense series of UFO encounters. Also of importance is the fact that several other UFO cases have been registered in that area of Suffolk.

On Aug 13, 1956, for instance, RAF Bentwaters and RAF Lakenheath experienced a famous radar-visual UFO incident. As put by astrophysicist Dr. Thornton Page in his entry on UFOs for *The New Encyclopedia Britannica* (1974 edition), "this is believed to be one of the best established and most puzzling of the unexplained cases."

Other sightings reportedly took place both right before and after the Rendlesham landings; and as recent as Feb. 18, 1988, Larry Warren and Peter Robbins observed a fantastic display of dancing lights over the forest during a research trip for their book.

Many mysteries still remain regarding this case. Several accounts mention photographs and film footage immediately taken by jeep to a waiting plane destined for Ramstein AFB in Germany, Headquarters of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE). The Air Force denies such film exists, but their record has not been very truthful. For example, until the Halt memo was declassified, they denied the existence of any report. They later denied the existence of any audiovisual material, yet the Halt tape was leaked.

For Peter Robbins, the significance of this incident is that it "combines aspects of classical UFO cases in one case:" landing traces, background radiation readings, broken branches, multiple witnesses, government documents, injury to some witnesses, and a Close Encounter of the Third Kind. "Ten years later, it continues to be one of the most debated and controversial cases in the history of UFO sightings," he said.

J. Antonio Huneus is a freelance science writer.

UFO — or was it just a touch of the moon?

ABAFFLED Leckhampton man has seen the light — but he's still very much in the dark.

The skywatcher spotted a mysterious amber glow hovering in the sky when he was walking his dog in a field about 100 yards from Daisybank Road.

"I was looking across the town and suddenly this very strong amber light appeared. It would have been somewhere over Pilly Bridge. It was very, very bright."

"It moved very slowly towards me," he said. "There was a movement of air, but the light did not keep on a constant path."

"Then it stopped and kept still, went off to a pinprick, then disappeared altogether."

This ethereal experience lasted about 30 seconds.

"I am not suggesting it was a UFO. I am sure it can be explained rationally. But I am curious to know what it was," says Ferret's informant who, understandably, does not wish to be named.

Police said they had no reports of any mysterious lights being seen in the sky that evening.

Ken Sheldon of Cotswold Astronomical society reckons the only logical reason for the mystery light is the moon rising: "If he was looking towards the north east he could easily have seen a full moon rising into mist, which could have given an orange glow."

Explanation by way of UFOs and little green men are definitely out, he says.

More than one

"As with all UFO events, if there is one, several people normally report it."

"Whenever it happens there is usually more than one."

Ken says he hasn't experienced anything like it himself, and refuses to accept UFO theories until proved otherwise.

"I have heard about people seeing strange objects and strange lights. Until I see something I cannot explain I shall continue to look for a logical explanation."

Lights Seen Over Kanto

DAILY YOMIURI, Tokyo, Japan
Dec. 25, 1990 CR: Y. Matsumura

The Tokyo Astronomical Observatory and The Yomiuri Shimbun were swamped with telephone calls Sunday night from residents of Tokyo and north Kanto claiming to have seen whitish lights racing across the sky to the northeast.

Ganjiro Tateda, 44, a restaurant proprietor of Kurobanemachi, Tochigi-ken, said he saw a confetti-like string of countless lights moving in a line for about a minute around 10:30 p.m., adding that the lights were

like stars. Other inquirers claimed they had seen an airplane, flying in a ball of flame.

According to a Tokyo Astronomical Observatory official, the Earth encountered a mass of shooting stars that night, quite a number of which must have entered the atmosphere.

Some amateur astronomers speculate that it could have been debris from the Soviet Union's Salyut No. 7 satellite, which has reached the end of its working life.

UFO sighted hovering in night sky

WICKFORD man John Westgarth stepped out into his back garden one night last week — and was confronted by a mysterious pinky-orange cigar-shaped glowing in the sky.

Shaken, Mr Westgarth shouted to his wife Doris who rushed out into the garden of their Alicia Avenue home. Together they stared at the unexplainable mass, hovering over their back garden — and could come to no other conclusion that it was a UFO.

Mrs Westgarth said: "Before I saw this I didn't believe in UFOs but now I don't know that to think."

"We have racked our brains to try and come up with an explanation but we can't find one."

"I will certainly be looking up at the sky more often to see if it happens again, but as I've never heard of anything like this in Wickford before it's highly unlikely."

"This is one of the strangest things that has ever happened to me."

Alter Mrs Westgarth contacted the Gazette, we put her in touch with Mr Bob Easter of the Technical Phenomenon Research group, based in Billericay.

And now he has issued a plea to anyone else in the area who may have seen any mysterious goings-on to contact him.

Mr Easter said: "I was very interested to hear from the Westgarths because this is the first time I have heard of a sighting like this."

"What our group normally does when we receive a report is ask the person to answer a survey which covers a wide range of questions, then we can start making investigations and see if anyone else has seen the same thing."

"I would be pleased to hear from anyone with more information."

Anyone with information should contact Bob Easter on Billericay (0277) 656701.

U.F.O. sightings

Three Unidentified Flying Objects were sighted over Metung on Sunday between 11.30 p.m. and 12 midnight.

Two of the objects were seen flying together and another spotted later, but following the same path.

Four separate sightings have been reported, the U.F.O.'s being described as, "Bright orange and much bigger than a star."

Mr Tony Claridge and four other persons sighted the objects from his home in Broadlands Road, Metung.

"My wife saw them first - travelling slowly from north to south."

"They were orange, approximately four times brighter than a star and we could see them quite clearly," he said.

"It looked as though

they came from the mountain area and both maintained their exact position in relation to the other."

"One of the strange things about it was that there was no noise at all."

"After they reached a point they turned and headed westwards in the direction of Bairnsdale but disappeared."

"Later, another showed up and followed exactly the same path, before it too disappeared," Mr Claridge said.

From her home on Tambo Bluff, Mrs Heather Coleman saw two U.F.O.'s through her curtains at approximately the same time as Mr Claridge.

She then took up a viewing point on the verandah.

"I looked at them through the binoculars. They were orange and

appeared to have a red centre."

"They were moving slowly but there was no noise," Mrs Coleman said.

From her home on Tambo Bluff, Mrs Jenny Bonwick also saw the two lights at the corresponding time.

She said they seemed to be reasonably close but made no noise.

"I watched them head towards Raymond Island and fade off into the fog," Mrs Bonwick said.

A sighting has also been recorded by a Lakes Entrance woman, who was surf fishing in Lakes Entrance at the time.

Strangely, it is believed a number of U.F.O. sightings were reported throughout Europe on Monday night and confirmed by pilots.

CR: P. Norman

Stargazer is transfixed by strange light

A SHOOTING UFO had a South East Essex stargazer reaching for the skies as a glowing white light zoomed across the night sky.

Garden centre supervisor Julia Diggins was walking home from work on Canvey when she spotted the single bright light hundreds of feet high.

The light, above King's holiday camp, sped along for some distance before changing direction in mid air.

Julia, 23, of Hart Road, Thundersley, was transfixed for minutes as the strange object lit up the skies.

She said: "I didn't have a clue what it was. I didn't know whether it was a shooting star

that had hit something and been forced to change direction. "I have never seen anything like it."

The UFO sighting comes during a lull in reportings of unexplained objects.

In March UFO experts were flooded with calls of sightings of a white rotating light in the skies over Southend.

But since then little has been heard of out-of-this-world transport.

Mr Bob Easton, investigator with Technical Phenomenon Research which investigates sightings, said he had not had any other reportings of the unusual craft.

But he would speak to Julia and look into the matter.

Llowarch Putting the country to lights

"I KNOW what I saw," said Colin, "and it wasn't an aircraft. It's about time you wrote some more about UFOs in the paper I'll bet everybody in Wales has seen one."

He'd told me of his moving light in the sky back in the 1960s. Bluish green in colour, it was about as big as the planet Venus. He'd never reported it: there seemed no need. Reading my weekly pieces, though, prompted him to get in touch with me and we have the occasional phone chat.

I doubt that everybody in Wales has seen a UFO, but there are many who have, my self included. In the next few articles, then, I'll be attempting to deal with the phenomenon — though it's an enormously complex area of research.

As I'm an expert on nothing, perhaps it's wisest to define "UFO". A UFO is an object which flies and is unidentified (there's brilliant).

Now then, it may well be that something in the sky which you or I fail to identify has a perfect-

ly sensible and mundane explanation. Those who've followed the meanderings of these Weir Wonders over eons of time will recall the great stir caused when I described what happened to myself, my wife and four friends a few years ago.

Condensing the tale, Herself and I were driving on a summer's evening just as twilight had fallen. We observed a bright, slightly orange light hovering over the eastern hills. Passing the home of friends, we dragged them out to see.

We were joined by two others and we all watched the object as it appeared to move, quite slowly, across the horizon. At that time, we had no idea what we were seeing and it was quite exciting.

Using the Llowarch method of sensible explanations, by the next morning we had realised what the light had been. Nevertheless, and to prove a point, I ran the story in Cambrian News describing as accurately as I could what had happened to the six of us. The reaction was interesting: from a very few "wow, look at this amazing thing!" types came some daft explanations. However, from those who adopt a sensible attitude — local scientists, astronomers and serious UFOlogists — came the reasoned truth: it was the planet Jupiter which was then at its nearest to Earth.

Collapse of sensationalist party.

So we must be very careful when we study any phenomenon — from ghosts to UFOs — to do so with a truly open mind, but to try to find the simplest and most reasonable answers. It's pretty obvious

Aliens steal water

By Murray Johnson

Long-time UFO hunter Paul Norman was in Echuca this week searching for people who have sighted Unidentified Flying Objects.

He is a member of the Victorian UFO Research Society and spends most of his time tracking down alien visitations.

There was a sighting at Pyramid Hill just last month when some motorists saw a bright light in the sky around midnight, rising and falling vertically from the sky.

Although Mr Norman pursues all the "lights in the sky" reports he is keen to obtain more concrete evidence of UFOs.

"We're most interested when they leave something behind that we can check out," he said, producing an album of color UFO photographs and computer enhanced images.

Mr Norman said there were also a series of sightings around Leitchville in 1977-78.

When asked why UFOs would be attracted to Leitchville, he is quick to answer. "Water — It's the centre of the northern district irrigation system."

Tully in Queensland, which has Australia's highest rainfall, is another popular spot for UFOs.

Apparently there is solid evidence that UFOs come to earth to steal our water — either to extract hydrogen for its fission energy or because distant planets have a shortage of H₂O.

Mr Norman has a model of a spaceship which he said was "caught in the act" of siphoning water from a farmer's storage tank in Gippsland.

The man saw lights low in the sky over his property and thought an aeroplane was about to crash.

Closer inspection showed a spacecraft sucking his 10 metre high water tank dry.

Mr Norman said the disappearance of pilot Frederick Valentich over Bass Strait on October 21 1978 was the most compelling evidence of UFO activity in this part of the world.

It was the 20th such case in the last 30 years, he said. Just before his plane disappeared off the face of the earth Valentich radioed a report of a cigar-shaped UFO and said his engine was misfiring.

Mr Norman said this would have been caused by the electromagnetism of the nearby spaceship.

Paul Norman is a retired engineer from Tennessee in the USA where he became fascinated with UFOs after seeing one at the power station where he worked.

But what about the people who are still sceptical about the existence of UFOs?

Mr Norman says there's no doubt they exist. He admits that 85 per cent of "UFO" reports are merely aeroplanes at a distance, satellites or "space junk", but of the other 15 per cent many are genuine.

He said stories of "little green men" were invented by sceptics to discredit UFO sightings. "The only green men are humans who don't know what's going on."

He has little time for "armchair experts" who discount UFO landing spots as "fungus" or the work of whirlwinds.

If anyone is an expert on UFOs Paul Norman should be. He has been researching them for 37 years now.

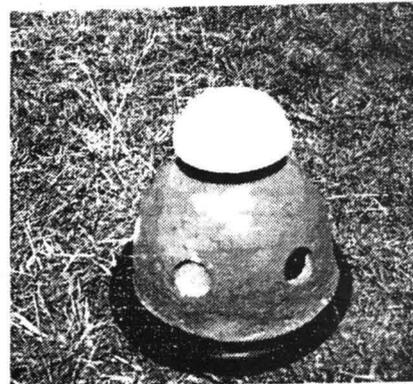
He took early retirement from the SEC in 1976 and since then has been on the UFO trail full-time — all over Australia and around the world.

Asked about his motivation Mr Norman says simply "curiosity".

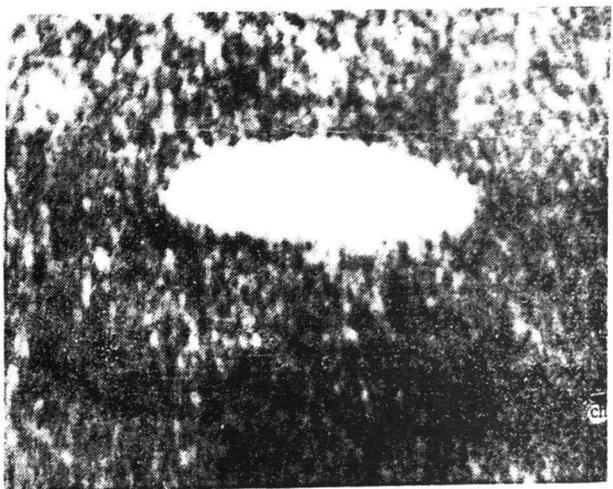
He appealed to any Riv Readers who may have seen strange UFOs to contact him at PO Box 43 Moorabbin, 3189.



Above — A flattened field at Beulah in December 1981. Paul Norman believes this site is proof positive of a UFO landing.

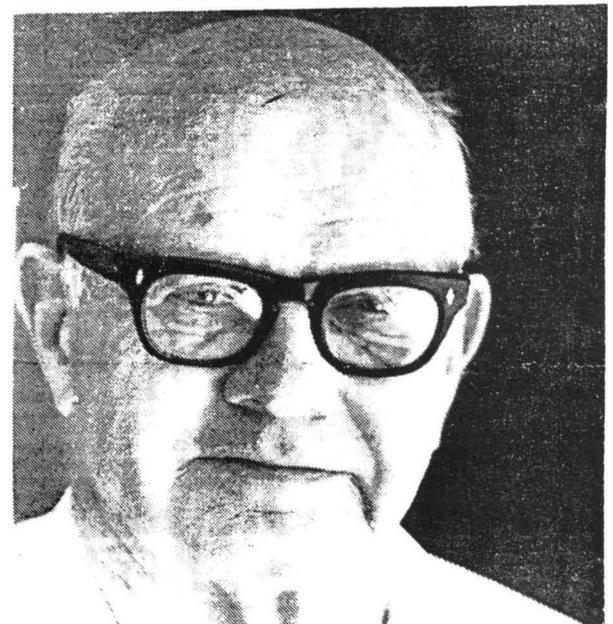


Left — A model of a UFO sighted near Sale on September 30, 1980. A farmer "caught it in the act of taking water," according to the Victorian UFO Research Society.



Above — This blowup from a photograph taken in Moline Illinois corresponds exactly with the photograph of a UFO spotted at Cape Otway just minutes before pilot Frederick Valentich disappeared.

Below — Paul Norman has been on the trail of UFOs for 37 years now. He visited Echuca this week.



Those crazy corn circles

Motorists travelling along the old Worcester Road at Wood Norton, near Evesham, have been rubbing their eyes this week at the appearance of yet another corn circle (pictured).

It is in a field of wheat opposite the BBC Engineering School and is similar to the one a few miles away at Hampton which was reported in the Journal last week.

The three-and-a-half acre Hampton cornfield, with its 36ft ring of flattened wheat, was harvested last Thursday night but it continues to baffle 81-year-old grower Cyril Beechey who had never seen anything like it before.

The Wood Norton circle is a puzzle, too and whether it was caused by a UFO, an act of nature or was merely a student prank remains a subject for conjecture.



UFO lights

By JULIE GRANT

UNIDENTIFIED flying objects seen by the occupants of a car north of Barham last week were similar to one reportedly sighted by more than 1000 people in France and Italy the previous day.

A Woollongong woman, her sister and three children reported seeing strange objects as they drove along the Barham-Deniliquin road late on Tuesday night.

Victorian UFO Research Society vice-president and member of the International Committee on UFO Research, Mr Paul Norman, currently based in Shepparton to investigate

paddock circles in the wheat-belt area, said he believed the sighting was genuine.

Mr Norman said details of the UFO sightings reported in France and Italy, which included reports from four airline pilots from different countries, had not been released in Australia at the time Mrs Deriece Kopetko and her passengers had reportedly sighted a similar object near Deniliquin.

He said Mrs Kopetko's description of the object had been almost identical to that of the object reported overseas less than 24 hours earlier.

Mrs Kopetko, of Wollongong, her sister, who wishes to remain anonymous, and three of their children, had been travelling to visit their mother in Barham,

when the sighting took place at about 11.30 pm last Tuesday night.

Mrs Kopetko said as they had driven through Deniliquin, they had noticed two red lights in front of them, which they had assumed to be aeroplane lights.

She said they had continued to watch the lights, and had been intrigued by the unusual movements they had made in the sky.

Mrs Kopetko said the lights had travelled vertically and horizontally, and back and forth, stopping completely still at certain moments then proceeding to travel in varying patterns.

After travelling through Deniliquin, approaching Barham on the Barham-

Deniliquin road, Mrs Kopetko stopped her car to further investigate the strange lights.

She said that one of the objects with lights landed in a paddock to the left of the car, and hovered with a blue haze above it.

Alarmed at the sight, Mrs Kopetko's sister, who had been sitting in the back seat of the car, turned to the right to avoid looking at the object, only to be confronted with the other light which flew over the top of the car at a distance of about nine to 12 metres.

Mrs Kopetko said she had wound down her window to watch the light as it had travelled above the car and said she and her passengers noted that it had been completely silent.

It appeared to be diamond shaped and was about four times larger than the car.

She said the diamond shaped object had had four lights; a red and a white

light at its front, and a yellow and a bluish-green light at its triangular point. She said the end of the diamond did not have a light, and was in darkness.

Mrs Kopetko said the object had then, almost instantaneously, moved to join the other light in the paddock.

After having driven on, Mrs Kopetko said she and her family had watched as the moving light proceeded to travel back and forth above Deniliquin.

She said after they had travelled for about 5 or 6 km, they watched as the light transformed into a bright luminous white

color for about five minutes, before resuming its original configuration.

Mrs Kopetko said she had been in awe at the sight of the lights.

She said it was "so amazing, so unbelievable" and "intriguing".

"It wasn't a frightening feeling, probably because the object hadn't made any noise", Mrs Kopetko said. She said it was as if "it was looking at us, and we were looking at it".

Mrs Kopetko said since reporting her sighting to radio station 2QN in Deniliquin, she had been contacted by two other Deniliquin residents who had also witnessed the un-

usual lights on Tuesday evening.

She said she had been initially informed through the radio station that the local airport and the Department of Civil Aviation had reported that no aircraft had been in the area at the specified time, but had had a later report by the department to say that it did in fact have aircraft in the area at the time the lights were allegedly seen.

Mr Norman said about 12 mysterious circles, similar to those currently being investigated in England, had reportedly appeared on a property near Ouyen last December.

He said tests from the areas, which were about four metres in diameter, had indicated a change in soil composition, which had returned to normal about three weeks after.

He said similar circles had been reported near Leitchville in 1977.

Mr Norman said circles were easily spotted on properties in the wheat-belt area because of its long, thick type of vegetation.

Mr Norman is eager to hear of any other sightings of unusual phenomena and can be contacted at Melbourne during this week on (03) 592 2502 or at Shepparton on (058) 26 7284.

CR: P. Norman

EVENING PRESS, Dublin, Ireland - Oct. 25, 1990 CR: T. Good

LOOK UP . . . IT'S . . . ER . . .

By MARY MOLONEY

The UFO Report 1991, edited by Timothy Good (Sidgwick & Jackson at £14.95 stg.). LOOK UP . . . and if it's not Aer Lingus you see, grab a camera and a notebook and gape because what you're seeing isn't necessarily a bird. UFOs are more than folklore. Sightings are increasing, partly thanks to a better communications network internationally and also because of more scientific validation of reports.

There will always be cranks, wild imaginings and so forth to give the phenomenon a bad name but in Timothy Good's update of the 1990 UFO Report comes a legion of sightings reported during 1989 and the first half of 1990.

The strangest indeed have been the appearance in the Soviet city of Boronezh, 300 miles south-west of Moscow of an alien "banana-shaped" craft landing in a park and being witnessed not merely by a gaggle of schoolchildren but by 40 adults as well. TASS took the sightings seriously, helped document the evidence which included reports of creatures seeming to "have no neck."

In Eupen, the French-German part of Belgium, people have reported seeing skywards triangular objects with three powerful searchlights and one orange-flickering light in the middle. Meanwhile, in Ohio oval-shaped objects have been stalking fields, while in Essex in England, a large object "the size of a double-decker bus" was seen moving slowly across the sky.

Triangular-shaped objects are all over the place, lights and sounds fantastic. A "banana-shaped" craft hovered over Alabama sounding quite like that which visited Voronezh, US navy jets were "abducted" in Puerto Rico, while two Chinese army soldiers were chased by a UFO. Humans have actually suffered injury in Brazil while cattle have been mutilated in the States and an ever increasing number of crop circles have been appearing in British fields.

But rest assured and rest easy. This isn't a scare-mongering sort of book. Timothy Good has called in the experts to analyse what has been happening and his book is mostly a series of learned essays from devotees of physical research. "Some progress though tantalisingly slow, is in fact being made towards validating some elements . . ." It is a brave effort to provide ufology with some scientific basis and it is impossible to be entirely sceptical or completely closed to the possibility of outer-worldly encounters.

Of course, UFOs are big business and great craic. This book offers no



Looking up . . . Timothy Good.

answers but merely titillates in a way and you start wondering why you too haven't come across something. There's an appendix for the really hooked, listing international UFO organisations, journals and sightings.

It is admitted that most sightings turn out to have mundane explanations such as airport landings, balloons, planets, space debris, but every once in a while there's that exotic sight. Radio and TV stations should be contacted to assist in securing corroborative evidence, not to mention the gardai. There are UFO hotlines, computer link-ups, the works. Just keep lookin' . . . up.

CR: T. Good

WEST CUMBERLAND TIMES, Cockermouth, England

Aug. 24, 1990 CR: T. Good

'Ball of light' over Workington hotel

A WEST Cumbrian businessman claims he witnessed a UFO over Workington.

The large ball of light was spotted hovering just yards away from the Westland Hotel in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

"It was a great big mass of light and it pulled down from the sky in front of me," said shocked eyewitness Roy Daugherty.

He said that he had been taking his dog for a walk at about 2.30 am when the close encounter occurred.

"It hovered there for about half a minute and I just kind of froze looking at it and so did my dog."

LOOKING

"It seemed like it was looking at us and then pulled off horizontally at great speed," said Mr Daugherty, who is chief executive of The Westland Group.

He described the object, which was shrouded in the light, as a rounded structure some 60 to 80 feet wide hovering about 80 feet off the ground.

He added that he had been sober and stressed: "I am not a 37-year-old UFO crazy."

A close encounter!

STRANGE lights in the sky have left the Chambers family, of Bicester, feeling puzzled.

They were at their Kennedy Road home around 11.30pm on Sunday night when they saw the mysterious lights rotating and pulsating in the sky. All six people present saw the lights.

Son Danny said: "They sent shivers up my back. I have never ever seen anything like this before. It was really eerie."

MAIL, Oxford, England
Aug. 1, 1990 CR: T. Good

Campers claim UFO sighting

A NORTHAMPTON couple claim they have seen a UFO hovering over them while camping out one night last week.

Wolf Fernandez and his girlfriend Kirsty Berry, both of Cloutsham Street, say that while in their tent by the mysterious Rollright Stones near Banbury on the Autumn Equinox they saw the black, diamond shaped craft.

Said Wolf, 27: "At first I thought it was a plane, but it had lights all round the side and then it began to wobble about the clouds."

"It was really low and virtually stopped right above us then it just turned left and went away dead slowly. It made a noise like a generator, but really loud."

"Someone said it could have been one of those new stealth bombers, but I know it wasn't. A stealth bomber wouldn't have lights all over it. I'm sure that what I saw was a UFO."

WEEKENDER HERALD & POST, Daventry, England - Oct. 5, 1990 CR: T. Good



Can Mystery Circle Attract Tourists?

A man stands by a mysterious circle that appeared over the weekend in a field of reeds in Shichigahama Town, Miyagi Prefecture.

Some 50- to 60-centimeter-tall reeds snapped at the root to form a counterclockwise swirl, 4 meters in diameter. Two other similar round patterns, though they were not complete circles, were also found nearby.

Some townspeople speculated the circles might be a sign of the arrival of UFOs. Others said they saw a pale object flying in the sky early Wednesday morning.

Even business-minded residents expect to make use of the phenomenon to animate the town by publicizing them as a tourist attraction.



Larry Miller/Special to the Gazette

MYSTERY CLOUD: Carrol Cody (top photo, left) of Rose Creek, and Conway County Sheriff Carl Poteete inspect the gaseous

cloud Wednesday that rolled onto the property of Joseph Hubbard (bottom photo), who tossed pieces of it after it began to dissipate.

Mystery cloud rolls into town

'It would scare you to look at it'

By Larry Miller
Special to the Gazette

ROSE CREEK — If Joseph Hubbard weren't already a religious man, he says he would have become one Wednesday morning after watching a soapy, bubbly white cloud roll across his property.

It was about the size of cotton bale, Hubbard said, and rolled through a fence before coming to a stop at his pond about 6 a.m.

Hubbard, a preacher, said later with a laugh: "I thought it may have been the Lord coming. He went away in a cloud."

It scared his geese so bad, they may never return, Hubbard added.

Investigators came to look at the mystery substance Wednesday. They later surmised it could have been methane gas that had escaped from an old septic tank on the property.

Whatever it was, it dissipated in the air as the sun rose about noon over Petit Jean Mountain. But not before George Wade, corporate environmental manager for Arkansas Kraft Co. at its paper mill nearby, had got some of the stuff in a air-proof jar for chemical analysis.

Results of the analysis may be known today.

Hubbard, 66, who lives near the Conway-Perry County line south of Petit Jean Mountain, said he noticed the cloud when he walked onto his back porch, his first cup of coffee in hand.

"It was larger than a big bale of hay, bigger than a 500-pound bale of cotton" next to the highway, yard, he said. Observers later estimated it was 6 feet by 6 feet in size.

"It was rolling across the field, rolling slow, and it would scare you to look at it," Hubbard said. "I have lived here 48 years and I've never seen anything like this."

He called for his wife, who quickly figured it was fog.

"I told her there ain't no fog to that," Hubbard said.

As they watched, the cloud rolled across the field, through a fence, up a steep bank and onto the pond. "It caused my geese to go into orbit," Hubbard said. "They have not come back. I don't know if they will."

The cloud then turned north before changing to a western direction and rolling to the base of some trees.

Hubbard said he and his son, Leon, steeled themselves and went to inspect. Leon Hubbard took a stick and "raked" through it. "When he did, it started breaking up," Hubbard said.

One of the pieces rolled about 100 yards into the yard of Hubbard's neighbor, Carrol Cody. Conway County Sheriff Carl Poteete came by and described the substance as slimy and sticky. The sheriff placed a small amount in a jar and cardboard box and took it to Wade. The stuff in the box disappeared.

Wade went to Rose Creek with the sheriff and walked over a large area, looking for some type of gas escaping from the ground. They found an area near the pond where an old septic tank was thought to be and found small holes in the earth.

Wade said it was possible methane gas from a septic tank could have formed the unusual cloud. A small cloud, which had tiny bubbling particles constantly moving around inside, burned when ignited with a cigarette lighter.



Monster mania grips Lake Erie

Sightings compared to Loch Ness tales

Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio — Does Nessie, Scotland's fabled Loch Ness monster, have a cousin?

A handful of sightings of huge serpentine creatures in Lake Erie were recorded in 1985 and 1987. But things remained quiet until Sept. 4.

That's when Harold Bricker and his family returned from a fishing trip with a new sighting, and monster mania began spreading along lakefront communities.

The Brickers said they saw a large creature moving in the water about 1,000 feet from their boat. They described it as black, about 35 feet long and with a snakelike head. It moved as fast as their boat.

"I told my son that I wanted to get a look at it," said Bricker, 67. "My son said, 'No way, that thing is bigger than we are.' So we stayed where we were."

Bricker, his wife, Cora, and son, Robert, told rangers at East Harbor State Park about what they'd seen.

The creature since has been reported by five people on three separate occasions, including a Huron firefighter and a 50-year-old woman from Pennsylvania vacationing at her Lake Erie cottage.

John Schaffner, editor of a weekly newspaper in Port Clinton, has set up a toll-free phone for people to call if they see the serpent. He also ran a contest to name it. South Bay Besse was chosen in part because of the location of the Davis Besse nuclear power plant near Port Clinton — not to mention that Besse rhymes with "Nessie."

The story of the monster in Loch Ness in north-central Scotland dates back centuries and is worth tens of millions in tourist dollars to the region each year. Three years ago, a million-dollar scientific expedition to find her turned up vague sonar readings.

Any similar effort to find a creature in Lake Erie would be even more difficult — at 240 miles, it's more than 10 times as long as Loch Ness.

Thomas Solberg, owner of Huron Lagoon Marina, has offered a \$5,000 reward to anyone who captures South Bay Besse alive. He also posted a sign at his marina calling it the future home of the Lake Erie sea serpent.

Fred Snyder, a researcher with the Ohio Sea Grant, an organization that examines Great Lakes issues, said it is highly unlikely a monster is living in Lake Erie.

CR: P. Noonan

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS,
Denver, CO - Oct. 8, 1990

OFFBEAT

The search for Nessie

A two-day search for the Loch Ness monster ended yesterday with two blips on a radar screen but no evidence of the legendary beast. Scottish oddsmakers William Hill Organization Ltd., which had offered 250,000 pounds (\$477,500) for "conclusive evidence" of Nessie, kept its reward but paid 1,500 pounds

(\$2,850) to a Scottish company for the best search method. OceanScan, which supplies underwater sonar equipment for the oil industry, used underwater radar and registered an unidentified object up to 26 feet long. "The object which showed up registered as two blips . . . but it moved out of range very quickly," said Andy Gray, OceanScan's director.

CR: P. Noonan

Mutilated cattle baffle Idaho ranchers, police

By Andrew Garber
The Idaho Statesman

Southeastern Idaho ranchers have a nightmarish problem that won't go away. One that puts guns in their hands.

One that keeps their families home at night — with doors locked.

The problem is that mutilated cattle — with organs surgically removed and blood drained — keep turning up dead on their ranches.

"We lock the doors and we don't leave anybody at home alone," said Don Bartschi, a Nounan rancher who has lost more than a dozen head of cattle to mutilation during the past year, including two in recent months. Nounan is 60 miles southeast of Pocatello.

Theories about who — or what — is the cause range from predators to satanic cults to extraterrestrials. Similar mutilations have occurred worldwide and across the nation since the late 1960s.

Bartschi often patrols his ranch at night with a gun. "I'm hoping I run into

footprints, no tire tracks, no tools.

Autopsies raise more questions than answers. For example, in many cases the organs and blood were expertly removed in quick fashion without a trace of evidence.

The bizarre nature of the killings doesn't offer many clues.

Tom Williams, a Malad City rancher, said the mutilations of two of his animals "were done with such precision, it was almost like a template had been laid over it." Malad City is 50 miles south of Pocatello.

"I had to admire whoever did it because they sure knew what they were doing," he said.

With the skill of surgeons in many cases, the mutilators cut off parts of animals seemingly at random.

The parts taken most frequently include: eyes, ears, eyebrows, teeth, the tongue, lips, sex organs, the rectum, teats and internal organs.

Generally, no blood is found around the wounds, on the animal or the ground.

Many times nearly all of the animal's blood is sucked out — without spilling a drop.

And it's all done without leaving evidence behind.

In one case in Oneida County, a cow was found in the middle of a freshly plowed field. All the blood was drained and several parts had been removed with a sharp instrument, said Sheriff Lee Pfeiffer.

"You could see that animal's tracks across the field and nothing else," Pfeiffer said, noting the mutilation was done within sight of an occupied farmhouse.

Cults, UFOs blamed for 1,500 deaths since 1973

them," he said grimly.

Law enforcement officials are stumped and have been for 20 years.

Hundreds of mutilations have been reported in Idaho since the early 1970s, experts say. Although the state doesn't keep track of cases, one research group estimates that as many as 1,500 cattle mutilations have been reported in Idaho since 1973.

Using that figure, the loss to ranchers would be about \$1 million. And police believe at least half the mutilations never get reported. In other words, the problem may be much worse than the reported cases indicate.

Some ranchers are reluctant to report the mysterious deaths to authorities. It's difficult for many of these rural, self-

The circumstances may be surreal, but the economic impact isn't.

The loss of cattle to mutilation hits ranchers hard. The animals can range in price from \$400 to more than \$1,000. Losing just two cows can eliminate profit for a small operation.

"How many of us can afford to lose (that much money) four or five times a year?" asked Rosa Moosman, owner and editor of the Montpelier News-Examiner.

"It's not something that's going to break the ranchers. But on the other hand, there goes the payment on the combine, or there goes the car payment, it's going to be tougher getting the kids to college.

The mounting losses are putting pressure on sheriffs' departments to stop it.

Investigators are checking into everything — even if it involves UFOs.

"If we're ever going to understand what's happening, we're going to have to remain terribly open-minded about the whole thing," said Bannock County Sheriff Bill Lynn, whose county has been hit repeatedly over the years.

In the 1970s much of the blame was put on predators such as coyotes and foxes. Predators often will eat the soft tissue of a dead animal.

To the casual observer, the result may look like a mutilation.

Indeed, many cases can be attributed to predators. But hundreds of others cannot.

"It's my own personal opinion that we do have mutilations," said Dr. Charles Merrell of Mont-

pelier, a veterinarian who has examined numerous mutilated cattle. Predators are incapable of making the smooth incisions he found, Merrell said.

It's easier for people to believe the mutilations were done by predators, as opposed to satanic cults or extraterrestrials, said Steve Watts, a former state investigator who handled mutilation cases in Idaho during the 1970s.

Watts worked for the state Department of Law Enforcement until 1985. He now runs a private investigation service in Idaho Falls.

"It's a human characteristic that if it doesn't fall within our realm of knowledge, it doesn't exist," he said.

Watts firmly believes satanic cults are behind the mutilations. The groups abound in the state and are generally comprised of teen-agers and people in their 20s, he said. They're unorganized and frequently break up and re-form, he said.

During the 1970s, Watts said he convinced a man to infiltrate a satanic group in southeastern Idaho.

The spy, who never observed a mutilation, claimed the group was killing cattle to obtain parts for satanic ceremonies, Watts said. Members of the cult believed they could transfer the power of a healthy organ to their own body, he said.

Simply put, if cult members had a toothache, they'd remove a healthy tooth from a cow as a cure. And if their libidos were failing, they'd take the animal's sex organs, Watts said.

Watts believes the mutilators

sufficient cattlemen to contemplate the unspeakable — that UFO-transported aliens are using the cows for experimentation. Or that satanic cults are killing the cattle, using the organs for bizarre rituals.

Idaho suffered its biggest rash of mutilations in the mid-1970s when hundreds of animals were killed within a few years. It now appears the state may be headed for another wave.

Sheriffs' departments investigated at least 30 cattle mutilations in southeastern Idaho last fall, more than at anytime since the mid-'70s.

This year, at least four unexplained cattle deaths have occurred since March — two each in Bear Lake and Bannock counties.

No one has ever been arrested in connection with any of the mutilations.

In fact, the only evidence police have ever turned up is the carcasses — no

inject the animals with drugs that cause them to stand still while the parts are removed. The animal later wakes up and walks off to die, he said.

That's one reason why no footprints or tire tracks are ever found, he said.

To drain the animal's blood, the mutilators use drugs to speed up its heart, then stick a tube into a vein, and the animal literally pumps out its own blood, he said.

No one has ever been arrested because the groups are secretive and unpredictable, Watts said.

Whenever police stake out a field, the mutilators hit somewhere else. Law enforcement simply doesn't have the resources to catch the people responsible, he said.

But skeptics of the satanic cult theory point out several flaws:

■ A drugged animal whose blood has been pumped out won't wake up and walk off to die.

■ It has never been explained how the cuts are made or blood drained without leaving a drop.

■ It's improbable that groups, composed primarily of teen-agers, could pull off such complex crimes for 20 years without getting caught.

Former Boisean Linda Moulton Howe is convinced some mutilations are caused by predators, some by people. But most are caused by extraterrestrials, she said.

There have been too many mutilations in too many places for it to be a human cult, said Howe, a television journalist-writer and producer for a CNN/WTBS environmental series in Atlanta.

Howe, who has investigated animal mutilations since the 1970s, wrote a book and produced an Emmy-winning documentary on the subject.

Mutilations similar to the ones in Idaho have occurred across the country and in Australia, Europe, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Central America, South America, and on the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa, Howe said.

"You quickly realize that over a 20-year period, you're in the thousands of cases."

Howe said studies show many mutilations were done by a pinpoint heat source. Current laser technology would require the use of equipment that weighs 550 pounds, she said.

Dr. Chris Oates, a Pocatello veterinarian who sides with Howe, performed an autopsy on a mutilated steer in December. It had organs and blood missing, and the heart appeared to have been given a powerful electrical shock, she said.

"I opened it everywhere" during the autopsy, Oates said. "I've thought about it a lot and I can't explain it."

In Idaho, there have been reported sightings of multicolored lights in the sky near areas where the mutilations have occurred.

Last month, several people — including a Blaine County sheriff's deputy and a Blaine County sheriff's dispatcher — reported seeing a flashing red and blue diamond-shaped object over Hailley. But no animal mutilations were reported.

Everyone investigating agrees the best course of action is to continue doing autopsies on the mutilated animals.

That way, perhaps enough evidence may be gathered to pin the mutilations on somebody — or something.

In the meantime, fear will continue to exist on ranches in southeastern Idaho.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - Feb. 10, 1991

Chemical analysis not much help in determining contents of bubble

By Larry Miller
Special to the Gazette

ROSE CREEK — A chemical analysis of the big soapy, slimy, white bubble found Wednesday on Joseph Hubbard's farm in Conway County was inconclusive on its content.

George Wade, corporate environmental manager for the Arkansas Kraft Co. paper mill near here, said Friday that the state Pollution Control and Ecology Department analyzed a jar of the substance and was unable to determine its chemical identity.

Wade and others who saw the bubble speculated that it contained methane gas and had risen from an underground, abandoned septic tank. The sample that was analyzed didn't have methane gas or bacteria, however, he said.

Wade, who saw and touched the slippery mass, said the substance appeared to be a mixture of scum off a septic tank and particles of clay and laundry detergents.

Those things appeared to have come together and formed "a strange sort of

bubble," he said. "That thing was a monstrous mass of bubbles tied together."

Whatever it was had been formed near where it was found, Wade said. Similar things, maybe not as big as the one seen Wednesday, can be found slipping into the atmosphere at landfills, he said.

There is no evidence that a septic tank is buried in the area where the bubble was seen.

Hubbard, 66, a preacher, saw the misty form roll through a fence and stop at his pond near the Conway-Perry County line south of Petit Jean Mountain about 6 a.m. Wednesday. He said it was as big as a 500-pound bale of cotton and scary.

He estimated the size at 6 feet by 6 feet. The substance dissipated quickly and was gone by noon, except for the portion that was saved in an air-tight jar.

The see-through mass was something that Hubbard, Sheriff Carl Poeteete and others said they had never seen before.

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Feb. 6, 1991 CR: G. Conway

Sub to hunt for Ogopogo

By MOIRA FARROW

If Ogopogo is peacefully hibernating his way through winter in the depths of Lake Okanagan, he's about to get a wakeup call.

A Japanese expedition, equipped with a submarine and a budget of at least \$10,000 a day, is planned for next month.

"This is fabulous, so exciting, it's the first time a submarine has looked for Ogopogo," said Arlene Gaal, long-time researcher of the Okanagan's fabled lake creature.

She said in an interview Tuesday from Kelowna that she is coordinating the expedition on behalf of Nippon TV, which will make a film of the project for World Supernatural Phenomena, a TV show with an audience of 80 million viewers.

The Japanese television network first visited the Okanagan last summer and the film it made then included footage of at least one apparent sighting of the legendary lake monster.

Gaal said this film, shown last

TV crew from Japan expects lake probe to cost \$10,000 a day

August on a program called Thursday Special, was so well received that Nippon TV has decided to launch a major expedition to the lake.

"There will be a submarine and helicopter for about five days, a 700-pound remote-control camera, several boats equipped with sonar, a houseboat, a barge with cranes to lift the submarine and a tug to support the barge," she said.

"It's a colossal operation with the first crew arriving Feb. 28 and the second March 1. They will be in the Okanagan until March 10."

Gaal declined to release the cost of the expedition but said it will run into many thousands of dollars.

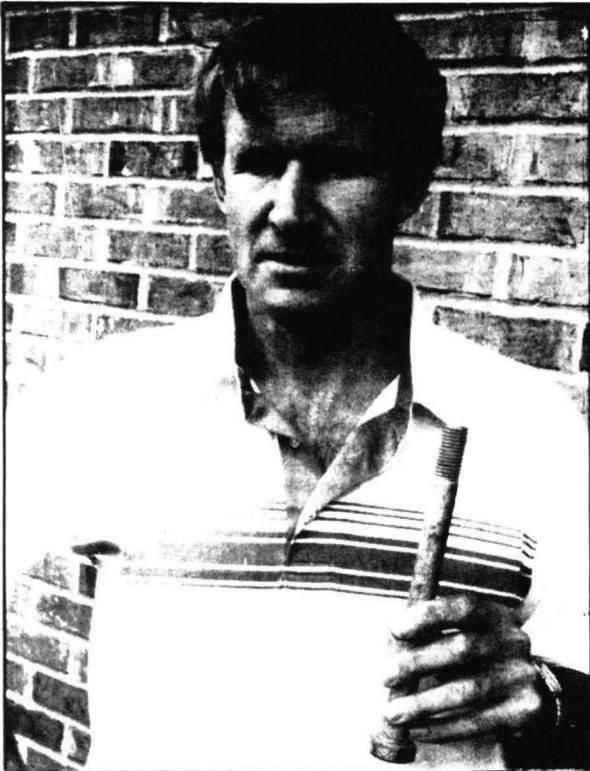
According to Murray Spier, project manager of Can-Dive Ser-

vices Ltd. of North Vancouver, the submarine plus all of the staff and related equipment it will require will cost about \$10,000 a day.

Spier said Tuesday that Nippon TV is renting his company's Deep Rover one-man submersible, which has an acrylic hull providing a 360-degree view.

"It can go to a depth of 3,000 feet (900 metres) and we're told the lake goes to about 800 feet (245 metres), so there should be no problem getting to the bottom with this machine," said Spier. "We will truck the Deep Rover to Kelowna and this will be an interesting job because we've never had the machine into Lake Okanagan. But we've had it in some neat places, like Crater Lake and Monterey Bay."

Asked if he believed in Ogopogo, Spier said: "Well, you have to keep an open mind. I don't know what we'll find but this will be a high-profile task."



Jim DeWall displays the bolt that fell into his backyard Sept. 15. The origin of the bolt remains a mystery.

Bolt narrowly misses man working outside

By Jeff Holmquist

Jim DeWall, St. Louis Park, was spending a quiet Sunday afternoon working in his backyard when something strange happened.

From out of the blue sky on Sept. 15, a foot-long galvanized bolt fell and struck the cement apron surrounding the family pool. The object came to rest just 12 feet from where DeWall was standing.

The sound of the bolt hitting the cement sent chills up the Lakeland Mortgage Corp. president's spine. The weight of the bolt took a small chunk out of the cement.

"My first reaction was that it was thrown over the fence by a kid," DeWall said. "In fact, I ran around looking over the fence, but there weren't any kids around."

DeWall said he then realized

the bolt could not have been thrown because when it struck the cement it did not skid off in some direction. The bolt came straight down and bounced straight up.

"So then I thought it was from a satellite or something, but it was so heavy and I didn't think they made satellites out of such materials."

DeWall finally thought that the bolt could be from an airplane, and he dashed into his garage to avoid being struck by any further debris.

He later called the Federal Aviation Administration to have someone there look at the bolt. Officials at the FAA office in Minneapolis report that aircraft do not have such heavy, galvanized bolts.

An FAA spokesperson said the appearance of the bolt remains a mystery to him, as it does to DeWall.

Second heifer found mutilated in field

By SHARON GRINDSTAFF
CCN Staff Writer

CARROLL COUNTY - Another heifer belonging to James H. Thorne of Green Forest has been killed. The way the animal was mutilated is almost identical to the one discovered three months ago.

Again, the eyes, sex organs and tongue have been removed with an almost surgical precision. Although more is missing, none of it - with the exception of the tongue - could be used for normal human consumption.

As before, the most baffling aspects of the killing are that the heifer's blood - approximately two gallons - has been drained with none spilled on the ground, she didn't put up any discernible fight and other animals won't go anywhere near the kill.

Apparently, the animal was killed Saturday, Feb. 2. It is the fifth heifer killed in similar manner in the past few years.

"In 1978, they killed my first one," Thorne says. From then on, he lost an animal about once every four years. "All within about 100 yards of each other. The first was out in the open, the others over the mountain."

Animal number five was killed

Nov. 4. Instead of a four-year span, this time it was only a fourth of a year between the mutilations. Again, the carcass has been left to rot.

"These five, they're all I know of," Thorne points out. His land is mountainous, not easily accessible. The dirt road ends at Gene Wingate's farmhouse. (Wingate is Thorne's son-in-law). The next closest road is Cisco Road, some two and a half miles away over some very rugged terrain.

"You'd have to go up and down those mountains. You'd break your neck in broad daylight," Thorne added.

This sort of killing has been going on in the United States for about 20 years or so. Almost all the mutilations are attributed to Satanic cults.

The local mutilations, as like some 700,000 others, have certain similarities in addition to the missing body parts and blood.

In every instance, there is no sign of a struggle. "If you shoot an animal, even if it's dead before it hits the ground, it still thrashes," Thorne explains. The ground around the heifer appears undisturbed, as if the body had just floated down to it.

Sheriff's Deputy Archie Rousey hasn't any more answers than

Thorne and Wingate. "I'm just speculating," he told the men after he'd walked the land for awhile. "But it seems like it was darted (injected with powerful tranquilizers) and bled while it was still alive."

Thorne pointed out that although the heifer had been dead almost two days by the time the mutilation was reported, no animals had come near it. "Nothing will eat it. The coyotes wouldn't eat it."

Rousey looked at Wingate's huge German Shepherd and said. "Your dog won't have nothing to do with it. Usually, a dog will at least sniff."

Wingate looked over the scene and shook his head in disbelief. "It's bizarre, just bizarre."

Whatever it is, it remains a mystery. It goes without saying that the sheriff's department will continue to investigate. It also goes without saying that anyone having any information whatsoever is asked to please call the department. As insignificant as the caller might think the information is, it could be the key to solving the crime.

"Nobody knows what this is all about," Thorne says quietly. "It's a problem ... I hope that they'll leave me alone for awhile."

DIFFERENT DRUM, Queensland, Australia
Sept. 1990 CR: R. Collings



INDIANA GILROY



REX GILROY is searching for a lost pyramid. Not near Cairo—the New South Wales architect reckons it is somewhere on the Cape York Peninsula, a relic of ancient mining expeditions from Egypt.

Gilroy claims he stumbled onto a small, crumbling pyramidal mound and some collapsed walls of rock during a 1987 search. His story is reportedly backed by local legend which has it that a century ago a 16-metre pyramid built of crude stone blocks was found by a farmer.

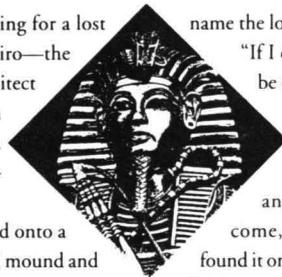
Gilroy says its location was lost. He believes the search is closing in but won't

name the locale for fear of vandalism.

"If I can find the structure, it will be conclusive proof that Australia was a land known to the civilisations of antiquity," he says. They came for copper and gold, if they did in fact come, and Gilroy believes they found it on the Atherton Tableland, west of Cairns.

Evidence of Mediterranean influence lies in racial features found in Torres Strait Islanders and Cape York Aborigines, says Gilroy. Mummification rituals practised by them could be further evidence of a link.

Is Gilroy our own Indiana Jones?



Family claims to have filmed 'monster' in Kagoshima lake

KAGOSHIMA (Kyodo) A Fukuoka family said Saturday they have filmed what looks like a strange creature swimming in Lake Ikeda in Kagoshima Prefecture.

A similar sighting was reported at the lake 13 years ago by tourists at a hot spring resort who claimed to have seen a creature resembling a dinosaur.

They said the creature was up to 30 meters long and had three large bumps on its back.

It was later dubbed Issie, after Nessie, the nickname given to Scotland's legendary Loch Ness monster.

Hideaki Tomiyasu, 39, of Fukuoka's Chuo Ward, said he and his family saw a mysterious object in the lake around 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 4.

"What we saw must be an animal with a length of more than 10 meters," Tomiyasu

said. "It was as if the lord of the lake was slowly moving over the surface. It was mystic."

"I don't think it is a wooden log," said Yuichi Ono, a Kyushu University professor who saw the video. "But I cannot say anything definite. Seeing that the thing splashes water and that two parts come together, I would say it is possible it may be an animal."

Lake Ikeda is located near the southeastern tip of Satsuma Peninsula in Kagoshima Prefecture.

It is Kyushu's largest lake, covering 11 sq. km. and is the habitat of large eels, whose length can reach 2 meters.

Tomiyasu said that while driving, he and his family spotted what looked like a large black head bobbing in the center of the lake.

They stopped and filmed the object for about nine min-

utes from approximately 250 meters away.

Tomiyasu's eldest son, Takashi, a junior high school student, operated the camera.

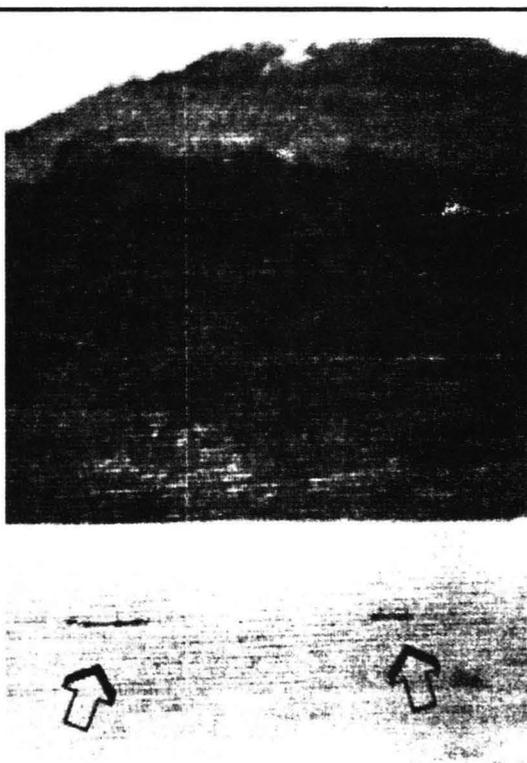
"It has stripes of brown and yellow," he can be heard saying on the videotape. "It must be Issie! It must be Issie!"

At first the family thought the object looked like a log about 4 meters long with bumps, resembling the back of a dinosaur, Tomiyasu said.

When a motorboat approached the object, it splashed water and submerged, he said.

As the object repeatedly surfaced and submerged, two parts of it appeared to alternately part and come together, he said.

"It was as if a long animal was winding and swimming through the lake," Tomiyasu said.



A STILL PHOTO from a video showing what is said to look like the back of a mysterious creature (arrows) swimming in Lake Ikeda in Kagoshima Prefecture. KYODO PHOTO

Gilroy's believe it or not

A LETHAL funnelweb spider paws a jar in a grotesque dance as Wagner's *Die Walkure* blasts out across the Blue Mountains from the weatherboard home of Rex Gilroy, naturalist, cryptozoologist, opera and movie buff and perpetual thorn in the side of establishment science.

Out back, in a shed converted to a theatre, Gilroy leaps from a poster autographed by a tinseltown hero — "Happy Trails, Roy Rodgers" — to the splayed plaster cast of what he says is a Yeti footprint from the remote mountains of Nepal.

Gilroy's mind and conversation race across history, the mysterious and at times the bizarre: Vikings in New Zealand, Phoenician mines in the ochre mountains of north-western Australia, Egyptian necromancy in the Torres Islands.

It swings to cryptozoology, the study of species long thought extinct but which may still survive, or species unknown to man.

Gilroy's arm sweeps across the heavily bushed mountains behind his gate, which plunge into almost impenetrable valleys:

Some people think he's just eccentric; others claim he's nuts. But the man himself insists he's perfectly normal. GREG ANSLEY talks to the Australian with some interesting theories on early days in the South Pacific.

"Even parts of this place haven't been explored by Europeans. Who's to say what's out there, or what's not?"

And back to spiders, 80,000 insects in what Gilroy claims is the largest privately owned natural history collection in Australia, and butterflies.

Do we know there are 120 species of butterflies in the Blue Mountains, and 400 species of spiders including six varieties of funnelweb, some specific to the region? Gilroy milks their venom for the local hospital.

"Eccentric? I think I'm normal. I describe myself as an open-minded field researcher. I admit to being a self-taught naturalist and historian, but that's no disgrace."

Gilroy is nothing if not controversial, clashing variously with extraterrestrialist Erik von Daniken, historians, scientists, sceptics and the Maori in New Zealand.

For New Zealanders who reviled him as crazy and "inherently racist" for his theory of a white-skinned, red-bearded race living in the mists of time with the Maori, Gilroy has a message: "I'm coming back — hopefully next year."

Gilroy's theory is simple. History, he believes, is much older and far more enigmatic than everyone thinks. How else would ancient Scandinavian Ogham script be found carved into rock on the Hawkesbury River in New South Wales, or the graves of giants and Libyan script appear in New Zealand, as Gilroy is convinced they have?

Rex Gilroy is now 47. He grew up on a 5-hectare farm in Fairfield, now a packed and polluted suburb on the western fringes of Sydney. From about seven he began collecting rocks, grasshoppers, butterflies — "bugs of all sorts" — and by 12 had developed a passion for studying and preserving nature.

His home is a museum in itself — walls stacked with books, videos and paraphernalia, the shed-cum-theatre and storehouse groaning at the seams with the accumulations of decades.

His vast collection of movie memorabilia — films, posters, tickets, the lot — has stretched into some of the industry's most obscure corners.

His hero Roy Rogers sent a note, and now Gilroy writes to Dale Evans, "queen of the west".

His collection has rare Australian productions, photos of long-gone cinematic palaces, scraps recording the price of jaffas in the 1940s and cameos of the Saturday matinee years: "People didn't think of the history they created."

Gilroy used to have a real museum in an old tearoom until the local council bulldozed it down and steadfastly refused to find him another.

It still hurts: "I've never been appreciated in this community. I've got 80,000 insects in my collection, all properly preserved and displayed, and they haven't been seen since 1983. I'm crying out for a decent museum somewhere. It's not just a collection of rocks and bugs."

But this is how it is for Gilroy. You cannot keep yeti feet in your shed and spin yarns of Phoenicians in the outback without a lot of people thinking you have rocks in your head as well as in your display cases.

The man knows this, but is prepared to take the flak. He believes absolutely that there is more in the world than we know about, and that this almost certainly includes, for example, primate species that have appeared variously as the yeti in Nepal, the yowie in Australia, and the sasquatch or bigfoot in North America.

Gilroy claims to have spotted a Tasmanian Tiger on mainland Australia, and to have made casts of its tracks. The casts are in his



● Rex Gilroy with a yeti foot cast.

shed, but have done little to convince sceptics.

Not surprisingly, he has little time for the sceptics: "I believe history is older than what's taught at university. The experts said the ancient Egyptians couldn't have crossed the Atlantic because they'd stuck bits of papyrus in a fish tank and they'd sunk. But Thor Heyerdahl did it in the Ra."

Gilroy believes the ancients were global explorers on a scale yet to be fully understood, leaving traces behind that are only now being put together: plants native only to Peru, discovered in New Zealand, ancient Mesyan jade found in North Queensland, New Guinea and China, and American descriptions of a great "west land" far across the sea by people as ancient as the Olmecs of Central America, a civilisation that flourished about 1400 BC and withered by about 200 BC.

THE Chinese, too, Gilroy believes, were energetic traders and explorers in the Pacific, with records indicating the capability of building large sea-going vessels.

He says a map dating back to more than 300 years BC shows Australia, and another, later, Chinese chart depicts what could be the North Island of New Zealand, although standard reference works suggest Chinese explorers did not reach as far as India until the first or second centuries BC.

Gilroy also says recently discovered records in Peking report that in 338 BC, 28 huge Chinese junks were ordered to collect pouched animals from the "great southern land" in a broad-ranging scientific expedition that lasted five years. The junks reportedly returned with animals that hopped. Kangaroos? Perhaps, says Gilroy. He believes the ancient civilisations of the Middle East knew the Pacific. Their traces, Gilroy says, are still there. Aborigines of Cape York and the Torres Strait, for example, use mummification methods identical to Egyptian techniques of dynasties dating back to 900 BC.

Gilroy remains unmoved by counterclaims that the evidence — if it exists — is thin: "Ancient civilisations were world travellers long before the West. We too often underrate the seafaring abilities of the ancients."

"The Libyans reached the Pitcairn Islands about 200 BC, and there is evidence to suggest they also touched New Zealand."

"The Polynesians were great explorers, too. There are Maori traditions of a great land to the west of New Zealand, for example. Maori artefacts were found at a campsite in Botany Bay in 1931, including ground-edged tools of greenstone."

"In 1969, at Prospect Creek behind Fairfield [Sydney], greenstone implements were unearthed during excavations for a house. There appears to have been some sort of fortified encampment. I believe it could be a Maori pa. They must have come up Georges River as far as Prospect Creek. Who knows?"

appears in identical form in Maori mythology.

Much later, New Zealand was visited by the Portuguese and the Spanish, Gilroy argues. A 1488 Portuguese map depicting Australia, for example, also appears to show the North Island. And he says a skeleton buried with a Spanish cutlass, helmet and breastplate was found in the Bay of Islands.

Gilroy knows he is in for a hard run from academics, sceptics and the media: "Anything people don't understand they laugh at. I've had people interview me who don't really know my work and so they turn it into a joke. The ignorant say I'm nuts, but they're not qualified to say whether I should be put in a strait-jacket or not."

"You need to keep an open mind. I see nothing wrong in my work. I study conventional natural history, but as a sideline I'm interested in the mysterious, the unexplained."

"It shouldn't be ignored because it's not conventional. Otherwise we're not going to learn anything."

Gilroy backs his claims of ancient exploration of both New Zealand and Australia with what he says has been the widespread discovery of ancient script carved into rock, and its authentication by such notables as Dr Barry Fell, an expert in ancient languages at Harvard University.

According to Gilroy, carved inscriptions in Libyan script, pottery fragments and open-cast mines point to exploration of mineral deposits in Australia. He says that in 1931 Libyan inscriptions were found on the coastal fringes of the Nullabor Plain.

On the Hawkesbury River in New South Wales, drought scoured moss from river rocks and uncovered what Gilroy says are messages written in ancient Scandinavian Ogham.

He also believes the waves of Middle East, Chinese, Viking and Arab explorers touched New Zealand and claims that a Libyan script has been discovered in the Bay of Islands, and that Ogham and a clear depiction of a Viking ship has been found near Cape Reinga. The inscriptions record messages to the gods and day-to-day events, he says.

But charges of racism for his theories of early white-skinned colonists stung: "I want to assure the Maori people that my arguments have no racist connotations whatsoever. It is just a fact that other people were there before them. There's nothing wrong with other people knowing about New Zealand."

Gilroy maintains, for example, that a race known as the Moehau once lived in New Zealand, despite denials by many experts in New Zealand. He says they were possibly a large-framed and violent Melanesian people apparently feared as cannibals.

GILROY says that in the 1970s a grave site near Auckland yielded "quite large" skeletons six to eight feet tall. Although the site was not publicly revealed, he claims to have been taken to it and to have seen a mysterious stone arrangement very similar to others in Australia.

He also believes that a race known as the patupaiarehu were real, not fairies. They were tall, fair-skinned, red-haired and blue-eyed forest dwellers living mainly around Lake Rotorua at the time of the Maori, but were wiped out in battle about 500 years ago.

Gilroy says the Cook Islands offer some confirmation of such a race in this region — and that they were probably of Scandinavian origin.

The Maori knew a fair-skinned race as star-worshippers and he says they "obviously knew about navigation."

Gilroy suggests that some of this knowledge, "identical in many ways to some Babylonian science passed on through the Middle East, the Greeks and Scandinavians," was in turn handed on to the Maori. The ancient Middle East sun god Ra, he says,