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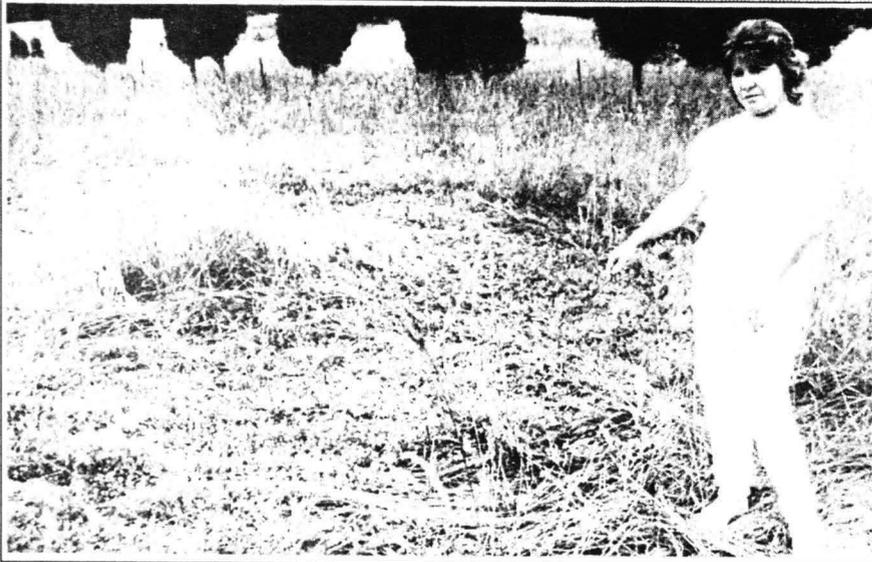
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Unexplained phenomenon

Barbara Mills shows the circular impression she and her husband discovered in their field last Saturday morning. On Friday night, Mrs. Mills said she heard a sound "like

a rope swinging over your head." The grass was mashed absolutely flat when the impression was found, and there were no tracks leading to it. (Staff Photo-Steve Marion)

Mysterious circle, UFO draw national attention

BY STEVE MARION
Standard Banner Staff Writer

In the back yard, Keith Tarpley of the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network had turned off his tape recorder. He had also stopped taking pictures.

"We just don't know what it is," Larry Thurman said. "I need to set me up a booth out here and charge admission. It's the tenth wonder of the world."

"I did pick up this piece of plastic," said Tarpley, of Knoxville. "It's probably just a piece of trash, but we'll have it analyzed."

Three hundred feet away, in the corner of a pasture behind Barbara Mills' trailer, somewhere in Jefferson County between a junkyard and a hillside cemetery, there was a perfectly round flat place in the weeds. It had been mashed there sometime Friday night. Only a small sprig of weeds remained standing in the center.

"I heard something that night," Mrs. Mills said. "It sounded like somebody swinging a rope in the air."

On Saturday morning her husband was letting his cows in the pasture when he saw it.

"He said, 'You better go over there and look, there's some strange thing in the field,'" Mills recalled.

She did. There were no tracks leading to or away from the site. No cattle had been in the field. Not long after, the Mills say, their cattle became sick, and a rash came

up on Mrs. Mills' arms.

They called the sheriff's department. That's how they got in touch with Thurman, a reserve deputy who lives only a short distance from the Mills' home. The plot thickened.

Thurman, it turned out, had filed away a video tape that he had not been able to explain. On March 15, about two months before the incident at the Mills', Thurman was outside just after dusk with his video camera.

"I've got the pictures of something," Thurman said. "I don't know what it is."

"We're not saying we believe in green men," said Thurman's wife, Jill, "but there's something different on that tape."

Up in his son's room where the VCR is most of the time, amid posters of Ninja turtles and pro wrestlers, Thurman reviewed the tape for the Mills. It was the first time they had seen it.

"There was absolutely no sound," Thurman said.

On the screen, a small blip of light zoomed up from the western sky. It hovered, dropped to tree-top level, and then zipped back upward.

"Ain't no plane can do that," Mills said on the tape, zooming in with his lens. A close-up showed a round object with indentions on top and bottom. A ring



Extra-terrestrial home video?

An image from Larry Thurman's video camera shows an Unidentified Flying Object. The date of the film is actually March 15. (Staff Photo-Steve Marion)

around the center seemed to be spinning rapidly.

"What gets me is how fast that thing left," said Thurman. "You take two breaths and he's gone."

Sure enough, the light blip intensified, and then zoomed away toward Knoxville, disappearing quickly.

"I'm no expert," said Thurman. "But he had to be going at least three thousand miles an hour."

Reporters with television cameras have already been back in the field. They've spoken with Mrs. Mills and Thurman, who says he's been getting calls from UFO specialists from all

over the country.

"I'd say we're just at the beginning," said Tarpley, whose three thousand member organization is based in Seguin, Texas. "I'll send in my reports, and we'll do some simple analysis, and see what might turn up."

"I wonder if anybody else saw or heard anything," Thurman said. "I wish they'd let us know if they did. It's a funny thing. I wish that every skeptic could see something like this, just to show him there are things that can't be explained."

COLUMBIAN, Vancouver, WA — April 19, 1991

INK



By DAVE JEWETT
The Columbian

Helena Adams, got some call-in support for their story of a sighting of two UFOs,

An officer of the Portland UFO Group called to say their description jibed with some recent sightings in the Vancouver area.

The couple told of seeing the objects on a Sunday afternoon in December 1988, when they were along Lower River Road trying out a newly purchased video camera. They caught the mysterious objects at a far distance on about 10 minutes of video tape, but said they then found it impossible to interest the local media.

ON TALK RADIO KGW Thursday morning, a Vancouver couple, Toni and

GASTON GAZETTE, Gastonia, NC — May 12, 1991 CR: G. Fawcett

UFO snoop not out of this world

By Bo Petersen
Gazette Staff Reporter

LINCOLNTON — His hobby gets strange — investigating close encounters of the fourth kind.

"The fourth kind are the strange cases," Danny Barger said. "The third kind, they see the UFO occupant. The fourth kind is a little closer than that."

"Usually, it's an abduction. The person claims he's been taken aboard."

In his spare time, Barger, 51, is a field investigator for the Mutual UFO Network.

"All these people are not lying. I believe some of the sightings are actually UFOs."

Danny Barger
Mutual UFO Network field investigator

He looks into people's reports of strange sightings and events for evidence of unidentified flying objects, for evidence of alien life.

"I don't advertise it. I don't hide it like some people do," Barger said. "It's a hobby. Sometimes I spend a lot of time. If I spend too much money, my wife says something."

His wife and sons go along sometimes. Most of his plant co-workers know what he does, Barger said.

"Some are interested. Some could care less," he said. "Some still make fun of you."

Since 1950, investigators have documented 11 fourth-kind close encounters in North Carolina, Barger said. None occurred in Lincoln or Gaston County.

Right now, Barger is investigating in Charlotte.

Barger himself has never seen a UFO. "I don't go out at night looking up at the sky expecting to see one," he said. "People say, 'If I haven't seen it, it's not so.' I've got the interest without seeing it."

"I've met enough people. All these people are not lying. I believe some of the sightings are actually UFOs."

But Barger's not so certain he wants to see one.

"I guess so," he said. "But I don't want to see it at 3 o'clock in the morning."

By David Templeton Photographed by Vince Musi

THE UNINVITED

SOMETHING DROPPED IN ON
KECKSBURG UNEXPECTEDLY 25 YEARS AGO,
AND THE CONTROVERSY CONTINUES TO
DIVIDE THIS WESTMORELAND COUNTY
COMMUNITY TODAY

SO, WHAT ON Earth landed in Kecksburg on Dec. 9, 1965? Or, as some would phrase it, what *outside* Earth landed there?

To this day, neither rocket scientists nor UFO buffs can say with any surety what — if anything — happened that Thursday evening in the still decidedly uncertain Westmoreland County village.

The only circumstantial evidence that something lit is what otherwise rational people say they saw: gliding fireball, angled landing, sparks, smoke, spacecraft in the woods. Many hung around until early the next morning to witness, they say, the military haul away an object that, covered with a tarpaulin, resembled a Volkswagen Beetle.

The Foreign Technology Division of the U.S. Air Force, then as today, says the sighting was a meteor that was never found. But astronomers note that a meteor the size of a Volkswagen Beetle would have transformed Kecksburg into Kratertown.

UFO researchers say eyewitness descriptions suggest something extraterrestrial, and they consider the Kecksburg incident one of America's most compelling UFO mysteries. But some fed-up Kecksburg residents argue with folksy verve that it's all a well-orchestrated hoax perpetrated by UFO fanatics. "Nothing happened, nothing was found," insists Charles Hilland, whose farm borders the supposed landing site. "It's a lie!"

For more than two decades, the mystery lived on as a whispered curiosity in Kecksburg — until "Unsolved Mysteries," the NBC television series on unexplained phenomena, broadcast last Sept. 19 and again on Feb. 27 its version of the UFO landing. The show, which accurately detailed eyewitness accounts, turned quiet opinions into political philosophies, pitting true believers against certified skeptics. Feuds broke out between relatives, neighbors and community leaders.

"It's caused some hard feelings," says Robert Bitner, 64, a former fireman who witnessed military activity that night and is convinced something landed. "Everyone couldn't be lying about this, and people don't have anything to gain by lying. People who did see it didn't go around bragging," Bitner says.

"They didn't bring in all those military people just for a meteorite."

Bitner hasn't spoken to his brother-in-law, Carl Porch, since Porch, Hilland and others conducted an unsuccessful petition drive last summer to stop the "Unsolved Mysteries" broadcast. Porch said he and Bitner were friendly relatives before film crews came to town. "We didn't hear anything about this for 25 years, until then," Porch says, insisting it's a hoax. "There's damn little that I know about this world, but this I do know."

Could it be a hoax? Was it a meteor that swooped down from the heavens and landed with pyrotechnical fanfare in Kecksburg's midriff? Perhaps it was Disney's Love Bug on rocket fuel, or E.T. displaying *Fahrvergnugen* in an intergalactic VW.

One plausible explanation seemed to be Cosmos 96 — a malfunctioning Soviet Venus probe that returned to Earth the day of the Kecksburg sighting. Eyewitness descriptions of the UFO and the stealth of the military

recovery mission, especially in the context of the 1960s space race, seem consistent with the theory that Cosmos 96 may have mistaken Kecksburg for the planet of love and beauty. But Helen Kavanaugh, spokeswoman for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, where the Foreign Technology Division is stationed, says there's no record of retrieval of Cosmos 96, or anything else from Kecksburg. Her comment: "We have nothing to say about it."

Still, the theory that Cosmos 96 was the culprit had enough going for it that some other opinions were solicited:

• Ivan Rumiantsev, press officer for the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C., said Soviet and American space debris often drops onto foreign territory. But there's no proof that Cosmos 96 or any other Soviet craft landed in Kecksburg in December 1965, he reported. Strike one.

• Stan Gordon, director of the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, a Greensburg organization that's been studying the Kecksburg case since it happened, said its maneuvers and controlled landing — along with U.S. Space Command data that Cosmos 96 returned to Earth 13½ hours before the Kecksburg incident — make it an unlikely candidate. Strike two.

• James Oberg, a Houston space engineer, author, Soviet spacecraft expert and renowned UFO skeptic, gave the Cosmos 96 theory a glimmer of hope. He said that as a Venus probe, Cosmos was designed to withstand entry into Venus' 900-degree atmosphere and powerful gravitational forces, and therefore could have landed on Earth intact. Also, amid the space race and Cold War of the 1960s, the U.S. military quietly encouraged belief in extraterrestrial spacecraft to divert attention from its secret missions to recover foreign space debris.

Finally, Oberg added that, because the United States and Soviets had an oral agreement to return the other side's spacecraft debris when it landed in their territory, secrecy was paramount if one power opted to keep the other's recovered debris. Oberg says the U.S. conducted secret recovery missions throughout the world to collect Soviet space debris until 1967 when a treaty to return such debris became effective.

To test the Cosmos 96 theory, Oberg reviewed orbital coordinates for the probe that The Pittsburgh Press obtained from the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. Although Cosmos 96's orbit crossed Northeastern United States, he said the tracking coordinates prove it would not have come down in Kecksburg at 4:46 p.m. — the hour the fireball was seen there. The data buttresses the U.S. Space Command's claim that Cosmos 96 crashed in Canada at 3:18 a.m.

"Cosmos 96 is not guilty," Oberg concluded.

DEC. 9, 1965, was a dreary day in Westmoreland County. At quarter to 5, Jim Romansky was standing in a relative's yard near Latrobe, and Bill Bulebush was repairing his car in the driveway of his Mount Pleasant

home. Bob Blystone Jr. was in his grandmother's kitchen in Kecksburg, while Mary Keto was preparing to leave her Mount Pleasant Township home for religion class.

Then it occurred. Blystone, then 15, describes it as an orange jet trail. Others say it was a roundish fireball that seared across the gray sky at low altitude. Leaving her house, Keto spotted a hovering fireball just above the tree line. Hearing a UFO report on the radio, Bulebush looked up to see a fireball making S-turns, perhaps a figure eight, before descending into nearby woods.

Blystone says he saw the round "thingamajiggy" with a colorful trail glide slowly toward the treetops. "I would say it made a controlled landing at an angle. Then I saw a bluish gray puff of smoke or dust."

Bulebush hopped into his car and headed for the landing site. From a road in Kecksburg, he could see "arc-welding flames, bluish sparklers," through the trees. He parked his car and entered the woods in search of the object that, by then, had quit pulsing and fizzing. He soon found more than he expected.

"I can still see it behind that big tree," he says. "I was 15 feet away from it. It was burnt orange and had pushed the ground in. There were no doors or rivet marks — no nothing. It was about 12 feet long and 6 or 7 feet in diameter, like an acorn. It had a ring around it with backward letters, like a backward J and backward K. I was the only one there."

Shining a flashlight on the craft, Bulebush grew scared. "Then I could hear voices and see flashlights coming from all directions," he recounts. "I turned my light out and ran to where I'd come into the woods."

After Romansky saw a streak in the sky, the fire whistle sounded and he took off for the Lloydsville fire hall, where officials reported a downed aircraft near Kecksburg. Romansky and another fireman headed there and joined firemen from other communities in a systematic search of the woods.

Romansky says his group soon came across the acorn-shaped object. "There were no wings, motor or fuselage," he says. "We were dumbfounded at what we had stumbled across. It reminded me of a large acorn because of its shape and geometric configuration. There were no doors, windows or any means of getting inside — and no one was brave enough to go pound on it."

The writing on the girth of the craft, Romansky says, resembled hieroglyphics — lines, stars, circles, shapes. There was a dent in the metal, but no rivets, seams or welds. "Quite eerie," he recalls.

Soon, he continues, two men wearing long coats and standing "ramrod stiff" came through the woods. One announced that "This is now a restricted area to all civilian personnel," and ordered the firemen to leave. Heading back toward the Kecksburg fire hall, Romansky passed soldiers heading toward the acorn. Military officials (some say representatives of the Army, Navy and Air Force were present) later emerged from the woods and told firemen that the UFO was an unretrieved meteor. Romansky laughed in disbelief, as he does now. "I never thought that a quarter century later this would be one of the great mysteries of Western Pennsylvania."

Radio reports about the UFO landing left Kecksburg roads jammed with curiosity seekers. Bill Weaver of Norvelt was cruising in his red Oldsmobile convertible when he heard the bulletin. He turned onto a farm road in Kecksburg, and came upon others standing along a cow path, staring into a wooded hollow.

"I could see an object down there in the woods," Weaver says. "It was aglow — a light that wouldn't shut off. I saw something the whole time I was there. I wanted to know what it was but was too afraid to go down in." He says he also saw four men in white moon suits carrying a 5-square-foot white box into the woods on a stretcher.

Men in business suits eventually ordered him to leave, he says, but the 19-year-old Weaver ignored the command. "Either move the car," they said, "or we'll take it."

John Hays, 10 at the time, remembers military personnel occupying his family's house (the house closest to the landing site), using the telephone and holding secret, serious conversations. Officers ordered his parents to send their children to bed, but Hays kept roaming downstairs to use the bathroom and get drinks of water. The rest of the evening, he was perched at his bedroom window. He watched a military truck that had entered the woods empty re-emerge with an odd-shaped cargo, he says. It reminded him of a Volkswagen Beetle under a tarp.

"I had a blast that night," Hays says. "It's something I will always remember."

BY LUCKY coincidence that night, Mike Levine's guest on his KDKA radio talk show was newsman Frank Edwards, author of "Flying Saucers, Serious Business." By the time Edwards arrived for the 6 p.m. interview, KDKA's phone banks were aglow with people reporting "everything but little green men," recalls Levine, now a radio talk-show host at WASP in Brownsville.

"The descriptions we got from people were unbelievable," he says. "I thought it was the slickest promotion I'd ever seen in my life." When Levine asked Edwards how he'd done it (pulled off such a publicity stunt), Edwards replied, "Do what?"

The first reporter on the scene was John Murphy, news director at WHJB radio in Greensburg. Murphy was killed in a traffic accident several years later in California. But his ex-wife, Bonnie Millslagle of Swissvale says she's convinced Murphy saw something unexplainable that night.

"He said it definitely was not a meteor," she says. "He was convinced it was not something of this Earth."

Murphy produced a documentary on the incident, "Object in the Woods," but whole sections were edited out after eyewitnesses withdrew their stories in fear of police or military retaliation. Murphy did report that people saw flashing lights and the military place an object into a cement-lined drum.

Bob Gatty, a Greensburg Tribune-Review reporter at the time, arrived in Kecksburg later in the evening. The Clarksville, Md., resident says he recalls the town overrun with military, but left after an officer told him a

meteor had caused the commotion. Gatty reported the next day that nothing was found — that people miscalculated where the meteor had landed.

"I remember I got a lot of dancing around — a lot of dodging (from the military)," Gatty says. "I always suspected there was some missile that had been misfired and the military was embarrassed and kept it hushed up."

Working for KDKA-TV back then, Adam Lynch says he saw nothing except the military and people that night, and returned to the station with the military explanation of a meteor. It seemed logical, he says, because the Geminid meteor storm occurs each December. "We weren't taking this seriously," says Lynch, a newscaster for WTAE-TV. "There's no doubt something came down, but it seemed coincidental with the meteorite breakup."

Dr. William Everett, a retired Pittsburgh ophthalmologist, adds a different twist to the mystery.

He says Dr. Murray McCaslin, the highly respected chief of ophthalmology at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine, was asked by Air Force officials for a medical opinion on a Mount Pleasant boy who sustained opaque corneas during the Dec. 9 Kecksburg incident. The Air Force officers demanded McCaslin's full confidentiality.

But McCaslin was baffled by the patient's rare injury that left the clear part of the eye looking like "porcelain." Everett says McCaslin, now deceased, briefly discussed the mystery with him, but never again brought it up. An opaque cornea, Everett says, is a rare condition caused by eye exposure to chemicals, intense heat or radiation. He said he's never treated a patient with opaque corneas in both eyes and declined to speculate on what may have caused the injury.

Monsour Medical Center and Jeannette District Memorial Hospital declined to make medical records available on patients treated in December 1965 for eye injuries. Neither the Pittsburgh Medical Eye Bank nor state and local organizations that provide services for the blind had any knowledge or records of anyone with such an injury.

Over the years, Gordon and other Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained members have interviewed "many dozens" of witnesses and collected signed affidavits as well as video and tape recordings of eyewitness accounts. Gordon has filled several file drawers with information about the Kecksburg UFO. But many witnesses are reluctant to discuss their experience with reporters. Others demanded anonymity or insisted that their names not be published.

PASU obtained an affidavit from and videotape interview of an Ohio man who says he delivered bricks to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base several days after the Kecksburg sighting. At the base, the man explains on the tape, he saw men in white moon suits working vigorously inside a hangar on the acorn-shaped craft. The bricks were to be used to build a lead-lined enclosure for the craft, he says.

In all, The Pittsburgh Press interviewed about 30 people regarding their experiences, including firemen, residents and those drawn to Kecksburg that night by curiosity. They offered similar accounts of the landing, the craft and the military retrieval. Although generally reluctant to talk about their experiences, many echoed Hays's explanation for going public with their stories: "I really want to know what it was," Hays says. "I'm tired of people telling me I'm crazy."

THAT NO EXPLANATION offers a perfect fit adds both intrigue and frustration to the Kecksburg UFO incident.

The fireball trail is consistent with a meteor, but then, what was in the woods? The craft's ability to survive re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere suggests an interplanetary landing vehicle, but none returned to Earth that day. Its size and acorn shape would even suggest a Soviet Fractional Orbital Bombardment system — a 1960s-era craft placed in orbit to carry intercontinental ballistic missiles. But had an "FOB" careened over the North Pole into the United States, the Kecksburg incident would be fully explained today in history books under the chapter titled "World War III."

"They just didn't shoot those things over Pennsylvania," says Curtis Peebles, an El Cajon, Calif., author, reconnaissance satellite expert and UFO skeptic.

The Soviet's early Luna spaceships destined for the moon were acorn-shaped. But their whereabouts have been well-documented. Besides, Luna craft were not equipped with heat shields and would not have survived Earth re-entry. In the 1960s, the Soviets were busy launching Mars and Venus probes, including Cosmos 96. But these probes were too small to match eyewitness descriptions of the Kecksburg craft.

Although Cosmos 96 did not land in Kecksburg, its re-entry had an impact on the Kecksburg incident.

The Foreign Technology Division was a tight-knit unit that operated under the code name Moon Dust to recover returning space debris, Peebles says. The unit probably was on standby Dec. 9 because of re-entry of Cosmos 96, and may have hurried to Kecksburg on the chance that the fireball traveling from Canada to Western Pennsylvania was the Soviet probe.

Peebles and Gordon note that the incident is not listed in activity logs for the 662nd Radar Unit of Oakdale — the unit in Kecksburg that night — probably because the mission was classified. Yet it wasn't a military practice to track down meteors, or keep such searches classified.

"It's a puzzlement," Peebles says.

It's less puzzling for UFO researchers who feel the Kecksburg incident forces people to consider the possibility of ... extraterrestrial visitors.

Eyewitness descriptions of the Kecksburg UFO hovering and turning before landing leave UFO researchers convinced it was not some misguided Soviet missile or spacecraft.

"After 25 years, if it was a probe, what's the big secret?" Gordon says. "We can rule out a meteor and we can rule out space debris and we know it wasn't a plane crash. When you eliminate all the possibilities, two things remain. It was either a highly advanced space probe with very interesting capabilities for the 1960s, or we may actually be dealing with an alien spacecraft."

"But we could speculate forever," Gordon continues. "We're now making a detailed study of experimental U.S. probes of the 1960s. We have to eliminate all man-made possibilities. Whatever it was, it appeared to be a device much ahead of its time or more technically advanced than what existed."

Gordon says he hopes that military personnel involved in the recovery operation that night, or anyone else with information about the UFO incident, will contact him. He says PASU's research will continue until it comes up with a solution or forces the government to open its files on the retrieval mission.

"We hope to create enough interest in it to put pressure on Washington, D.C., that will eventually lead to a government inquiry into the incident," he says.

But Peebles says many logical explanations still must be considered, including the possibility that it was a meteor, after all. He



Carl Porch, standing near site of the controversy, calls it all a hoax

notes that the Kecksburg UFO incident didn't take on importance until recent years. It's possible, he says, that people saw a fireball, but 25 years later, their faded memories have given the imagination free play to turn vague impressions into sensational recollections.

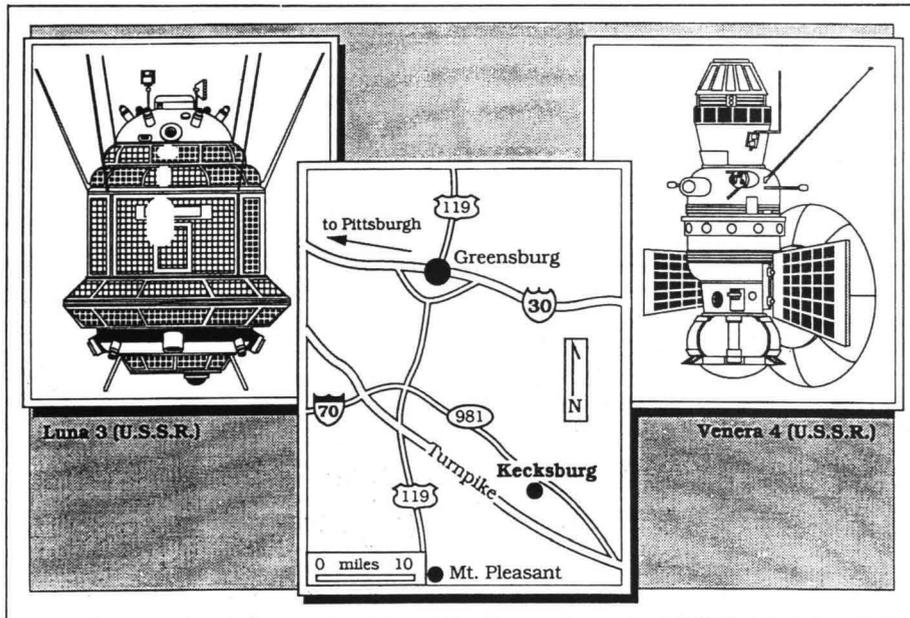
"I don't know if UFOs tell us much about aliens, but it tells us a lot about human beings," Peebles says.

But, for now, the Kecksburg UFO mystery has grounded the experts and given flight to

mystery. It seems that only the Air Force's Foreign Technology Division can settle the spacecraft controversy that landed on the rural village a quarter century ago.

"The government owes Pennsylvania and the people of Kecksburg an explanation," says Gordon.

(David Templeton is a Pittsburgh Press staff writer.)



Jim Conaway/The Pittsburgh Press

Mystery craft, according to witnesses, resembled Luna 3 or top of a Venus probe, shown flanking map above.



Reminiscent of "flying saucer" photos of the '50s and early '60s, an unidentified flying object sighted recently over a Portland neighborhood bears an uncanny resemblance to a smoke-alarm cover.

NORTHWEST

Until the little strangers from beyond the stars land in Pioneer Courthouse Square, most people won't believe the stories about UFOs. But that doesn't mean they shouldn't be told.

BY BILL DONAHUE

IT ALL BECAME CLEAR, BRUCE SMITH CLAIMS, IN TRENTON, N.J., at the Holiday Inn. Smith — a burly, bearded fellow of 40 who ran a business that cleaned syringes and other trash off the beaches of New York — was sitting in the auditorium there last April, listening to a man named Budd Hopkins lecture about people who've had sex with aliens.

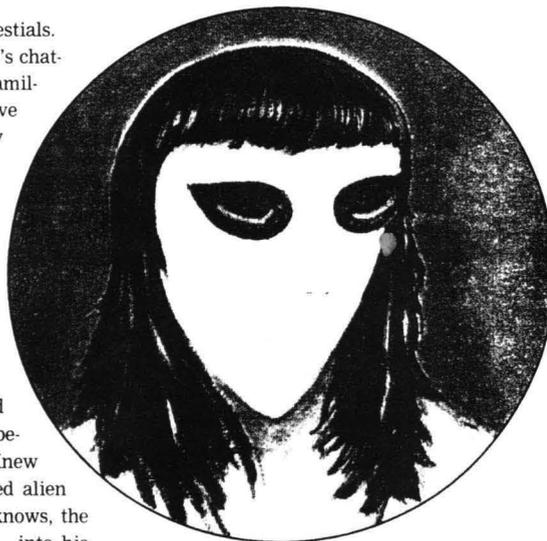
Yes, sex with aliens. Very close encounters with extraterrestrials.

It's a bizarre topic, but Smith mentions it casually, as if he's chatting about the weather. He is, after all, speaking to a group familiar with strange, spooky stuff, to a crowd of over 400 who have gathered at Mt. Hood Community College for the monthly meeting of the newly formed Portland UFO Group (PUFUG). Everyone in the auditorium seems to know who Budd Hopkins is. They know he's the kindly UFO expert/hypnotist who helped Whitley Streiber, the author of the best-seller "Communion," when he was in need, when he was restless and plagued by visions of tiny humanoids invading his home in the night.

"So I'm sitting there," Smith tells his audience, "and Budd Hopkins began to talk about this guy from New York City who was having sex with an alien woman. He mentioned that the man was having disturbing dreams, and that he'd become sexually dysfunctional." And suddenly Smith knew. Knew that he too had been sleeping with a beautiful, black-haired alien woman. That he had kids in space. And that maybe, who knows, the aliens had implanted small chips — surveillance devices — into his mind.

Tears came to his eyes. Came, he says, "from a part of my psyche that I didn't have a road map to, from a deep, unpolluted, undefined territory."

Full understanding — knowledge that the woman's name was Maria, that he actually had 34 kids in space, and that he was just one of countless scores of men whose sperm was being rudely stolen by aliens — would come much later, after a great deal of hypnotherapy. At this moment, he just *knew*. His tears, he confides, "told me that what I once had thought to be dreams, were, in fact, real."



Alien seductress: One UFO believer says an alien who looks like this took advantage of him, resulting in the birth of 34 space children.

The standing-room only crowd at the college listens silently; there isn't a snicker in the room.

An hour later, after Smith stops speaking, seven men huddle around him, pleading for the phone number of his hypnotherapist. One fellow, a wiry youth of about 20, plows through the and approaches Smith. He has tears in his eyes. And he doesn't need to say anything at all: Knowingly, Smith reaches over and pats the man's knee. And then he, too, starts to weep.

ALL THIS TALK OF ALIENS AND gray, bulb-headed kids running about in space may sound as though it comes from some B-grade horror film. It sounds, to most folks who style themselves levelheaded, like pure lunacy. But the fact is that some people are convinced it's true.

Especially people here in Oregon. Over the past year, the state has witnessed a surge of belief — or at least of serious interest — in unidentified flying objects. PUFUG, which was formed two years ago as a parlor discussion group, is now by far the nation's best-attended forum for UFO aficionados. Each month, over 200 people pay \$4 each to attend its meeting and to listen to talks on subjects ranging from Bigfoot to the spirituality of aliens.

The small Oregon chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, an international concern dedicated to the scientific investigation of UFOs, has grown, too — it now boasts 36 members, up from 10 two years ago — and a local publisher has even developed an interest in aliens. Wild-flower Press of Tigard has just begun specializing in books about UFOs.

There's no clear reason why all this is happening. Certainly, Oregonians aren't responding to an inordinate rash of strange lights in the sky. According to Seattle's Bob Gribble, who runs the nation's only UFO reporting center, sightings are down in Oregon. Gribble says that lately he's gotten only six or eight calls each year from the Beaver State, down from a peak of around 30 in the late 1970s.

At a time when the belief in UFOs is on the decline — fewer than half of American adults now feel they are real — Oregon is bucking the trend. This suggests one of two things: Either that Oregonians are gullible as heck, or they're on the cutting edge. PUFUG director Jennifer Brown-Jacobs believes the latter. Open to new ideas, she describes UFO adherents as "ready to accept the lessons of quantum physics and modern medicine, and to acknowledge that the universe can't be described rationally, that it is much bigger and stranger than we ever thought possible."

Brown-Jacobs' comment may sound a bit more reasoned than all the UFO tripe and hype that's splashed across tabloid headlines. And that's quite apt: Most local UFO believers are highly educated. They're computer specialists and scientists who like to chatter about "paradigms" and "the Newtonian-Cartesian world view." Or artists and New Age adherents who claim that the aliens are coming to offer redemption, the salve for all our woes. And occasionally, wide-eyed souls who swear on their lives that it was no mistake at all — that they really, really saw it.

They profess, variously; that the aliens are drawn to Oregon's expansive deserts (because it's easy to land there); that the extra-terrestrials may be mutilating local cows; that they're allying with our government to brainwash us all; that they're battling our government; that they're controlling all of the world's major religions; that they're harboring kids underground in Nevada.

Of course, Oregon's UFO believers haven't gathered enough proof to convince ardent skeptics. They've yet to march a little silver-suited man into the governor's office, or even Pioneer Square. All they have, really, is a few photos (many are of fly-infested cow carcasses), some vials of dirt and strands of grass supposedly irradiated by saucers, and a host of theories. Theories which, essentially, all boil down to this view espoused by Keith Rowell, a UFO scholar from West Linn: "The powers that be — the media and especially the government — don't want us to believe in UFOs. They're afraid that people might get scared if they knew what was going on, so they depict UFOs as silly, ridiculous. They mislead us."

Theories, in other words, that might call to mind the slick, deceptive ploys of Madison Avenue and the lies of politicians and make you think, "Well, maybe," or might merely cause you to cling ever more firmly to your view that UFOs are about as real as the tooth fairy.

(continued on page 5)

Whatever. Forget the eternal debate over whether UFOs are real. Because even if they're not real, UFOs have mythic importance. They are the fairies and goblins and dragons of our computer age they are the emblems of all that inhuman machinery that we don't understand. They arise, as psychologist Carl Jung noted in 1954, as "spontaneous answer(s) of the unconscious" to spiritual distress. Given the complex times in which we live, Jung wrote, "it is not surprising if all sorts of signs and wonders appear in the sky."

All the stories about UFOs are ultimately stories about people struggling to live fully in our mechanized age. They are stories of fear and love and suffering and happiness. In short, they are stories of the human heart — and yes, of other kinds of hearts, too.

IT WAS A TUMULTUOUS TIME IN Bruce Smith's life. Three months before the lecture in Trenton, he'd left his commonlaw wife. Now, he was living on his own in a mobile home park on Long Island, readying to leave New York — to move away from the place he grew up, and settle in the state of Washington.

He was starting a new career, too, trying to get published as a freelance writer, and he was, for the first time in 14 years, courting someone: As he listened to Hopkins' speech, Smith was clutching the hand of his new girlfriend, trying to decide to ask her to come west with him.

Even more important than all this, though, he was trying to change himself, to become, for the first time in his life, psychologically strong. Though nearing middle age, he was still afraid of the dark and had never lived far away from his parents. He wanted to become tough, to live off the land, to hunt and fish and garden, to realize the boyhood dreams that he'd never acted on.

In short, Smith was pumped, ready for the call of destiny. And as he listened to Budd Hopkins that April afternoon, his own surreal, sublimated past overwhelmed his consciousness. "I was a basket case," he recalls. "I didn't think I was going to be able to walk out of there."

Smith did walk out, though, and later that month, he left Long Island alone. With his mobile home latched to his pickup, he began meandering west, stopping each night at a state park. He was lonely. It was April, he says, and "there was nobody out there camping but me and the chipmunks."

Until, that is, the night Smith pulled into Tesuque, N.M. He was sleeping in a campground when it happened — when he woke with his mind screaming, filled with the certainty that the aliens were there, visiting him. He suddenly felt a hand grab his ankles. Looking up, he saw a bespectacled being in a white button-down — the kind of shirt his father always wore — staring at him. Smith muttered that he wanted to stay awake and talk to his captor. But his voice was dying. This white-shirted creature smiled dotingly at him and dragged him out of his trailer, and Bruce Smith felt himself losing consciousness.

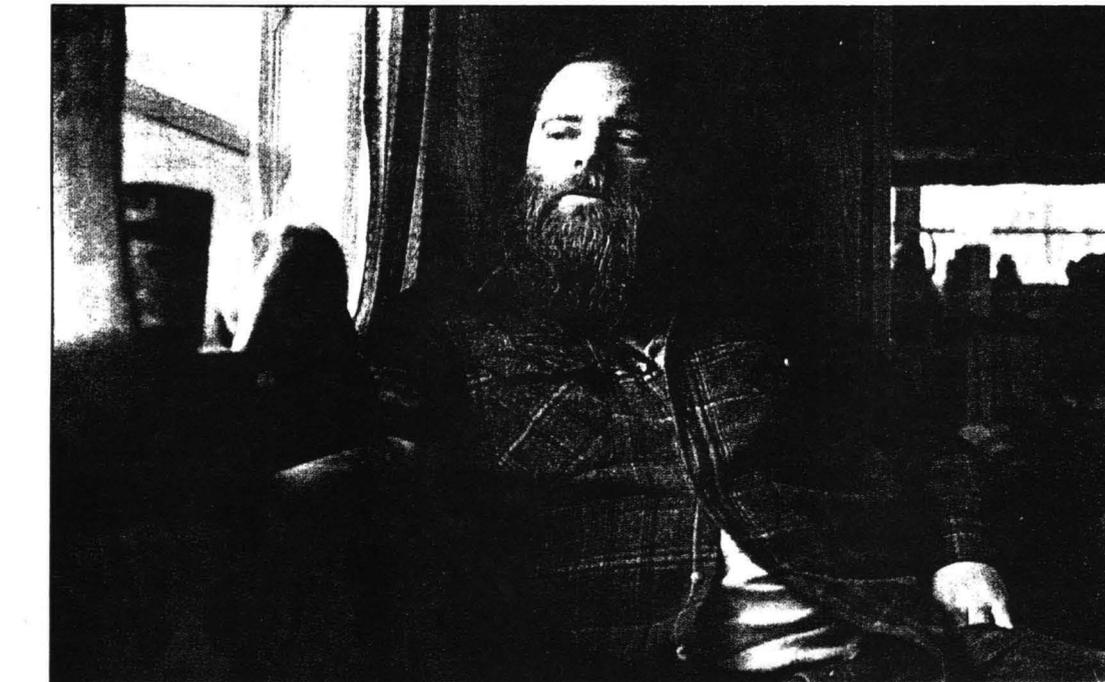
Bruce Smith says he knows now what happened that night at Tesuque: Someone carted him into a large, dark blue van that had military markings — markings, he thinks, of the U.S. Navy. The van revved up; it rattled over twisting mountain roads for over an hour and then, abruptly, it stopped. The aliens levitated Smith out the door and then began wheeling him into a building — a huge, labyrinthine structure which, Smith was sure, was none other than the Los Alamos nuclear laboratory.

They placed him on a beveled examining table. And then, several hours later, a strange, eerie creature — a 7-foot tall alien with a head shaped like an ant's — was bent over Smith, giving him name as Roget and wielding a surgeon's knife. He gouged it into Smith's eyes.

WHITE BUTTON-DOWNS, SPECTACLES, calm, paternal smiles: Yeah, those otherworldly invaders can sure take on curious guises. Certainly, Linda Jones, who lives in a small town on the Oregon coast, found this to be true on Sept. 27, 1989.

Jones — not her real name; she requests anonymity — was scrubbing a pile of dirty dishes when her 3-year-old granddaughter came scrambling toward her, babbling that she'd just seen something weird in the yard.

Jones jumped away from the sink. She had, after all, seen plenty of UFOs flying near her home already. One time when all four of her kids were teen-agers, for instance, she'd heard an alien craft passing low overhead, blaring a strange, inde-



Smith says he has struggled to retain his sanity and make sense of his abduction and seduction by aliens.

scribable sort of music. She'd communed with Bigfoots, too: They had scratched hieroglyphic messages into the forest floor.

And now, as she peered out her back door, Jones was hardly disappointed. Just beyond her clothesline, a large, silver, disc-shaped craft had materialized, gaining substance slowly, like the image on a Polaroid snapshot.

The saucer descended until it was hovering just an inch or so above her lawn. It projected a beam of white light, and then Jones witnessed something she can only describe as amazing. A door and a window opened on the UFO and suddenly revealed that this craft was carrying two passengers, two radically different beings.

There was a slight, fair-skinned fellow in silver coveralls standing in the doorway, staring right at Jones. And beside him, gazing placidly from the window was a mammoth, hairy, broad-shouldered creature — an ape. Yes, Jones was sure of it: Bigfoot was riding around in this UFO.

What could she possibly do in the wake of such a realization? What could one say? Jones didn't know, so she just stood there on her porch, eyeing the craft and feeling a soft, tingly electric current — the probing of electronic sensors? some coded message from aliens? She had no way of telling. There was a buzzing through her, a pleasant buzzing that lasted for five, maybe 10 minutes, at which point the UFO vanished instantly, and Jones walked back inside and went back to washing the dishes.

EDWARD PALMER, A RETIRED steelworker from Portland, says he went to the moon in a flying saucer on a cold autumn evening in 1969. The alien craft, Palmer claims, scooped him up off his lawn and then zipped skyward. It glided through space until it neared a lunar crater and slowed. Then the craft slipped under the moon's watery surface.

A pilot from Venus — a fellow named Volna who had links with the government that ran the solar system — toured Palmer through the moon's largest flying saucer factory, and then he guided the earthling back into his spaceship. Palmer rode home in style; he lounged in a reclining green chair and watched the image of Earth grow larger on a TV screen. And when he landed, he felt rested, at peace. The journey into outer space, he suggests, might have been scary for some, but not for a steelworker. "I climb high beams all the time," he explains, "I'm not afraid of heights."

ALL BRUCE SMITH COULD REMEMBER the morning after he'd been whisked to Los Alamos was a tug on his ankles. A tug and an incomprehensible phrase he'd bleated somewhere near dawn: "Did you guys (aliens?) get what you wanted?"

Smith craved to know all about his captors, to communicate with them. So he did yoga in his trailer that morning. He transported his mind into space — into, to be exact, a large, sterile D-shaped room that served as a day care center for extraterrestrials.

There, Smith was able to commune with his alien kids. He taught them to dance, and to touch their toes. He even introduced them to the concept of emotion, something his poker-faced offspring knew nothing about.

But, still, he returned to Earth frustrated. Not because his kids, with their gray skin and their thin, scraggly hair, looked malnourished, or even because one of them was wearing a tattered T-shirt that read, "Van Halen, World Tour, 1987." He was frustrated because, while in space, he'd learned that he was a victim, that he (and hundreds of other men) were merely tools in the creation of a race of humanoids that would take over the Earth in 2030. They did not have one bit of affection for him.

"The aliens," Smith recalls, "were using me, manipulating me." And they were doing it, he claims now, in scary, sometimes cruel ways. As he drove north out of New Mexico, and into the deserts of Utah, his eyes — the very orbs that Roget had tampered with — began to smart, as if they'd been burned by the desert sun. Smith layered masking tape onto the flaps of his \$100 Polaroid shades, and then, since the pain didn't abate, he bought clip-ons and placed these over the Polaroids.

This didn't work either. And so finally, he just continued north, barely able to see the road, and not at all sure what these aliens were going to do to him next.

IT WAS A SULTRY EVENING IN EARLY autumn, just a day after Bigfoot had visited Linda Jones's coastal home in a saucer. Gene Elliott, a retired Tektronix products analyst, was out taking a twilight stroll along the beach near his home in Oceanside when, suddenly, he saw several glowing circles shining above the water and shooting about like so many lights in an aerial fireworks display.

Elliott watched the display for 30, maybe 45 seconds. It was interesting, he says, but not all that memorable: Walking home, his thoughts slipped away from what he'd seen.

The next morning, though, Elliott was repeatedly reminded of those curious lights. He heard the owner of Oceanside's KTIL Radio, Van Moe, exclaim on his station that, the night before, he had seen a UFO flying over the ocean. He heard a report that over 30 people had called in to the station to say that they, too, had witnessed an alien ship — and he began to speculate that maybe what he saw was indeed a UFO.

Elliott knew that someone needed to give the sighting serious attention. And when the Coast Guard dismissed it as a helicopter, and Tillamook's weekly paper, The Headlight-Herald, speculated that this "UFO" was nothing but a silly hoax, Elliott became incensed, driven. He interviewed three of his neighbors who'd seen the UFO, drew six or eight diagrams of the alien craft, sat down at his desk, and spent a full week writing a lengthy, impassioned letter to The Headlight-Herald, a missive that argued that the public must be kept abreast of UFO sightings. His letter suggested that, really, it was very probable that aliens were up to something on the Oregon coast.

The day after Elliott finished writing this letter, the Coast Guard spotted a missing fishing boat near Coos Bay. Its only passenger, a 70-year-old man named Oscar Schultz (Northwest Magazine, March 4, 1990), was not on board; in some

unknown way, he had disappeared. The day after that, the Coast Guard found another missing boat. The captain of this one was not on the ship, either. He too had suffered a mysterious death.

THE NEXT TIME THE ALIENS VISITED Bruce Smith, they bruised him. They somehow made him freezing cold, too. When he woke up in the middle of that spring night, his chest splattered with purple marks, he felt, he says, "as if I'd been stuck in a meat locker." He piled on a wool sweater, a sweat shirt and sweat pants and still he felt cold.

But this time he did not feel devastated. By now, Smith was wresting back control of his life. His mobile home was parked in the sticks just outside of Tacoma, and he was raising some chickens. He was writing stories and sending them off to publishers. And he was also confronting frightening truths about his past.

Smith began hypnotherapy that spring. Under the guidance of Aileen Bringle, a Federal Way, Wash., clerical worker who helps UFO abductees in her spare time, he groped to understand his entanglement with aliens. He learned of his first sexual liaison with Maria. (No, sorry, it was nothing great. It was purely perfunctory. The aliens don't want human passion; they just need sperm.) He realized that this slender, almond-eyed alien stole his virginity when he was 14, and that he longed terribly for this woman all through his adolescence; that, deep inside, he yearned for her as he struggled against the repressive milieu of his all-boys Catholic high school.

In short, Smith discovered that his involvement with aliens went back a long time. A very, very long time: "I learned," he says, "that I'd been abducted thousands of times and during many lifetimes. I've had a very clear image in meditation of an alien holding an ape baby in his arms. This was me half a million years ago."

THE SCROLLS — ARGUES JAMES Deardorff, who lives in Corvallis and does research on the spirituality of aliens — were written long ago, back in the first century after Christ's death. They expressed the true teachings of Immanuel, the prophet we now know as Christ, but somehow they were buried deep inside a tomb in Jerusalem the century after they were written. Buried, and then shepherded through the ages by extraterrestrials.

The aliens, says Deardorff, guarded over these scrolls, and waited until the people of Earth were ready for their lessons. They waited until 1963, and then, telepathically, they instructed a Greek Orthodox priest to go dig them up.

The man dug and dug, and when finally he found the crumbling documents preserved in a resin encasement, he learned that this is the essential word of Immanuel — and the simple, potent message that the aliens seek to convey to all of us earthlings: The human spirit exists:

it is immortal and capable of wondrous things.

BRUCE SMITH PAUSES, THEN takes a few gulps of juice from a jar and scuffs his muddy boot against the floor of his trailer. For well over two hours, he has been inside his cramped rural Washington home, telling the story of his abductions. He has shouted at times, gotten up from his small bench and paced a bit, and once, when his recollections were especially stinging, he caved his head into the wall and closed his eyes and was quiet for a moment.

He hasn't faltered at all, though. He now thinks he knows more or less what's happened to him. He has taken all the disparate images and emotions of his past, and rolled them into a ball, into a coherent story that makes sense.

Smith clomps through the trailer; momentarily, he eyes the hunting gun that sits in the corner, and then he starts in on the part of the story that he likes best.

"They came back one more time," he says. "On the eighth of June. They came in an unusual ship that had rooms in it that looked like college dorm rooms."

Somehow, he doesn't know how, Smith wound up on a bed in one of these rooms. And then, he claims, "Two humanoid entities floated in through the ceiling and lingered in the air."

They looked something like giant glosticks, these beings. They were bright yellow and giving off beams of pulsing light. But they were ruthless, too; they'd come to steal some masculine energy.

The larger one put his finger on Smith's shoulder, and began to draw energy. Smith complied for a second, but then he felt as if he was, once again, being controlled. He decided to speak sternly to the invaders, to reprimand them. "Go away," he said. "Don't touch me. I'm going to get you."

A tense, icy silence ensued. The aliens were stunned and not quite sure what to do. The smaller one lifted his finger toward Smith, poised to draw energy. But then his companion stopped him. He said, "Let's back off. This guy is dangerous."

The two beams of yellow light did back off after that. They floated away, just as they'd been told to do. And, ever since, not one alien, whether green or gray or even yellow, has tried to mess with Bruce Smith.

BILL DONAHUE is a Portland writer and occasional contributor to Northwest Magazine. ROSS HAMILTON is Northwest Magazine's staff photographer.



McMinnville farmer Paul Trent took this photo in May 1950 that was to become legendary in UFO circles. The U.S. Air Force studied this and other reputed UFO photos for 21 years.

THE GOLDEN AGE OF UFO S

THESE DAYS, THE Pacific Northwest is no mecca for UFOs; the region is visited relatively seldom. In the 1940s and 1950s, however, Oregon and Washington played a pivotal role in UFO history.

Here are some highlights from that golden era:

June 24, 1947 — Pilot Kenneth Arnold spots nine whitish disks on the eastern flank of Mt. Rainier and reports his find in Pendleton, to Noland Skiff, an editor for The East Oregonian. Skiff writes an internationally published story in which he dubs the crafts "flying saucers" and thereby gives birth to what UFO investigators now call the modern era of UFOlogy.

Alien vessels had, up until this point, been known as "footfighters."

July 31, 1947 — Just three weeks after a UFO crash in Roswell, N.M., made headlines worldwide, two harbor men on Maury Island, Wash., spot six donut-shaped objects soaring overhead. One of the them wobbles, begins to circle its companions, and then — as the harbor men tell it — it spits small pellets of magnesium slag out its hole.

May 11, 1950 — In broad daylight, a domed alien craft flies by a barn in McMinnville, and a farmer, Paul Trent, is on hand to photograph it — and to garner what many consider the world's most convincing picture of a UFO.

A UFO BIBLIOGRAPHY

KEITH ROWELL, AN AVID UFOlogist who lives in West Linn and has a masters in library science from the University of California, Berkeley, recommends the following books for UFO novices:

"**Communion**," by Whitley Strieber (William Morrow Press, 1987). A best-selling memoir which relates Strieber's encounters with alien invaders and his struggle to make sense of his eerie experiences. This book, many argue, eloquently articulates the trauma that thousands of abductees have undergone.

"**A Report on Communion**," by Ed Conroy (William Morrow Press, 1989). Conroy, a boyhood friend of Whitley Strieber, set out to write an objective evaluation of Strieber's book for a San Antonio newspaper. But then, as he was researching his piece, he saw some strange, otherworldly-looking helicopters rocketing through the sky. Read all about it in this unique journalistic work.

"**Clear Intent: The Government Coverup of the UFO Experience**," by Lawrence Fawcett and Barry Greenwood (Prentice Hall, 1984). The authors substantiate their claims by citing thousands of U.S. government documents. Says Rowell, "Everything but proof of crashed flying saucers is here!"

"**Celestial Teachings**," by James W. Deardorff (Wildflower Press, 1991). Deardorff, a retired OSU researcher, argues that the Gospel of Matthew is not an original account. He feels that it was instead derived from the Talmud Jmmanuel, an Aramaic text that was written in the first century and protected over the ages by aliens.

"**The Encyclopedia of UFOs**," by Ronald Story (Dolphon Books, 1980). A handy 440-page reference guide for UFO topics ranging from the CIA to Bigfoot.

UFO DATABASE

33 — approximate percentage of Americans who have allegedly had contact with aliens. *Source: Aileen Bringle, director, UFO Contact Center International*

Less than 1 — percent of Americans who, Bringle says, have consciously acknowledged their contact experience. Most contactees, she says, experience telltale symptoms — odd dreams, ringing in the ears and geometrical marks on the body — but suppress memory of the contact.

90 — approximate percentage of alleged UFOs which, on cursory investigation, prove to be airplanes, stars or helicopters. *Source: Skip Schultz, director, Oregon chapter of the Mutual UFO Network*

4 — Rank of the Oregon National Guard's refueling unit among objects commonly mistaken for UFOs in this state. The refueling unit is a four-engine cargo plane rigged with four hoses and a multitude of green and red lights. *Source: Skip Schultz*

PROVINCE, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - May 24, 1991 CR: G. Conway

'SERIOUS' UFO CONFERENCE

As a recent participant in the First World UFO Congress, held in Tucson, Arizona, I was appalled that the only mention The Province made of a congress of this size and scope was a small article, May 12, on a lady calling herself Omneec.

Her comments were not taken seriously by the audience and she was the one speaker who did not represent the high tone and serious nature of this

gathering.

The conference presented us with the latest scientific findings, personal experiences, pictures and other material gathered from around the world. The conference addressed the subject as it should be addressed, as a serious worldwide phenomenon, not as an object of idle curiosity.

Leia Andress
NORTH VANCOUVER

Think you saw a UFO? You're not alone

NEWS-CHIEF, Winter Haven, FL - April 20, 1991

By MIKE WALTON
Staff writer

AUBURNDALE — On a clear summer's evening you may find yourself staring into the night sky when, suddenly, you see something out of place.

It could be an airplane, you think, but it's moving at incredible speed and changing direction suddenly. It could be nothing, or it could be an extraterrestrial object. If it is, who would believe you?

Fearon L. Hicks Jr. would at least listen to you. Hicks, 42, of Auburndale, is a field investigator for MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network. MUFON has a chapter

in Polk County with seven members. Hicks is looking for more, particularly those in the fields of medicine and engineering.

"Anyone who has a specialty they think might be useful," he said.

Hicks is also the person to call locally if you think you have seen an unidentified flying object. He can be reached at 967-1594.

Callers who report sightings can remain anonymous, he said. However, it has become more accepted in society to admit to seeing UFOs.

"People are more receptive now that they're not being labeled as lunatics," Hicks said.

People are more receptive (about reporting UFO sightings) now that they're not being labeled as lunatics.

Fearon L. Hicks

Publicity in the national media have helped educate people about the phenomena of unexplained celestial sightings, most of which turn out to be explainable, he added.

Reports of UFO sightings in the 1950s were suppressed by the U.S. Air Force. People who made those kinds of claims were often discredited, Hicks said.

MUFON was formed in 1969 by its international director, Walter H. Andrus Jr. of Seguin, Texas. It is an organization dedicated to bringing together people who are serious about studying and researching UFOs.

"We're serious about educating the public about something that will affect us and our children and their children," Andrus said.

UFO city adjusts to change

By Keith Phillips
News Journal

GULF BREEZE — In November 1987 a Gulf Breeze businessman published photos of what he said was a strange craft that appeared near his home.

Those photos changed life in this small community.

They touched off reports of other sightings, swelled the ranks of a local UFO group and drew national attention.

The photos also created a controversy that polarized area residents. Did the spacecraft really exist? Were the pictures real?

The debate got hotter in June 1990 when a model of a craft similar to those in the photographs was found and a young man said he helped fake the photos.

Almost four years after the first publication, the controversy about the authenticity appears to have run its course.

Gulf Breeze appears to have acclimated to its status as a UFO mecca. People still report seeing things in the sky over and around Pensacola Bay. And there are still more questions than answers.

Art Hufford, president of the Northwest Florida chapter of Mutual UFO Network Inc., said it may always be that way.

"Until the classic landing on the White House lawn and 'take me to your leader,' we can only get clues and glimpses," he said.

MUFON is an international organization that collects data on unidentified flying objects in hopes of proving what they are — and aren't.

And while many local members say they believe in extra-terrestrial life — or at least don't rule out the possibility — they say they just want answers.

"We tend to raise more questions than we get answers," Hufford said.

But that's not for a lack of trying.

Vicki Lyons, vice president of the local chapter, said that many MUFON members have taken an eight-week training course designed to teach them how to gather evidence.

They send that information to Bruce Maccabee, a laser physicist and member of MUFON International's advisory board.

Members send whatever data they can collect — detailed interviews with witnesses, stereo photographs, infrared photographs, videotape — for Maccabee to analyze.

Lyons said she and others in the 50- to 60-member local chapter spend as many as four nights a week looking for UFOs. Many also spend hours each week preparing reports on sightings and conducting interviews with people who say they saw something.

The ultimate goal is to identify the object, be it a plane, helicopter or extraterrestrial craft.

And while their work gets less attention now, "sightings have not died down at all," she said.

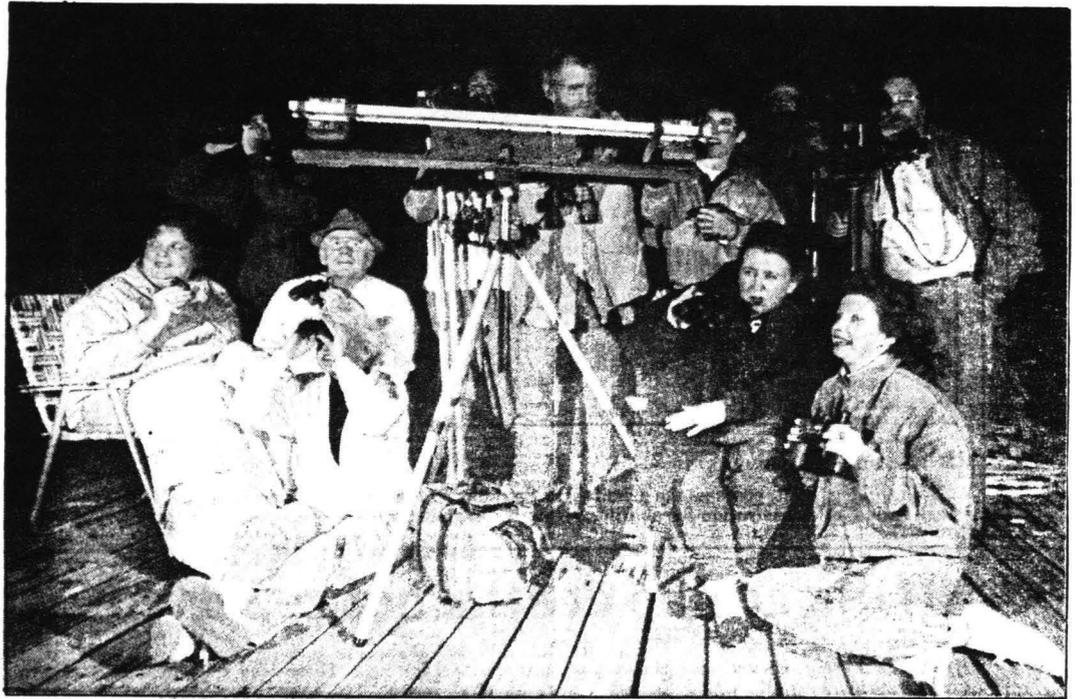
Since 1987, about 260 witnesses have told their stories to MUFON investigators.

Lyons said that 90 percent to 95 percent of all sightings have a logical explanation. It's the other 5 percent to 10 percent that intrigue the members.

The most famous member of the Northwest Florida chapter is Gulf Breeze builder Ed Walters. It was his photographs of a UFO and the subsequent book "The Gulf Breeze Sightings" that put Gulf Breeze on the UFO map.

In June 1990, a resident of the house Walters lived in when he claimed to have photographed the UFOs found a model similar to the object in the photographs. Then former Gulf Breeze resident Tommy Smith came forward to say he helped Walters make double exposure photographs with the model.

Walters denied the allegations and claimed that the model was planted to incriminate him.



Members of the local chapter of the Mutual UFO Network Inc. scan the skies from their vantage point on Shoreline Park pier in Gulf Breeze. The group is looking for a red light that has been reported at least 20 times since December. Members bring binoculars, cameras and camcorders.

Gary McCracken/News Journal

Observers keep nighttime vigil MUFON members document UFO sightings

By Keith Phillips
News Journal

GULF BREEZE — Excited voices ring out from the darkness as the waves of Santa Rosa Sound lap against Shoreline Park.

"Do you see it? Is it still there?" someone yells from the end of the dock.

Another shouts: "Is anybody videotaping?"

The local members of Mutual UFO Network Inc. are out looking for the red light that has been reported at least 20 times since December.

On this recent Tuesday night, at least 20 people say they have seen it.

Some try to photograph it.

The red light appeared in the sky about 8:10 p.m. and hovered for less than two minutes without being visibly affected by the cool, northerly wind picking up off the sound.

Then it flashed white and vanished, witnesses said.

When it is gone, some observers busy themselves with a compass and two homemade sights, trying to triangulate where the object was in the sky.

By matching that with pictures of the object, they hope their analyst can determine the size, speed and location of the object.

Others go back to excited conversation about this and previous sightings.

They relate their stories to each other and to a handful of visitors.

All in a night's work — and play — for the members of MUFON.

Whether they choose the long dock at Shoreline Park, the foot of the Pensacola Bay Bridge or a spot on Pensacola Beach, members of MUFON say they spend a lot of time in small groups looking for UFOs.

"We usually have a couple of people, about eight or 10," said Vicki Lyons, vice president of the local chapter. "We're all working people so we can't

stay out here all night."

Observers say they take the task of photographing and trying to track the objects very seriously.

But the observations also are a social gathering and a way for the tight-knit corps of the Northwest Florida MUFON chapter to enjoy a pleasant evening.

"It's a hobby for us but as investigators for MUFON, we do take training," Lyons said.

"I probably go out four nights a week," investigator Gary Watson said. "We're all super good friends."

In addition to the area residents, the group frequently gets visitors who have read or heard about Gulf Breeze. On this particular night, they include a UFO expert from Quebec, Canada.

By 9:30 p.m., the wind has turned from comfortable to chilly and most people head for their cars, content that they have seen something — even if they're not sure what it was.

JOURNAL-STAR, Lincoln, NE - May 18, 1991 CR: P. Hicks

Finding secrets of crop circles occupies speaker's spare time

■ Englishman says he's a 'normal, logical, rational person.'

By Linda Thomson
Lincoln Journal-Star

"I'm a very normal, logical, rational person," said George Wingfield, a 20-year IBM employee who has spent hours of his free time investigating crop circles in his native England.

A systems engineer and former astronomer educated at Eton College and Dublin University, Wingfield first visited a field with crop circles in 1987.

He assumed there must be a scientific answer.

"I told my family, 'Sherlock Holmes could clear this up in an afternoon,'" Wingfield said during a Friday interview.

But the more he studied, the more he became convinced the circles are extraordinary. "There's a wealth of evidence suggesting these are caused by

some kind of non-human intelligence and that they are not a natural phenomenon."

Wingfield is one of 12 speakers at the "Exploring the Unexplained Phenomena" conference this weekend at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd and Holdrege. It is sponsored by the Fortean Research Center.

The circles have changed since they were first reported, Wingfield said, displaying a series of photographs. At first, they were simple, but in time they increased in number, size and complexity.

Today, many are elaborate designs that often are shaped like religious symbols found in Christian, Druid, Hindu and Buddhist faiths. Some resemble stone carvings by ancient peoples. Others are in patterns that look like constellations.

They also are starting to be spotted in places around the world, including Midwestern farms in the United States, he said.

People have created circles as hoaxes, but Wingfield said these are fairly

easily detected.

There are many theories regarding the circles, but they remain a mystery. Wingfield personally believes they are benign and are meant to teach something. "I think they are put there to have an effect on the observer, on humanity, if you like."

As for the idea that they're created by non-human intelligence, Wingfield said it's hard to be specific about this. "There have been UFO reports associated with a number of crop circles, but that is the exception rather than the rule," he said. "There's nothing to suggest they're formed by extra-terrestrial beings."

But there must be an explanation why these patterns appear suddenly and repeatedly in British farmers' grain fields.

Until an answer emerges, Wingfield's curiosity won't abate.

"This does take up a good deal of my leisure time and money. My bank manager is not at all happy with me," he said.

But, he added, it's fascinating.

Strange Sightings Focus World Attention On Jefferson County

BY MARLENE YURICK
Tribune Correspondent

DANDRIDGE — Suddenly the eyes of the world are focused on Jefferson County. There has been a sighting of an unidentified flying object as well as the appearance of an unexplained "crop circle" in a local field.

These events have generated excitement, interest and curiosity worldwide. Reports of the incident have been broadcast nationally by NBC and have been picked up by radio and television stations around the world.

On May 17, about midnight, Barbara Mills said she let her dog out for his nightly rounds. The animal would not leave the porch and bolted back indoors. She heard a distinct whirring sound as if "a lasso was being twirled over my head," she explained.

When the noise subsided, Mrs. Mills then went to bed where she

found her frightened dog being comforted by her husband, Richard. The next morning, her husband let his calves into the field at the back of his home. Later, about lunchtime when checking on the animals, he discovered a circular patch of ground, measuring 28' across, where the waist-high grass had been matted down except for an area 5½ feet in diameter in the middle of the larger circle. The grass in the outer circle was matted down in a clockwise direction. There were no other signs of matted grass leading to or from this strange site.

The Mills then decided to report the Friday night incident to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department on Saturday night. On Sunday, the Mills' calves became sick, unable to stand or eat.

Larry Thurman, a part-time deputy for Jefferson County, heard of the Mills story and connected it to his encounter on March 15, when he noticed a bright object in the sky. He said the object moved erratically

and hovered over the tree line about ¼-mile from his home.

"The unidentified object moved at a speed of about 3,000 miles an hour, I would estimate," says Thurman. "I can say this judging from the 800-900 miles an hour speed of F-15 fighters which I have watched."

"I first thought it may be the lights of a jumbo jet approaching in my direction, but when I saw the object dip suddenly and shoot straight up again just as fast, I knew the movements were not those of a plane or helicopter or any craft on earth," the deputy said.

The object circled several times, disappeared into the western sky in a flash and reappeared just as quickly, then disappeared again in three or four seconds, he said. When the object hovered it seemed to emit a radiant glow out about 100 feet, he said. "I felt no vibrations; there was no noise, and I felt no fear, just a great curiosity. I could see it spin-

ning very rapidly when I closed in on it. It was round with two notches cut out of the top and bottom, with a dark strip around the center," Thurman remembered. He recorded the entire event on his video recorder.

Incidents such as these will conjure up visions of saucer-like objects skimming overhead with short green men with enlarged bald heads at the controls. But from a logical, scientific view, there are many people who have reported seeing UFOs and feel obliged to gather research data and report their findings.

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Rinehardt are two such researchers and members of Mutual Unidentified Flying Objects Network, a worldwide association of hundreds of persons who have had personal experiences with unexplained phenomena or who are interested in studying these phenomena.

The Rinehardts said they saw enough of a correlation between the reports of the events in Jefferson County and other events reported by witnesses around the world to make the 10-hour drive from their home in St. Louis, Mo. Thursday. They came to gather samples from the "crop circle" site, to view Thurman's tape

and listen carefully to the accounts of the incidents.

The Rinehardts say they are very cautious not to lead the witnesses in anyway by providing any information to influence their reports.

The data will be sent to various experts for analysis. "We look for anything unusual," explained Mrs. Rinehardt. "We look for unusual growth in the grass or flowers, the way the roots are in the dirt. We can't draw any conclusions at this point in our study, not even to the point where we would categorize this site as a crop circle, simply because there were no eyewitnesses to see a craft land to make the impression on the ground."

Mrs. Rinehardt said, "My personal opinion is that UFOs do exist." She says she draws upon her own personal experiences to formulate her strong conclusions on this point. Once again, she was reluctant to tell of her personal encounter.

The research on these personal events may take many months. The weather patterns and flight patterns must be researched to eliminate these and other possible "normal" causes, said Rinehardt.

In the meantime, the Thurmans and the Mills anxiously await the answers they seek.

SENTINEL, Gulf Breeze, FL - April 11, 1991

Eyewitnesses recount UFO sightings

By Ann Morrison,

On Saturday night at 8 p.m., April 6, 1991, fourteen people at South Shoreline Park witnessed a brilliant red unidentified object that hovered stationary over Bay Cliffs. Several photographs were taken along with a video tape. The red object suddenly appeared in the sky, remained there for about three minutes, gave off a huge ten second burst of white light and then disappeared. There was no comment from the military. Here are the reports, written by the witnesses.

My family and I arrived in Gulf Breeze on April 3rd of this year from Guthrie, Kentucky to spend a few days on vacation. My son Paul was very interested in having Ed Walters sign some books he bought involving UFO phenomena. By luck we not only met with Ed and members of MUFON, but we were invited to join MUFON on a night watch. The first night (5th of April) we went to a small pier located at Gulf Breeze and we were boxed in by fog and saw nothing. The next night my family and I met with members of MUFON. About 10 or 12 people at the same place at about 7:30 p.m. but this time it paid off. About 8 p.m. my wife, one of my sons and myself were on land watching, when we heard shouting out on the pier where the rest of the people were. My son and I ran out on the pier. I looked at where they were pointing and I seen red light that looked like it hung in the sky. I watched it for a few seconds and it got intensely red then on both sides exploded in a whitish flash and there was nothing.

I am presently employed as a Kentucky police officer in Guthrie, Kentucky.
Leo, Joan and Robert Browning
826 W. Park St.
Guthrie, KY 32234

I sat amongst many people including Ed Walters on the night of April 6th. Just about a minute after 8 p.m., I heard Ed say "Is that it?" I turned around to see a pulsing red light moving in an upward arc. It stopped almost immediately and did not move. It then got extremely bright red and began fading almost completely before

it turned white. Whiter than almost every star we compared it with. It seemed to burst with little trails coming off the sides of the object. All that remained was an almost unobservable red color slightly deeper than maroon.

Paul Browning
826 W. Park St.
Guthrie, KY 32234

Twenty degrees above the northeastern horizon a bright red light (-2 magnitude) drifts slowly to the north, while pulsating non-rhythmically. As the light begins to dim, two streamers, the left brighter (3 magnitude) than the right (5 magnitude), flash from this light now turning very bright white (-3 magnitude). Then it rapidly fades and disappears. The "streamers", white in color, were approximately one degree in length and lightning-like. And the left "streamer" was brighter than that of the left.

Michael Robertson
P.O. Box 88
Nederland, CO 80466
303-441-9070

We came to Gulf Breeze to see an "UFO", we were not disappointed. Around 7:30 p.m. we were looking up in the sky and saw what appeared to be a falling star, but it wasn't falling but rather zigzagging across the sky. The "star" stopped and we saw a red light (dim) around it. Later that evening (8:00) we saw the most incredible thing. It was in the general area where we saw the "falling star". It was a bright red light shaped like nothing I've ever seen. It was diamond shape, but rounded. The light pulsed and then a burst of white light seemed to explode. The whole incident seemed to last forever, but it was actually only around 5 minutes. Shortly after the sighting a plane came by and you could tell that the light we saw was not a plane.

Michelle White
1210 Gen. George Patton Rd.
Nashville, TN 37221

While spending the weekend in Panama City, I became interested in coming to Gulf Breeze. I had been exposed to various books, articles, etc. detailing UFO sightings in the

area and while not a true "hard-core" UFO devotee, I had enough interest to come to the area and attempt a viewing.

Michelle White and I first came to the city on Friday evening, April 5. Due to difficulty in finding a viewing area, we did not arrive at Shoreline Park until about 8:45 p.m. Due to excessive fog, we left about an hour later. We saw nothing unusual.

Determined to see something, both Michelle and I returned Saturday, April 6. Arriving at Shoreline Park at about 7:15 p.m., the sky was clear and the weather warm. We set up camp on the dock and proceeded to scan the night sky. At approximately 7:30 p.m. both Michelle and myself observed a white pinpoint of light, of less magnitude and lower velocity than a typical falling star, apparently traveling over the bridge and disappearing behind a dome-like structure on the Pensacola Beach where we were unable to determine either the altitude or size of the object, however, we observed it originating in the approximate area in which we would later observe an apparently larger, brighter object.

Shortly, maybe a minute later, we observed a faint pinpoint moving erratically side to side and up and down near the area where the first light vanished. The object remained visible for about three to four minutes, then seemed to fade away.



Dr. and Mrs. Richard Rinehardt, researchers with Mutual Unidentified Flying Objects Network, gather samples and other information at the site of the unexplained "crop circle" in Jefferson County. (CT photo by Marlene Yurick)

Approximately ten minutes later we were joined by a number of other "watchers". These "veteran" watchers were extremely friendly and informative. Then at 8 p.m. exactly (I looked at my watch), someone said they saw something in the sky toward the northeast? Turning that way, I observed a bright red light. It appeared to remain stationary. It was somewhat diamond shaped and pulsed a bit from time to time. It continued about 2 minutes then I observed an intense flash of light, reminiscent of a very bright strobe light. Although I can't be sure, I believe I observed a dark shadow shape, exit the craft and fall to the left side of the craft. In the next 30 seconds the craft began to "fade". Finally, the craft faded completely away. I saw nothing else the rest of the night.

Tracy Augustine
407 W. High St.
Woodbury, Tn 37190

CR: R. Reid

NEWS JOURNAL, Pensacola, FL
April 26, 1991 CR: R. Reid

MUFON coverage good

On behalf of the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., I would like to thank the Pensacola News Journal for its April 14 coverage of the activities of our Pensacola MUFON Chapter.

The Mutual UFO Network is a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation and is the largest UFO investigation organization in the world. Our local volunteers spend hundreds of hours each year investigating UFO sighting reports and related phenomena.

We also seek to share what we have learned with the rest of our local community. The April 14 story not only shared some information with its readers, but it also generated several new sighting reports.

If you have had a UFO sighting, please give us a call on our MUFON Hotline (904) 436-2700; the names of our witnesses remain confidential and will not be released without your written permission. If your school, church, or civic club would like an informative program on the UFO subject, please call me or the MUFON Hotline.

— Art Hufford
President
Pensacola MUFON
Pensacola



Patrick Harpur wonders if summer will bring more weird circles and bizarre explanations

Running rings around the corn

IN THE early hours of July 12 last year, the dogs in the village of Huish, Wilts, began to bark and roof tiles to rattle. Daylight revealed a sensational sight: a line of six circles, 80 metres long, had been impressed on the corn in a nearby field.

They were all of different sizes, some surrounded by narrow outer rings, others with strange key shaped protrusions. The four largest were in the shape of a double dumbbell. "They were perfect," wrote Mrs Lycett-Green, a local villager, "as if they had been made in one fell swoop. I mean there was no possibility of a human doing that, it was far too geometrically exact."

Crop circle enthusiasts named it the Alton Barnes double pictogram; and, as if to prove it was no fluke, a similar configuration appeared probably on the same night - a little way down the vale of Pewsey. Such spectacles were a fitting climax to 1990, a year in which crop circles had proliferated all over England, but especially in Wessex. They came by night, small or huge, accompanied by multiple rings, by parallel rectangular "stripes" or by as many as seven evenly spaced satellite circles.

By the end of August, more than 1,000 circles had been spotted compared to around 300 for 1989. Sightings began to filter through from the cornfields of America's Mid-West and the paddy fields of Japan. Now, as this year's corn begins to ripen, crop circle buffs are wondering what the summer will bring.

Who or what is making these circles? The leading journal for crop circle studies, the *Cereologist*, entertains all theories, regardless of their eccentricity, because its editor, John Michell, considers that the key to the circles' mystery is as likely to be found in the sum of ideas and associations surrounding them as in any single notion. Pesticides, fungi, rutting deer, hedgehogs and helicopters have all been advanced as causes - but all discounted.

Hoaxes are harder to rule out and, of course, there have been a few but even the best of them, such as the circles which appeared near Wiltshire's Bratton Castle last year, have been too circular, too ragged at the edges - the genuine articles are slightly elliptical and always precisely defined.

More tellingly, hoaxed circles cannot avoid some damage to the corn, whereas in real ones crops are meticulously flattened, without any trace of braking or trampling, in effortless swirls or spirals. A clockwise whirl is sometimes overlaid by an anti-clockwise one; sometimes the ears of corn are plaited. No two circles are identical.

Among the most popular explanations are "summer whirlwinds", even though there are no records of any being violent or stationary enough to leave such deep stamps on a field. However, meteorologist G. Terence Meaden, who has studied the phenomenon for over a decade, postulates a sophisticated

version of the whirlwind: a vortex of air "ionised to the point at which it is better regarded as a species of low-density cool plasma producing a high-energy electro-magnetic field".

But, ask the dissenters, if such "plasma vortices" exist, why were crop circles so scarce before 1980? Because, replies Dr Meaden they were unreported and often invisible without aerial reconnaissance.

If this does not sound altogether convincing, the case for the plasma vortex is strengthened at least by the claim that it may account for some of the anomalies which frequently surround circle formation - mysterious lights in the sky, strange sounds and the reactions of animals. Such events have, of course, long been linked with sightings of UFOs which, Meaden suggests, may be plasma vortices after all.

This notion doesn't cut much ice with those enthusiasts who have seen disc-shaped objects in broad daylight over circle-rich areas. Nor would it impress Pat and Jack Collins who saw a huge circular object, like a fairground big wheel, hovering over Stockbridge Down. "It had lots and lots of yellowy white lights all around the edge and more lights along spokes leading to the centre of it," said Mrs Collins. The following morning two separate "quintuplets" were found situated on a straight line from their sighting.

Nevertheless, the plasma vortex hypothesis was not seriously contested until last summer when fewer and fewer people could believe it capable of producing such a plethora of complex patterns, including scroll-like rectangular and (in one case) triangular shapes.

"Unstable vortices" were responsible for those "imperfect cases". Meaden claimed bravely; but it was the theory which looked the more unstable. Then, in June, a ringed circle on a remote Wiltshire farm was photographed by *Cereologist* researcher George Wingfield. When he compared the result to a photograph taken of the same circle a month before, he found that it had acquired an extra ring. He, like many others, drew the line at a plasma vortex that could form a circle and then return to alter its design.

John Michell suggests that it may be more profitable, therefore, to ask what the circles mean rather than what is making them. He reminds us that traditional country lore would have no trouble in attributing corn circles to such mischievous personifications of nature as Robin Goodfellow, that arch-hoaxer. Even whirlwinds are far from straightforward, being universally associated with fairies, devils, witches and Jehovah, who spoke out of one.

Perhaps the circles are simply nature's way of interacting with humans through a common imagination.

● *The Cereologist* is available from 11 Powis Gardens, London W11 1JG. Annual subscription £7.50. Single issue £2.50.



Stewart Moss with his wife Diane and son Karl who claim they saw spaceships

CLOSE ENCOUNTER!

WAS it a bird? Was it a plane? Sheffielder Stewart Moss reckons the curious cluster of silvery objects he saw lurking over the edge of the city was out of this world.

Sport and social club boss Stewart had just wound up the afternoon session at Dial House club in Wisewood's Far Lane when the phenomenon appeared on the clear horizon close to the Peak District.

"I got up and looked out of the window around 3.10pm and saw these objects coming towards the club from six or seven miles away," said the 38-year-old.

At first he thought he had spied a balloon or a helicopter, but then he reached for the binoculars and was startled by the view.

Stewart sees spaceships

By David Dunn

"You are not going to believe this, but they were two spaceships," he said.

"Underneath they were like large jelly fish with five holes and electric charges shooting right across the surface."

Wife Diane, aged 40, and 21-year-old son Karl took a look at the mushroom-shaped craft and confirmed the sighting.

Stewart denied his extra-terrestrial tangle was simply a close encounter of the one-too-many kind.

"I told some of our customers and they thought I must be crackers, but we stood there and watched them for about 20 minutes before they floated off into the distance," he added.

"I have never witnessed anything like that before and I had not been drinking."

Police said they had no other reports of sightings, but Yorkshire UFO expert Philip Mantle reckons Stewart's sighting was not too unusual.

"The Peak District and the Pennines generally have seen a lot of sightings down the years, including ones by Peak Rangers," he said.

UFO seminar bound to create interest

NEWS, Waitomo, New Zealand
Jan. 30, 1991 CR: R. Collings

UNIDENTIFIED Flying Objects - real or imaginary?

Interested local residents are invited to join a former Otago University senior lecturer explore the mystery, marvel and evidence surrounding UFOs.

Polish born, Dr Jan Pajak, will hold the two day lecture at

Te Kuiti High School library discussing the facts and providing evidence that "UFOs do exist."

During the seminar Dr Pajak will discuss his magnetic propulsion theory and the plans he has drawn to design a magno-craft.

Such a craft is man's idea of a UFO.

The course will also cover

UFO landing sites, types and shapes. Photographs and eye witnesses drawings will also be studied.

Te Kuiti doctor, Bob Valkenburg, a member of the Ancient Astronaut Society also has a keen interest in UFOs.

Dr Valkenburg urges those who ask the question whether or not UFOs exist to attend the seminar sponsored by The

Unexplained Phenomena Research Society.

He said the seminar is free to the public and the worldwide society comprises people who have previously attended Dr Pajak's seminars.

"It's not about little green men. The moment we see beings or crafts from space we know that life in outer space exists."

Incident sparks UFO alert

SCOTTISH UFO researchers are investigating the mysterious experience of a North Sea helicopter pilot last week.

He was flying back from the rigs when he reported his machine's radar had gone haywire.

In an incident report to the Civil Aviation Authority, he claimed a large black object had shot across the radar screen at a tremendous speed.

At the same time, a loud bang was heard by hundreds of people in Aberdeen. Some West End residents complained of their houses having been shaken by the blast.

Military chiefs from Britain and the US deny there were any aircraft in the area capable of

□ IAIN LUNDY

breaking the sound barrier, and weathermen ruled out a meteorological reason for the bang.

Chairman of Scottish Research into UFOs Mr Ken Higgins said yesterday that he and his colleagues were investigating the incident.

He said they were particularly anxious to speak to the pilot.

Mr Higgins, East Calder, West Lothian, said his association took a realistic view of such reports.

"Incidents like this are being reported across Europe. In most cases they are easily explained, but we are keen to get involved in this one."

BaE engineer builds flying saucer detector

DESIGN engineer John Cross has built a UFO detector to help him track down little men from outer space.

The 43-year-old from Merlin Park, Portishead, near Bristol, thought up the gadget after seeing corn circles in Wiltshire.

"UFO activity is usually associated with a high level of electrical activity," said Mr Cross, who works for British Aerospace in Bristol.

"This creates an intense magnetic field and my device is designed to pick up the slightest variation in the Earth's magnetism.

"My UFO detector is so sensitive that it can pick up a loudspeaker magnet 30 feet away.

"And come May, I'll be out in the fields at night with the thing switched on. If there's something there, I'll find it."

Mr Cross hopes the invention will confirm the



John Cross

existence of UFOs.

"I've always believed in their existence, but I've never seen them. Maybe now I'll see one," he said.

IS THE WORLD ABOUT TO SEE REAL EVIDENCE OF ALIEN VISITORS?

The UFO man's ultimate secret

FLYING saucers, as everyone knows, are saucer-shaped. But in November 1989, the Belgian Defence Ministry began logging a series of reports from its pilots of curious triangle-shaped UFOs.

On the night of March 30-31 last year two Belgian F-16 fighters were scrambled to intercept. Their radars locked on to an object which accelerated rapidly and dropped from a height of 2,000 metres to 200 metres in less than one second.

The sighting was one of 2,600 reported over the past 18 months. Most of the UFOs were either triangular or rectangular.

Surprised? UFO writer Timothy Good is not.

For on November 19, 1987, a woman in Brierley Hill reported something similar, an array of lights in the sky which changed shape and finally settled into a solid, triangular-shaped craft.

When improbable incidents suddenly become commonplace, Tim Good sees more pieces of the UFO jigsaw puzzle falling into place.

By profession, Tim Good is a violinist, a former London Symphony Orchestra player who now provides backing music for pop groups, television and films.

Classified

But he is best known as the indefatigable unraveller of what he claims is a worldwide cover-up of unidentified flying objects.

In his best-selling *Above Top Secret*, published three years ago, he alleged that an alien craft had crashed in New Mexico in June 1947 and that alien bodies had been recovered.

He said the US Government had investigated the incident in a programme called Operation Majestic, the results of which were more highly classified than the hydrogen bomb.

For more than 30 years, he claims, the Pentagon has kept the lid on this incident and thousands of other UFO cases.

Not all researchers share this view. As John Spencer points out in his new book, *UFOs: The Definitive Casebook* (Hamlyn £14.99), "the United States does not appear to be a country that maintains 'major' cover-ups successfully in the long term."

If President Nixon could not even keep the lid on Watergate, could successive presidents really have kept the UFO secret for 44 years?

Spencer notes, too, that UFO lecture tours in America command huge fees. As well as being the home of the UFO, America is also "the home of the fraudulent claim".

Nothing daunted, Tim Good insists he is on the right track.

But now, he says on a visit to Wolverhampton, the US authorities are preparing to brace the public for the ultimate global secret, that "flying saucers" have not only landed but that several extra-terrestrial bodies have been recovered and that technology from alien craft is already being developed by the US military.

It would be easy to write Good off as a crank, were it not for his painstaking documentary evidence, including thousands of Pentagon and CIA documents.

The US government is preparing to exhibit the wreckage of a flying saucer and the remains of its alien pilot. And American scientists are using alien technology in prototype warplanes. Incredible? Not to Timothy Good, Britain's top UFO writer. PETER RHODES reports

His contact with former defence and security agents is also impressive. So, too, is the unswerving support of Lord Hill-Norton, a former Chief of Britain's Defence Staff.

In his foreword to Good's latest book, Lord Hill-Norton says the mass of evidence on UFOs is impossible to dismiss and that he is convinced Good "is not a nut case".

The writer claims that an unspecified number of alien craft and bodies have been recovered in the United States. Some of the spacecraft are being test-flown at a secret military base in the Nevada desert.

Alien technology has been used to build a number of NASA facilities, including a bizarre "anti-gravity chamber" near Houston, Texas, in which people instantly become weightless.

He claims, too, that the US Government has a film showing a contact in 1964 between aliens and air-force officers at Holloman air base in New Mexico.

Why the secrecy? Tim Good says there is more to the cover-up than the fear that the public might panic.

Advanced technology used by aliens who "have the ability to fold space and time" would be too valuable for any nation to share with another. It could lead not only to new forms of propulsion but also to new weapons far more powerful than the hydrogen bomb.

He suspects, too, that aliens may have perfected craft powered by a substance as commonplace as water. Such knowledge would undermine the world economy.

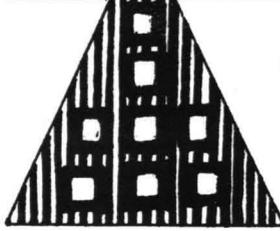
But he believes the 44-year secret may soon be over. He claims the US Government is about to prepare the public for what he calls "the ultimate secret" - that contact has been established between humans and aliens.

Species

An exhibition called *Cosmic Journey* has been planned by NASA but shelved, ostensibly for lack of funds. Good says that 6,000 square feet of the exhibition was to be devoted to the UFO enigma.

In his new book, Good describes a general at the Pentagon between a meeting at the US military intelligence and Bob Oechsler, a former NASA mission specialist. The two discussed details of the *Cosmic Journey* exhibits and the general "in all seriousness" proposed exhibiting a real alien corpse.

"I got the impression they had a lot of bodies to choose from," Oechsler told Good.



Left: a drawing of the triangular object seen over Brierley Hill in 1987. Above, UFO expert Tim Good: he claims the US Government is about to prepare the public for what he calls "the ultimate secret".

"The general also had the same concerns showing a real versus a mock-up craft... I have no doubts that he knew far more about the subject matter than I."

If UFOs there be, where are they coming from?

Tim Good shrugs his shoulders and admits he hasn't a clue.

"I don't know how many species or civilisations are involved but there may well be more than one. Some of their technologies may be just within our grasp but others could be way beyond our comprehension."

One thing is certain, he says. Before too long, the ultimate secret will become too big to keep. The truth about other worlds and other civilisations will be laid bare.

The big question, he admits, is whether the world will choose to believe. After 40 years of scoffing, the notion of UFOs as pranks or practical jokes is deeply ingrained.

But what if the unthinkable happened? What if a UFO landed tomorrow in full view of the world's television, in the middle of Hyde Park? What would people say then? Tim Good chews it over for a moment before replying.

"They'd probably say it was Richard Branson..."

● *Alien Liaison: The Ultimate Secret* is published by Century at £14.99.

BOOKSHELF by Stephen Biscoe

Objective look at the unknown

IN June, 1947, an American pilot saw a formation of nine boomerang-shaped objects moving about in the sky "like a saucer would if you flipped it across the water".

Newspapers picked up the story; the boomerang shape changed, as in Chinese whispers, into a saucer shape and within two months there had been 850 sightings across the US of mysterious flying discs.

Flying saucers had arrived, and in 44 years of landings, crashes, encounters and abductions, not one piece of solid, physical evidence has been produced for scientists to analyse and pronounce upon.

Unidentified Flying Objects is the preferred term for the whole gamut of lights, blobs and saucers which are seen world-wide, and the study of them is Ufology.

It is not so much a science as a rag-bag of enthusiasts, devoted advocates of the "aliens-hav-landed" hypothesis at one end of the spectrum, and those who believe that the UFO phenomenon tells us something, without being sure what, at the other.

The extent of the problem is well illustrated by two new books: *The UFO Encyclopedia* (Headline, £16.95) and *UFOs: The Definitive Casebook* (Hamlyn, £14.99). Both are by John Spencer, Vice-Chairman of the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA), and their common authorship is detectable in a subtle reluctance either to endorse the extraordinary events they catalogue, or to rubbish them.

Spencer's policy for the *Encyclopedia* is to be dispassionate and comprehensive. He accordingly includes an entry for the Aetherius Society, an organisation founded by Archbishop Sir George King, a London cab-driver who was informed in 1954 by the Cosmic Intelligence that he was to be the Voice of Interplanetary Parliament.

The society he formed communicates between the cosmic masters and Earth, and on an historic occasion it arranged for an enormous (and to all but the initiated, invisible) flying saucer to hover motionless over Los Angeles.

The UFO case which more than any other might finally have clinched the argument in favour of the true believers is both recent and sensational, and Spencer includes it in both his books.

Gulf Breeze, Florida, is famous among Ufologists. Here, in November, 1987, a man called Ed Walters claims he was paralysed and lifted into the air by a blue beam of light emitted by a UFO which he had already photographed. A former editor of the local paper saw the same UFO, and after the paper carried Ed's story, another witness reported that she had seen the blue beam of light.

During the next months Gulf Breeze seems to have been the object of much alien interest; several people reported seeing their craft, but Walters was an unwilling witness, each sighting preceded by a buzzing in his brain, thought by some to have been caused by an implanted device put there during an early abduction.

Two Polaroid cameras were arranged in such a way as to take stereoscopic pictures of the UFOs, and later a three-dimensional camera with four lenses was used. The events ended in May 1988 when, it is speculated, he was abducted and the implant removed, because the aliens were fearful that a medical examination might have revealed its presence.

The case has polarised Ufologists, some investigators convinced that they now have firm evidence of alien visitations, others convinced that the whole thing is a hoax, the flying saucers so meticulously photographed being small models supported by struts.

Spencer carefully preserves his neutrality, remarking: "It is possibly too early at this stage to comment on the validity or otherwise of the case..."

In the early days of Ufology, photographs had seemed to provide conclusive proof of flying saucers, but too many were shown to be fakes, and today, in the absence of corroborative evidence, they are not considered reliable.

Hypnotic regression was the next breakthrough, revealing as it did extraordinary details of alien abduction. But that, too, is flawed, with subjects describing incidents under hypnosis which contradict known facts.

John Spencer believes the UFO phenomenon is real, but makes no claims as to what it is: "Certainly I am not suggesting that it has to do with the visiting of our planet by alien creatures - by far the most popular interpretation. The UFO phenomenon, it seems to me, is about people, the things they see and think they see, the things they experience, the things they fear. Not only do hundreds of thousands of people see strange things they cannot identify, they also feel so moved by them that they seek out - albeit sometimes decades later - someone to tell their story to."

He urges patience, an open mind - and an awareness that the U in UFO stands for unidentified.

CR: T. Good

Corn circles continue county's UFO history

Corn circle experts will soon be out in force to see if the bizarre phenomena reappear this summer.

Many people believe the circles are caused by extra-terrestrial forces. But they may not realise that Wiltshire has a long history of unexplained sightings.

Way back in 1950 "flying saucers" were seen for weeks over Westbury, Melksham and Trowbridge. Mr R.R. Worgan, of Old Field Park, Westbury, spotted the first on October 30.

"It had a silvery white light, kept a constant speed and a constant height. It was travelling fast, but did not appear to be very high. There was no sound and then quite suddenly it disappeared just as if a

light had been switched off."

Football spectators at Saturday matches in Trowbridge and Melksham reported a "mystery flash" through an otherwise clear sky.

An eyewitness said: "My attention was drawn to a bright thin silver streak falling earthwards. Suddenly there was a terrific flash, after which a long smoky mass hung in the sky for a long time."

"I did not hear or see any sign of any aircraft at the time."

Ten years later almost to the day an army officer stationed at Heytesbury reported a glowing ball in the sky with sparks coming out of it. Several other soldiers witnessed it including two sentries.

Other sightings came in from Corsham,

Salisbury and Codford.

A local girl out walking with her boyfriend described it as "rather like an electric light bulb." A badly burnt section of hillside was later found near Salisbury.

Then in 1966 there was the mysterious "Thing". It was mostly seen in the Warminster area but unconfirmed sightings also came from Westwood, Bradford on Avon and Chippenham.

In April a Westbury Leigh woman described a bright bullet-shaped object with three separate points of light which appeared very much like windows. She spotted it at about midnight as she was going to bed.

Are there more surprises in store from civilisations beyond the stars? And is there any link with the corn circles?

'Oval thing in the sky wasn't an aeroplane'

Bruce Cornelius used to read science fiction comics when he was a child.

And he recently watched a Buck Rogers-type spacecraft flying, hovering and then vanishing over the Bay of Islands.

"Through my binoculars I could see this oval thing about the size of a saucer in front with a bright flaming tail like a comet," he said.

"When it was just hanging in the air without moving there was no flame behind it.

"I don't know what it was, but I can definitely say it wasn't an aircraft."

Mr Cornelius, 53, said his 26-year-old daughter Ellen had seen a bright light over the Bay early on June 22 — the same day Pahiia radio station manager Robyn Lilley and businessman Darryl Hammond reported seeing a UFO in the same region.

Mr Cornelius was having a cup of breakfast tea at his Puketotara Road farm, which he is developing into an animal park, when Ellen asked him to check the unusual light.



Bruce Cornelius would like alien spacecraft to land.

"I thought the sun was shining through a cloud at first," he said. "But once I got the binoculars I could

see it moving about and then stopping dead in midair.

"We watched it for about 10 or 15 minutes, then it suddenly vanished.

"I am sure it was not an aeroplane — I may be starting a zoo here, but I am not quite sure."

Mr Cornelius was delighted to have finally spotted a possible space visitor after a lifetime of believing humans did not have the universe to themselves. "I would be rapt if one landed," he said.

And he hinted it might not be the first time. While clearing five-metre manuka and gorse from his 70 acres he found three circular areas about four metres in diameter where nothing was growing.

The circles were evenly spaced in a triangular pattern, and Mr Cornelius was unable to find an explanation for their occurrence.

Also, when clearing boulders from the property he found the big stones were arranged in a ring with one in the middle.

"It was as if they had been placed there," he said.

Thousands see UFO spinning over China

United Press International

BEIJING — Thousands of people spotted a UFO "slowly spinning" through the night sky in the southwest province of Sichuan.

The sighting occurred around midnight May 17 over the Tibetan district of western Xiangcheng after a heavy rain, the semi-official China News Service said yesterday.

The UFO was sighted by a large crowd attending a night rally held to mark the 55th anniversary of the communist Red Army's passage

through the region during the 1934-35 Long March, the report said.

The unidentified object was described as "slowly spinning, flying from northwest to northeast."

The crew of a state-run commercial aircraft also reported spotting a UFO over south Sichuan on the same evening, 560 kilometres west of the mass sighting.

The dispatch cited an unidentified report as saying that a third UFO had been spotted over nearby Yunnan at midnight May 17, but gave no details.

Close encounters of the Belgian kind

UNLIKELY STORY OF THE WEEK

A SPATE of sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects over Belgium during the past 18 months has sparked both fascination and alarm. The UFOs have been appearing at an extraordinary rate. Not a week has passed without them being spotted by anywhere between one and ten eyewitnesses.

The Belgian Air Force has scrambled F-16 fighters to intercept them on nine occasions. Three times the warplanes' sophisticated radar locked on to their target.

But the fast approach of the aircraft triggered immediate, evasive action which left radar screens blank. Ground-based radars have also picked up UFOs too many times for the

explanation to be electromagnetic interference.

Amateur video camera operators have also filmed the alien objects in Braine-le Comte and near Marchin. One film lasts a good five minutes and is a major contribution to UFO research.

It was shot by garage manager Richard Rodberg just after 9pm one day. He said: "The UFO hovered over the ground, 30 metres in the air, in full silence. All of a sudden it darted towards us, stopping 60 metres away. I've never seen a field lit like that. All white. One could have found a needle. Then, without swerving, it went away to our left in the direction of a nuclear power plant." The "flying saucer" was the size of a two-storey building.

Belgium's Air Force chief of staff, Wilfried de Brouwer, the secretary of the SBEPs, a 20-year-old UFO association, Lucien Clerebaut, and an eminent scientist from Louvain Catholic University, Auguste Meesen, are all agreed that something is happening in the skies above Belgium.

"Even if until now there has been no threat, one must accept the fact that for the past 16 months, the Belgian skies have experienced extraordinary phenomena," says De Brouwer.



Is it a bird? Is it a plane?

CAA in 'missile' inquiry

INSIGHT

THE mystery of how a passenger jet almost collided with an unidentified missile over Kent is being investigated by the Civil Aviation Authority.

The incident occurred as the Alitalia jet carrying 57 people crossed the Kent coast en route from Milan to London two weeks ago.

The pilot, Captain Achille Zaghetti, said he saw an object, which he described as a missile, travelling in the opposite direction, less than 300m away. At the same time an image was detected on radar at London Air Traffic Control Centre, West Drayton.

A CAA spokesman said: "Extensive inquiries have failed to provide any indication of what the sighting may have been." The Ministry of Defence said the missile had not originated from any British armed forces.

The Alitalia jet, a McDonnell Douglas MD80, was travelling on one of the busiest air lanes in the world, which carries holidaymakers and business travellers from the Continent to London and North America.

The pilot described the missile as "light brown and three metres long". His report was logged by air traffic controllers at West Drayton,

the control centre for flights into London, on Sunday, April 21, at 9pm. Radar operators simultaneously observed a trace 10 nautical miles behind the plane, consistent with the pilot's report.

Duncan Lennox, editor of Jane's Strategic Weapons Systems, said the description fitted that of a target missile or "drone" used for artillery and air defence practice. Target missiles are typically 3.5m long, turbojet powered and fly at about 400mph.

The reported near miss occurred almost directly above Lydd Ranges, a Ministry of Defence firing range in Kent. The area, marked on navigational charts as danger zone D044, is run from Shorncliffe Camp, 10 miles away.

Air traffic controllers at Lydd airport confirmed that weapon testing was carried out at the Lydd range directly under the flight path.

"The MoD notify us when they're firing up to 6,500ft with live stuff. We're never told of any missiles. It's all top secret," said Cleo Proctor, duty controller.

But an MoD spokesman denied there were any military operations in the area. "The area in question, because it's a very busy civilian route, is not somewhere we are allowed to exercise," he said.

According to Lennox, a target missile, although it does not carry a warhead, could destroy an aircraft. "If it hit the cockpit, it would kill the crew and bring down the airliner."

A rogue missile was the suspected cause of the mysterious crash of an Aer Lingus Viscount, which plummeted into

the Irish Sea from 17,000ft, with the loss of 61 lives, in 1968.

New light was shed on the mystery when in 1974 fisherman trawled up fragments of a target missile or pilotless aircraft. The Viscount was on a flight path south of the military rocket testing range at Aberporth, Wales.

The CAA publicly confirmed the sighting over Lydd only last Friday. It said the pilot had described a "missile-shaped" object. But Zaghetti was specific in his account to air traffic controllers that what he had seen was a missile.

CAA experts first thought the object might have been an optical illusion. But a radar recording confirmed that the object had left a distinct trace. No other aircraft were in the area.

Al Reid, the operations supervisor at London air traffic control who interviewed Zaghetti after he landed at Heathrow, said the sighting was confirmed by the plane's co-pilot.

In 1980 an Italian DC9 vanished into the sea near Sicily with the loss of all 81 people aboard. A radar recording showed an unidentified flying object on collision course with the plane just before it disappeared from the screen.

Two years later another Italian DC9 was flying at 27,000ft when it was narrowly missed by a mystery object that exploded close by. Passengers said they saw a "fast-moving projectile, like a missile".

Encounters with Aliens

A SCUNTHORPE man has been seeing stars with his first book — a study of UFO sightings across the region.

And sales of Nigel Watson's book are poised to take off with a spot on national radio and a bulk order from America.

The 36-year-old ex-steelworker now lives in north London, but has based the book — Portraits of Alien Encounters — on his own investigations of UFO sightings in Humberside and Yorkshire. But despite its local interest Nigel has

recorded an interview with Radio One's Steve Wright and sold 100 copies direct to an American book dealer.

Unusual

He said the book was unusual, because it had little analysis in it — preferring to let the witnesses speak for themselves.

And he has deliberately ignored straightforward sightings and concentrated on cases where the witness claimed to have some sort of communication with aliens.

The ex-Riddings Comprehensive pupil has been investigating mysterious flying objects since the mid

By **PAUL DUTTON**

1970s, when he was a member of the now-defunct Scunthorpe UFO Research Society.

But he insists he keeps an open mind: "If you're investigating you have to have some healthy scepticism."

Nigel now works as a copy-writer for an electronics company. He said the book had only taken a few months to write because he already had all his notes from past years.

"At first I wanted to include lots of other cases from around the world, but then I thought I had a lot of

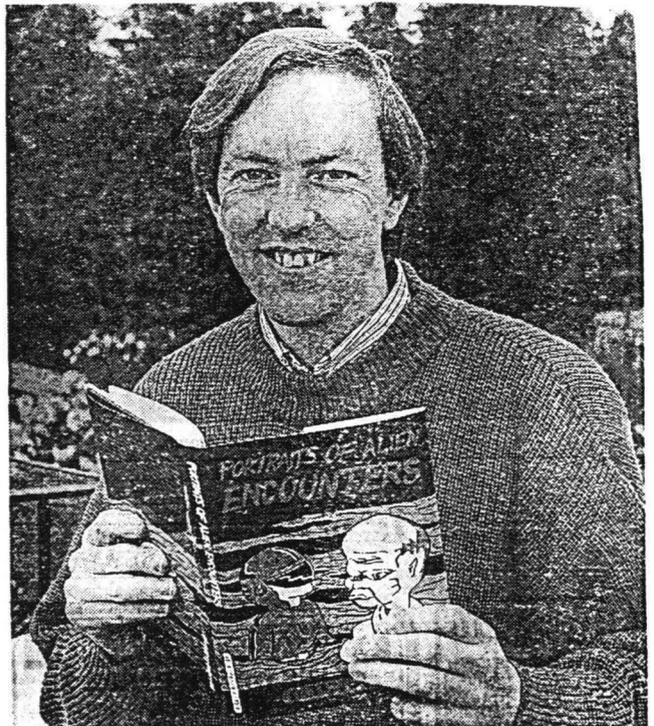
information about local cases, which had never been published," he added.

Nigel has published 500 copies of the book and hopes W.H. Smith's Scunthorpe store will stock it.

He said his interest in the unknown was sparked off by the American Apollo moon-shots in the early '70s.

When he went to the library to find out more his eye was caught by the UFO books on the next shelf.

● Copies of the book, at £10 each, can be obtained from Mr Watson at: 52a Lascotts Road, Wood Green, London, N22 4JN.



Height: 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 feet
Sex: No indication

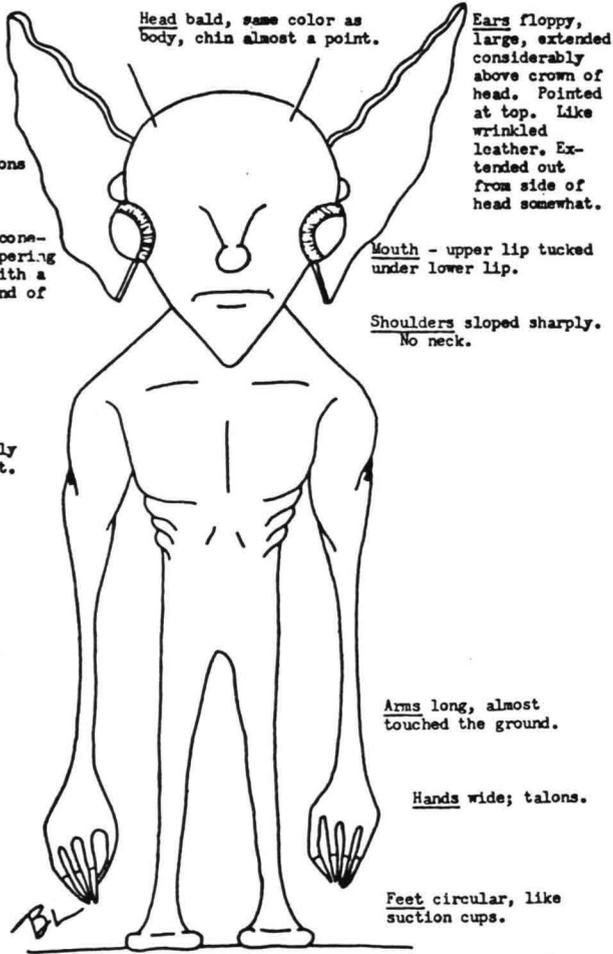
Miniature feelers or antennae on each side of top of head.

Dark depressions in each ear.

Nose - saw a cone-like nose, tapering to a point, with a ball on the end of it.

Body powerfully built to waist.

Legs slim and sticklike.



Head bald, same color as body, chin almost a point.

Ears floppy, large, extended considerably above crown of head. Pointed at top. Like wrinkled leather. Extended out from side of head somewhat.

Mouth - upper lip tucked under lower lip.

Shoulders sloped sharply. No neck.

Arms long, almost touched the ground.

Hands wide; talons.

Feet circular, like suction cups.

• This creature, one of a number that allegedly besieged a Kentucky farmhouse in 1955, was thought to be an alien. Now, however, we recognise him (?) as a time-travelling football hooligan with a Walkman and cardboard Mr Spock ears.

The illustration comes from the highly entertaining *The UFO Encyclopedia* (Headline, £16.95), compiled and edited by John Spencer for the British UFO Research Association. The book is arranged as an A-Z, making it ideal for random landings and take-offs.

'Ball' over Bay

TWO postmen delivered the same piece of startling news when they arrived for work at the Morecambe GPO sorting office within minutes of each other early Friday morning.

Both had seen a glowing, white, ball-shaped object crossing the clear sky before it headed out over the bay.

Mr Ian Fleetwood followed its progress as he was cycling over West End Road bridge at about 4.45am.

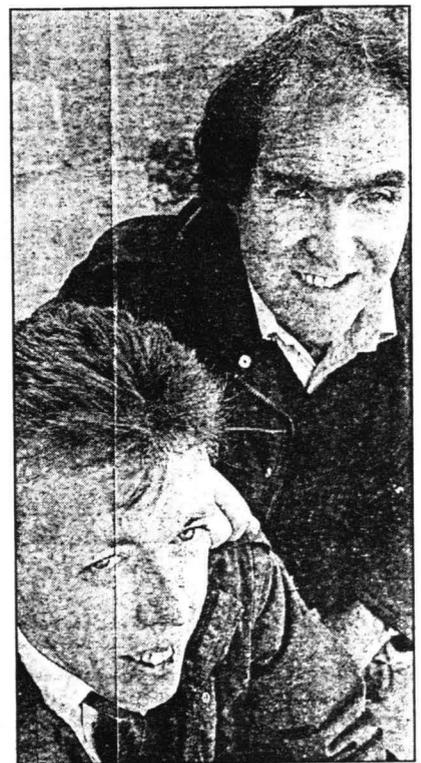
And, unbeknown to him, colleague Mr George Wilson was also watching it 500 yards to the rear, at the junction of Balmoral Road and West End Road, as he walked to work.

Mr Fleetwood told another colleague, Mr Keith Linley, when he reached the sorting office, and Mr Wilson repeated the story to Mr Linley on his arrival. Mr Linley got the two together and they swapped notes.

Mr Fleetwood told The Visitor he thought at first it was a shooting star, but then realised it was probably too big, not moving fast enough, and did not have a tail.

"It was like a big white ball, scooting across the sky from right to left, going over the bay," he explained. "It was moving quite fast and seemed to be a controlled movement, although it was nothing like a plane."

Mr Wilson said: "It just came over my head and seemed to light up the sky. It took the wind out of me. Anyone driving along the promenade must have seen it. I wasn't going to say anything to the lads in case they thought I had gone nuts, but I did tell Keith Linley and he said,



Morecambe postmen, Mr Ian Fleetwood (left) and Mr George Wilson keep an eye on the sky after their early morning sighting.

'you'd better have a word with Ian!'

Morecambe police said they had not received any calls about any other sightings.

But experts believe it was probably a fireball - a large meteor. Mr Howard Miles, the British Astronomical Association's specialist on fireballs and other

transient and unusual phenomena, said that without knowing the direction and speed it was travelling it was difficult to be specific, but it sounded like a fireball.

He had not received any further reports of sightings, although it was not surprising in view of the time of day. If he did he would follow them up.

UFO hunters 'hit wall of silence'

AN ABERDEEN air-traffic controller may hold the key to a UFO mystery - but flying-saucer researchers claim he has refused to provide vital information.

UFO hunters mounted a major investigation after a North Sea helicopter pilot recently reported an unexplained sighting.

But they say their efforts to get to the bottom of the affair have met with a wall of silence.

The intrigue began in March when the pilot, returning from the oil fields, reported his radar going haywire and a large black object passing across the screen.

At the same time, thousands of people in Aberdeen heard a loud bang. Many spoke of their houses shaking.

An investigation was launched immediately by Scottish Research into UFOs.

But chairman Mr Ken Higgins claimed this weekend he had been blocked in his attempts to track down the pilot and obtain vital information from an air-traffic controller.

"I made contact with a man from air-traffic control but it was all a bit suspicious," he said. "When I phoned him, all he said was that he knew it had been reported and that the pilot had claimed it was a UFO."

"He didn't want to say more. Then he phoned at home and spoke to my wife, saying he had more information to pass on."

Mr Higgins said the controller gave him a frosty reception when he got back in contact. He told the researcher not to phone him again at work.

"He said there was nothing more he could tell me," said Mr Higgins. "I find it all a bit suspicious."

"We often come up against this. We get so far and then hit a brick wall."

A Civil Aviation Authority spokesman in Aberdeen denied they were trying to hush up the incident.

"We have nothing to hide," he said. "There is no cloak-and-dagger exercise going on. I would hate to be sitting on a great story and stopping my staff talking about it."

Mr Higgins said he has had a fantastic response from the public over the incident. One reported hearing the bang as far away as Banchory and another in St Cyrus.

Both the British and US air forces have denied they had any planes in the area at the time capable of breaking the sound barrier.

And seismologists in Edinburgh have ruled out an earth tremor as the cause of the bang.

'Sparkling disc' filmed over crop circles

Dear Sir: There have been some interesting developments with my long research into the cause of the mystery crop circles.

There cannot be many people in this country who did not see or hear reports last summer about the 'Operation Blackbird' surveillance project which I co-ordinated with BBC and Nippon TV, infamous for the hoax in front of the million pounds worth of high tech equipment installed by the British Army.

Thousands of people have been eagerly awaiting the outcome of detailed enhancement of a real event which took place after the hoax and was filmed by several of the 'Blackbird' cameras. A NASA enhancement process has now been completed and will be featured in the long awaited report to be televised on BBC 1 during the programme called 'People Today', Thursday March 21.

I have been asked, with my

co-author and fellow researcher, Pat Delgado, to take part in a live studio phone-in debate after the film. Some long overdue clues to the cause of this extraordinary mystery are coming to light.

"Light" and exactly that, was the second cause for excitement a few days ago, when I received a phone call from scientists working with me in Japan. They had looked closely at a video film I sent them, taken by a Hampshire couple walking over the Pewsey Downs on July 26 last year.

While overlooking a very large 'Pictogram' arrangement of ground markings and one smaller circle they were staggered to be joined suddenly by a 15 inch diameter disc shaped object.

The object appeared from nowhere and manoeuvred slowly through the heads of wheat in the field below and within yards of the mystery circles. It was sparkling bright white light from its surface as it shimmered along

a steady and even course. After about three minutes of apparent great interest in the field, it lifted abruptly and glided over a tractor rolling the field next door.

This footage is the most exciting I have seen of an object resembling that reported so often by others in the vicinity of these circles. I have interviewed the couple who took the film and the tractor driver, who also witnessed this rare sight. There is no question they did experience an associated phenomenon, which goes to support my own theory that intelligence of some kind is involved.

I have not a clue as to where the intelligence emanates from, or as to its purpose, but all the evidence suggests its nature is purposeful and has optical recognition.

I have been misquoted on occasions, of believing in the 'Little Green Men' syndrome. Nothing is further from the truth.

It is my view, and supported by the largest data base in the world, in my possession, that manipulation of high levels of energy is what is at the centre of the phenomenon - why and what controls this is the question which is firing the imagination of thousands around the globe.

I have ahead another busy season - international conferences in Chicago in July, Berlin in August and a trip to Japan likely in September. In between times another surveillance operation, this time covert and involving weeks of ground research with my close colleague Pat Delgado.

We have a lot to look forward to, but some concerns. None greater than the effect all the interest is having on the farmers. Last year Pat and myself with other prominent researchers called for a meeting with the National Farmers Union. A code of practice was agreed.

However, since that time many hundreds more feet have been stamping to the better known circles fields in the area. Several farmers decided 'If you can't beat them, join them' - so they signposted local roads, "Crop circles this way," and charged £1 entrance fee to see these wonders. Farmer Tim Carson netted over £5000 - a clear profit over damaged crops. Perhaps that is the way forward.

Crop circles may ultimately involve energy levels capable of phenomena currently baffling locals and scientists in Switzerland where huge circular holes are being discovered. All the soil has completely disappeared from within the circles, some as deep as 12 metres - so what goes on? The research continues.

COLIN ANDREWS
(Circles Phenomenon Research)
57 Salisbury Road,
Andover, Hants.

Mystery hum 'is caused by flying saucers'

THE mysterious humming noise which is driving families up the wall could be connected to the sighting of UFOs in the borough

That's the view of Roy Lake, who says he has spent 30 years studying unidentified flying objects.

He says the 'hum' being investigated by experts called in by Barking Council - was first noticed in the 70s, and came to light after UFO sightings.

And he says the latest vibration noise follows the sighting of a pale blue UFO over Marks Gate Estate.

Mr Lake, 52, of Tudor Road, Barking said: "The council has brought in experts to find the source of the hum. Until they realise the noise is connected to sightings they won't get far."

The council says there have been about a dozen complaints. Roy, chairman of London UFO Studies, wants to hear from anyone who is having trouble with the hum. He can be contacted on 594 4797

THE BUZZ OVER UFOs

Are aliens visiting us? That's the question people everywhere are asking.

On a recent visit to Britain, I was amazed to find the whole country buzzing with stories of possible landings of UFOs which left huge circular impressions in crops and fields, some up to 100m in diameter.

More than 100 of these 'nests' have been reported in the past year. UFO sightings have been reported in many of these areas prior to the circles being discovered.

At Upton Scudamore, German parachutist Willi Gehlen was asleep in his car when the hatchback suddenly opened of its own accord, and there was a loud humming sound, like a swarm of bees.

Sitting up to see what was going on, Willi could see a tall figure in the darkness standing near a farm gate. Thinking it

was the owner of the property, he shouted that he was sorry he was parking there.

The silent figure shone a light at him, then disappeared into the night.

The humming sound started again and Willi saw a large, dark shape with a pulsating light take off from the field.

Since then many responsible citizens have reported considerable UFO activity in the area. Dozens of perfectly formed circles have appeared.

Although there have been obvious hoaxes, the 'genuine' circles are distinctive. The corn or wheat is never broken off, but bent over, and the circles are formed with mathematical precision.

When I returned to Australia I got in touch with Paul Norman of the Victorian UFO Research Society to find out if there had been any similar cases here.

Not only are these peculiar circles appearing virtually overnight in Australia, but we have many cases where UFOs are actually seen taking off from these areas.

Near Ouyen in north-western Victoria, 12 circles appeared in the same field in December, 1989. Paul told me the ground seemed to have been baked hard, and when tapped with knuckles it sounded like a wooden board. Indeed, even the composition of the soil had changed.

At Tully, in Queensland, a farmer saw a large, greyish-colored UFO take off from a swamp in 1966, with a swishing sound.

He went over to investigate, and discovered that the reeds had been swirled around in a clockwise pattern, just like the British ones.

On a farm near the South Australia-Victoria border, a farmer and his family saw lights in a nearby field.

Thinking that they belonged to a spotlight-shooter they approached the area, where they were amazed to see an object take off and disappear into the night sky.

They carefully marked the spot where the UFO had been. Returning the next morning, they found a perfect circle, which was 24m in diameter.

The grass had been discolored. Wheat that has been planted there since barely grows in the centre of the circle. At the outer edges only stunted growth occurs.

At Whiteacres, near Sale in eastern Victoria, a farmer was woken by his cattle bellowing and went out to see what was wrong.

In the sky was what looked like an aircraft about to crash. Then it levelled off only 3m above the ground, skimmed over the house and landed near a water tank.

Thinking it was a helicopter involved in cattle rustling, the farmer got out his motorcycle and went to see what was happening.

As he got to within 30m of the

craft it suddenly took off, with a sound like it was falling apart, and flew off into the night.

It was quite unlike any plane the farmer had seen: completely circular, with a dome on top — a typical UFO description.

The next morning the farmer discovered the tank near where the UFO had landed had been drained of water.

Stones he had stacked up around the tank had been scattered and formed a rough path leading towards a large circle on the ground where the craft had settled.

Eyewitness accounts consistently indicate that UFOs appear to take water when they land. Animals usually show signs of panic when UFOs are near, and carefully avoid the circles where they have landed.

At Churchill Park, near Melbourne's Dandenong Ranges, two women were driving at night and were startled by a mysterious object that rose off the ground by the side of the road and flew over their car.

A 4m circle was discovered where the UFO had been, and the grass in that area had been discolored.

Laboratory tests showed the grass had been affected by unusually strong ultraviolet rays of intense concentration.

One of the great mysteries surrounding UFOs is the increasing number of human abductions being reported.

Was pilot Fred Valentich abducted by a UFO over Bass Strait? Some serious researchers believe this could have been the case.

It's now 12 years since his disappearance on a flight to King Island. He had reported to the Melbourne Flight Service controller that a UFO was hovering above his plane.

After that communication, Valentich and his plane seemed to disappear.

This case has had a parallel. In America, a U.S. Army crew had a similar experience, but they lived to tell the story.

Kevin Arnett examines sightings which have mystified the experts and fascinated observers



Captain Lawrence Coyne was flying his helicopter towards Cleveland, Ohio, when a crew member noticed a red light on the horizon.

Thirty seconds later a strange object streaked towards them on a collision course.

Captain Coyne took the craft into a steep descent. However, no sooner had he done so than they could see the UFO above them.

Before they could react further, the UFO had lifted their helicopter some 300m until a collision with the mysterious craft seemed imminent.

There was a metallic thud, just as Fred Valentich had reported, and the helicopter plunged back to its previous altitude.

They later described the UFO as "cigar-shaped, metallic grey, with a dome on top, about 10m long".

Witnesses on the ground reported seeing the helicopter, as well as an object like a blimp and "as big as a school bus" hovering above.

The similarities between this documented case, and what Fred Valentich described over Bass Strait five years later, are astounding.

Was a UFO trying to abduct members of the Knowles family as they drove across the Nullarbor in 1988?

Fay Knowles, her three sons and their two dogs were driving towards Mundrabilla, Western Australia, about 5.30am.

They saw a set of lights ahead of them. As they got closer there seemed to be one bright light on the road, or

hovering slightly above it.

They swerved to avoid it, almost colliding with a car and caravan.

Shortly afterwards, they saw a car coming towards them with a light flying above it at the same speed.

Sean Knowles turned the car around, determined to see what the moving light was. No sooner had he done so than the light started to head towards them.

Sean did another U-turn and tried to speed away, but the object swiftly caught up with them. As it did so, the car began to shake violently from side to side.

In a report to police, the family said there was a high-pitched buzzing or whirring noise, then the UFO seemed to grab the car and lift it into the air.

Fay Knowles told the authorities she had wound down the window and put her hand up to touch the roof. She could feel something spongy, rubbery and hot. It felt like a suction pad.

Then the car was dropped on to the road with a thud, and one of the tyres burst. The family jumped out and hid in bushes until the UFO flew away.

Paul Norman says several other people have come forward to report UFO sightings in the same area. Many prefer to remain anonymous, because they fear ridicule.

The Knowles incident has received worldwide attention, and does have something in common with the spine-chilling experiences of American couple Betty and Barney Hill.

Returning home at night

from a holiday in Canada, the Hills saw a bright light in the sky that appeared to be getting larger and brighter as it got nearer.

Then they realised there was a large object with the light, and it proceeded to land on the road some distance ahead of them. At this point their car stalled, and they couldn't restart the engine.

Then they seemed to lose consciousness. The next thing they knew they were 18km further down the road, the UFO had gone and nearly two hours had passed.

They remembered nothing of what had happened and this amnesia led to many emotional problems, so they eventually sought the help of a Boston psychiatrist.

Each was hypnotised separately, and both told the same story. Neither partner knew until later what the other had said under hypnosis.

They both said they had been taken on board the strange craft separately, and subjected to medical examinations.

Betty said she had a long, needle-like instrument inserted in her navel and the beings collected nail clippings and skin shavings.

Barney said he was put on a table, and although the beings uttered sounds, he couldn't understand them. They also examined him physically.

Each said they had been treated well, but rather like experimental animals. As they were released, a hypnotic suggestion was made that they would have no recall of what had taken place.

This is one of the few abduction cases that appears to have some credibility. It has been meticulously researched by many experts.

We don't know of any abduction cases in Australia, unless Fred Valentich was one. And how close did the Knowles family come to being the second?

If you have had a UFO sighting, write to me care of New Idea and I will put you in touch with the Victorian UFO Research Society. It will treat all reports seriously, and confidentially if you wish.

Maybe you can help unravel one of the greatest mysteries of our time.

They both said they had been taken on board the craft

We have many cases where UFOs are actually seen taking off from these areas

■ Flying saucers: fact or science fiction? TONY SMITH met a man who has spent five years investigating local UFO sightings.

Eye on the sky for UFO man

WITH a low humming sound, the disc-shaped object hovered above the trees before appearing to land in a field near Market Harborough.

With a mixture of excitement and trepidation, three people jumped in a car to investigate. But before they reached the scene, the "craft" took off again and headed west across the night sky towards Northampton.

When the incident last October was reported in the local press, 17 people — including a prison officer at nearby Gartree Prison — came forward claiming to have had a similar "close encounter." But with what, exactly?

Trying to unravel the mystery is Corby man Ernest Still, one of 22 authorised UFO investigators in Britain and founder member and secretary of the Northamptonshire Unidentified Flying Object Research Centre.

NUFORC meets every two months to discuss the latest local and national cases. Its 15 members, including an ex-RAF officer and a retired policeman, are all aged over 30 — three of them pensioners.

Ernest, 50, is a former seaman now retraining on a computer studies course. He became interested in such phenomena after seeing a cigar-shaped object trailing sparks disappear over Corby steelworks in 1978.

"Four of us were on our way to the Rangers Club at 7pm on New Year's Eve when we all saw this thing just above the rooftops barely 50ft from the ground," he said. "At first I thought it was a plane in trouble but that night there were similar reports from all over Britain."

Indeed this county seems to be a popular tourist haven for sightseeing "aliens" — a detailed study of local cases from 1950 to 1988 reveals 87 sightings of strange objects of all shapes and sizes.

Ernest, whose reports are filed by the British UFO Research Association, said the largest percentage of sightings seemed to be around 9pm on Wednesdays and on Saturday night — and the peak month is October.



■ SIGHTINGS ... Mr Still with some of the charts and data he using when investigating reports of UFOs

"Many objects can be explained away as hoaxes or common aircraft, balloons, or clouds observed under curious conditions or from odd angles. But there is a growing number of cases which refuse to be explained away."

"According to official sources, UFOs don't exist but there have been unexplained cases where pilots

have reported strange objects passing them and there is a growing suspicion that the Government knows more about these phenomena than it is prepared to admit."

Ernest said that people were often afraid to admit they had seen something unusual for fear of being written off as cranks. But more

scientists are now treating the subject seriously while such films as Close Encounters had increased people's awareness.

In his own investigations, witnesses are questioned time and again and he is always wary of photographs, as they can be faked so easily. But he has only rumoured two definite hoaxes since the group began.

Ernest said sometimes kites, birds, freak weather conditions, or shooting stars are mistaken for UFOs. "But although lights on their own are the least satisfactory form of sighting, it's hard to believe that every one is a passing goose or the planet Venus!"

One of the biggest local mysteries came in October, 1971, when four Weldon women claimed a craft resembling an upturned mushroom landed behind a caravan site. But after calling the police, it had disappeared on their return.

In November, 1973, two terrified Wellingborough women insisted they had been chased home by a hovering UFO flashing blue lights. Two teenagers from the same town told a similar story to the ET five years later.

But the most famous case was that of Elsie Oakensen, head of Daventry Teachers' Centre, who claimed her car was immobilised by a UFO, shaped like a giant egg-timer, in 1979. Under hypnosis, she said she was abducted by two ghostly grey shapes.

Ernest still can't explain a second personal experience one balmy evening last July when he and his neighbours observed a huge silver ball of light moving back and forth on the horizon.

But he does not rule out the possibility that more advanced beings than us are visiting Earth either out of curiosity or a genuine concern at the damage we are doing to our own planet.

"I believe there must be life somewhere else in the universe although I don't think for a minute they are little green men," he said.

"Five of our members have had close encounters with objects near their car or a short distance away. When I first met them, I automatically assumed they were nutcases but soon found they were genuine people who just want to find some answers."

Help me solve mystery of the corn circles

SOON, with luck, the season for crop circles will be upon us, and before the candidates for treatment start blindly wailing hoax, fungi or rutting deer, I feel I should try to put the record straight.

Generally in a formation, the stems are bent at ground level, not buckled, not snapped, not damaged. Often not a single stem is damaged, just induced to lie horizontally in a complex pattern, the atomic structure of the plant greatly changed. Sometimes neighbouring stems lie intertwined in opposite directions, such is the delicate artistry of the circles.

Not just circles though, we've had rectangles, arcs, triangles, rings inches wide and other shapes indicating overwhelmingly the presence of intelligence, a form of coded communication.

This is apparent in the great detail displayed over the years; on several occasions it has even disproved much flouted theories within days of publishing.

Hoax? NO. A number of aspects of crop circles defy hoaxing. There have been hoaxes, one near Salisbury last August, but they usually show complete ignorance of the nature of the real thing, are crude in the extreme, and are blatant vandalism by the misguided perpetrators.

Whirlwind or 'Plasma Vortex'? To the general public this seems nearly feasible for a single circle, but to most researchers it is rendered ludicrous by the numerous subtleties and the many varied combinations of shape. To all but the media-fed public this theory has died.

It is possible that the profusion of formations in Wiltshire and Hants are linked to the great number of ancient sites, barrows and stone monuments, since dowsers — people who sense 'earth energy' — have found lines of energy ley lines, connecting both ancient sites and crop circles. Many leys are said to meet at Stonehenge. Lights in the sky are also a relevant phenomenon.

What mean these marks? As yet, we don't know, but the more information we have, the better the chance. I hope to research all crop circles in the Salisbury area.

If you can help me find them, if you drive local routes regularly, if you fly locally or if your farmland is visited by them, then please write to inform me or even better, to offer your eyes in the search for them. Thank you.

DAVID DOEL, 23 Neville Close, Salisbury.
CR: T. Good

GOOLE & DISTRICT ADVERTISER, England - March 29, 1991

ON THE BOX

by Andrew Gardner

BBC's Secret Circles last week was devoted to the puzzling phenomenon of mysterious circles appearing in cornfields. Various schools of thought were consulted and theories discussed.

Most of the action took place in an area in the south of England, known to, by those in the know, as the Wessex Triangle, a segment of the British Isles with an eerie reputation for strange things happening even before cornfield circles came along.

We saw a complex high-tech observation post set up to monitor a cornfield around the clock for a week. Nothing happened, although circles appeared in a neighbouring field 600 yards away.

Some circles have appeared in complex patterns. A flying saucer spotter said that the cornfield circles were made by alien spacecraft touching down. However, we were led to believe the UFO brigade have conflicting thoughts on such theories.

A young couple said they had been enveloped in a strange light when a cornfield circle appeared. A weather expert suggested freak miniature whirlwinds were responsible. The military denied any knowledge or involvement but obligingly supplied a squad of Army officers, the lady participants proving it was possible to make a convincing cornfield circle by doing nothing more than walking around in the middle of a cornfield...in circles.

UFO hunters hark back to the past

COURIER, Lothian, England
March 22, 1991 CR: T. Good

UFO investigators have asked the West Lothian public to help them travel back in time.

For they are researching a UFO sighting which brought Broxburn to a standstill... but they have no idea exactly when!

According to East Calder woman Anita Davidson of Scottish Investigations into UFOs, the incident took place one morning above Broxburn's main street a "few years ago."

"We've been told that whatever it was stopped everyone in their tracks," said Anita.

"And we know that it was reported in the newspapers at

the time. "But as we don't know the exact date it would mean looking back through years and years of microfiche files."

Anita has tried other avenues such as the police but her investigations have failed to shed any more light on the incident.

"It was supposed to have caused quite a fuss at the time and was the talk of the town."

"We'd be delighted to hear from anyone who witnessed the sighting or knows more about it... especially a date!"

The UFO experts can be contacted through Kenny Higgins on East Calder 881218.

Probe into bizarre UFO sighting

UFO researchers are to question a Plymouth woman who claims she saw four flying saucers from her kitchen window.

The Plymouth UFO Research Group will take a written statement from Mary Aylesworth, who says she watched the discs hovering in the sky near Saltaah.

The group also wants to hear from anyone else who saw the unusual objects at about 5.30 last Friday morning.

Mary Aylesworth, a singing teacher, saw the UFOs from the kitchen of her Vicarage Gardens home at St Budeaux.

She said: "I saw three objects in the sky on the other side of the river. They looked about the size of a 50 pence piece held at arm's length."

"They looked like they were made of a shiny metal material like aluminium, and within each circle it looked like there were spotlights."

"The objects seemed to be in formation — two of them side by side and one underneath."

One of the objects then moved away very fast, "like a shooting star", she said. It then returned and was joined by another, making four objects altogether.

Typical

Mary said she watched them for five minutes before they disappeared from sight.

"I am keeping an open mind about it," she said. "UFO stands for unidentified flying object — and that is what I saw. I do not know what it was."

The co-ordinator of the Plymouth UFO Research Group, Joan Amos, said: "As she has described it, it sounds exactly like four saucer-type craft. It sounds like a typical UFO sighting."

The group hopes publicity about the sighting will encourage other people who saw the objects to get in touch. "We hope there will be other witnesses to corroborate this," she said.

The Plymouth UFO Research Group has met regularly in the city since 1965, and keeps records of saucer sightings and other UFO reports.

Joan Amos, who lives at Peter Tavy, said: "There hasn't been anything in the Plymouth area for some time until this latest sighting. But six to eight weeks ago we had a report from Liskeard of the sighting of an airship-type craft high in the sky between banks of cloud."

Reliable saucers

A dramatic photograph of a flying saucer (right) was taken at precisely 3.28pm on Thursday just outside the office of *The Independent on Sunday*.

The next morning I was told by Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, a former Chief of the Defence Staff, that there has been a massive cover-up of the truth about UFOs. Lord Hill-Norton has written a preface to Timothy Good's new book, *Alien Liaison*, which claims that the US government has captured several "alien spacecraft and alien bodies" and has been test-flying these UFOs at a "super-secret base in the Nevada desert".

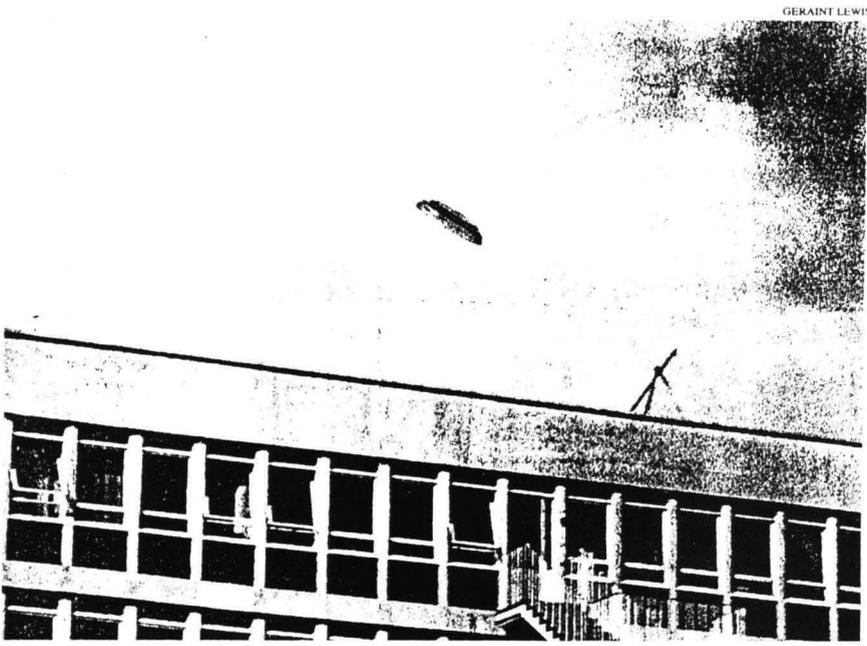
In his foreword to Mr Good's previous book, *Above Top Secret* (1987), the admiral rejected the idea that the Pentagon had recovered a genuine UFO. But now he has changed his mind. He is convinced that Mr Good is "honest and reliable" and that "his long and diligent investigations have been efficiently conducted". The claim that little green men and women are working clandestinely with the Americans is "impossible, certainly for me, to dismiss" until it is "publicly disproved".

How can anyone disprove such a claim? You can try pointing out that Lord Hill-Norton heard nothing about this extraterrestrial alliance, officially or unofficially, while he was in charge of this country's defence establishment. "You'd think I would have known," he agreed last week. "But I hadn't the faintest bloody idea." This, however, doesn't dent the confidence of a determined conspiracy theorist - quite the opposite: it shows that the cover-up has been organised at a very high level indeed, "as high as 38 levels above top secret", according to Mr Good. "I doubt if anyone in the Cabinet is aware of what's going on," he said last week, clearly unaware that the present Prime Minister is widely believed to be a native of the planet Vulcan.

Mr Good earns his living as a professional musician: he was a violinist with the London Symphony Orchestra between 1974 and 1978, and more recently has played on LPs by the Pet Shop Boys, Kiri Te Kanawa and Elvis Costello. But his passion is flying saucers. He has seen UFOs on several occasions - the first in south-east London in 1963, when he was 20, and the most recent in the same area 11 years ago.

He expects to be ridiculed as a crackpot - particularly for his claim that aliens may actually be living on earth in human guise, like something out of a Fifties sci-fi movie. In November 1989, he reports, a UFO expert called Bob Oechsler was relaxing in a Dallas cocktail lounge when he suddenly felt "waves of energy" at the back of his head. He then noticed a man, standing a few feet away, "whom he somehow felt was responsible for the mental 'intrusion'." This man was about 6ft tall, with fair hair and reddish, tanned skin - and diamond-shaped pupils in his eyes. A pod-person, in other words.

FRANCIS WHEEN'S DIARY



The camera cannot lie: alien beings from outer space keep watch over the offices of *The Independent on Sunday*

"This is wild stuff," Mr Good admitted to me. "I wouldn't blame you for discounting it or using it to discredit the case. But I think it's possible - it's outrageous, but possible. There is a type of liaison going on." How come the appearance of the man in the cocktail bar doesn't tally with other descriptions of beings from outer space? "There would appear to be several different species," he explained. "Which is outlandish, of course."

Maybe, but many of the highest in the land seem to believe in these magnificently preposterous stories. "There are many reasons to believe that they [UFOs] exist," the Duke of Edinburgh

wrote to Mr Good a few years ago. "There is so much evidence from reliable witnesses. The book *Flying saucers have landed* has a lot of interesting stuff in it." Lord Mountbatten was another believer, and the Prince of Wales is "interested". In America, Reagan and Carter both claim to have seen UFOs.

And, of course, so have you: the camera can't lie. Anyone who thinks that the object in my photo looks suspiciously like an upturned ashtray being hurled into the air should suppress such unworthy thoughts forthwith.

SOUTH KENT CITIZEN, England
May 15, 1991 CR: T. Good

Flier in flap as 'missile' buzzes jet at 22,000ft

☆ AN URGENT investigation has been launched after an Italian pilot claimed his airliner was almost shot out of the skies by a missile over Kent.

☆ The astonishing claim came from an Alitalia captain on a scheduled flight from Milan to Heathrow, travelling at 22,000 feet with 57 passengers on board.

☆ According to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), as the pilot was crossing the Kent coast - just west of Folkestone - he reported seeing a 'missile shaped' object hurtling towards him about 1,000 feet above his plane.

☆ The alarmed captain later described the UFO as being light brown, round and about three metres long.

☆ A spokesman for the CAA said: "There were no other aircraft in the vicinity but consistent with the pilot's report a faint radar trace was observed by air traffic controllers about ten miles behind the Alitalia aircraft."

☆ Extensive inquiries into the incident have so far failed to provide an explanation. An Army spokesman said no weapons used at Lydd ranges could fire a projectile to the height at which the captain claimed he saw the object.

BARNOLDSWICK & EARBY TIMES, England - April 19, 1991

CLOSE ENCOUNTER FOR PENDLE NEWSAGENTS

NELSON newsagents Kenneth and Lilian Bond think they could have seen a sci-fi sight hovering over Blacko.

As they gazed out from the home in Nelson's Boulsworth Crescent they observed three coloured lights shining in the sky above the picturesque village a couple of miles away. The odd illuminations remained perfectly static for a period of time.

Now the Bonds, who run their shop in Railway Street, claim they wit-

nessed a UFO. Says Mr Bond: "We saw the light as we looked out of our house, which is high up near Marsden Park, so we have a good view. We just noticed these bright white, green and blue lights shining in the sky, but as far as we can gather they were not seen by anybody else."

"Since the lights appeared my wife has been round to neighbours to see if they saw anything. They didn't, but we didn't imagine them."

"We thought at first it

may have been a police helicopter looking for that little boy who went missing in Clitheroe, but it cannot have been a helicopter because they didn't move for quite a long time. They were very strange.

"It is certainly the first time that either my wife or I have seen anything like this. There is nothing definite to say what they were, so it is quite puzzling."

Did anyone else spot the strange lights? Give us a call on 62561.



UFO sighting ... Kenneth and Lilian Bond. Photo: Anthony Braithwaite.

CR: T. Good

DAGENHAM & BARKING ADVERTISER, England - April 26, 1991 CR: T. Good

Space objects still mystery

EARTHLY phenomenon has been ruled out by investigators researching four 'aircraft' reportedly seen by a Plymouth woman in the city's sky.

Bob Boyd, chairman of Plymouth UFO Research Group, said: "What she saw does not tie in with any military activity."

"The objects acted intelligently. We are putting them down as Unexplained Flying Objects."

Mary Aylesworth claimed she saw four discs flying over Saltash from her St Budeaux home.

Mr Boyd questioned her and car-

ried out intensive research into all possible alternatives.

He has also received two similar sightings from independent witnesses in the area.

The metallic discs covered in lights were seen flying in formation and swooping away towards Tregantle Beach and returning before disappearing.

Plymouth UFO Research Group recorded 12 sightings last year and have already noted down two in the South West since February.

They hope the latest activity will

encourage others to report strange sightings.

Lawrence Harris, chairman of Plymouth Astronomical Society, said he feels often UFO-logists often ask the wrong questions and have no knowledge of atmospheric conditions, astronomy or physics.

But he did not rule the possibility of UFOs out completely and said he would like to talk to Mary Aylesworth.

Plymouth UFO Research Group can be contacted on Plymouth 565255 or 367504.

WESTERN EVENING HERALD, Plymouth, England - March 18, 1991 CR: T. Good

SPACECRAFT CLAIM BY COUPLE

INVESTIGATIONS have begun into a claim by a Chadwell Heath couple that they spotted an unidentified flying object from their home.

After watching a pale blue light appear above their maisonette on the Marks Gate Estate, Ronald and Jean Briaris immediately alerted the police.

Mr and Mrs Briaris, of Rams Grove, say a policeman arrived and all three watched the obscure object for more than an hour.

The strange incident happened at around 11pm

on Monday. Mr Briaris took photographs of the blue light. He dismissed the possibility of it being a light aircraft because he said there was no noise.

Mr Briaris said: "The large round object sort of appeared and sped over our roof and then returned. This went on until around midnight."

"I have always felt very neutral about the unknown and UFOs, but now I am convinced there is something out there."

A local UFO group, London UFO Studies, is

looking into the sighting. Its Barking co-ordinator, Mr Roy Lake, of Tudor Road, who has studied UFOs for 30 years, said: "I am very excited at the prospect of seeing photographs of the unexplained object. We will get on the case immediately."

"We will check with the Meteorological Office, airports and the Ministry of Defence to confirm that it wasn't an aeroplane."

"We will also speak to the police to see if other residents reported a strange sighting."

BOOKS

Close look behind the UFO headlines

WITH all the identified flying objects that have been flying around in the Middle East, unidentified flying objects, or UFOs, have not been grabbing the recent headlines.

These bewildering phenomenon seized our collective imaginations long before we became a global village.

Some of our most distinguished thinkers, such as mystic-psychologist Carl Gustav Jung, have taken them very seriously.

Now, following the interest shown in the UFO Report, 1990, author Timothy Good, who claims to be Britain's leading authority on UFOs, has compiled the UFO Report 1991.

I have not heard of Mr Good, but he seems to have put together a credible, fairly sober - and simply astonishing - book on all sorts of amazing mysteries.

He complains that the international media 'continue to ridicule' world-wide reports of UFO sightings and other inexplicable happenings.

Mr Good comments, before unleashing upon us a parade of startling

□ THE UFO REPORT 1991, edited by Timothy Good. Pan Books Australia. \$24.99.

events, that some categories of UFO experience 'seem to preclude an extraterrestrial explanation.'

"I have studied various aspects of the paranormal for many years, and have had numerous personal experiences throughout my life which have left me in no doubt that our conventional view of reality is seriously flawed."

This appears to hint that Mr Good, like the good Dr Jung, thinks UFOs may not be in the strictly physical realm. Unfortunately, he does not expand on this to any degree.

The book includes detailed chapters on Britain's mystery cropfield circles, which I found fascinating, and alleged landings of a spacecraft at Voronezh in the Soviet Union.

These landings were reported quite seriously by the Soviet press, and the sightings are very convincing by reason of their detail.

The book also goes into what it called the 'abduction' of US Navy jets by mystery craft in Puerto Rico, injuries caused to humans by UFOs in Brazil, and 'massive sightings' in Belgium, involving re-

ports by hundreds of witnesses.

Another extraordinary section tells of two Chinese army soldiers who were chased by a UFO.

A long section is devoted to reports just after World War Two that the Pentagon had covered up a UFO crash in America which left the remains of some alien beings on the ground, which were recovered, and the whole incident hushed up.

Author Good explores this sensational theory in great detail, but reaches no firm conclusion whether the US military have indeed covered up the first

solid evidence of aliens visiting our globe.

The whole book leaves the reader with far more questions than answers, but anyone with a slightest iota of wonder in their psyche will be left feeling there are many strange things happening around us which cannot be explained by our current paradigm of reality. Our resident sceptics in Australia may not be convinced, but the average reader, if he assigns any credibility to Mr Good at all, must conclude that something incredibly strange is occurring in many places around the globe.

— DAVID HALPIN

CR: T. Good

Town under threat from outer space?

A FALMOUTH man has just started writing a book about UFO sightings which will be based on his own personal experiences in Cornwall.

Mr Larry Roberts, of Lister House, claims he has had sightings of the unexplained in Cornwall since he moved to Falmouth from Exeter three years ago. The Cornish sightings weren't his first though.

"I have been seeing these things over the last 20-30 years. I have been making a study of them and that is why I go armed with a camera in my pocket every time I go out."

Mr Roberts has just had a role of film developed which he says shows an unidentified flying object hovering over Falmouth and Camborne. "Each sighting I have recorded and I can say they relate to bone fide UFO sightings and not conventional aircraft at all," he says.

Mr Roberts, 62, who was a trained observer with the Navy, started his book, which is to be called UFO Sightings Galore with Photographic Evidence, this week and plans to finish it anytime from six weeks to six months.

Mr Roberts is well aware that not all people share his convictions and admits people sometimes ridicule and ostracise him. "People tell jokes about it in contemptuous terms," he says.

Mr Roberts' sightings have been of bright lights in the sky, but he admits: "The shape of them vary. They do not all conform to the classical UFO dustbin lid shape."

He is able to turn a deaf ear to cynics who make fun of him as Mr Roberts maintains: "I have the evidence in picture form."

OBSERVER, Bristol, England

May 3, 1991 CR: T. Good

UFO probe after light over wood

By Julie Harding

UFO investigators have been called Cribbs Causeway after a bright light was seen hovering over woodland.

A local man, who wishes to remain anonymous for fear of being branded an oddball, swears he watched the glowing object for half an hour before it sank slowly out of sight.

"I was filling my koi pond at about 11 pm and kept checking it through the kitchen window," he said.

"I noticed a bright light above some woods about a mile away. I thought nothing of it at first - we are in the flight path for Filton and I thought it must be a plane coming in to land.

"Then I saw it was still there about 15 minutes later. I thought it must be a helicopter but when I went outside there was no sound except for the hum of cars from the motorway."

His teenage daughter arrived home and joined her father in watching the brilliant light sink behind the trees.

The man called British Aerospace but the company said the last plane had landed at 6.30 pm and there were no reports of any other aircraft in the area.

"I am not an oddball or a drinking man," he said, "I honestly believe I saw something a little bit strange."

Now Quest International, which hunts down UFOs, has been called in to investigate his claims.

Don't keep UFOs to yourself

GUARDIAN, Worksop, England
May 10, 1991 CR: T. Good

IF you've ever seen an unidentified flying object in the skies over Bassetlaw don't keep it to yourself—contact the nearest UFO Group in Mansfield.

The group has been up and running for some years now and will host its annual open day on 27th July. The aim of the day is to

bring the phenomenon of UFOs to a wider audience. Investigators will also be on hand to discuss various aspects of the UFO phenomenon as well as taking UFO sightings.

Recent

The most local recent UFO sighting was a Langwith when an entire street spotted the object in the sky, said Group Chairman Mark Haywood.

Anyone wishing to report a sighting or for more information about the Open Day contact Mark Haywood on Mansfield 632622.

NORTH WESTERN EVENING MAIL, Barrow-in-Furness, England - April 2, 1991

Was this a UFO?

ON Saturday March 23, at approximately 6.15pm, I saw what looked like between four and six circles, glowing red with flashing lights, flying low in the south-west area of the sky and flying in a westerly direction. The front or leading circle seemed to be higher than the others.

I saw this phenomenon from Abbey Road, just for

a moment, until it disappeared from view behind some houses. As it was still light it was not so obviously noticeable.

I am sound in mind and body and have never seen anything resembling it before. Did any of your

other readers report seeing anything at this time?

I have always been sceptical about flying saucers but now I'm not so sure. I'm sure somebody else must have spotted it though.

Could it have been an il-

lusion? If it had been a plane or helicopter I would have been able to see its shape because it was still light, but it looked like neither.

Perhaps someone can put me wise as to what it was - maybe the reflection from the setting sun had something to do with it?

Mr W. Barrow.

WEIRD WONDERS OF WALES BY LLOWARCH

Buzzed by a UFO in the Dyfed Triangle

Whoopie! cried the famous columnist. Forgive my outburst, readers, but the situation merits it. My *Happy Tracks* family walking guide has been published. Yes, hot off the mighty Cambrian News presses it comes, covering some smashing walks on O/S Sheet 147, the Builth, Llandrindod and Rhayader area - though there are a few rambles in Ceredigion included (must promote my adopted homeland, musn't I?)

At £3.95, how could you possibly fail to include it in your library? If it hasn't reached a shop near you yet, send your order directly to me and you'll receive a copy by return - autographed, if you like... But now to the task in hand.

Nevern is a far-famed place. Brynach, a Dark Age saint imported from Ireland, made his base there. The present church - "well worth a visit" as the guide-book says - is a lovely place. There's the well-known Bleeding Yew, too. And last month, the village had a special visitation.

It seems that a chap called Paul Ladd was the first to see the phenomenon. He described it as a shimmering light which hovered above the ground.

This light was, Paul claimed, about two

feet in diameter - and it began to move towards him. Now you don't hang about when approached by things like that. He dived behind a tree near the church for cover.

Then the light - whatever it was - began swooping at him through the branches. Confused, he made for his sister's house. There, he phoned his mother to come and fetch him.

Now then, it seems that Paul was returning from the local hostelry so I have to emphasise that he was not drunk. (This information will thwart the scoffers who always claim that strange phenomena are seen only by the inebriated.)

But Paul wasn't the only observer. A young lady called Alison was out with her boyfriend on the same evening. The pair watched the antics of several lights for over four hours!

These observations were made not in the dim and distant past but on Thursday 21 March 1991. So there's something for you to consider.

The main point to ponder, though, is what those lights could have been. Often, I've reported on similar sightings in various parts

of Wales. Rarely do I draw conclusions, for I'm a reporter of oddities rather than an expert on such matters (though I've formed a few personal opinions over the years).

Nevern is on the edge of the Preseli mountains, of course: a magical place if ever there was one. It is also in an area which has been dubbed "The Dyfed Triangle", a place where UFOs were common back in the 60s and 70s. They're less common these days but, as the Nevern experience shows, they're still around. If you can grab a copy of *The Dyfed Enigma* - now sadly out of print, I believe - do so: it's a fascinating record of UFO visitations to Pembrokeshire.

If you've followed my scribbles over the vast eons of time, you'll recall that I was involved in some investigations in the area only a few years ago. Indeed, I was the prime mover of those investigations (said he, his head swelling...)

Those investigations - which attracted the attention of a Government department - were done by ordinary people who shared an interest in oddities and the unexplained. They continue even as I write, and this seems an appropriate time to mention them again - so I'll do so next week. Stay tuned.

CR: T. Good

CAMBRIAN NEWS, Aberystwyth, Wales
April 12, 1991 CR: T. Good

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO
June 10, 1991 CR: C. Carpenter

UFO



Many people in the Romanian capital of Bucharest watched an unidentified flying object move back and forth in a regular motion overnight on May 30-31. A journalist for Agence France Presse who witnessed the UFO said it was a bright object, clearly visible in spite of heavy cloud, and probably at an altitude of several thousand feet. A Romanian defense official said nothing unusual had been seen and suggested that the phenomenon might have been an optical illusion or a trick of the weather.



The Greater Hazleton Historical Society Museum boasts numerous outstanding exhibits of artifacts and memorabilia but one in particular is arousing considerable national attention.

It is the elaborate display of rock-like objects discovered in the anthracite region by Ed Conrad who insists, based on his 10 years of exhaustive research and scientific testing, that he possesses undeniable evidence that they are petrified bones.

Society officials undoubtedly are impressed because a small sign displayed on a front window carries some very large words: "This is the only museum in the world where petrified bones, found between coal veins, are on display."

Harold Rinehimer, the museum's research director and former president, attests to the national interest this particular exhibit has been receiving.

"For example, a Swiss mechanical engineer, working on a project in South Carolina, drove to Hazleton specifically to see the exhibit after reading about it in Switzerland," said Rinehimer. "I was told he was very impressed.

"Some other people drove all the way from Illinois. Naturally, I was curious if, after visiting our museum, they felt their long trip had been worthwhile. So, when they were about to leave, I asked them. They responded by smiling and assuring me their trip had been well worth it."

On still another occasion, a group of persons traveled in two vehicles all the way from Columbus, Ohio, just to see the petrified bones. And a veteran Philadelphia attorney, whose keen interest in fossils has taken him around the globe, had driven here five times over the past year-and-a-half, seeking additional information.

Out-of-staters, who have learned of the exhibit, frequently show up at the museum to examine the specimens. Some suddenly realize their travels on Interstate 80 or 81 had put them in Hazleton's backyard.

The bones, many still embedded in slate, were first discovered in 1981 by Conrad, a member of the Standard-Speaker news staff who is a native of Mahanoy City and resides in Shenandoah. They have been the subject of articles in some 600 different newspapers from coast to coast.

Much of his story had been prominently featured in The Spotlight, the investigative newspaper published in Washington, D.C., which is how the Swiss engineer said he had learned about it.

Spotlight detailed not only Conrad's discoveries, research and favorable testing results but also revealed how he has received very



little or no cooperation from established science.

In fact, Spotlight's first article had been accompanied by an editorial which stated that Conrad's discovery not only "challenges the current academic line that hominids are only 65 million years old. It challenges much more — the theory of evolution itself. It could be THE BIGGEST STORY we've ever printed..."

"It's sad that most professional academics refuse to consider anything that challenges their basic assumptions. They have their minds made up and don't want to be confused by the facts."

Lengthy articles also have appeared on two different occasions in The Congressional Record (the first having been submitted by U.S. Rep. Paul E. Kanjorski, the second by U.S. Rep. Gus Yatron).

In addition, Conrad also was the subject of two newspaper columns by The Amazing Kreskin, the veteran international performer, who learned of it while appearing at Genetti's.

One of Kreskin's columns, which was published in the Camden (N.J.) Courier-Post, bore the headline: "Discovery of Skeletons in Coal Seems to Petrify Scientists."

Kreskin recently advised Conrad that the producers of his new syndicated TV show, which deals with mysterious occurrences around the world, are considering having him appear on the program.

Ed already has been a guest on two different occasions on "Radio Free America," a talk show beamed worldwide by satellite.

However, the greatest exposure came after Tom Tiede, a national columnist for Newspaper Enterprise Association (NEA), had visited the museum and wrote a column that appeared in some 500 of the syndicate's member newspapers.

"I was receiving copies of Tiede's article from all over the country," said Ed. "Some were sent to me at the Standard-Speaker or the museum. Most were given me by people living in this area who had been mailed the clipping from family members living in other sections of the nation.

"The nice thing about Tiede's column was that it was accompanied with a photograph and a map pinpointing Hazleton and Pennsylvania's anthracite region."

The photo shows Conrad holding one of his key specimens which he said scientific and medical testing has confirmed is a portion of a human cranium.

He revealed that his collection of petrified human bones includes portions of other skulls, numerous mandibles (jaw bones), a femur, a tibia and teeth (both a canine and a premolar), to mention just a few.

Ed said he also has discovered a portion of a dinosaur foot embedded in slate in the same Carboniferous strata.

"It indicates that dinosaurs existed while coal was being formed and, if coal is at least 280 million years old as science claims, it unquestionably ranks as the oldest dinosaur bone ever found, multi-million years older than any previously discovered anywhere in the world," he noted. "It seems to tell us that man and dinosaurs were contemporaries."

During the past year, Conrad has gone even one step farther by claiming he also has discovered soft organs of human beings which likewise have petrified. He maintains his collection includes a gall bladder, testes and a hemisphere of a brain, among others.

Conrad agrees that soft organs should never petrify, except as the direct result of a stupendous catastrophe many thousands of times more devastating than the volcanic eruption at Mount St. Helen's a few years ago.

He explained that such super-catastrophes conceivably could be caused by a severe atmospheric disturbance when a massive comet or even another planet passes very close to earth, "violently blowing things apart, then preserving them by rapidly covering them with ash or siltstone.

"Whatever the explanation, there's no question that the petrified human remains I've been finding in our coal seams has shaken up the scientific community," said Ed. "Archaeologists and paleontologists refuse to accept the possibility that man could've existed while coal was being formed.

"Of course, if man indeed had existed during the coal formations, it would throw the evolutionists' theory about our origin out the window. The thing is, we couldn't possibly have descended from monkey-like animals, which science claims had begun inhabiting the earth some 60-65 million years ago, if we existed in almost our present form while coal was being formed many millions of years earlier."

Erich Von Daniken of Denmark, the world-famous author of "Chariot of the Gods," became intrigued with the story after seeing a color photograph of a specimen Conrad maintains is a portion of a human skull.

Van Daniken obviously feels the specimen is part of a human cranium because he informed him: "If this skull is really more than 280 million years old, it certainly destroys Darwin's theory of evolution. I hope that science will recognize your findings. I have my own experience with scientists: sometimes they can be very dogmatic."

Conrad certainly has found this to be the case but has stood his ground against even the giants of

anthropology and paleontology, as well as against prestigious scientific institutions like the Smithsonian.

He emphasizes that the "so-called experts" have given him the run-around ever since he allowed them to do some testing shortly after making his initial discoveries. A few years later, after self-educating himself in the identification of bone's cellular structure and in human anatomy, he said he became aware that the test results that had been provided were extremely suspect.

"Their testing actually had proven, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that my specimens are bone and that some are portions of the human skeleton," said Conrad.

"These 'experts' certainly failed to adhere to the eloquent words of Thomas Edison, 'The right to search for the truth implies also a duty; one must not conceal any part of what one has recognized to be true'.

"A true scientist is supposed to pursue the truth, no matter where it leads," he continued. "But these scientists unquestionably fear the truth about man's origin and ancestry because of their vested interests in perpetuating their own erroneous theory. Of course, they also realize if they were to side with me, their heads would be on the chopping block and they'd be outcasts in their own society."

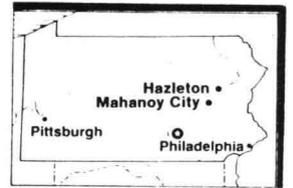
Conrad has had all sorts of scientific and medical testing performed on his specimens which offers substantial proof that he is correct.

"It must be emphasized that the only way to determine conclusively if my rock-like specimens are bone is to examine the cell structure under the microscope," Ed explained. "There is no gray area because the answer is either black or white. Either the Haversian systems, the unique cell structure of bone, are visible or they're not. And, in my specimens, they're definitely visible!"

Confirmation of bone — based on microscopic study of the cell structure — had come from Teledyne Isotopes, one of the world's leading research laboratories; Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga.; and, more recently, from the Center for Creation Studies at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

"It states very clearly in a scientific journal, 'Science in Archeology,' that the cell structure of bone — a concentric arrangement of miniscule canals known as Haversian systems — always remains in bone, no matter its age or its degree of petrification," said Conrad.

"In fact, the museum display includes photos of the cell structure



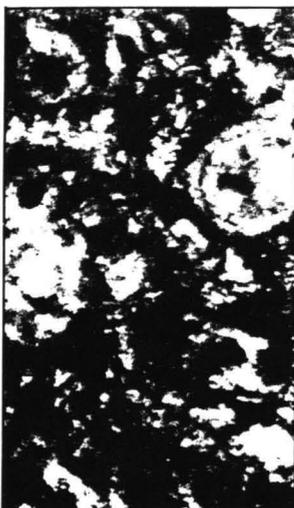
of cadaver bone as well as the cell structure of one of my specimens, both shown at 300 times magnification. I've made this comparison available so people can judge for themselves whether they are dramatically similar.

"As for the specimens that I insist are human, the first step is to determine if a particular object is bone, based on the existence of the Haversian systems. The next step is for human comparative anatomists to determine if the object bears the distinct contour of a human bone.

"If both these criteria are met, then the specimen unquestionably is human bone."

Commented Jonathan Powell, Geochemistry manager of Teledyne in Westwood, N.J.: "Certainly the body of evidence which you have collected, combined with the expert opinion of a number of qualified

(continued on page 18)



Microscopic photos at 300-times magnification reveal the concentric cell structure of bone. Photo on left is from a science textbook. Photo on right is from one of Ed Conrad's specimens.

Bone display draws national interest

Featured at Historical Museum

STANDARD-SPEAKER, Hazleton, PA - Dec. 8, 1990

individuals, strongly suggests that the specimens are human remains."

Confirmation that several of the specimens dramatically resemble human bones had come from two of the world's foremost anatomists, both now deceased.

They were Wilton Krogman, author of "The Human Skeleton in Forensic Medicine," a book found in almost every pathologist's office, and Dr. Raymond Dart, the South African anatomist who was one of the biggest names in anthropology for more than a half-century.

"These two great scientists may have passed on, but the support they had given me in letters bearing their signatures, after having personally examined many of my specimens, cannot be denied," Ed remarked.

Stated Krogman: "What an impressing — and challenging — array of what appear to be fossilized skeletal items, which in appearance point to the possibility of hominid interpretation."

Stated Dart: "In my opinion, the vast majority (of the specimens he personally had examined) bear the contour of bone and may well be petrified bone . . . I am of the opinion that your findings definitely warrant intense investigation."

In addition to confirmation that the cell structure is bone, Ed has had a variety of other pertinent tests performed on a number of specimens which he said offers additional evidence that they are bone and some, in fact, are human.

"I've had SEM (scanning electron microscopic) work done which revealed that the surface features of the interior of the specimens are identical to cadaver bone," Conrad revealed. "I've also had some two dozen CATSCANS performed on different specimens — at two different hospitals — with the results dismissing any possibility that they're nothing more than rocks."

"In fact, the CATSCAN performed on the specimen, which dramatically resembles a gall bladder in both size and contour, excited one of the CATSCAN X-ray technicians because, while examining the film negative, he expressed amazement that it appeared to contain a gall stone.

"However, the most favorable CATSCAN test had been done on the specimen I've long maintained is a portion of a human cranium. It provided undisputable proof that it's a portion of a skull from a human being."

Conrad's discoveries had received considerable international publicity when Spotlight published lengthy articles in three separate editions.

Its first article was part of a two-part series in January 1987. The first carried the headline, "Amateur Archeologist's Finds

Could Upset Accepted Theories," and the second, "Amateur Archeologist's Effort Frustrated by Establishment."

The third article, published in September 1988, was entitled, "Evidence Found in Coal Fields Flies in Face of Textbooks," and coverage totaled several pages. It was primarily based on one of his lengthy interviews on "Radio Free America."

In fact, when advertising an audio tape of that particular show, Spotlight stated: "The guest was Ed Conrad who keeps finding pieces of human anatomy petrified in stone in layers between anthracite veins — an impossible discovery, as it is out of sync with accepted dogma of paleontology."

Nevertheless, Ed said his situation probably was summarized best by veteran newsman Bill O'Brien of the Shenandoah Evening Herald in the full-page article he had written in 1988 beneath the headline, "Are Scientists Afraid of Ed Conrad?"

Conrad's "claim also has great religious significance since it would support the doctrine of instant creation of the human species, as opposed to the Darwinian supposition that humankind evolved over the last two million years from monkeylike creatures," O'Brien wrote.

"Because their credibility, their esteem and their jobs are at stake, members of the scientific establishment have adopted a 'blackball Conrad' stance.

"Like the monkeys whom they claim as cousins, the establishment people will see no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil when it comes to discussing the authenticity of Conrad's specimens," O'Brien continued.

"Conrad believes his discovery has frightened members of the archaeological/paleontological establishment out of their wits. They dread the truth, he says, because they know their cozy little clique will be gone with the cons. No longer will they be able to sup at the trough of Darwinism, enjoying soft jobs with huge salaries."

Unfortunately, said Ed, some of the most courageous newspapermen — such as O'Brien, who recently retired — work at small papers with limited circulation, so there's great difficulty delivering the message that established science is certainly not operating above board in its investigation of his petrified bones.

"However, the national exposure I've received because of the stories in Spotlight and The Congressional Record, as well as the columns by Tiede and Kreskin, explains how people all over the country have become aware of my discoveries and my exhaustive scientific



Ed Conrad holds one of his prize specimens that he insists is a portion of a petrified human skull which he discovered in the anthracite region. It had been subjected to a CATSCAN, with very favorable results. Meanwhile, the map below had appeared in more than 500 newspapers coast to coast, accompanying an article written by nationally syndicated columnist Tom Tiede.

research," said Conrad. "Many obviously are aware of what's at stake, a most golden opportunity to enhance our knowledge about our origin and ancestry. If the truth emerged, I believe it would make us realize that our far-distant 'ancestors' certainly weren't 'monkeys' and, instead, would let us know for sure that we're something very, very special.

"As for the evolutionists' theory of our inhuman origin, I can state categorically that, after 10 years of hard work, I have been astounded to learn there's not one scintilla of scientific evidence to back it up.

"That's why these visitors from far-away places are so anxious to examine the exhibit at the museum,

so they can evaluate what's there and draw their own conclusions."

Conrad insists that he poses the greatest challenge that Darwin's — and the evolutionists' — theory about man's origin has ever faced.

"It does my heart good that the vast majority of people who've made an effort to see the display in the museum are impressed with the arsenal of scientific evidence I've accumulated in my search for the truth," said Ed.

"My only regret is that so many people here in the Hazleton area still haven't driven — or even walked a few blocks — to see the petrified bones or the very impressive contents of the entire museum."

Conrad admits that, at times, he has gotten very discouraged during his 10-year battle against the scientific establishment.

"I've had every reason to have thrown in the towel, the way I was being treated," he said. "However, my spirits get boosted from time to time because of the encouragement I've been receiving from people who urge me to keep fighting."

For example, Ed points with pride to the letter he had received from Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, the world-famous author and expert on death and dying.

"Keep up your good work and pioneering spirit," she advised him. "People used to spit at me 20 years ago and now there are hospices all over the world — and death and dying is no longer taboo. So hang in there!"

Region/State

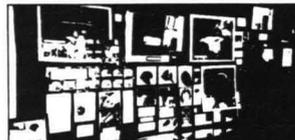
Evening Herald

Wednesday, October 26, 1988

Are scientists afraid of Ed Conrad?

I consulted Raymond Dart, the world famous South African anatomist, who told me, "Mr. Conrad, you have opened doors that we never dreamed existed. You are the first person to explore the coal fields of the world (the only first). I believe you are starting a new science. I quote this famed scientist to show that the establishment hasn't even searched the coal fields from the standpoint of paleontology. How can they know what's there?"

— Ed Conrad
July 1987, Radio Free America



Scientific display — Ed Conrad insists that he poses the greatest challenge that Darwin's — and the evolutionists' — theory about man's origin has ever faced.

The question is not just whether the bones are human, but whether they are human bones. The scientific establishment has been quick to dismiss Conrad's claims as nothing more than a collection of rocks and fossils. However, Conrad insists that his specimens are human remains, and he has provided a wealth of scientific evidence to support his claims.



Mandible pieces — Ed Conrad insists that he poses the greatest challenge that Darwin's — and the evolutionists' — theory about man's origin has ever faced.



High bone — Ed Conrad insists that he poses the greatest challenge that Darwin's — and the evolutionists' — theory about man's origin has ever faced.



Wilton Krogman, the late author of "The Human Skeleton in Forensic Medicine," is shown holding one of Ed Conrad's specimens that he admitted bears a distinct resemblance to a human skull. The specimen is the same one shown in the photo above.

This full-page article in the Shenandoah Evening Herald had detailed Ed Conrad's relentless battle with established science concerning his discoveries of petrified bone — including human skeletal remains — in the anthracite region.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO - May 24, 1991 CR: C. Carpenter

FACT SHEET

STUDIES

Effects of quake unreal

The 1989 California earthquake caused weird-sounding reactions, such as a sense of detaching from one's body, even in mentally healthy people not directly involved in the devastation, a study says. The survey also found some people had experienced a sense that their surroundings were not quite real. Some mentioned unusual body sensations, such as spinning or falling down a tunnel. Others said they had felt that time slowed down, researchers said.

From a prank to occult ritual, opinions on calf killings vary

By DAVID E. MALLOY
Herald-Dispatch Ashland bureau

GREENUP, Ky. — Speculation on the cause of calf mutilations two weeks ago in Greenup and Carter counties is diverse depending on who's doing the talking.

The most prominent theory being advanced is that the calves were killed in a satanic ritual. But then it could have been a teen-ager's prank. Another possibility — space aliens!

Bunk, say other experts. They maintain that a kind of group hysteria fuels rumors about satanism.

"It's a national witch hunt. The whole idea is a stereotype that's been growing since the 1960s and local police are passing it on," said Jeffrey S. Victor, professor of sociology at Jamestown Community College in Jamestown, N.Y., who's writing a book about the "satanic cult hysteria."

"(Law enforcement officers) should stick to professional police practices instead of relying on religious beliefs. Police should investigate such claims in a worldly way rather than looking for supernatural influences," he said.

Victor maintains that usually a satanic cult claim "is an oversimplification among people who are poorly educated."

But a Kentucky sheriff's deputy who investigated the crime scene says the calves were killed in an occult ritual. He says the killers took body parts from the newborn calves, including the internal organs, genitalia, rectums, eyes, tongues and ears. An unidentified white powder and feathers also were found at the scenes.

Ted Gunderson, a retired Federal Bureau of Investigations agent in Santa Monica, Calif., said most calf mutilations are related to the occult and often are preludes to a human sacrifice.

Gunderson said 50,000 to 60,000 people are killed each year in satanic rituals. He said he's talked to dozens of people who've witnessed the murders. Gunderson also said law enforcement officials, including the FBI, ignore such claims.

"It's all hidden, covered up. These people are involved in kiddie porn, drugs and prostitution. They bring some babies in from out of Mexico. Some raise their own babies for sacrifice, others are kidnapped," he said.

Sandra Gallant Bargioni, a special investigator for the San Francisco Police Department, said Gunderson "is full of b.s."

The department's "top cop" in occult-related crimes for the past dozen years, Bargioni said Gunderson's estimates "aren't worth the paper they're written on. I think it's totally blown out of proportion."

Her theory is that the calves were killed in a sacrifice for ritual purposes by followers of the Afro-Caribbean ritualistic religion called Santeria. Animal sacrifice is totally acceptable in some religions, including Santeria, she said.

Dr. Charles Wetli, deputy medical examiner in Dade County, Fla., discounts the Santeria theory, saying that slaughtering calves usually isn't part of that religion.

"They usually prefer smaller animals — poultry and chickens. It's probably some variation of satanism, but there's no real recipe for

this type of activity."

However, Afro-Caribbean cults often scatter feathers and salt or powdered egg shells around their sacrifices, Wetli said.

Carl Rashke, who holds a doctorate in religious studies and teaches at the University of Denver, also discounts the Afro-Caribbean possibility. "It's definitely evidence of cults. It could be blood Teutonicism, an older and deeper form of satanism."

Whatever the cause, the Kentucky calf killings prompted state police last week to call a meeting of Tri-State law enforcement officers on occult crime. Forty-four officers from 23 agencies turned out for the meeting.

Victor, the Jamestown college sociologist, said there's "a tremendous distribution network" for satanic beliefs that include law enforcement officers, the religious community and even the psychiatric community.

Victor said he's aware of Gunderson's theories and calls them "absolute nonsense. Public hysteria is such that people believe this total nonsense."

"The burden of proof should always be upon conspiracy theorists to provide corroborating evidence. Otherwise, fear and suspicion becomes a substitute for rational evidence," he said.

Two years ago, goat mutilations in the Jamestown area provoked a lot of hysteria. "There were lots of people with guns in the woods. It turned out it was a teen-ager" pulling a prank, he said.

In many animal mutilations cases, it's scavengers. Claims that the blood is missing are false many

times, he said, because the blood congeals in the bottom of the carcass.

Tom Adams of Paris, Texas, editor and publisher of a newsletter called "Stigmata" which investigates large-animal mutilations, isn't convinced all cattle mutilations can be explained as cult activity.

He's been tracking such mutilations for 20 years and has turned up between 5,000 to 8,000 cases in America and Canada that can't be explained by natural causes.

"I'm open to all possibilities. I can't discount non-terrestrial involvement," Adams said.

A number of the cases have been preceded "by evidence of aerial activity. It doesn't have to be alien aircraft. It could have been helicopters. We have about 200 cases where helicopters were spotted in the area. Often times the carcass will be dumped in an area like a muddy field with no tracks around."

He said large animal mutilations peaked in 1975. There have been only a few cases reported this year. Adams also discounts the theory of some that the mutilations were done by coyotes or some other animal.

"Coyotes don't carry scalpels. Too many cases involve pristine cuts," he said.

That's a sentiment shared by Janet Hampson of Tustin, Calif. She's organized Orange County residents into a group called Tustin Residents Against Animal Killers.

She said she's documented about 250 cases in the past three years of pet mutilations. She believes cult activity is the culprit.

"Frequently, they're after the sex organs," she said. She believes it's being done by kids influenced by drugs and heavy metal music. Often, adults are involved with them, too, she said.

"These type of people tend to do this again and again. I don't doubt that there's more human sacrifice going on than we know about. These people are very secretive. It's becoming an issue that has come out from under the bed," she said.

She said she's gotten little help from authorities who claim the animals are the victims of coyotes. But coyotes don't sever the pets in half, Hampson said.

"We've seen a great rise in young people getting involved in satanism. Everybody's frightened by this. It can happen anywhere. This kind of crime is a very grave threat to any community," Hampson said.

John Rice, a social worker at the Community Psychiatric Center in Palm Bay, Fla., who formerly worked at the Valley Institute of Psychiatry in Owensboro, Ky., said the culprits in the Kentucky calf mutilations "are dabblers in satanism. They're not following all the correct procedures, thank God, because if they had it would have been followed by a human sacrifice."

Rice said the fact that the calf mutilations occurred during a time when some occult calendars call for the "preparation of the sacrifice" indicates those involved are dabblers and aren't into more serious forms of satanism.

Sunken Navy planes of 'Lost Squadron' kindle new mystery

By Richard Cole
Associated Press

MIAMI — The discovery of five Navy planes on the ocean floor off Florida may solve the mystery of the "Lost Squadron" that vanished 45 years ago in the Bermuda Triangle, but it raises some new puzzles.

Earlier this month, a high-tech salvage ship searching for Spanish galleons 10 miles northeast of Fort Lauderdale located what appears to be the five Avengers in 750 feet of water.

A tail number and the letters FT on some of the aircraft appear to match markings on the planes that left with 14 crewmen on a training flight on Dec. 5, 1945, from Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station.

Confirmation of the find would end speculation that the planes were snatched from the sky by flying saucers or disappeared into another dimension in the myth-shrouded Bermuda Triangle, an area bounded by Bermuda, Miami and Puerto Rico, where ships and planes were said to mysteriously disappear.

But those who have investigated the case say the discovery could raise questions just as puzzling as the original disappearance.

"How could they be so close to land, and yet they never contacted the base?" said John Evans, the air base's crash photographer in 1945, who took part in one of the most massive rescue efforts in the Navy's history.

"Everyone by that time was listening on the emergency bands, on the normal bands — if they got within 10 miles of Fort Lauderdale, it just doesn't make any sense at all," he said.

Flight 19 was supposed to fly to the northeast over the Atlantic toward the Bahamas, turn south on a practice bombing run, then northwest to complete a triangular course that would return it to the base.

But according to radio transmissions monitored at the base, the flight leader, Lt. Charles C. Taylor, became convinced that both his

compasses had malfunctioned when he spotted an island he identified as part of the Florida Keys. That would have put them far southwest of their course.

In reality, most experts say, Taylor probably mistook a similar-looking Bahamian island chain for the Keys.

Taylor directed the student pilots northward to what he thought would be the Florida peninsula — but instead saw only open water, and believed he was over the Gulf of Mexico.

The transmissions showed that the pilots argued among themselves, with some saying land was directly west, while Taylor insisted it was to the north and east.

Frustrated base personnel vainly tried to contact them, but the pilots' radios would not pick up the transmissions.

The planes apparently continued northeastward, going in exactly the wrong direction. When the first plane ran out of fuel, they made arrangements to ditch together to make a rescue easier.

All radio transmissions during the planes' final hours were faint, indicating that the aircraft were quite distant, Evans said. The last rough radio fix put them about 120 miles northeast of Cape Canaveral at 6 p.m., with only two hours' worth of fuel.

"How the hell did they get from where they were off the cape at six to where they were found off Fort Lauderdale before they ran out of fuel?" Evans said.

More importantly, if they finally realized they were on the wrong course, they should have flown directly westward to the closest land, instead of attempting to return all the way to Fort Lauderdale, he said.

Raising the planes would require a special barge and equipment. Any human remains are likely to have disappeared, but identifying "dog tags" probably would be intact. A search could establish whether the life rafts and vests were ever deployed.

[Paper & City Unknown], NJ - June 6, 1991 CR: S. Barrera



"Champ: America's Loch Nessie" by Sheila O. Barrera of Rahway.

Unknown creatures featured in exhibit

Unexplained lake phenomena will be the subject of an art exhibition by Rahway resident Sheila O. Barrera, opening on June 30, at the Les Malamut Art Gallery, Union. The show will remain open during the summer.

Forty-five original works of art covering sightings at such lakes as Loch Ness in Scotland, Lake Okanagan in British Columbia, Canada, Lake Nahuel Huapi in Argentina and Lake Champlain, New England, will be displayed. Indian lore, historic and scientific studies into these curious sightings, ancient legends and mythology on the subject will also be depicted in some of the works.

Barrera began the series in 1985 while visiting some friends in the Lake Champlain area. She has done

some extensive research into these unusual sightings, has visited many of the lakes and has interviewed eyewitnesses.

"In my work, I am mostly interested in showing aspects of the natural world that aren't immediately noticed in everyday life. I want to give people the opportunity to make up their own minds as to whether these creatures actually exist," said the artist.

"As acclaimed author and philosopher L. Ron Hubbard said in his book, *Understanding: The Universal Solvent*, 'Truth is not determined by its appeal, but by the evidence,'" Barrera said.

Barrera, a 1977 graduate of Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY, has had her work featured in several galleries,

including the Michael Ingar Gallery in Soho, NYC, Wilhite Collectibles in Clearwater, Fla., and the Gallery of Illustration and Fine Art in Philadelphia, PA. Her bronze sculpture, "Warrior," won the first prize 3D in the 1980 Luncheon Art Show.

The artist recently completed a series of illustrations for a soon-to-be published book by Canadian author Dwight Whalen on historical legends and recent sightings in the Lake Erie area. The publisher is Horseshoe Press.

On June 30, from 2 to 4 p.m., Barrera will meet guests and collectors at a reception at the Les Malamut Art Gallery, located in the lower level of the Union Public Library, 1976 Morris Ave., Union 07083. The show will run from June 30 until Sept. 4.

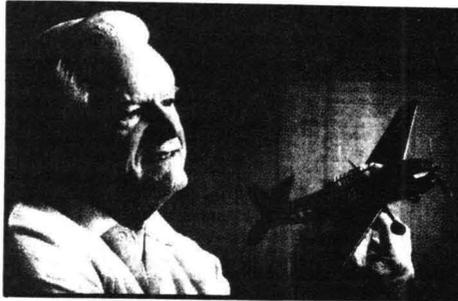
Westchester man doubts Flight 19 mystery solved

By Marc Igler
STAFF WRITER

Calvin Shoemaker of Westchester felt a surge of energy through his body last week when deep sea explorers announced the discovery of what they believe is the wreckage of the infamous "Flight 19" on the ocean floor off Florida.

If true, the find would put an end to one of the deepest mysteries in naval history — one that helped solidify the spooky aura of the Bermuda Triangle.

It also would have finally answered a question that has troubled the retired South Bay aerospace engineer for decades: Where are the remains of pilots he trained with during and after



BRAD GRAVERSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Calvin Shoemaker holds a replica of a TBM Avenger like the five that vanished in '45.

World War II?

Unfortunately, Shoemaker said Thursday's announcement has left him disappointed on both counts.

He has no doubt the treasure hunters found five planes, but he suspects they aren't the same ones that disappeared without a trace Dec. 5, 1945.

"I really wanted to believe it," Shoemaker said. "But I can't. This is either a hoax or they've simply got the wrong planes."

Shoemaker, 67, considers himself an authority on Flight 19, memorialized in many books and movies as "The Lost Squadron" or "The Lost Patrol."

He listened from a military control tower to the desperate radio pleas of the airmen as they struggled to find their way back to the base. He also was supposed to be the pilot of the squadron's sixth plane, but surrendered the cockpit on the runway to a buddy who needed the flying hours.

Crew presumed dead

The planes never returned and the 14 crew members are presumed dead. A Navy investigation later determined that the pilots, who left Fort Lauderdale on a routine practice bombing mission of a sunken cargo ship, got lost on their return.

Believers in the Bermuda Triangle theory suggest the planes became tangled in the same mysterious magnetic force that has claimed hundreds of other aircraft and ships. The Navy, however, said the planes simply ran out of fuel.

Last Thursday, the exploration company Scientific Search Project announced that it had discovered five planes off the coast of Fort Lauderdale — the same number as in Flight 19 and the same type of aircraft, TBM Avengers.

The planes, resting on the ocean bottom 600 feet below the surface, are in excellent condition and were spread out over about 1½ miles.

Robert Cervoni, the Miami-based company's managing director, said underwater cameras spotted the planes by accident while looking for sunken Spanish galleons.

The team's archaeologist, Ted Darcy, said positive identification will have to wait several weeks until submersible robots can get a better look at the planes.

However, Darcy pointed to two links that he believes tie the wreckage to Flight 19.

Clearly visible on one of the planes is the number 28, the same number as on the flight's lead plane. Another indication is the number of aircraft found. Although more than 140 TBM Avengers have been reported

lost off the Florida coast, the Navy has no record of five going down in the same spot.

Shoemaker, however, claims such evidence is not convincing. But he said the main problem with the theory is the location of the find — a mere 10 miles from shore.

"You've got to remember I was listening to the flight," he said. "Toward the end, you could barely hear the pilots talk, indicating that they were a long way out. If they were only 10 miles away when they ditched their planes, you would have been able to hear them like gang-busters. That's just the way radios work."

Another weak link, he said, is that the planes were found so close together.

"Twenty-two minutes elapsed between the time the first one ditched and the last one," Shoemaker said. "Given those circumstances, it's a real stretch of the imagination to think they could be found all together like that."

Shoemaker, who worked for nearly 40 years as an experimental test pilot for Douglas Aircraft and Lockheed Corp., has a theory about the planes that were found.

He believes they were junkers that the Navy probably pushed into the water off the side of an aircraft carrier after World War II was over.

"That was fairly common practice back then because those planes weren't worth much," he said.

Navy officials have had little comment on last week's announcement, other than to warn the salvage company that it doesn't have the right to attempt to pull the planes out of the water.

A judge last week rejected such claims, but has promised the Navy a second ruling on the issue next month.

Navy spokeswoman Helen Howard said in a statement Tuesday that officials consider the planes to be U.S. government property.

"The disposition of the planes rests with the Navy. Because the Navy holds the only claim to the aircraft wreckage, any salvage effort must be done with the consent of the Navy," Howard said.

Shoemaker has his own idea about where the long-missing planes can be found.

"I think they're between 320 and 380 miles northeast of Fort Lauderdale on a heading of 55 degrees. That was the final fix we had on them."

POST, Denver, CO - June 5, 1991 CR: C. Carpenter

'Patrol' remains mystery

Salvors' ocean find not famed squadron

By Don Van Natta Jr.
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

MIAMI — The Lost Patrol is still lost. Five Avenger airplanes discovered in the ocean 10 miles northeast of Fort Lauderdale last month do not belong to Flight 19, the famous Navy squadron that vanished mysteriously off Florida's coast on Dec. 5, 1945, deep-sea explorers announced yesterday.

"We are in the unenviable position of telling you that we're now quite certain that the five aircraft we found are not those of Flight 19, but in fact are five other aircraft," Graham Hawkes, skipper of the exploration vessel Deep See, told reporters on a Miami Beach dock.

The numbers and markings on the five aircraft differ from the legendary Lost Patrol. The newly discovered planes probably crashed in the early 1940s during low-altitude practice torpedo missions.

Thus the Bermuda Triangle, the off-

shore twilight zone of UFOs and a door to a parallel world, has survived another scientific attempt to prove it doesn't exist.

Once again, the truth is more elusive than the myth.

"For those who really want to weave a mystery: Instead of one group of five Avengers down in the Bermuda Triangle, we've now given you two," Hawkes said.

They dubbed their planes "the Phantom Five," the latest casualty of the so-called Devil's Triangle.

But the Navy lost at least 139 Avengers off the coast of Florida.

"It's like a cruel joke," said Robert Cervoni, managing director of Scientific Search Project of New York, which invested about \$50,000 on the find.

Using advanced sonar instruments and underwater video cameras, the Deep See stumbled upon the five Avengers before dawn on May 8 while searching the Atlantic waters for a Spanish galleon.

The discovery of five Avengers clustered within 1.2 miles so close to shore triggered speculation that the salvors had found Flight 19, a feat that an enormous 1945 rescue mission covering 250,000 square miles failed to accomplish.

For nearly 50 years, Flight 19's disappearance has fascinated aviation sleuths all over the world.

Fourteen men in five Navy Avengers embarked on a routine 2½-hour training mission on Dec. 5, 1945, from Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station, now Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

The lead pilot became disoriented in bad weather over the Atlantic Ocean. A Mariner rescue plane with 13 men aboard was dispatched from Jacksonville to search for the missing planes. It, too, disappeared.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, Little Rock, AR - May 26, 1991

'Ringing rock' believed part of ancient cultures

BY CHARLES HILLINGER
Los Angeles Times

MENIFEE VALLEY, Calif. — When Catherine Saubel, a 70-year-old Cahuilla Indian, stood before the 2- by 3-foot granite rock, she was emotionally overwhelmed.

"I was awe-struck just being in its presence. I visualized what it must have been like when prehistoric medicine men played ancient songs on the rock before large gatherings of people. This rock is very sacred to Indians," Saubel said.

Curator of the Malki Museum on the Morongo Reservation near Banning, Calif., for the last 26 years, Saubel has known about so-called "ringing rocks" all her life. But this was the first time she had ever seen one — or heard one.

When struck gently with a

small rock, the granite boulder chimes like a bell. When struck in several places or with various-sized small rocks, different tones are heard.

During prehistoric times, scholars believe, ringing rocks were the central focus of elaborate cultural ceremonies. Today, officials in Riverside County, Calif., where the rock is located, hope to use it as the centerpiece of a park or American Indian cultural center.

"This sacred rock is a cultural treasure. It must be preserved not just for Indians but for everyone," Saubel said. "It has to be protected with a fence or whatever it takes to prevent it from being damaged or destroyed by vandals."

The rock is in Riverside County's rapidly developing Menifee Valley, about 75 miles southeast of downtown Los An-

geles. Its exact location has not been publicized, for fear of theft or vandalism.

Ken Hedges, 47, chief curator at San Diego's Museum of Man, said that he knows of only seven such rocks in existence — all in the Southwest. But he said that there may be similar rocks in other areas.

Diana Seider, 35, an anthropologist and the Riverside County Parks Department historian, described the melodious boulder as "an extremely rare natural phenomenon."

Seider said that archeologists have known of the rock's existence for many years.

Efforts to protect it were launched last year as housing development began edging closer to the site. In November, Riverside County purchased the surrounding 20-acre parcel, Seider said.

"The big problem now is how to protect the rock," said Seider, who also spoke of hopes for a park or cultural center.

"At some point in the future it would be great if a Native American individual or family could live on the site to guard the rock and to interpret it to visitors who came to the park to see and hear the rock's amazing sound when struck," she said.

Hedges mentioned the ringing rock of Menifee Valley in a scientific paper published late last year on the profusion of petroglyphs (rock carvings) and pictographs (rock paintings) in the area.

Hedges said that little has been written about ringing rocks in scientific literature.

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - May 9, 1991

Other Days

75 Years Ago

(May 9, 1916)

Monticello — More than 200 birds of a half dozen or more species were found dead on the courthouse square and streets yesterday morning. The birds had fallen during the night. What caused their death is a mystery.